# IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

## Basic Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Title of case study *(should be concise and within approximately 25 words)* | | | |
| Influencing SEPLS governance policy through action research: an assessment of recreational values to promote sustainable use of the Mabira Central Forest Reserve, Uganda | | | |
| Submitting IPSI member organization(s) | | | |
| Nature and Livelihoods | | | |
| Other contributing organization(s) *(IPSI members and/or non-members)* | | | |
| Makerere University | | | |
| Author(s) and affiliation(s) | | | |
| William Olupot, Nature and Livelihoods; Gilbert Isabirye-Basuta, Department of Zoology, College of Natural Sciences, Makerere University | | | |
| Format of case study *(manuscript or audiovisual)* | Manuscript | Language | English |
| Keywords *(3-5 key concepts included in the case study)* | | | |
| Biodiversity; Ecotourism; Forest management; Mabira Forest; Sustainable use; Tourism | | | |
| Date of submission *(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)* | 1 November 2016 | | |
| Web link *(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)* | | | |

## Geographical Information

| Country *(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uganda | | | | | |
| Location(s) *(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)* | | | | | |
| Mabira Central Forest Reserve | | | | | |
| Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link *(if location is identified)* | | | | | |
| https://www.google.com/maps/@0.4190028,32.9506513,10.04z?hl=en | | | | | |
| Ecosystem(s) *(please place an "x" in all appropriate boxes)* | | | | | |
| Forest | x | Grassland | | Agricultural | | In-land water | | Coastal | |
| Dryland | | Mountain | | Urban/peri-urban | | Other *(Please specify)* | | | |

| Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area *(within 50 words)* |
|---|
| The Mabira Central Forest Reserve is situated 54 kilometres east of Kampala city. It lies in an area of gently undulating land interrupted by flat-topped hills. From the viewpoint of importance for biodiversity conservation, Mabira is the only remaining large natural forest in central Uganda, other forests having been severely degraded or lost during the last five to twenty years. |
| Description of human-nature interactions in the area *(land-use, traditional resource management practices etc. – within 50 words)* |
| The reserve is managed under a plan that partitions the forest into three zones; the inner zone, which is a "strict nature reserve", and the outer zones comprised of the "buffer zone" which includes the recreation zone, and the "production zone". In reality, enforcement of the forest use principles outlined in the act and management plan is a challenge, and the forest is under pressure from both unauthorised uses and overexploitation under permitted uses. |

## Contents

| Status *("ongoing" or "completed")* | Completed | Period *(MM/YY to MM/YY)* | 09/15 to 10/15 |
|---|---|---|---|

**Rationale** *(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed – within 50 words)*

Increasing pressures on protected areas in the form of intensification of authorised and unauthorised uses requires that governance policies and management approaches be dynamic within reasonable timeframes to prevent degradation and loss. Recreation is one form of protected area use that has not been much emphasised in Uganda's forest reserves.

**Objectives** *(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study – within 50 words)*

The objective of this study was to assess opportunities to expand tourism by recording potential aesthetic and recreational values. This was intended to guide a policy shift towards more sustainable use practices and to diversify forest-based livelihoods of the local people.

**Activities and/or practices employed** *(within 50 words)*

Recreational values of the Mabira Central Forest Reserve were assessed with the objective of promoting a policy shift from emphasis on extractive forms of use to non-extractive ones. The assessment was conducted throughout the forest with greater focus on peripheral areas that would be most accessible for recreation. Landform, land use, cultural and biodiversity values were assessed.

**Results** *(within 50 words)*

Results from these assessments, though limited in analysis of biodiversity values, are sufficient for guiding policy at the protected area level. Results show that the Mabira Central Forest Reserve has more attractions than are currently recognised. If fully utilised, these attractions can contribute to alternative livelihoods for the local people while reducing pressure from illegal use of the forest

**Lessons learned** *(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities – within 40 words)*

The forest has attractions of unique appeal that are currently not being used for tourism. We also present a unique dataset for known attractions that should be valuable in use of the forest for tourism. To make newly described attractions available for recreational purposes and reduce ongoing illegal resource overexploitation, we recommend a policy shift that increases the size of the area allotted to recreation.

**Key messages** *(within 40 words)*

Where conditions permit for a given landscape, assessments may need to understand tourism values to a full extent so that they may be used to promote sustainable use. We also describe infrastructure developments needed to operationalise that policy change.

**Relationship to other IPSI activities** *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*

This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 2.

**Funding** *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*

The study was made possible through funding support to Nature and Livelihoods by the MacArthur Foundation.

# Contributions to Global Agendas

## CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets ([https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/](https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/))

*The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.*

| Strategic Goal A | | | | Strategic Goal B | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

| Strategic Goal C | | | Strategic Goal D | | | Strategic Goal E | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ● | | ● | | | | ■ | ● | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

## UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ([https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs))

*The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.*

| ■ | | ■ | | | | | ■ | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE |

| | | ● | ● | | ● | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |