



Project status: Prepare



Assess



Commit



Act



Scale & Exit

# Act Phase Success Story – River Rwizi, Uganda

**Name of Partnership:** Improved Community Livelihoods and Sustainable Water Management in the River Rwizi Catchment

**Location:** River Rwizi Catchment, Lake Victoria Basin

**Sectors involved:** Private sector, public sector, civil society

**Partners:** The Coca-Cola Company, Victoria Water Management Zone (Ministry of Water and Environment), River Rwizi Catchment Management Committee,  
Implementing partner: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Act

## Act Phase Success Story - River Rwizi, Uganda

The River Rwizi catchment underpins community livelihoods and is also important for the local Industries operating in the region, such as the Coca-Cola Company. The catchment requires conservation and restoration in order to stabilize the water flow in the river system, especially in the dry season when low flow has led to rationing for households and also for industries. The partnership to address these issues unified to carry out, several successful activities in the Act Phase, which has been a big success.

As a first step, a rapid assessment was carried out, outlining the most urgent needs and opportunities for interventions. After this, a more extensive Water Risk and Opportunity Assessment (WROA) was successfully performed and provided additional information about the broader context carried out. This WROA also forms the basis for broader discussions and decisions about the catchment and its general challenges. It identified possible solutions to water risks in the form of a comprehensive list of mitigation actions ranked by importance. Key success factors in the Act Phase also included the proper sensitization of the general public and the beneficiaries for the planned interventions, including exchange visits with beneficiaries to ensure that the interventions were understood and accepted by all stakeholders. In addition, this sensitization such as multi-stakeholder fora and radio talk-shows.

Furthermore, under the leadership of the Victoria Water Management Zone (VWMZ - regional unit of the Ministry of Water) the Rwizi Catchment Management Organization (CMO), was strengthened and included from the beginning, which enhanced local and institutional ownership. All planned interventions were presented to the CMO, and regular progress reports were made.

These tools and processes resulted in, among other achievements, the restoration of 500 hectares of wetlands, improved community livelihoods derived from the restored wetlands as well as from Environmental Conservation Fund that was provided to the community for alternative livelihood, as well as a strengthened and well-functioning Catchment Management Organization that has continued to operate after the end of the partnership and hence ensuring sustainability of interventions.

### Lessons learned story:

This partnership has shown that stakeholder buy-in is a crucial element for the success of the Act Phase. In the case of the partnership in the River Rwizi catchment, ensuring the buy-in and understanding of all stakeholders facilitated the implementation of activities significantly and also resulted in significantly increased sustainability of the interventions. As an example, the implementation plan that was initially drafted was presented to the stakeholders, and was adapted in terms of timeframes and activities based on their feedback.

A major challenge in the monitoring of success during the act phase was identifying and counting beneficiaries. The beneficiary counting tool proved to be very helpful to identify the beneficiaries of the interventions as well as determining the benefits themselves – even indirect benefits such as improved livelihoods. Nonetheless, the lack of differentiation and classification of benefits by type and significance, as well as the partially assumptive nature of counting indirect beneficiaries, remains a key hurdle in assessing the true benefit of the interventions.

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