



**WORLD
LAND
TRUST**

Registered Charity No. 1001291



EXPANDING NYAMUKINO RESERVE IN THE ALBERTINE RIFT

Our Buy an Acre project with Environmental Defenders



Country
Uganda

Partner/Organisation
Environmental Defenders

Biome
Savannah

Ecoregion
Victoria basin
forest-savannah mosaic

Habitats
The region contains a diverse mosaic of habitats, including savannah grasslands with a mix of woodlands, and wetland patches along rivers and streams. This mosaic supports large herbivores and carnivores, as well as a variety of bird species. However, land cover is increasingly fragmented due to agricultural expansion and settlements, particularly near water sources and accessible grasslands.

Project summary

The Albertine Rift region of Uganda is globally recognised as a top priority for conservation, containing an extraordinary array of habitats and wildlife. Although designated as a Key Biodiversity Area, home to the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) and all four species of African Pangolin, this region is increasingly threatened by deforestation, agricultural expansion, and oil and gas exploration.

World Land Trust's (WLT's) Buy an Acre project will support the protection of the Albertine Rift by enabling Environmental Defenders to expand their existing 210-hectare (519-acre) Nyamukino Reserve through the purchase of an additional 838 hectares (2,070 acres). In addition to land purchase, WLT funding will support restoration of the degraded areas by planting 144,000 native trees as well as assisting natural regeneration. On top of this, local community members will be recruited to support reserve patrols and partner project management costs. This is a significant step towards Environmental Defenders' overall goal of creating a continuous wildlife corridor between Murchison Falls National Park, Aswa Lolim Conservancy, and the East Madi Wildlife Sanctuary, ensuring the free movement of wildlife between these large, protected areas.

Main threats to the area

Some of the threats that the Murchison Falls National Park and the East Madi Wildlife Reserve corridor face include habitat loss and fragmentation driven by agricultural expansion, charcoal production, timber extraction, and infrastructure development (such as road building and oil exploration).

Global prioritisation

The project site falls within the Albertine Rift Biodiversity Hotspot and Global Ecoregion and lies to the north of the Murchison Falls National Park Key Biodiversity Area.

Biodiversity

The Albertine Rift Biodiversity Hotspot is globally recognised for its exceptional diversity of highly threatened species. Overall, the corridor area contains a known list of 144 mammal species, 556 bird species, 51 reptile species, and 755 plant species. The wider project area includes all four species of African Pangolin, two of which – the White-bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*) and Giant Ground Pangolin (*Smutsia giigantia*) – are Endangered.



Key species¹

The site and wider region is home to a diverse range of threatened plant and animal species, several of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Mammals

Temminck's Ground Pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*, VU); White-bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*, EN); Giant Ground Pangolin (*Smutsia giigantia*, EN); Black-Bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*, VU); African Savannah Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*, EN); Rothschild's Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis ssp. rothschildi*, NT); and Lion (*Panthera leo*, VU)

Birds

Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*, EN); Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*, CR); Secretarybird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*, EN); Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*, VU); and Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*, EN)

Amphibians

Four-lined Spiny Reed Frog (*Afraxalus quadrivittatus*, LC); Common Reed Frog (*Hyperolius viridiflavus*, LC); and Papyrus Reed Frog (*Hyperolius papyri*, DD)

Plants

Shea (*Vitellaria paradoxa*, VU); East African mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*, VU); and African Cherry (*Prunus africana*, VU)

¹The Red List of Threatened Species, maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), includes categories of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC). Data Deficient (DD) indicates insufficient information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of a given species' risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.



Temminck's Ground Pangolin



Grey Crowned Crane



Shea

Local communities

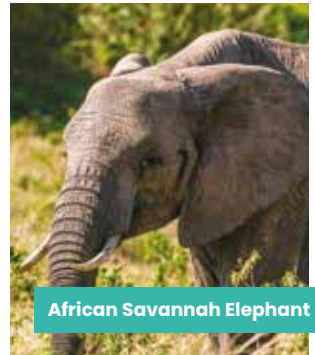
The local community surrounding the project area between Murchison Falls National Park and the East Madi Wildlife Reserve in Uganda's Nwoya District includes the Acholi, Alur, and Jonam people. Most of the local communities in the region are small- to medium-scale farmers, growing crops such as maize, sorghum, sesame, and bananas, as well as rearing cattle. In addition, there are some large-scale commercial farmers growing sugarcane and eucalyptus for external markets.

A major part of Environmental Defenders work is to support local community members and help them identify alternative revenue sources. Although this specific project is predominantly environmental in focus, it will create employment opportunities in reserve management and restoration, including tree nursery work.

Partner/Organisation

Established in 2017, Environmental Defenders is a Ugandan ecofeminist and collaborative environmental justice organization that works to protect wildlife and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The focus of their work is in the Albertine Rift, particularly the Murchison-Semliki, Greater Virunga, and Ituri landscapes. By working closely with local communities, Environmental Defenders aims to create both social and environmental justice, recognising that these are closely linked.

World Land Trust (WLT) partnered with Environmental Defenders in 2022 to support the creation of the 210-hectare (519-acre) Nyamukino Reserve. WLT funds have also enabled Environmental Defenders to employ local community members as reserve rangers, and in fire prevention and seed collection.



African Savannah Elephant

UN Sustainable Development Goals directly advanced by this project:



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