

# The management of human-lion conflict in Uganda: a necessary step to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals



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## INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE

- The presence or behaviour of wildlife can be a threat to human safety and wellbeing, and retaliation against the species blamed often ensues.
- Human-wildlife conflict** emerge when there is a disagreement between groups of people about what should be done to resolve the situation.
- These represent a challenge and an opportunity for biodiversity and communities, which is reflected in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
  - Goal 15** “urge to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, [...] and halt biodiversity loss”.
- The purpose of this bibliographic research FDP is to **assess human-lion conflict management in Uganda**.

## HUMAN-LION CONFLICT IN UGANDA

- In Uganda, the **lion** (*Panthera leo*) is Critically Endangered (CE). There are less than 500 individuals located in three conservation areas: Queen Elizabeth Protected Area, Murchison Falls Protected Area, and Kidepo Valley National Park (Fig. 1).
- Uganda is rich in **indigenous communities** and languages.
  - Indigenous communities are poor and vulnerable to the State.
  - Most communities living near the conservation areas are livestock farmers: Basongora, Acholi, Langi, Karamojong.
  - When a lion preys on their livestock, local people poison the lions in retaliatory killing.
- The **Uganda Wildlife Authority** (UWA) is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of conservation areas and wildlife.
  - The UWA punishes illegal activities that commit local people within conservation areas.
- Many **threats aggravate the conflict**: poaching, illegal trade, trafficking, climate change, oil industry, COVID-19.

## HUMAN-LION CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN UGANDA

- Daktari** is a non-profit Andorran association for veterinary cooperation that aims to improve the socio-economic and health conditions of the livestock farming communities in Queen Elizabeth Protected Area.
- Daktari is developing several projects:
  - Lantana camara* removal (Fig. 2).
  - Living walls (Fig. 3).
  - Solar power lights.
  - Water wells (Fig. 4).
  - Water reservoir (Fig. 5).
  - Education and awareness.
- The **UWA** has enacted the Community Conservation Policy 2020:
  - Revenue Sharing Program.
  - Wildlife Compensation Scheme.
- The **Wildlife Conservation Society** and the **Uganda Carnivore Program** are NGOs that are monitoring lions by satellite collar in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- The Uganda Carnivore Program also has launched a community-run socio-economic development initiative called “Leopard Village”.

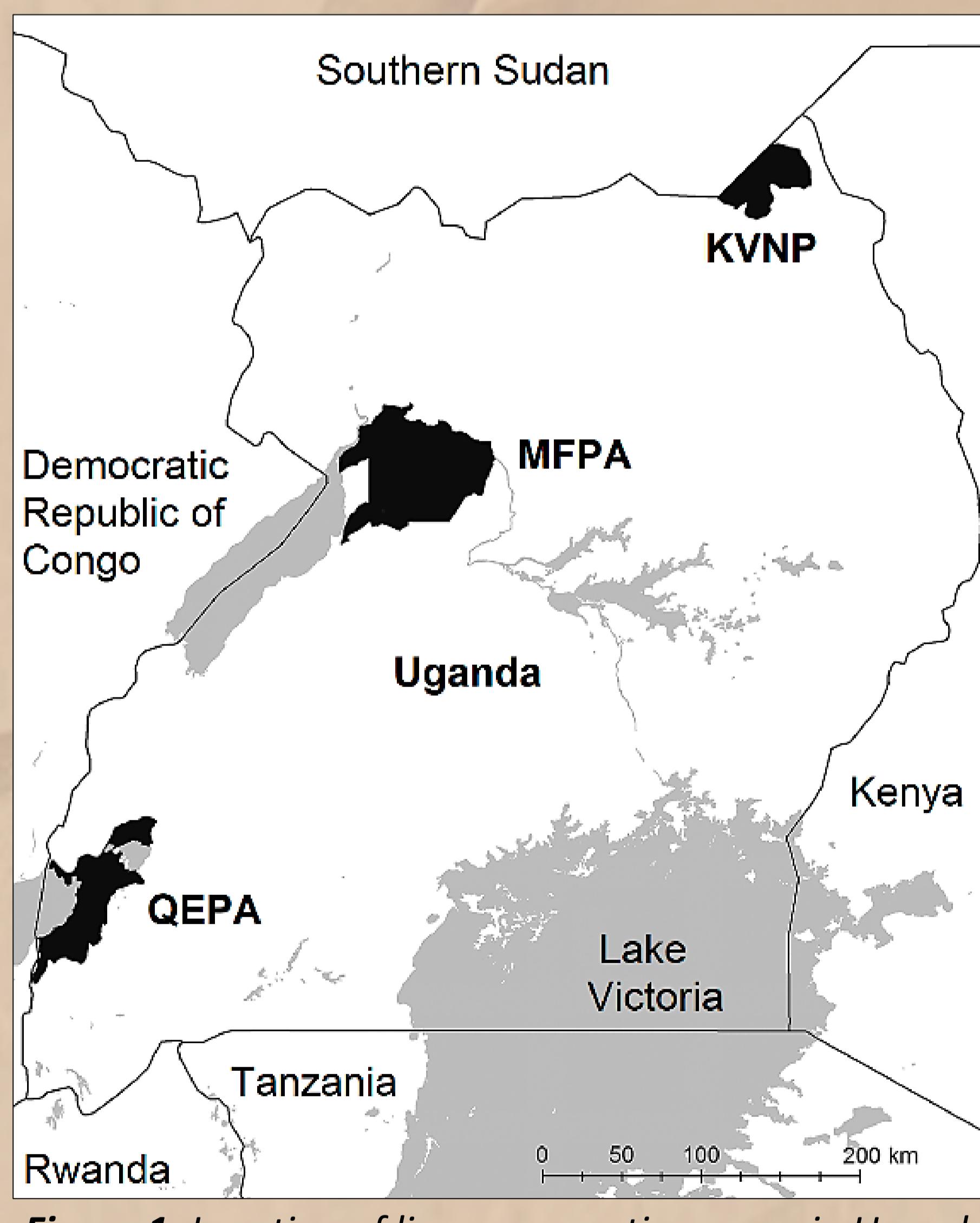


Figure 1. Location of lion conservation areas in Uganda.



Figure 2. *Lantana camara*.



Figure 4. Water well.



Figure 3. Basongora individual inside a living wall.



Figure 5. Water reservoir.

## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- Lion conservation** in Uganda is vital for social, economic and environmental reasons.
- Human-lion conflict** in Uganda is a **complex, dynamic and multi-layered** situation with an underlying social, cultural and economic context.
- There is little or **no collaboration** between **indigenous communities** and the **UWA**. A mediator is needed to reconcile them.
- A perfectly harmonious** state of **coexistence** between human and lion **may not be a realistic goal**.
- The key to managing this conflict lies in **interdisciplinary collaboration** and **technical support**.
- Lion's future** in Uganda, though uncertain, has a poor prognosis. The adopted measures are effective but maybe not sufficient.