ECOLOGICAL TRENDS ALLIANCE

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TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR BUDONGO-BUGOMA LANDSCAPE MID-WESTERN UGANDA 2025 - 2030

APPROVALS

The Wildfire Management Strategy for Budongo-Bugoma landscape (2025-2030) has been reviewed by the District Local Governments, key Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) in Environment and Natural Resources Management (NEMA, UWA, NFA, UNMA), Private Sectors (Private sugarcane companies, Total Energies, CNOOC, Private tree growers, Pastoralist and Farmers) CSOs within the Landscape, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, and was approved for implementation on the 26th of June 2024.

Appreciations

Special thanks to the team of consultants (Nagendo Grace and Patrick Byakagaba) for undertaking the fire risk assessment studies and the ETA team (Richard Ssemanda, Michael Opige, Derrick Kamugisha, Denis Omondi) for coordinating all the activities. We also appreciate the Tropenbos International team for the financial support provided.

This strategy was produced under the framework of the Working Landscape 1.5 funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The opinions and views expressed in this publication were a collective response from all the stakeholders and don't reflect the opinions and views of Tropenbos International or its partners.

Suggested Citation: Ecological Trends Alliance and Tropenbos International.2024.
The Wildfire Management Strategy for Budongo-Bugoma Landscape (2025 - 2030).A Publication by Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala – Uganda and Tropenbos International, EBE, The Netherlands.

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Acknowledgement

The preparation of this Wildfire Management Strategy involved the input from several stakeholders and the following are acknowledged for their contribution: The Technical Staff from Kikuube, Hoima, Masindi and Buliisa District Local Governments, representatives of CSO's in the Environment and Natural Resources Sector, Academia, Religious Organisations, Business Community, Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, NEMA regional staff, Ministry of Water and Environment and Opinion leaders are acknowledged for their contributions in the stakeholders' engagements that were held when preparing this Strategy. The preparation of this Strategy was supported by Tropenbos International under the Project Working Landscapes (Wildfire Project) implemented by Ecological Trends Alliance. Technical Guidance and facilitation of stakeholder engagement were provided by Patrick Byakagaba, Ph.D. while all data on fire occurrence in Budongo-Bugoma landscape was processed by Grace Nangendo, Ph.D. They are both appreciated for their professional input and guidance. The following organisations are appreciated for their active participation in all the processes and engagements that led to the development of this Strategy:

(i) Africa Institute for Energy Governance
(ii) Buliisa District Local Government
(iii) Bulindi Chimpanzee Community Project
(iv) Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom
(v) Bwendero Sugar limited
(vi) Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Conservation Trust
(vii) China National Offshore Oil Corporation
(viii) Corewoods forest plantation
(ix) Department of Environmental Management, Makerere University
(x) Ecological Trends Alliance
(xi) Hoima Catholic Diocese
(xii) Hoima District Local Government
(xiii) Hoima livestock farmers' Association
(xiv) Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)
(xv) Kikuube District Local Government
(xvi) Kikuube livestock Farmers' Association
(xvii) Kinyara Sugar limited
(xviii) Masindi District Local Government
(xix) Masindi livestock Farmers' Association
(xx) Ministry of Water and Environment
(xxi) National Forestry Authority
(xxii) Nyabyeya Forestry College
(xxiii) The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST)
(xxiv) Total E&P
(xxv) Uganda Kolping Society stock- farm
(xxvi) Uganda Wildlife Authority
(xxvii) Wildlife Conservation Society
(xxviii) World Wildlife Fund

Special appreciation to the NEMA Regional office for the Albertine-Rift led by Ms. Christine Ainebyoona for their active participation in all the processes.

Executive Summary

Wildfires continue to be one of the biggest threats to the environment because they change the ecosystem structure and interfere with ecological processes. The frequency and severity of wildfires is predicted to increase due to climate change. This is because with high temperature due to climate change, there is increased fuel load hence increasing fire risk and intensity while dry conditions during and prior to fire season increases the flammability of live and dead vegetation that fuels wildfires. Wildfires cause ecosystem change, land degradation, supply of ecosystem services and thus affect livelihoods and public health and safety conditions. They are a major challenge to social-ecological sustainability.

Wildfires are acknowledged as a threat to the environment, infrastructure, cities and businesses in the third National Development Plan (NDPIII). Similarly, the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan identifies wildfires as one the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda. More so, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (2015-2025) recognizes wildfires as a threat to most biodiversity rich areas in Uganda.

Budongo – Bugoma landscape which is an area covering the northern part of the Albertine Rift landscape is a well-known biodiversity hot spot. It covers the districts of Kikuube, Hoima, Masindi and Buliisa. It hosts the largest forest reserves in Uganda i.e., Budongo and Bugoma and Murchison Falls National Park which is the largest in Uganda[1]. This landscape is characterized by unique bird species, very rich plant diversity and incomparable endemic animal diversity. It is dominated by vegetation types that are prone to wildfires especially grasslands, woodlands, coniferous plantations and bushlands. These vegetation types are extremely flammable thus increasing the risk of wildfire occurrence. Studies show that the vegetation in this area has changed significantly in the last two decades. For instance, between 1990 to 2020, grassland reduced by 19.5%, bushland by 4.7% and tropical high forest by 2.7% respectively[2]. One of the key drivers to the observed changes is wildfire.

More so, this area has recently attracted commercial sugarcane farmers thus increasing the wildfire hazard in the region because sugarcane plantations provide extremely flammable fuel. Furthermore, Budongo-Bugoma landscape is a region with active oil and gas exploration, production and development activities. This potentially increases the threat of wildfire risks and hazards[3].

[1] Bahati, I., Martiniello, G., & Abebe, G. K. (2022). The implications of sugarcane contract farming on land rights, labor, and food security in the Bunyoro sub-region, Uganda. *Land Use Policy, 122*, 106326

[2] Kusiima, S. K., Egeru, A., Namaalwa, J., Byakagaba, P., Mfitumukiza, D., & Mukwaya, P. (2022). Anthropogenic induced land use/cover change dynamics of Budongo-Bugoma landscape in the Albertine region, Uganda. *The Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing and Space Science, 25*(3), 639-649.

[3] *Khakzad, N., Dadashzadeh, M., & Reniers, G. (2018). Quantitative assessment of wildfire risk in oil facilities. Journal of environmental management, 223, 433-443.*

Fire intensity and occurrence in Budongo-Bugoma landscape have increased in most parts in the last 20 years[4]. The proximate (direct) drivers of wildfires in this landscape include; accidental fires arson, lightening, charcoal burning, poor agricultural practices and fires set by hunters and those harvesting honey. The underlying drivers include; limited awareness on the dangers and risks associated with wildfire, establishment of access roads in protected areas which has led to increase number of people accessing them, increasing population, oil and gas exploration, production and development activities, pastoralism, crop and tree plantations that are susceptible to fire, prolonged dry seasons, land conflicts, poverty and lack of strict legislation to reduce risks.

It is against the above background that Stakeholders in the Budongo-Bugoma landscape (Hoima, Kikuube, Masindi and Buliisa Districts) through a rigorous consultative and iterative process prepared a Wildfire Management Strategy. The Vision, Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

Vision

A wildfire free landscape that sustains natural resources for posterity

Goals

1. To reduce biodiversity and livelihood loses due to wildfires
2. To improve coordination and partnerships in wildfire management
3. To enhance capacity and capability in wildfire management
4. To raise awareness on the dangers and impacts of wildfire

Strategic Objectives

1. To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods
2. To improve on wildfire preparedness
3. To develop wildfire response mechanisms
4. To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation
5. To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management

The Goals and objectives of this strategy are anchored in Uganda's Vision 2040, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Plan III, REDD+ Strategy and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (2015-2025).

To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods will be achieved by implementing the following strategies: Develop a legal framework for wildfire prevention, control and mitigation, Research and monitoring of wildfire, Planning and Budgeting for wildfire management, Awareness raising on the importance of wildfire prevention, and Stakeholder Analysis and mobilization for wildfire prevention.

[4] *Nangendo, G., Kamugisha, D., Opige, M., & SSemmanda, R. 2023. Mapping burnt areas and fire risk assessment for Bugoma landscape. Report. Ecological Trend*

To improve community wildfire preparedness will be achieved through the following strategies: Develop wildfire management plans, Improve coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders at the DLGs, central government, CSOs, private companies and local communities, Enhance community capacity to manage wildfire, Enhance prioritization of wildfire management among policy makers at National and DLGs, Develop robust early wildfire detection and warning system , and Formulate landuse plans that minimize fire hazards.

To develop robust wildfire response mechanisms will be achieved through: Preparation of wildfire response plan, Developing wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure, Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees at District and local level, Inter-agency coordination and cooperation, Capacity enhancement in wildfire response, and Planning and Budgeting for wildfire response measures.

To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation will be achieved by implementing the following strategies: Assessment of wildfire impacts, preparing post-fire restoration plans, Capacity building in post-fire restoration and rehabilitation, Implementation of restoration actions, Declaration of wildfires as disasters and Promote insurance for wildfires.

To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management will be through the following strategies: Research on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire, Community engagements, Mass media engagement, Science/research-policy dialogues, Dissemination of information, education and communication materials on wildfire management, develop policy for incentivizing participation in wildfire management and promote traditional wildfire management practices.

The implementation matrix that clearly defines the expected output, performance indicators, time frame for implementation of priority actions and the responsible state and non-state actors is also provided in this Strategy. The first evaluation and review of this strategy will be conducted after 2 years of implementation, while the summative evaluation will be in the 5th year of implementation. Coordination and monitoring performance of implementation will jointly be conducted by the NEMA and District Local Governments in consultation with other state and non-state actors involved in the implementation of the strategy. The Strategy will be implemented between 2025-2030.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BKK- Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom

CSOs- Civil Society Organisations

DLGs- District Local Governments

DPP-Directorate of Public Prosecution

ESSD- Environment Sector Support Department

FSSD- Forest Sector Support Department

MAAIF-Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

MWE-Ministry of Water and Environment

NEMA-National Environment Management Authority

NFA- National Forestry Authority

OPM-Office of the Prime Minister

REDD- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

UNMA-Uganda National Meteorology Authority

UWA-Uganda Wildlife Authority

PPDA-Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wildfires are any unwanted lightning and human-caused fires in all types of vegetated landcover types[5]. They can be broadly divided into two types, flaming or smouldering. Smouldering fire is slow, low temperature and flameless e.g., (a) peat fire, where the soil burns deep layers for long periods of time and (b) residual burning, where thicker vegetation burns after flames have passed[6]. Smoke from peatland fires is an air pollution source associated with harmful impacts on human health and the environment[7]. Peat fires can reduce plant diversity and interfere with the soil chemical and biological properties and thus it's functioning[8]. Flaming fire is one where that burns while emitting flames. Wildfires are arguably one of the biggest threats to the environment because they change the ecosystem structure and interfere with ecological processes. Wildfires are a key driver of ecosystem change that increasingly pose a significant threat and cost to society[9]. They can contribute to land degradation, especially forest degradation, through their effect on vegetation cover.

Wildfires have adverse impacts on plants and animals in landscapes that frequently experience them[10]. They negatively affect ecosystem services such as water quality improvement, climate regulation, erosion control, food provision and soil fertility[11].

[5] *Tymstra, C., Stocks, B. J., Cai, X., & Flannigan, M. D. (2020). Wildfire management in Canada: Review, challenges and opportunities. Progress in Disaster Science, 5, 100045.*

[6] *Rein, G., & Huang, X. (2021). Smouldering wildfires in peatlands, forests and the arctic: Challenges and perspectives. Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health, 24, 100296.*

[7] *Uda, S. K., Hein, L., & Atmoko, D. (2019). Assessing the health impacts of peatland fires: a case study for Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 26(30), 31315-31327.*

[8] *Agus, C., Azmi, F. F., Widiyatno, Ilfana, Z. R., Wulandari, D., Rachmanadi, D., ... & Yuwati, T. W. (2019). The impact of forest fire on the biodiversity and the soil characteristics of tropical peatland. Handbook of climate change and biodiversity, 287-303.*

[9] *Schoennagel, T., Balch, J. K., Brenkert-Smith, H., Dennison, P. E., Harvey, B. J., Krawchuk, M. A., ... & Whitlock, C. (2017). Adapt to more wildfire in western North American forests as climate changes. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 114(18), 4582-4590.*

[10] *Shekede, M. D., Gwitira, I., & Mamvura, C. (2021). Spatial modelling of wildfire hotspots and their key drivers across districts of Zimbabwe, Southern Africa. Geocarto international, 36(8), 874-887.*

[11] *Roces-Díaz, J. V., Santín, C., Martínez-Vilalta, J., & Doerr, S. H. (2022). A global synthesis of fire effects on ecosystem services of forests and woodlands. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, 20(3), 170-178.*

More so, wildfires have been reported to affect livelihoods by causing economic loses and public health and safety challenges[12][13]. The frequency and severity of wildfires at a global scale is likely to increase due to climate change[14]. It is predicted that every degree in warming is associated with a 12% increase in lightning activity which is one of the triggers of wildfires[15]. The occurrence of wildfires is mainly shaped by factors such as flammable biomass, temperature, wind speed and direction, topography and ignition sources[16]. Areas that are dominated by arid and semi-arid condition often experience more fires than those that are wet most of the year. This is exacerbated by the fact that arid and semi-arid areas have flammable biomass such as grasslands that provide more fuel for wildfire ignition.

It is estimated that four out of every five wildfires have been started by people[17]. There is growing evidence that increased human pressures on the environment have significantly increased the frequency, extent, and severity of wildfires globally.[18] The common causes of wildfires in the recent times are arson and poor hunting practices[19], honey harvesting and use of fire in land preparation for agriculture and rangeland management. Anthropogenic activities have caused high wildfire incidences as well as expansion of areas burnt in most parts of the world.

[12] *Kpienbaareh, D., & Luginaah, I. (2019). After the flames then what? exploring the linkages between wildfires and household food security in the northern Savannah of Ghana. International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology, 26(7), 612-624.*

[13] *Holm, S. M., Miller, M. D., & Balmes, J. R. (2021). Health effects of wildfire smoke in children and public health tools: a narrative review. Journal of exposure science & environmental epidemiology, 31(1), 1-20.*

[14] *Westerling, A. L., Hidalgo, H. G., Cayan, D. R., & Swetnam, T. W. (2006). Warming and earlier spring increase western US forest wildfire activity. science, 313(5789), 940-943.*

[15] *Romps, D. M., Seeley, J. T., Vollaro, D., & Molinari, J. (2014). Projected increase in lightning strikes in the United States due to global warming. Science, 346(6211), 851-854.*

[16] *Wang, X., Parisien, M. A., Taylor, S. W., Candau, J. N., Stralberg, D., Marshall, G. A., ... & Flannigan, M. D. (2017). Projected changes in daily fire spread across Canada over the next century. Environmental Research Letters, 12(2), 025005.*

[17] *Khakzad, N., Dadashzadeh, M., & Reniers, G. (2018). Quantitative assessment of wildfire risk in oil facilities. Journal of environmental management, 223, 433-443.*

[18] *Pozo, R. A., Galleguillos, M., González, M. E., Vásquez, F., & Arriagada, R. (2022). Assessing the socio-economic and land-cover drivers of wildfire activity and its spatiotemporal distribution in south-central Chile. Science of the total environment, 810, 152002.*

[19] *Catry, F. X., Rego, F. C., Bação, F. L., & Moreira, F. (2009). Modeling and mapping wildfire ignition risk in Portugal. International Journal of Wildland Fire, 18(8), 921-931.*

The Government of Uganda through the third National Development Plan (NDPIII) acknowledges that wildfire is a threat to not only the environment but also infrastructure, cities and businesses. Similarly, the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan identifies wildfires as one of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda. More so, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (2015-2025) recognizes that wildfires are a threat to most biodiversity rich areas in Uganda.

Budongo – Bugoma landscape which is an area covering the northern part of the Albertine Rift landscape is a well-known biodiversity hot spot[20] that covers the districts of Kikuube, Hoima, Masindi and Buliisa. It hosts the largest forest reserves in Uganda i.e., Budongo and Bugoma[21] and it is characterized by unique bird species, very rich plant diversity and incomparable endemic animal diversity. This area is dominated by vegetation types that are prone to wildfires, especially the grasslands, woodlands, and bushlands (Figure 1). These vegetation types are extremely flammable thus increasing the risk of wildfire occurrence. The plantations and uniform farmland adjacent to these forests exacerbate the fire threat.

[20] *Plumptre, A. J., Davenport, T. R., Behangana, M., Kityo, R., Eilu, G., Ssegawa, P., ... & Moyer, D. (2007). The biodiversity of the Albertine Rift. Biological conservation, 134(2), 178-194.*

[21] *Kusiima, S. K., Egeru, A., Namaalwa, J., Byakagaba, P., Mfitumukiza, D., & Mukwaya, P. (2022). Anthropogenic induced land use/cover change dynamics of Budongo-Bugoma landscape in the Albertine region, Uganda. The Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing and Space Science, 25(3), 639-649.*

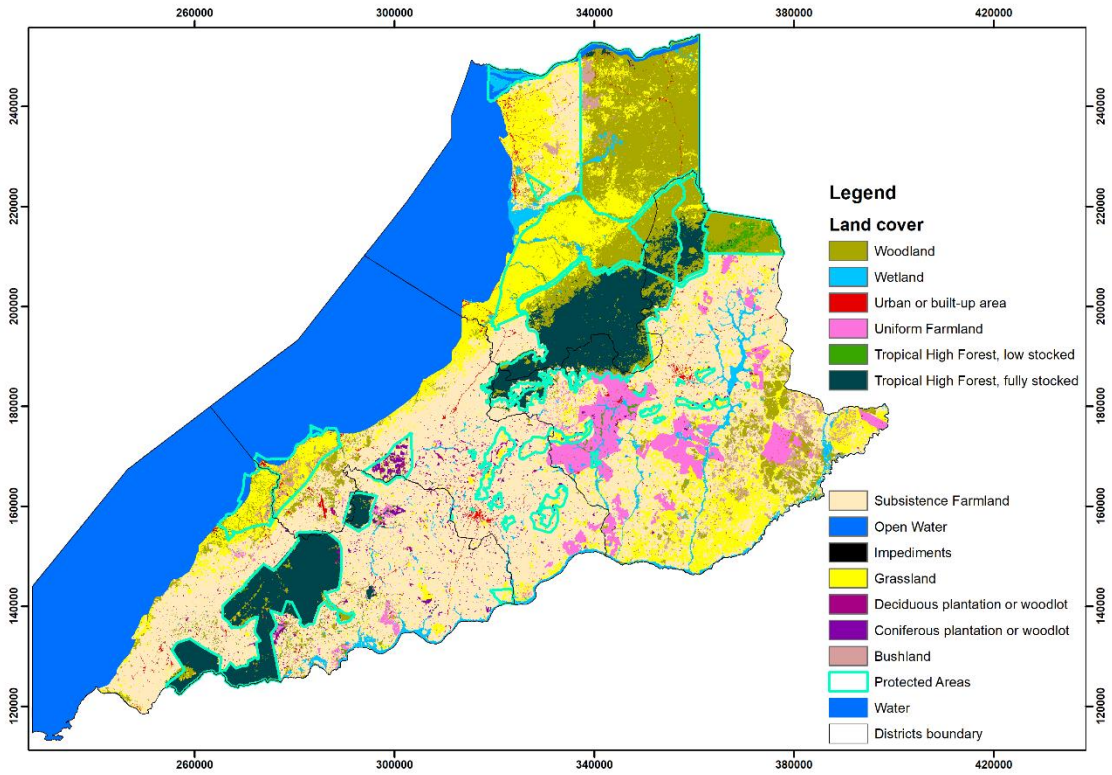

Figure 1: Land cover/use of the Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

1.2 Rationale and Justification for Wildfire Management Strategy in Budongo-Bugoma landscape

Budongo-Bugoma landscape is one of the few areas in Uganda characterized by several natural vegetation cover types including grassland, bushland, and tropical high forest. However recent studies show that between 1990 to 2020, grassland reduced by 19.5%, bushland by 4.7% and tropical high forest by 2.7% respectively[22]. One of the key drivers to the observed changes is wildfire and if this is not addressed, the biodiversity hotspot status of this region may irreversibly be lost. This is because the co-existence of the varied vegetation types within the same landscape provides ecological conditions critical for the survival of a wide range of species thus enhancing the biodiversity of this hotspot.

[22] *Kusiima, S. K., Egeru, A., Namaalwa, J., Byakagaba, P., Mfitumukiza, D., & Mukwaya, P. (2022). Anthropogenic induced land use/cover change dynamics of Budongo-Bugoma landscape in the Albertine region, Uganda. The Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing and Space Science, 25(3), 639-649.*

Wildfires especially those characterized by an inappropriate regime can result into significant loss of biodiversity[23]. This is because wildfires destroy fire intolerant species, alter successional patterns, reduce soil macro-organism diversity and causes changes in soil bacterial composition[24].

More so, this landscape has recently become attractive to commercial sugarcane growers in almost all the districts. This coupled with the remaining grasslands and woodlands have increased the wildfire hazard in the region because sugarcane provides extremely flammable fuel. More so, this region hosts wildlife conservation areas such as Murchison Falls National Park, Bugungu Game Reserve and Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve which always experience wildfires associated with hunters and livestock farmers from neighbouring communities and sometimes controlled fires by management that become wild. This is further exacerbated by lack of well-maintained fire lines of these conservation areas. More so, at the peak of the dry season, this region experiences fires ignited by lightening. This not only affects the ecological integrity of these conservation areas but is a threat to livelihoods of adjacent communities who often loose property due to these fires that turn wild.

Furthermore, Budongo-Bugoma landscape is a region with active oil and gas exploration, production and development activities, which have potential to increase the threat of wildfire hazards. All the oil and gas activities are located in woodland and grassland areas. This exposes the facilities and the vegetation to risks of wildfires[25].

It is, therefore, prudent that a wildfire management strategy is developed to address the drivers and potential hazards of wildfire in this landscape. This will reduce the current socio-ecological and economic foot print of wildfires in this landscape, which is highly revered for its biodiversity and other natural resources.

[23] Kelly, L. T., Giljohann, K. M., Duane, A., Aquilué, N., Archibald, S., Batllori, E., ... & Brotons, L. (2020). Fire and biodiversity in the Anthropocene. *Science, 370*(6519), eabb0355.
[24] Syaufina, L., & Ainuddin, A. N. (2011). Impacts of fire on Southeast Asia tropical forests biodiversity: a review. *Asian Journal of Plant Sciences, 10*(4), 238-244.
[25] Khakzad, N., Dadashzadeh, M., & Reniers, G. (2018). Quantitative assessment of wildfire risk in oil facilities. *Journal of environmental management, 223*, 433-443.

Photo: impact of wildfire

Chimpanzee in Itohya Forest

2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Trends of Wildfires in Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

All the districts in the Budongo-Bugoma landscape have experienced wild fires in the last 21 years. Buliisa district has generally had more frequent fires than all other districts. Kikuube district has had the least burnt areas in the last 21 years. Figure 2 shows the distribution of actual wildfire hazards in the landscape assessed using Landsat imagery data of 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022. All burn scars on all images on each year of mapping were mapped out and then merged to determine overall extent and frequency an area was burnt over the five snapshot years.

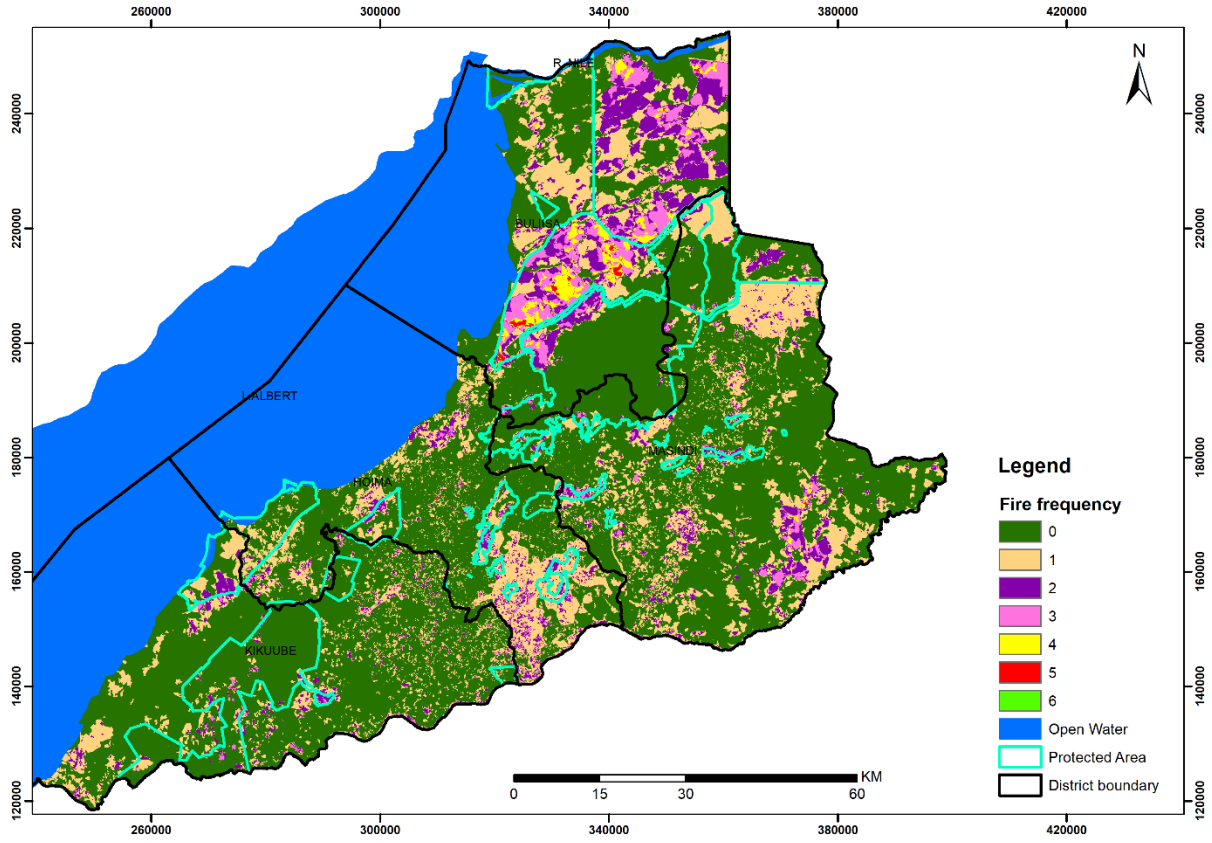

Figure 2: Fire frequency within the Budongo-Bugoma landscape in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022.

Fires in Kikuube district have varied patterns with the eastern having very many small burnt areas and the western side having few but large burnt areas (Figure 3).

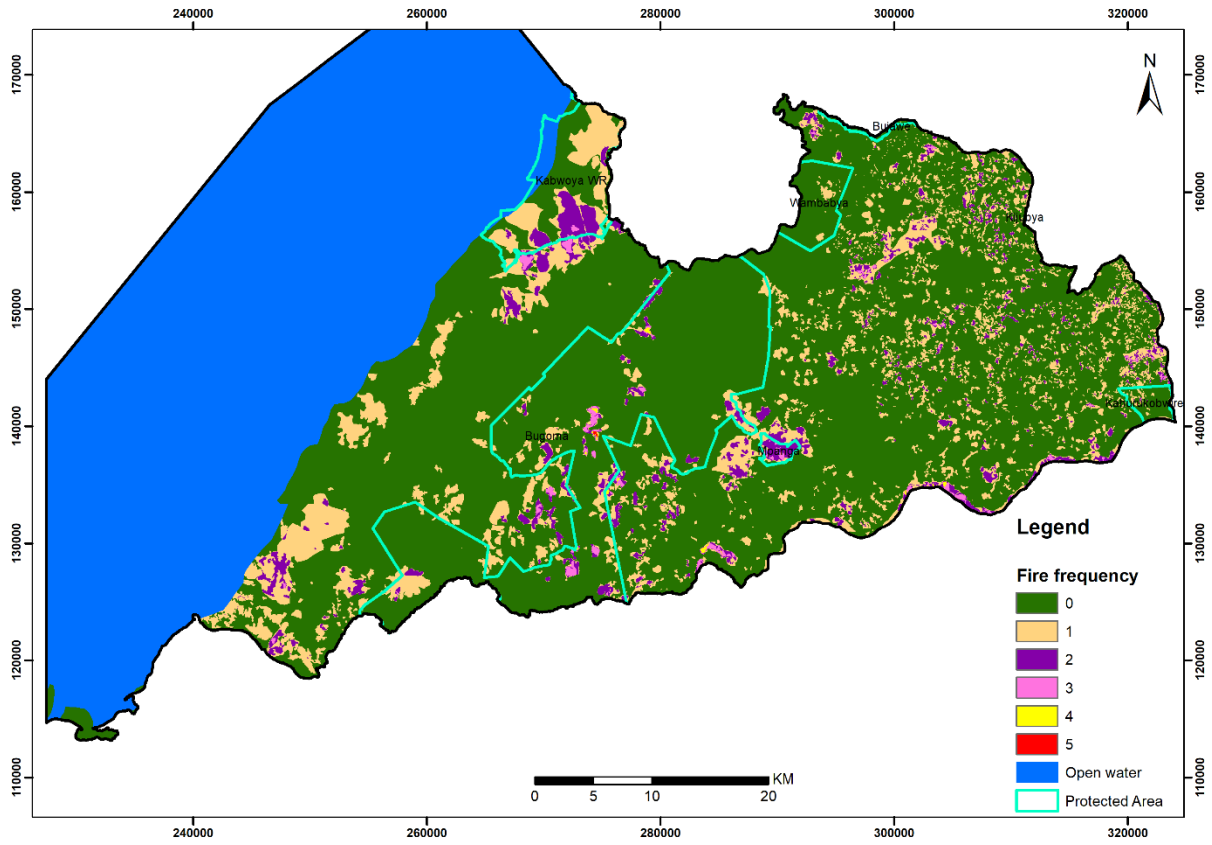

Figure 3: Areas of Kikuube district that were burnt in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022

Kabwoya WR and Mpanga CFR have large areas that have experienced fire in the selected years.

Most parts of Hoima district were burnt with the eastern side receiving more fires than the rest of the district. The grasslands and bushlands on the western side, close to Lake Albert were also significantly burnt (Figure 4).

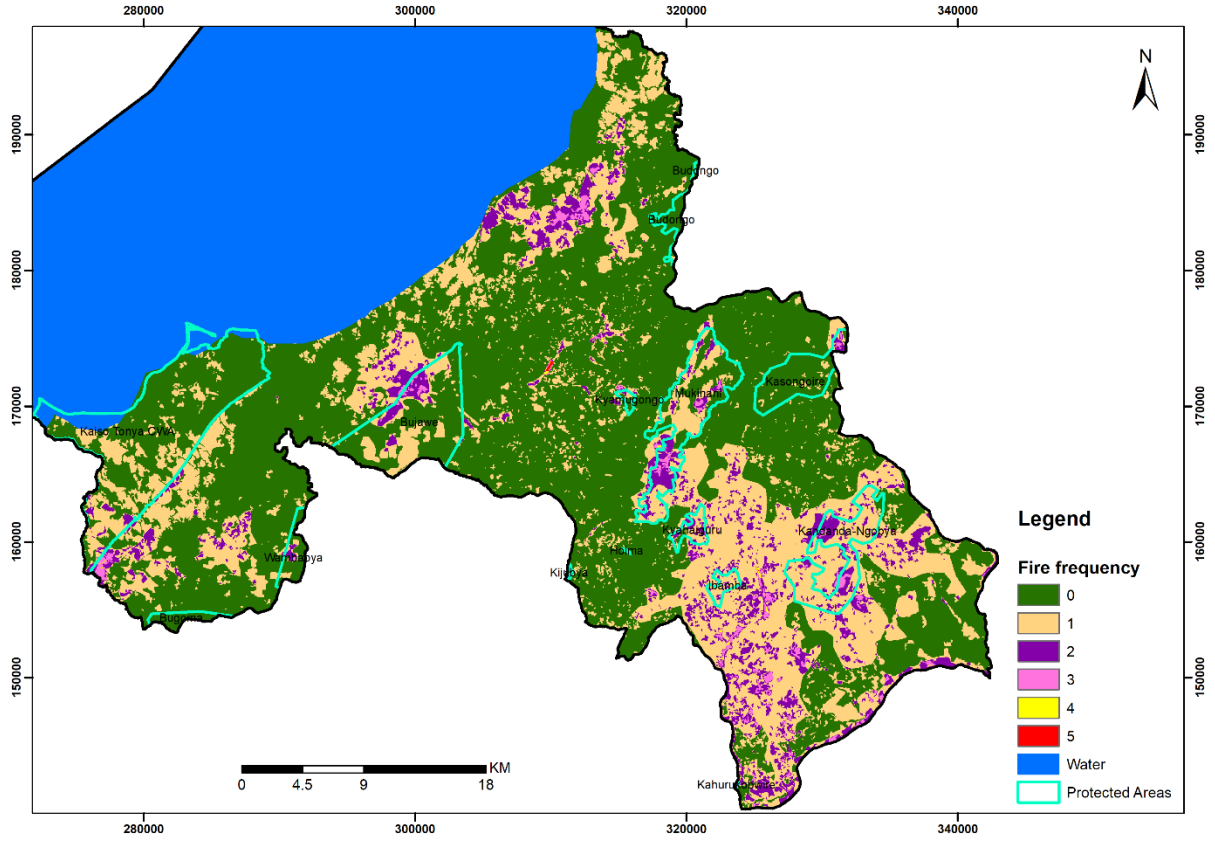

Figure 4: Areas of Hoima district that were burnt in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022

Fire occurrence in Masindi was almost evenly spread across the district in the years between 2001-2022 (Figure 5).

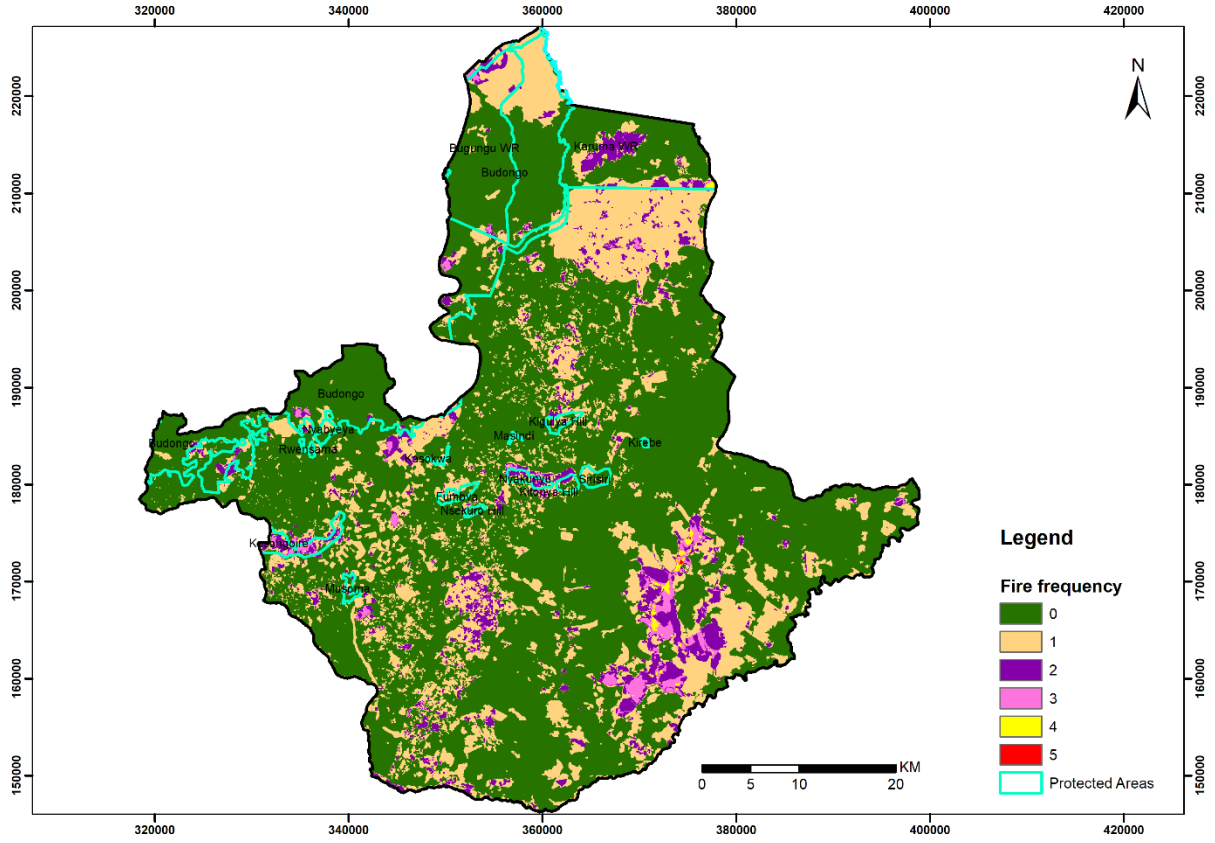

Figure 5: *Areas of Masindi district that were burnt in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022*

In Buliisa district, fires were more frequent within protected areas, especially Bugungu Wildlife Reserve than anywhere else (Figure 6).

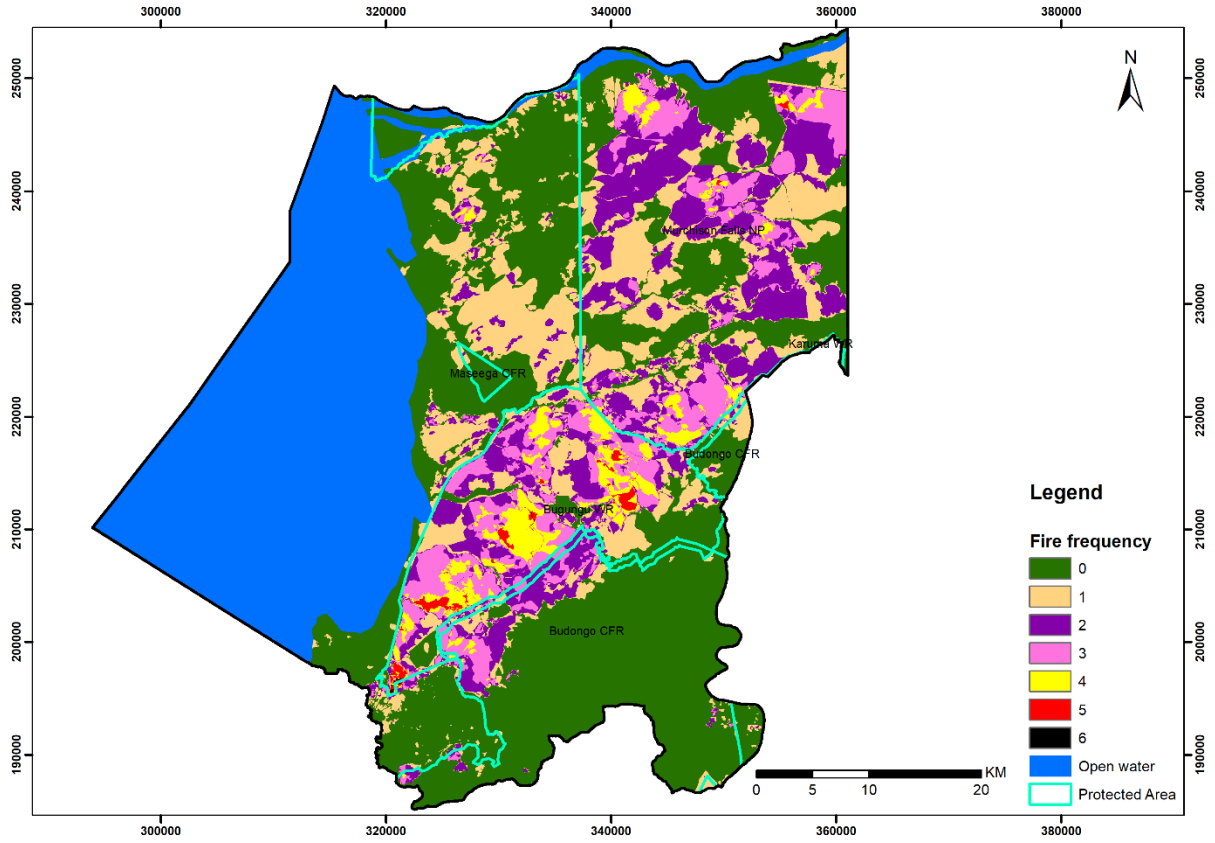

Figure 6: Areas of Buliisa district that were burnt in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2022

2.2 Drivers of Wildfires in Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

The proximate (direct) drivers of wildfires in Budongo-Bugoma landscape include; accidental fires by smokers and management/planned fires that get out of control (e.g., by farmers and managers of protected areas), arson, lightening, charcoal burning, poor agricultural practices such as use of fire during land preparation, and fires set by hunters and those harvesting honey.

The underlying drivers include; limited awareness on the dangers and risks associated with wildfire, establishment of access roads in protected areas which has led to increase number of people accessing the otherwise hard to reach areas, increasing population, pastoralism, crop and tree plantations that are susceptible to fire, prolonged dry seasons, land conflicts, poverty and lack of a deterrent and enforceable law. The only available law that can be applied is the Prohibition of the Burning of Grass Act of 1974, which is not in tandem with the current socio-economic and ecological dynamics of wildfires. There are also no regulations to operationalize its enforcement and thus it has not been effectively enforced.

More so, the National Environment Act, 2019 does not have any specific provisions to address wildfire except providing for Environmental Impact Assessment for projects that are planned to be implemented in areas that are prone to bushfires. Similarly, the Wildlife Policy, 2014 and Wildlife Act, 2019 are silent on addressing wildfires despite the fact that wildfires are a common phenomenon in wildlife conservation areas. The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003 and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Regulations, 2016 only provide for forest fire management. They are silent on fires that occur in areas outside Forest Reserves.

Wildfire risk has increased in this region due to high temperatures, pastoralism, limited awareness on dangers of wildfires, lack of laws prohibiting, or guiding, use of fire in cultivation, increased malice within the community, increased expansion of monocultures of tree plantations and sugarcane, deforestation and forest degradation. Other factors for increased wildfire risk are; oil and gas development activities, poaching and hunting, unplanned settlements, poverty, reduced rainfall, weak coordination among law enforcement actors and local communities and accidents involving fuel tankers. Fire occurrence is expected to continue rising because of activities such as charcoal burning and pastoralists setting fires in rangelands to facilitate resprouting of foraging grass.

This landscape is also facing unprecedented long drought seasons, reduced rainfall amounts and a rise in temperature. These are trends that are most likely going to continue under the current scenario of climate change.

High temperatures due to climate change increase fuel load thus increasing fire risk and intensity. Dry conditions during and prior to the fire season increase the flammability of live and dead vegetation that fuels wildfires[26].

Wildfires are likely going to remain a challenge in this landscape partly because of the divergent opinions on whether they are useful or dangerous among different stakeholders. To some pastoralists, wildfires are perceived to be crucial for regeneration of foraging grass and controlling ticks hence very important for rangeland condition, yet actors in conservation in the region consider wildfires a threat to biodiversity conservation and thus should be suppressed. Farmers involved in sugarcane and tree plantations perceive wildfires as a threat to their livelihood and businesses yet hunters admire wildfire because it facilitates their practice. The Actors in oil and gas industry perceive them as a risk considering that they deal with extremely flammable products yet some crop farmers still find it a cheap means to prepare their land for cultivation. Overall, wildfires are by and large perceived to be dangerous to

[26] Westerling, A. L., & Bryant, B. P. (2008). Climate change and wildfire in California. *Climatic Change, 87*, 231-249.

most crop and tree farmers, and infrastructure that has been established by the oil and gas industry, and a threat to biodiversity conservation in Budongo-Bugoma landscape.

2.3 Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of wildfires Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

Wildfires have destroyed crop plantations hence leading to loss of income. Companies and individuals are increasingly incurring increased cost of operation in putting out wildfires. Wildfires have also led to loss of employment opportunities especially among crop and tree plantation farms. When the crops are destroyed due to wildfires, many people especially the youth loose their jobs on such farms.

Wildfires have also increased conflicts within the community due to accusations related to the source and trigger of the fires. They have also increased straying of wild animals into gardens of local communities thus increasing human-wildlife conflicts. This is because wildfires have destroyed wildlife habitats.

More so, wildfires have caused displacement of people, destruction of infrastructure and in some cases loss of life. They have caused trauma to farmers, especially commercial tree and sugarcane growers who are the most common victims thus affecting their psycho-social wellbeing. They have exacerbated the condition of the poor, especially when their food crops and sometimes assets are lost which further pushes them into extreme poverty and food insecurity.

Wildfires have killed wildlife, especially birds that are in nests and other slow-moving animals. They have also increased habitat loss and the related ecosystem services, and reduced food availability for wildlife in this landscape.

Wildfires have led to loss of woodland forests thus affecting the micro-climate which was hitherto regulated by these forests. They have also led to certain landscapes being invaded and/or dominated by fire-resistant species because of incessant wildfire occurrence[27] . This is because fire often damages

[27] *Nangendo, G., Stein, A., ter Steege, H., & Bongers, F. (2005). Changes in woody plant composition of three vegetation types exposed to a similar fire regime for over 46 years. Forest Ecology and Management, 217(2-3), 351-364.*

the seedbank, seedlings and saplings of the historical species thus hindering their regeneration. It can also result into mortality of seeds, stems and plants[28] and thus negatively affecting biodiversity conservation.

Wildfires fires especially in wetlands have destroyed breeding sites of certain fauna and thus increasing the risk of extirpation. This is because fires cause changes in vegetation composition and structure and overall function of the wetland ecosystem[29]. Other impacts of wildfires in the landscape are increased air pollution due to smoke, and soil degradation. Wildfire Air pollution can result into health challenges such as increased incidences of cardiorespiratory diseases[30].

Research shows that high-severity wildfires cause long-term decrease of Soil Organic Matter and depletion of soil nutrients[31] hence soil degradation. This has resulted into poor yields among crop farmers thus limiting them from transforming their households through agriculture.

2.4. Current Initiatives to Address Wildfires in Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

There are a few initiatives that some organizations are implementing to address the challenge of wildfire and these include: maintenance of fire-lines and fire breaks especially for those involved in growing trees and sugarcane, recruitment and training of fire scouts, acquisition of firefighting tools, maintaining good relations with neighboring communities, sensitization of communities, contractors and employees on fire dangers, and maintaining disaster management committees.

Other measures are; conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment in fire prone areas to assess the risk and propose prevention and mitigation measures for certain projects, conducting firefighting trainings of workers, and designating smoking zones within camps and work sites. A few Sugarcane companies operating in the landscape are incentivizing individuals who are able to spot and report any fire occurrence. Others organizations and companies conduct sensitization and

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[28] Nyamadzawo, G., Gwenzi, W., Kanda, A., Kundhlande, A., & Masona, C. (2013). Understanding the causes, socio-economic and environmental impacts, and management of veld fires in tropical Zimbabwe. Fire science reviews, 2, 1-13.

[29] Kotze, D. C. (2013). The effects of fire on wetland structure and functioning. African Journal of Aquatic Science, 38(3), 237-247.

[30] Requia, W. J., Amini, H., Mukherjee, R., Gold, D. R., & Schwartz, J. D. (2021). Health impacts of wildfire-related air pollution in Brazil: a nationwide study of more than 2 million hospital admissions between 2008 and 2018. Nature communications, 12(1), 6555.

[31] Hrelja, I., Šestak, I., & Bogunović, I. (2020). Wildfire impacts on soil physical and chemical properties-a short review of recent studies. Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus, 85(4), 293-301.

awareness campaigns on the dangers of wildfire among the neighboring communities to discourage them from igniting fires. Local government leaders often facilitate prosecution of suspects that may have started a wildfire that has caused economic and livelihood loses. There is currently no formal legislation in any of the districts to address wildfires. However, some districts have included managing wildfire in their Draft Disaster Management Plans.

A few companies have restrictions on access to their premises and some of their Health, Safety and Environment Management Plans have fire management embedded. There are also some private companies that ensure buffer zones are maintained to reduce risks of wildfire, while others have fire management plans, have installed Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and fire alarms. A few of the private companies also share wildfire information with others companies to enable coordination in fire management.

In spite of the fact that commercial entities continue to put in measures to address wildfires in this landscape, these measures have not been effective. It's observable that most efforts towards managing wildfires are implemented at individual level and mostly by private companies. There is very minimal coordination of efforts despite wildfire being a phenomenon whose spatial and temporal scale cannot be predicted with certainty and thus requires coordination of all stakeholders. Most of the initiatives focus on prevention and less on preparedness, response and recovery yet a comprehensive wildfire

2.5. Gaps and challenges in Wildfire Management in Budongo-Bugoma Landscape

Wildfire management incorporates four integrated phases of management which include; prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery[32]. Prevention are all actions that focus on averting wildfires, and mitigation are those that aim at reducing the impacts when they do occur. Preparedness refers to those actions that facilitate readiness to adequately manage wildfire arrivals and their possible consequences, while response are the actions taken to manage wildfire incidents when they do occur and recovery includes all efforts taken to repair, restore or rebuild conditions during and after a wildfire.

The challenges that have been encountered in the quest for preventing and mitigating wildfire in the Budongo-Bugoma landscape include the following; absence of wildfire management in the District Development Plans, inadequate resources (human, infrastructure and finance), lack of local legislation to control wildfires, limited collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. The other challenges are; limited awareness of the threats associated with wildfires and fixed mindset of local communities on wildfire as an occurrence that is bound to occur only in the dry season and lack of a clear structure for wildfire management from the National, District to the Village level.

The challenges that are affecting preparedness for wildfire include; lack of resource allocation for fire management in District Local Governments, failure to prioritize wildfire management, lack of knowledge on preparing for wildfire, lack of early warning systems to identify critical periods of extreme fire danger in advance of their potential occurrence. Others are; weak law enforcement on wildfire, weak and slow communication among stakeholders, lack of specific office bearers and coordination/focal point of wildfires in the district local government structure and lack of an emergency response procedure on wildfire.

[32] *Tymstra, C., Stocks, B. J., Cai, X., & Flannigan, M. D. (2020). Wildfire management in Canada: Review, challenges and opportunities. Progress in Disaster Science, 5, 100045.*

In terms of response to wildfires, the following challenges are experienced; lack of adequate and specialised firefighting equipment, weak coordinating system and structures, and poor working relations with the partners and adjacent local communities.

Other challenges include; lack of appropriate and adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for fire management, inadequate skills to manage wildfire, lack of firefighting stations, poor road network which limits mobility to respond to fire emergency and lack of community support towards wildfire management.

In terms of recovery from wildfires, the following are some of the challenges experienced; lack of insurance schemes to compensate/offset losses after wildfires, slow and bureaucratic process to recover losses from wildfires by some private companies that have contract farmers, unclear roles and responsibilities in relation to recovery initiatives within the DLGs, no compensation for individuals affected by wildfires by private companies that have contract farmers, and limited knowledge on preparing recovery plans and measures. Other challenges limiting recovery from wildfires are; lack of technical skills and knowledge to quantify socio-economic and ecological losses due to wildfire to pursue compensation that can be used in recovery, lack of guidelines on compensation due to wildfires, limited access to fire incidence reports to guide recovery interventions and lack of budget and appropriation among government agencies to implement recovery measures.

3.0 Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles

3.1 Vision

A wildfire free landscape that sustains natural resources for posterity

3.2 Goals

1. To reduce biodiversity and livelihood loses due to wildfires
2. To improve coordination and partnerships in wildfire management
3. To enhance capacity and capability in wildfire management
4. To raise awareness on the dangers and impacts of wildfire

3.3 Strategic Objectives

1. To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods
2. To improve on wildfire preparedness
3. To develop wildfire response mechanisms
4. To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation
5. To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management

3.4 Guiding Principles

3.4.1 Coordination and Cooperation

Wildfire management requires coordination and cooperation across different governance levels (National and Local), coordination across state and non-state actors and alignment of priorities, plans and budgets. This is because it's a cross-boundary issue that cannot be effectively addressed by individuals, at single institution level or in an uncoordinated fashion. Collective management of wildfire can only be attained if there is deliberate coordination and cooperation of all the stakeholders within Government, private sector and Civil Society. This requires shared understanding of wildfire risk and management among all stakeholders.

3.4.2. Capability and Capacity

Capability refers to the systems, plans, resources, skills, leadership, knowledge and experiences that enable organizations, and the individuals who direct, manage and work for them, to effectively deliver on their responsibilities. Capacity can be broadly interpreted in terms of financial, human, technological, legal, organizational and institutional resources to perform a function. Effective management of wildfire requires adequate capability and capacity to implement the desired strategies.

3.4.3. Adaptability

Considering the various uncertainties of wildfires, institutions and organizations must be capable of adapting to the ever-changing wildfire dynamics. Decision-makers should continuously gather and integrate appropriate ecological, social, and economic information to enable adaptive wildfire management. This will allow flexibility and innovation in wildfire management.

3.4.4 Inclusiveness/Participation

Inclusiveness refers to ensuring that opportunities are availed to all stakeholders to participate in and influence decision-making processes and actions. Wildfire management requires seeking input from multiple sources; having an awareness of and valuing diversity; and having policies and structures to foster stakeholder contributions and engagement. Elements of access to participation include formal space for participation in relevant forums, the use of appropriate mechanisms to invite participation, the inclusiveness and openness of such processes, and the extent to which gathered input is taken into account. All these are important for effective wildfire management.

3.4.5 Subsidiarity

The principle of subsidiarity provides that decision-making should be devolved to the lowest possible competent level. It holds that decision-making authority is best placed (a) where responsibility for outcomes will occur; and (b) in the closest appropriate proximity to where the actions will be taken that will produce the outcomes.

Wildfire risk management depends on local societal, economic and environmental characteristics[33] and occur at local scale and thus the lower governance units are in the most suitable position to implement wildfire management. The larger and greater body should not exercise functions which can be carried out efficiently by one smaller and lesser, but rather the former should support the latter and help to coordinate its activity.

3.4.6 Prevention

The prevention principle holds that action should be taken at an early stage to reduce as much as possible the occurrence of wildfire. It is important to have an understanding of when and where fires are more likely to occur, and why they ignite. This can enable designing of fire prevention strategies that directly target the source of the problem.

Bugoma Local community members are creating fire lines, a traditional method of preventing wild fires

[33] *Carreiras, M., Ferreira, A. J. D., Valente, S., Fleskens, L., Gonzales-Pelayo, Ó., Rubio, J. L., ... & Ritsema, C. J. (2014). Comparative analysis of policies to deal with wildfire risk. Land Degradation & Development, 25(1), 92-103.*

4.0 DETAILED ACTION PLAN FOR THE STRATEGY

The details of the strategies, actions and responsible actors are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Strategies, priority actions and responsible Actors for the implementation of each of the strategic objective

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
1.To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods	Develop a legal framework for wildfire prevention, control and mitigation	i. Review of National and Local legislation on wildfire ii. Passing of Ordinances and Byelaws on wildfire by Local Governments iii. Enactment of Regulations on wildfire management iv. Coordination and cooperation between DLGS and law enforcement agencies	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, Solicitor General Office, CSOs, NFA, NEMA, MAAIF, Judiciary, DPP and Police
	Research and monitoring of wildfire	i. Research on ecological and socio-economic impacts of fire in the landscape ii. Fire ecology and behaviour assessments	Research Institutions, Universities, Private sector, CSOs, MAAIF, MWE
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire management	i. Prepare District Development and Environmental Plans that put wildfire management into consideration ii. Budget and appropriate Resources for wildfire management	DLG, CSOs, Private sector, MWE, MAAIF
	Awareness raising on the importance of wildfire prevention	i. Prepare Information, Education and communication materials ii. Prepare policy briefs iii. Conduct public dialogues iv. Making Radio announcements	DLGs, NEMA, CSOs, private sector, BKK, MWE, MAAIF
	Stakeholder Analysis and mobilization for wildfire prevention	i. Conduct stakeholder analysis ii. Mobilise stakeholders to support wildfire prevention	DLGs, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, private sector, BKK, MWE, MAAIF

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
2.To improve community wildfire preparedness	Develop Wildfire Management plans	i. Scoping ii. Stakeholder engagement iii. Fire risk assessment iv. Formulation of wildfire management plan	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, CSOs, NFA and NEMA, private sector
	Improve coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders at the DLGs, central government, CSOs, private companies and local communities	i. Develop working arrangements to improve coordination within DLGs and between DLGs and Central Government Agencies ii. Sign MoUs iii. Joint planning, budgeting and implementation iv. Coordination and cooperation within DLGs and between DLGs and Central Government Agencies v. Coordination and cooperation between DLGS and law enforcement agencies vi. Coordination and cooperation between government agencies, community and private companies	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, CSOs, religious institutions, NFA, NEMA, private sector, Judiciary, DPP, Police, private companies
	Enhance community capacity to manage wildfire	i. Support local communities with infrastructure to manage wildfire ii. Provide communities of techniques and measures to manage wildfires iii. Support establishment and operationalization of wildfire management committees iv. Subsidize equipment and technologies used in wildfire management	DLGs, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, religious institutions, private sector, BKK, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of local Government,

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
		v. Provide for extension services in wildfire management	Ministry of Public service
	Enhance prioritization of wildfire management among policy makers at National and DLGs	i. Prepare Policy briefs ii. Conduct Policy dialogues iii. Conduct policy advocacy and lobbying for wildfire management	CSOs, BKK and private sector, religious organisations
	Develop robust early wildfire detection and warning system	i. Sign MoU with Uganda National Meteorological Authority ii. Sign MOUs with telecommunication companies and media iii. Integrate wildfire in the Disaster preparedness policy and Plans iv. Acquisition of unmanned aerial vehicles based (UAV) remote sensing technologies and other data capturing equipment v. Subsidize equipment and technologies used in fire detection vi. Formulate data sharing protocols vii. Capacity building of users in early wildfire detection and warning system	UNMA, DLGs, Media, Telcom companies, private companies, CSOs, OPM, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
	Formulate landuse plans that minimize fire hazards	i. Develop landuse plans at all levels (District, Sub- County, Parish) that minimize fire hazards ii. Enforce the implementation of the landuse plans	DLGs, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Police, DPP, and Judiciary, CSOs, communities

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
3. To develop robust wildfire response mechanisms	Prepare of wildfire response plan	i. Conduct wildfire risk analysis ii. Preparation of wildfire response plan	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, Armed forces
	Develop wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure	i. Conduct an inventory of required equipment and infrastructure ii. Acquisition of wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, UNMA Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA)
	Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees at District and local level	i. Stakeholder analysis ii. Preparation of rules of engagement iii. Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees iv. Mobilise resources for wildfire response/incident groups/committees v. Training of wildfire response/incident groups/committees	DLGs, CSOs, private sector, BKK, Religious organisations, local communities
	Inter-agency coordination and cooperation	i. Stakeholder analysis ii. Formalisation of cooperation among stakeholders	DLGs, NEMA, OPM, NFA, CSOs, Police, MWE, MAAIF
	Capacity enhancement in wildfire response	i. Provide equipment, tools and other infrastructure for wildfire response ii. Train fire fighters in different aspects of responding and managing wildfires	DLGs, CSOs, private sector, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Police
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire response measures	i. Integrate wildfire response in plans ii. Integrate wildfire response in budgets iii. Integrate/mainstream wild fire response in District Disaster Plans	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, DLGs, CSOs, OPM, MWE, MAAIF

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions		Responsible Actors
4. To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	Assessment of wildfire impacts	i. ii.	Stakeholder engagement Conduct studies on Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Wildfire	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia Local community, Media
	Preparing post-fire restoration plans	i. ii. iii. iv. v. vi.	Conduct Stakeholder engagement Formulation of restoration goals and objectives Identification of Restoration actions and techniques Scheduling of implementation of Restoration action Mobilization of financial & human resources Acquisition of equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia, MWE, MAAIF Local community, financial institutions, Media
	Capacity building in post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	i. ii. iii.	Training of technical staff and communities in different post-fire restoration strategies Acquisition of equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration Acquisition of financial resources to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, MWE, MAAIF local community, financial institutions, Media
	Implementation of restoration actions	i. ii. iii.	Conduct Stakeholder engagement Enhance promotion of restoration within communities Recruit qualified and experienced staff to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, MAAIF local community, Media
	Declaration of wildfires as disasters	i. ii. iii. iv.	Amendment of the laws on disasters to include losses incurred due to wildfires Assessment of socio-economic and environmental losses Compensation from relevant authorities Enacting of bye-laws to address wildfire loses	OPM, DLGs, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, CSO's, Parliament, Media, Solicitor General office

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
	Promote insurance for wildfires	i. Mobilise insurance companies to provide insurance policies that cover wildfires hazards ii. Mobilise insurance companies to cover post-wildfire restoration costs in their wildfire insurance policies	Private sector, Insurance Companies, Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda, Parliament, Media

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
5. To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management	Research on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire	i. Conduct studies on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire ii. Dissemination of research findings	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, Religious organisations
	Community engagements	i. Conduct regular open dialogues (*Barazas*) on wildfire and its adverse socio-economic and environmental impacts ii. Conduct Stakeholder dialogues to influence attitudes on wildfires through drama & MDD iii. Conduct radio talk shows	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, BKK, Religious organisations, Local community, Media House
	Mass media engagement	i. Capacity building of media practitioners on the dangers related to wildfires on society, economy and environment ii. Signing of MoUs with mass media organisations	DLGS, CSOs, Academia, private sector, MWE, NFA, UWA, NEMA
	Science/research-policy dialogues	i. Conduct science/research-policy dialogues for researchers on wildfire to share their findings with policy makers ii. Preparation of policy briefs iii. Integrate traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire management iv. Giving feedback	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers MWE, NFA, UWA, NEMA & Cultural institutions

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors
	Dissemination of information, education and communication materials on wildfire management	i. Preparation of communication materials on wildfire management ii. Conduct wildfire awareness campaigns using written materials, posters, billboards, drama, radio programmes and videos	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, BKK, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, Religious organisations MWE, UWA,
	Develop policy for incentivizing participation in wildfire management	i. Formulate policies for incentivizing participation in wildfire management ii. Provide incentives for participation in wildfire management	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, MAAIF, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
	Promote traditional wildfire management practices	i. Conduct studies to identify traditional wildfire management practices ii. Implement traditional wildfire management practices	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, BKK, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, Religious organisations

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The implementation matrix is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The details of the implementation matrix of each of the strategic objective

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Time frame (years)	Outcomes
1.To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods	Develop a legal framework for wildfire prevention, control and mitigation	i. Review of National and Local legislation on wildfire ii. Passing of Ordinances and Byelaws on wildfire by Local Governments iii. Enactment of Regulations on wildfire management iv. Coordination and cooperation between DLGS and law enforcement agencies	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, Solicitor General, CSOs NFA, NEMA, MAAIF, Judiciary, DPP and Police	-Reviewed National and District and lower local Government laws relevant to wildfire - Ordinances and Byelaws on wildfire by Local Governments passed - Regulations on wildfire management by responsible bodies - working frameworks between DLGS and law enforcement agencies developed	-No. of Reviewed National and District and lower local Government laws relevant to wildfire -No. of districts and lower local government that have passed Ordinances and Byelaws on wildfire -Regulations passed by the responsible bodies at the national level -No. of MoU signed between DLGS	2025-27 2025-27 2026-28 2025-30	-Enhanced legal framework for wildfire prevention, control and mitigation and compliance -Reduced occurrence of wildfire -Enhanced biodiversity conservation

					and Law enforcement agencies		
	Research and monitoring of wildfire	i. Research on ecological and socio-economic impacts of wildfire in the landscape ii. Fire ecology and behaviour assessments	Research Institutions, Universities, Private sector, CSOs, NEMA, MWE, MAAIF	-Studies on ecological and socio-economic impacts of wildfire in the landscape - Studies on Fire ecology and behaviour	-No. of studies on ecological and socio-economic impacts of wildfire in the landscape conducted -No. of studies on fire ecology and behaviour conducted	2025-30 2025-30	-Enhanced knowledge on the impacts of wildfire on the ecology and socio-economic dynamics -Improved knowledge on fire ecology and behaviour
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire management	i. Prepare District Development and Environmental Plans that put wildfire management into consideration ii. Budget and appropriate Resources for wildfire management	DLG, CSOs, Private sector, MWE, MAAIF	- District Development and Environmental Plans with wildfire management integrated -Budgets and appropriation of funds targeting wildfire management	-No. of districts with development and Environmental Plans with wildfire management integrated - No. of districts with Budgets and appropriated funds targeting wildfire management	2025-26 2025-30	-Enhanced budgets and financing for wildfire management
	Awareness raising on the importance	i. Prepare Information, Education and	DLGs, NEMA, CSOs, private	-Information, Education and	-No. and types of Information, Education and	2025-26	-Improved awareness on the

	of wildfire prevention	communication materials ii. Prepare policy briefs iii. Conduct public dialogues iv. Making Radio announcements	sector, BKK, MWE, MAAIF	communication materials - Policy briefs - Public dialogues - Radio announcements	communication materials on the importance of wildfire prevention -No. of policy briefs -No. of Public dialogues - No. of Radio announcements	2025-26 2025-30 2025-30	benefits of wildfire prevention -Reduced fire occurrence -Reduced loss due to wildfires
	Stakeholder Analysis and mobilization for wildfire prevention	i. Conduct stakeholder analysis ii. Mobilise stakeholders to support wildfire prevention	DLGs, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, private sector, BKK, MWE, MAAIF	- Stakeholder analysis engagements -Stakeholders mobiised to support wildfire management	-No. of stakeholder analysis engagements -No. of Stakeholders mobiised to support wildfire prevention	2025-26 2025-30	-Enhanced interest in preventing wildfires

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
2.To improve community wildfire preparedness	Develop Wildfire Management Plans	i. Scoping ii. Stakeholder engagement iii. Fire risk assessment iv. Formulation of wildfire management plans	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, CSOs NFA and NEMA, private sector	-Scoping report -stakeholder engagements - Fire risk assessment studies - Wildfire management plans	-No. of scoping study reports -No. of stakeholder engagements held - No. of fire risk assessment studies -No of wildfire management plans developed	2025-26 2025-30 2025-30 2025-30	-Reduced wildfire occurrence -Reduced fire severity -Reduced fire impact
	Improve coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders at the DLGs, central government, CSOs, private companies and local communities	i. Develop working arrangements to improve coordination within DLGs and between DLGs and Central Government Agencies ii. Joint planning, budgeting and implementation iii. Coordination and cooperation within DLGs and between DLGs and Central Government Agencies	MWE (ESSD, FSSD), DLGs, CSOs NFA, NEMA, private sector, Judiciary, DPP Police, private companies DLGs, Central government agencies,	-MoUs signed to improve coordination -Joint Plans and Budgets prepared -Joint activities Improved preparedness	-No. of MoUs signed -No of jointly prepared budgets and Plans -No. of joint activities in fire preparedness -Joint working frameworks and	2025-27 2025-30 2025-30	- Improved coordination and collaboration of stakeholders in wildfire preparedness -Reduced wildfire occurrence -Reduced fire severity -Reduced fire impact

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
		iv. Coordination and cooperation between DLGS and law enforcement agencies v. Coordination and cooperation between government agencies, community and private companies	private companies		plans related to fire	2025-30 2025-30	
	Enhance community capacity to manage wildfire						
		i. Support local communities with infrastructure to manage wildfire ii. Train the communities techniques and measures to manage wildfires iii. Support establishment and operationalization of wildfire management committees iv. Subsidize equipment and technologies used in wildfire management	DLGs, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, private sector, BKK, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of local Government, Ministry of Public service, MAAIF, MWE	-Infrastructure set up for communities -Training of communities in techniques and measures to manage wildfire - establishment and operationalization of wildfire management committees -Subsidies for equipment and technologies used in wildfire management - extension services in wildfire	- No. of Infrastructure set up for communities - No. of established and operationalized wildfire management committees - equipment and technologies used in wildfire management acquired through subsidies -No. of households accessing	2026-30 2025-30 2026-28 2026-30 2025-30	-Enhanced capacity to manage wildfire within the local communities - Reduced wildfire occurrence

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
		v. Provide for extension services in wildfire management		management delivered	extension services in wildfire management		
	Enhance prioritization of wildfire management among policy makers at National and DLGs	i. Prepare Policy briefs ii. Conduct Policy dialogues iii. Conduct policy advocacy and lobbying for wildfire management	CSOs, BKK, MWE, MAAIF, and private sector	-Policy briefs -Policy dialogues - Engagements on Policy advocacy and lobbying for wildfire management	-No. of policy briefs -No. of Policy dialogues -No. of engagements with responsible bodies and strategic actors	2025-30 2025-30 2025-30	-Enhanced budget for wildfire management
	Develop robust early wildfire detection and warning system	i. Sign MoU with Uganda National Meteorological Authority, media and telecom companies ii. Sign MOUs with telecommunication companies and media iii. Integrate wildfire management in the Disaster preparedness policy and Plans iv. Acquisition of unmanned aerial vehicles based (UAV) remote sensing technologies and	UNMA, DLGs, Media, Telcom companies, private companies, CSOs, OPM, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	-MoUs, signed with UNMA, telecommunication companies, media -Disaster preparedness policy and plans with wildfire management integrated -Acquired unmanned aerial vehicles based (UAV) remote sensing technologies and other data capturing equipment -Equipment and technologies used in	-No. of MoU signed -No. of Disaster preparedness policy and plans with wildfire management integrated -No. of acquired unmanned aerial vehicles based (UAV) remote sensing technologies and other data capturing equipment - No. of equipment and technologies	2025-26 2025-26 2026-30 2025-30	-Improved wildfire detection and warning system - Reduced wildfire occurrence

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
		other data capturing equipment v. Subsidize equipment and technologies used in fire detection vi. Formulate data sharing protocols vii. Capacity building of users		fire detection subsidized - Data sharing protocols signed - users trained in wildfire detection and warning system	used in fire detection subsidized - No. of data sharing protocols signed - No. of users trained in wildfire detection and warning system	2025-30 2026-27 2026-27	
	Formulate landuse plans that minimize fire hazard	i. Develop landuse plans at all levels (District, Sub-County, Parish) to minimize fire hazards ii. Enforce the implementation of the landuse plans	DLGs, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Police, DPP, and Judiciary, CSOs, communities	-landuse plans at all levels (District, Sub-County, Parish) to minimize fire hazards -Landuse plan Enforcement activities	No. of landuse plans at all levels to minimize fire hazards -No. of landuse Enforcement activities conducted	2025-30 2025-30	Reduced occurrence of wildfires

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
3. To develop robust wildfire response mechanisms	Preparation of wildfire response plan	i. Conduct wildfire risk analysis ii. Preparation of wildfire response plan	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, Armed forces	wildfire risk analysis studies - wildfire response plan	-No. of wildfire risk analysis studies - No. of wildfire response plans	2025-26 2025-30	Improved readiness to respond to wildfire
	Developing wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure	i. Conduct an inventory of required equipment and infrastructure ii. Acquisition of wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, UNMA, Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA)	Inventory studies -Wildfire surveillance and situation analysis infrastructure	-No. of inventory studies -Types and No. of surveillance and situation analysis infrastructure	2025-26 2026-27	Improved wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure
	Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees at District and local level	i. Stakeholder analysis ii. Preparation of rules of engagement iii. Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees iv. Mobilisation of resources for wildfire response/incident groups/committees	DLGs, CSOs, private sector, BKK, Religious organisations, local communities	-Stakeholder analysis on wildfire response/incident -rules of engagement developed - wildfire response/incident groups/committees	-No. of Stakeholder analysis engagements on wildfire response/incident -No. of local governments with rules of engagement developed - No. of wildfire response/incident groups/committees established	2025-26 2025-27 2025-28 2025-28	Improved response to wildfire
	Inter-agency coordination and cooperation	i. Stakeholder analysis ii. Formalisation of cooperation among stakeholders	DLGs, NEMA, OPM, NFA, CSOs, Police, MWE, MAAIF	-Stakeholder analysis of relevant agencies and actors	- No. of Stakeholder analysis engagements held	2025-26 2025-26	Enhanced coordination in wildfire management

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
				-MoU signed	- No. of MoUs signed		
	Capacity enhancement in wildfire response	i. Provide equipment, tools and other infrastructure for wildfire response ii. Train fire fighters in different aspects of responding and managing wildfires	DLGs, CSOs, private sector, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Police	-Equipment, tools and other infrastructure for wildfire response - fire fighters trained in different aspects of responding and managing wildfires	-No. of Equipment, tools and other infrastructure for wildfire response - No. of fire fighters trained in different aspects of responding and managing wildfires	2025-26 2025-28	Enhanced capacity in wildfire response
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire response measures	i. Integrate wildfire response in district development plans ii. Integrate wildfire response in budgets iii. Integrate/mainstream wild fire response in District Disaster management Plans	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, DLGs, CSOs, OPM, MWE, MAAIF	-Plans with wildlife response integrated -Budgets with wildfire response integrated -District disaster management plans with wildfire response integrated	-No of local government Plans with wildfire response integrated -No. of local government Budgets with wildfire response integrated -No of local governments disaster management plans with wildfire response integrated	2025-30 2025-30 2025-30	Improved budgetary allocation to wildfire response

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
4. To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	Assessment of wildfire impacts	i. Stakeholder engagement ii. Conducting studies on Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Wildfire	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia, Local community, Media	-Stakeholder engagements -Studies on Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Wildfire	-No. of stakeholder engagements -No. of stakeholders engaged - No. of Studies on Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Wildfire	2025-26 2025-28	Enhanced awareness and understanding of the risks and impacts of fire on environment, livelihood and economy
	Preparing post-fire restoration plans	i. Conduct Stakeholder engagement ii. Formulation of restoration goals and objectives iii. Identification of Restoration actions and techniques iv. Scheduling of implementation of Restoration action v. Mobilization of financial & human resources Acquisition of equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia, MWE, MAAIF, Local community, financial institutions, Media	-Stakeholder engagements -Minutes of Meetings - Post-fire restoration plans with defined objectives, actions and schedules	-No. of stakeholder engagements -No. of stakeholders engaged -No. of post-fire restoration plans -Schedules for restoration plans developed - Acquired financial & human resources	2025-26 2025-30 2025-30 2025-30 2025-30	-Enhanced interest, awareness and funding in restoration of fire-affected areas and sectors -Improved knowledge in preparing post-fire restoration plans -Guided restoration of fire -affected areas and sectors

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
	Capacity building in post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	i. Training of technical staff and communities in different post-fire restoration strategies ii. Acquisition of equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration iii. Acquiring of financial resources to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, Academia, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, MWE, MAAIF, BKK, Religious institutions, local community, financial institutions, Media	-Skilled technical staff and communities in post-fire restoration strategies -Acquired equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration -Acquired financial resources to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	-No. of staff and communities skilled in post-fire restoration strategies -Type and No. of equipment, tools and materials for post-fire restoration -Amount of financial resources to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	2025-30 2025-28 2025-30	Improved human, financial, infrastructure capacity for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation
	Implementation of restoration and rehabilitation actions	i. Conduct Stakeholder engagement ii. Enhance promotion of restoration within communities iii. Recruit qualified and experienced staff to	DLGs, CSOs, Private sector, NEMA, UWA, NFA, MAAIF, local	-Stakeholder engagement -Awareness and sensitization meetings to promote restoration within communities held	-No. of stakeholder engagements on restoration held - No. of stakeholders on	2025-30 2025-30 2025-28	-Recovery of wildfire-affected areas and sectors - Improved biodiversity conservation

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
		implement restoration and rehabilitation actions	community, Media	- Qualified and experienced staff to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions recruited	restoration engaged -No. of Sensitization meetings to promote restoration within communities - No of Qualified and experienced staff to implement restoration and rehabilitation actions		and ecological integrity
	Declaration of wildfires as disasters	i. Amendment of the laws on disasters to include losses incurred due to wildfires ii. Assessment of socio-economic and environmental losses iii. Compensation from relevant authorities iv. Enacting of bye-laws to address wildfire loses	OPM, DLGs, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, CSO's, Parliament, Media	-Dialogues and engagement to amend laws on disasters to include losses incurred due to wildfires -No. of laws and regulations amended -Studies on socio-economic and environmental losses of wildfire	-No. of dialogues and engagements held to review existing laws -No. of laws and regulations amended -No. of studies conducted on socio-economic and	2025-28 2025-28 2026-30 2026-30	-Enhanced prioritization of wildfire management at national and district level - Reduced socio-economic and environmental losses due to wildfires

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
				-Compensation of affected persons	environmental losses due to wildfires -No. and category of wildfire - affected persons compensated		
	Promote insurance for wildfires	i. Engage insurance companies to provide insurance policies that cover wildfires hazards ii. Engage insurance companies to cover post-wildfire restoration costs in their wildfire insurance policies	Private sector, Insurance Companies, Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda, Parliament, Media	- Insurance companies engaged -Insurance policies on wildfires offered	-No. of Insurance companies engaged -No. of policies on wildfires offered by insurance companies	2025-30 2025-30	Enhanced insurance against the risks for wildfires

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
5. To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management	Research on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire	i. Conduct studies on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire ii. Dissemination of research findings	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, Religious organisations	-Studies conducted on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire -Dissemination workshops held -Policy briefs -Info-sheets	-No. of studies conducted on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire -No. of dissemination workshops -No. of policy briefs and info-sheets prepared from different studies	2025-26 2025-26	Improved understanding on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire
	Community engagements	i. Conduct regular open dialogues (*Barazas*) on wildfire and its adverse socio-economic and environmental impacts ii. Conduct Stakeholder dialogues to influence attitudes on wildfires through drama & MDD iii. Conduct radio talk shows	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, BKK, Religious organisations, Local community, Media House	-Open dialogues held	-No. of open dialogues (Barazas) -Type and No. of stakeholder dialogues -No. of radio talk-shows	2025-30 2025-30 2025-30	Positive attitude towards preventing wildfires
	Mass media engagement	i.Capacity building of media practitioners on the dangers related to wildfires on society, economy and environment ii. Signing of MoUs with mass media organisations to address wildfire	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, MWE, NFA, UWA, NEMA	-Trainings of media practitioners on the risks and threats related to wildfires on society, economy and environment	-No. of Trainings -No. of MoUs signed	2025-30 2025-27	-Wildfire challenge becoming a public policy issue - Policy reforms to address

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
				-No. of MoUs signed with mass media organizations to address wildfire			wildfire at national level
	Science/research-policy dialogues	i. Conduct science/research-policy dialogues for researchers on wildfire to share their findings with policy makers ii. Preparation of policy briefs iii. Integrate traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire management iv. Providing feedback to the community and stakeholders	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, MWE, NFA, UWA, NEMA & Cultural institutions	science/research-policy dialogues for researchers on wildfire to share their findings with policy makers - Policy briefs prepared -Wildfire management plans with traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire management integrated	-No. of science/research-policy dialogues for researchers on wildfire to share their findings with policy makers held -No of Policy briefs prepared from science/research-policy dialogues - No. of Wildfire management plans with traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire management integrated -No. of feedback engagements	2025-30 2025-30 2025-2027 2025-2027	-Acceptability of pluralism in wildfire management - Enhanced trust and respect for traditional wildfire management practices
	Dissemination of information, education and communication materials on wildfire management	i. Preparation of communication materials on wildfire management ii. Conduct wildfire awareness campaigns using written materials, posters, billboards, drama, radio programmes and videos	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, BKK, NEMA, NFA, CSOs,	- information, education and Communication materials on wildfire management developed	-No. of information, education and Communication materials on wildfire management developed	2025-26	-Improved knowledge and awareness on the risks and management of wildfire

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
			Religious organisations, MWE, UWA, & other Cultural institutions	- wildfire awareness campaigns	- No. of wildfire awareness campaigns held	2025-30	-Increased wildfire prevention and management efforts
	Provision of incentives for participation in wildfire management	i.Develop policy for incentivizing participation in wildfire management ii.Provide incentives for participation in wildfire management	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, MAAIF, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Policies on incentivising participation in wildfire management - incentives for participation in wildfire management - incentive programs that induce increased participation in wildfire management	-No. of policies on incentivising participation in wildfire management -Type and No. of incentives for participation in wildfire management -No. of incentive programs that would induce increased wildfire management	2025-26 2027-30	-Enhanced participation in wildfire management -Reduced risk of catastrophic wildfires
	Promote traditional wildfire management practices	i.Conduct studies to identify traditional wildfire management practices ii. Implement traditional wildfire management practices	DLGS, CSOs, private sector, Academia, Researchers, BKK, NEMA, NFA, CSOs, Religious organisations	- Studies conducted on traditional wildfire management practices - integration and application of traditional knowledge in wildfire management	-No. of studies conducted on traditional wildfire management practices -Area managed using traditional wildfire management practices	2025-26 2025-30	-Enhanced knowledge on traditional wildfire management practices -Enhanced trust and respect for traditional wildfire

Strategic Objective	Strategies	Priority Actions	Responsible Actors	Output	Performance indicators	Timeframe (years)	Outcomes
							management practices

6.0 COST FOR IMPLEMENTING WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The cost of implementing the wildlife management strategy was estimated at UGX 12.55 billion over a six-year period between 2025 and 2030. Table 3 shows the break-down of the costs over the six years of implementation as projected in current prices. The cost is broken down based on the strategic objectives and the strategies employed. The highest proportionate cost by strategic objective was estimated for strategic objective 4. which aims to develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation. The strategic objective on mechanisms for post fire restoration and rehabilitation takes 40% of the proposed cost of implementation at UGX 5.00 billion. The second highest cost was estimated for strategic objective 2 on improving community preparedness for wildfires with a cost of UGX 2.92 billion.

Strategic objective on preventing and reducing wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods was estimated to cost 1.64 billion. This is about 13% of the full cost of the strategy. Strategic objectives 5 to enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management and strategic objective three to develop robust wildfire response mechanisms were estimated to cost UGX 1.54 billion and 1.44 billion respectively, which is 12% of the cost of the strategy.

The results of the cost analysis are also presented in terms of expected expenditure over the years based on the action plans and work plan for implementing the strategy. The expenditure is evenly spread over the six years of the strategy ranging between 19% in the second year of strategy implementation (2026), as the highest expenditure outlay, and 13% in the final year (2030) of the strategy. The modal expenditure 17% occurs in years three and four, while 16% of the proposed expenditure is expected to occur in year one.

Table 3: Cost of implementing wildfire management strategy in the Budongo-Bugoma landscape

Strategic Objective	Strategies	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Strategy amount
1.To Prevent and reduce wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods	Develop a legal framework for wildfire prevention, control, and mitigation	108,360,000	108,360,000	108,360,000	108,360,000	108,360,000	108,360,000	650,160,000
	Research and monitoring of wildfire	94,500,000	94,500,000	94,500,000	94,500,000	94,500,000		472,500,000
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire management	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000	151,200,000
	Awareness raising on the importance of wildfire prevention	28,035,000	28,035,000	28,035,000	28,035,000	28,035,000	28,035,000	168,210,000
	Stakeholder Analysis and mobilization for wildfire prevention	33,390,000	33,390,000	33,390,000	33,390,000	33,390,000	33,390,000	200,340,000
SUB-TOTAL		289,485,000	289,485,000	289,485,000	289,485,000	289,485,000	194,985,000	1,642,410,000
2.To improve community wildfire preparedness	Develop Wildfire Management Plans	143,640,000	143,640,000	143,640,000	143,640,000	143,640,000		718,200,000
	Improve coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders at the DLGs, central government, CSOs, private companies and local communities.	86,310,000	86,310,000	86,310,000	86,310,000	86,310,000	86,310,000	517,860,000
	Enhance community capacity to manage wildfire		156,870,000	156,870,000	156,870,000	156,870,000	156,870,000	784,350,000
	Enhance prioritization of wildfire management among policy makers at National and DLGs.	15,120,000	15,120,000	15,120,000	15,120,000	15,120,000	15,120,000	90,720,000
	Develop robust early wildfire detection and warning system.	110,880,000	110,880,000	110,880,000	110,880,000	110,880,000	110,880,000	665,280,000
	Formulate landuse plans that minimize fire hazard	23,940,000	23,940,000	23,940,000	23,940,000	23,940,000	23,940,000	143,640,000
SUB-TOTAL		379,890,000	536,760,000	536,760,000	536,760,000	536,760,000	393,120,000	2,920,050,000
3. To develop robust wildfire response mechanisms	Preparation of wildfire response plan	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	230,580,000
	Developing wildfire surveillance and situational analysis infrastructure	97,020,000	97,020,000	97,020,000				291,060,000
	Establishment of wildfire response/incident groups/committees at District and local level.	34,020,000	34,020,000	34,020,000	34,020,000	34,020,000		170,100,000
	Inter-agency coordination and cooperation.	20,160,000	20,160,000	20,160,000				60,480,000

	Capacity enhancement in wildfire response	98,280,000	98,280,000	98,280,000	98,280,000	98,280,000		491,400,000
	Planning and Budgeting for wildfire response measures		55,755,000	55,755,000	55,755,000	55,755,000		223,020,000
SUB-TOTAL		287,910,000	343,665,000	343,665,000	226,485,000	226,485,000	38,430,000	1,466,640,000
4. To develop mechanisms for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	Assessment of wildfire impacts	28,728,000	28,728,000	28,728,000	28,728,000	28,728,000		143,640,000
	Preparing post-fire restoration plans	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	217,350,000
	Capacity building in post-fire restoration and rehabilitation	103,635,000	103,635,000	103,635,000	103,635,000	103,635,000	103,635,000	621,810,000
	Implementation of restoration actions		91,476,000	91,476,000	91,476,000	91,476,000	91,476,000	457,380,000
	Declaration of wildfires as disasters	584,010,556	584,010,556	584,010,556	584,010,556	584,010,556	584,010,556	3,504,063,333
	Promote insurance for wildfires	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	56,700,000
TOTALS		762,048,556	853,524,556	853,524,556	853,524,556	853,524,556	824,796,556	5,000,943,333
5. To enhance awareness and participation of stakeholders in wildfire management	Research on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on wildfire	85,050,000	85,050,000					170,100,000
	Community engagements	31,500,000	31,500,000	31,500,000	31,500,000	31,500,000	31,500,000	189,000,000
	Mass media engagement	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	38,430,000	230,580,000
	Science/research-policy dialogues		37,044,000	37,044,000	37,044,000	37,044,000	37,044,000	185,220,000
	Dissemination of information, education, and communication materials on wildfire management	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	9,450,000	56,700,000
	Provision of incentives for participation in wildfire management		36,288,000	36,288,000	36,288,000	36,288,000	36,288,000	181,440,000
	Promote traditional wildfire management practices	85,050,000	85,050,000	85,050,000	85,050,000	85,050,000	85,050,000	510,300,000
SUB-TOTAL		249,480,000	322,812,000	237,762,000	237,762,000	237,762,000	237,762,000	1,523,340,000
TOTAL		1,968,813,556	2,346,246,556	2,261,196,556	2,144,016,556	2,144,016,556	1,689,093,556	12,553,383,333

7.0 CO-ORDINATION OF ACTORS

Wildfire management requires application of Multi-level Governance and thus coordination of various actors is very important. This strategy will be implemented by several state and non-state actors and thus a system that enables facilitating coordination of efforts and harnessing from their strengths and synergies among them is critical. A wildfire management consultative forum involving representatives of the different actors involved in the implementation of the strategy will be established and coordinated by the Mid-western Regional Office of NEMA to enable effective coordination.

8.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Formative and summative monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to determine progress and performance of the implementation of this strategy. Formative evaluation will be conducted after two years (2026) of implementation and summative at the end of the implementation period (2029).

9.0 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

NEMA, Hoima, Masindi, Kikuube and Buliisa District Local Governments and all other actors involved in the implementation of this Strategy will ensure that it is widely communicated at regional and national level. The communication will be targeted for the different audiences.

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