THE ENVIRONMENTAL FALLOUT OF U.S AID CUTS

UGANDA'S EXAMPLE

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ABOUT UGANDA

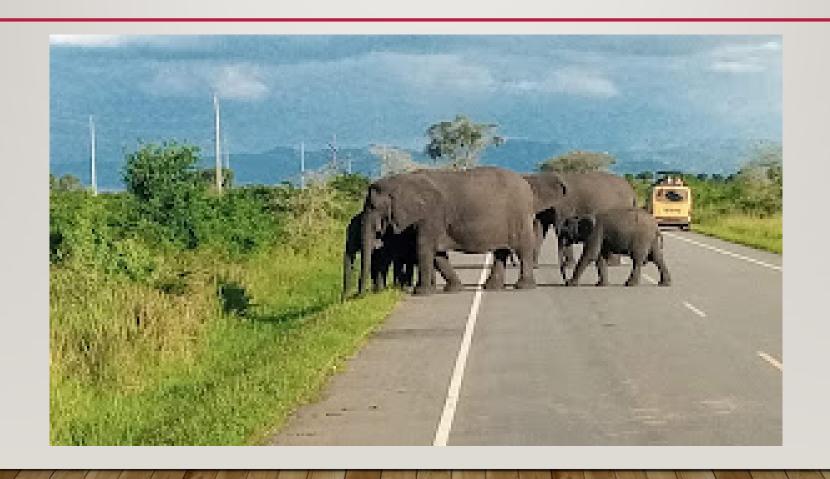
- Total area 241,551 square kilometers almost the size of Oregon state!
- Diverse landscape snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains and the large Lake Victoria.
- Its abundant wildlife includes chimpanzees (approx.5k in #, with about 1/3 in Kibale National Park) and rare birds.
- Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga National Parks are renowned mountain gorilla habitats. Total # about 480 (about 1/2 of the world's total mountain gorilla population).
- Agriculture and nature-based tourism are major foreign exchange earners
- Total population 50 million, rapid population growth rate (3% p.a.), exerting pressure on natural resources

NATURE-BASED TOURISM



Biggest # of tourists from the U.S

NATURE-BASED TOURISM



U.S AID CUTS

- Annually received about \$7 million in environment and climate USG funding
- Had built a close to \$45 million environment and climate portfolio
- Examples of projects under the Portfolio:
 - The \$34 million USAID/Biodiversity for resilience project
 - \$5 million USAID/FtF Climate-Smart Agriculture project
 - \$2.5 million USAID/Uganda biodiversity fund project
 - Were designing a follow-on project that would help address the environmental impacts of the new oil and gas industry, and address zoonotic diseases

The funding was zeroed out! Everything just stopped!

EFFECTS OF PROGRAM SHUTDOWNS

- All USG-funded environment and climate initiatives closed. Contractors received stop work orders in January 2025.
- Forests and biodiversity are more prone to degradation and loss
- People, households and communities missed an opportunity to build their capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and lost income and livelihood opportunities
- The people, households and communities are more prone to climate-related diseases like malaria and zoonotic diseases
- Impacts on tourism, agriculture, food security and nutrition, and associated income losses.
 Tourism annually brings about \$1.2bn in forex, and over 650k jobs
- Migration and risk of youth recruitment into subversive activities

SOME STATS

- In 2020, Uganda had **2.4 Mha of natural forest**, covering over 10% of its land area.
- In 2024, it lost approximately 32,000 ha of natural forest, which resulted in an estimated 16 Mt of CO₂ emissions (Global forest watch)
- Inaction on climate change could be 20 times more expensive than adapting (CDKN, 2015).
- Continuation of current development practices without climate action could lead to a loss of over 70% of Uganda's GDP by 2050 (CDKN, 2015).

MOVING FORWARD

- Push for local/internal funding for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Advocate for renewed external support. Biodiversity loss and climate change are international development challenges. They affect us all.
- Integrated population and environment programming

Thank you for listening!