

Uganda Carnivore Program



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Carnivore populations are rapidly declining. We are working hard to save them.



The Conservation Challenge

Lions, leopards, and hyenas are among the most popular animals in the world. Unfortunately, their numbers have declined significantly, due mainly to the growing needs of an expanding human population. This is particularly true in and around Queen Elizabeth National Park, where the Uganda Carnivore Program is based and where there are 11 enclave villages with a total population of 50,000 people within park borders.

Research

Monitoring, research and rescue activities for predator species in the northern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park are important aspects of the Uganda Carnivore Program:

- Tracking carnivores via radio-telemetry in order to monitor their movements into conflict "hot zones," where they face the danger of meeting up with people and their livestock
- Establishing carnivore biodynamics and developing population viability analyses
- Formulating recommendations for appropriate management of carnivores in the national park
- Assisting the Uganda Wildlife Authority in conflict mitigation, as well as wildlife rescue and relocation operations



Community Education & Outreach

Habitat and prey loss due to human settlement and agricultural development, as well as retaliatory killing by humans following livestock depredation, are the main threats to Africa's large predator species. There can be no success in the conservation of wildlife without the support of local people.

A critical aspect of the Uganda Carnivore Program's work involves community-based activities that increase local participation in wildlife conservation, such as community-led resource monitoring. We take a collaborative, holistic approach to improving human-wildlife coexistence:

- Educating communities about carnivores, including their significance to the ecosystem, conflict prevention measures, safe practices for livestock management, and income generation potential
- Collaborating with local teachers to develop conservation education in village schools
- Creating socio-economic development opportunities, such as the Community Resource Center known as Leopard Village, which supports cultural and wildlife conservation through ecotourism
- Facilitating health screenings for villagers and their domestic animals and monitoring zoonotic disease transmission



How You Can Help

The Uganda Carnivore Program operates on limited funds and greatly appreciates donations to assist with the expenses involved in day-to-day activities such as monitoring of predators, radio collars, and travel to local villages for community conservation education and conflict resolution. You can help by making a donation to cover the cost of fuel and vehicle repairs or supplies for school programs, sponsoring a radio collar or monitoring patrol, or helping to purchase strong livestock enclosure materials and solar lighting, which deter predators from hunting livestock in local villages.

We also welcome groups such as those from universities or zoos, who can arrange for hands-on volunteer work and educational visits with UCP, as well as tourists who would like to visit the local communities and experience cultural activities in support of wildlife conservation as part of their visit to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

For more information, please contact us!

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