payments has increased from about 985 million shillings in 2019/20 to 1.2 billion shillings in 2021/22 (URT, 2022). This manuscript highlights few case studies, assess the socio-economic drivers of HEC incidences and use Maxent models for predicting possible future conflict hotspots. The results in this manuscript further detailed the existing non-lethal mitigation plans and their adoption rate.

MWARES: An ecosystem-based approach for landscape restoration

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Watersheds are increasingly under threat from degradation and over-exploitation of their natural resources. Deforestation and forest degradation, unsustainable farming practices, and an increasing population pressure led to an over-use of land for crops and livestock that are not well suited for such (intensive) use. Intensified land use has resulted in the gradual loss of biodiversity, but also in the diminution of the ability of these forest ecosystems to provide essential ecological services. When ecosystem processes and functions are drastically perturbed, communities suffer from a less resilient farming system, while biodiversity declines as a result of ecosystem degradation. To reverse this trend, landscape restoration is essential to conserve and restore the watershed's ecosystem services and establish resilient farming systems for sustainable livelihoods. The MWARES project focuses on the Manafwa watershed in Eastern Uganda, which originates from the Mount Elgon National Park and then flows through a densely populated area, providing all kinds of ecosystem services along the way. Mount Elgon is a national park straddling the border of Uganda and Kenya. The national park is preserved for its important nature values, endemic plant species, and some wildlife. However, increased population pressure leads to encroachment on the park by communities bordering the park. MWARES aims to make farming practices sustainable, replenish the soils, and taking preventive measures for soil protection such as planting trees and digging trenches to regulate run-off water. The project follows the 'landscape approach' (Sayer et al., 2013). The landscape approach gives due consideration to: (1) different stakeholders, sectors and scales in a landscape (2) adaptive and participatory management of change processes; and (3) social learning and capacity building. Important characteristics of this approach within the MWARES project are: adaptive management; resilience, in the group and landscape, working at multiple scales with a multistakeholder approach, participatory monitoring and in particular continuous learning and strengthening stakeholder capacity.

Keywords: Sustainable land management, landscape restoration, PIP, landscape approach, ecosystems, stakeholders