Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda

A project funded by the UK Government

Accounting for nature for tourism in Uganda’s post-COVID-19 recovery

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Importance of natural capital to green recovery of the tourism sector in Uganda

- Tourism is a key sector for growth, foreign exchange and employment
- The sector has been the hardest hit by COVID-19
- Uganda’s rich biodiversity, natural ecosystems and iconic species are a key tourist draw
- Conservation, enhancement and sustainable exploitation of this natural capital is essential if wildlife watching tourism is to catalyse recovery in the sector

Biodiversity and Tourism Accounts Produced

Integrated accounts produced for 12 key protected areas:

- Natural Ecosystem Extent
- Iconic Species (Medium to Large Mammal Abundance)
- Ecosystem Services (Visitors as a proxy)
- Extended SNA Supply & Use (Value of wildlife watching tourism expenditures)
Using the accounts for Green Recovery

• Economic case for continuing investing in conservation of natural ecosystems and species

• Informing investment options for innovative tourism packages in less visited protected areas:
  • Tropical mountain forest in Mount Rwenzori National Park for adventure tourism
  • Iconic species that can support more tourism in Kidepo Valley National Park

• Linking investment to decent job creation and poverty alleviation (e.g., Kidepo)
Progress made and next steps

- Biodiversity and Tourism; Fisheries Resources; and, Land and Soil Improvement accounts complete
- Roadmaps for institutionalizing the compilation and use of the accounts
- Green growth options paper
- All will be available at: https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/nca-in-Uganda
- Many extensions to consider: Additional protected areas; ecosystem services; accounting for birds as iconic species; information on domestic tourism
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Thank you for listening!