

INITIATIVES TO COMBAT LANDSLIDES, FLOODS AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN MT ELGON REGION



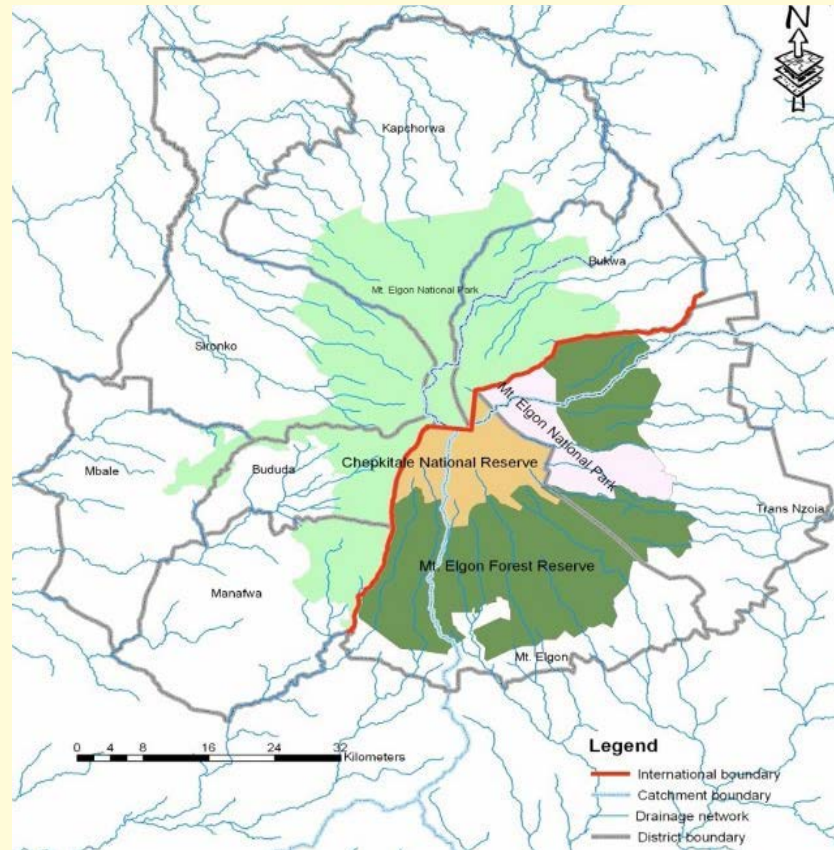
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Overview

- Mt Elgon (4,321 m a.s.l.) is an important trans-boundary ecosystem that strides the Kenya-Uganda border



Overview

- Vital water catchment area
 - serving more than 2 million people
 - Lake Victoria, L. Kyoga, L. Turkana and the R. Nile.
- Rich in biodiversity
 - 400 species of plants,
 - 300 species of birds
 - a number of big mammals, including African elephant.



Overview

- Mt Elgon has unique tourism attractions
 - caves,
 - water falls,
 - spectacular scenic views,
 - beautiful plants



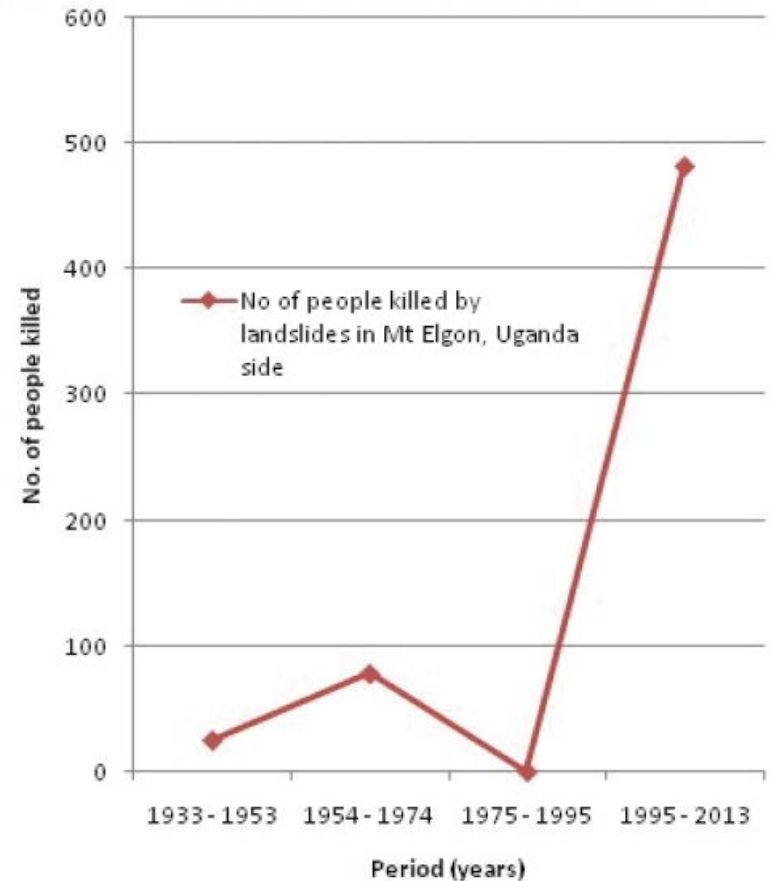
Overview

- In recent past, Mt Elgon Ecosystem has experienced unprecedented human induced degradation in form of
 - deforestation,
 - agricultural encroachment
 - poor land use practices.
- Lead to frequent and intense:
 - disastrous landslides on mountain slopes
 - floods in lowland areas



Overview

- Human lives have been lost, property destroyed and thousands of people displaced.
- High human population pressure (> 600 people per sq. Km) increased demand for agricultural land and effects of climate change have exacerbated the situation.



Overview

- Mountain cracks are widespread in areas outside Mt Elgon national park.
- UWA in collaboration with agencies like IUCN, UNDP and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) is implementing adaptation and mitigation interventions aimed at the restoration of degraded areas and improvement of MENP against landslides.



Methods

1. Baseline studies were carried out to establish the causes of landslides and benchmark information
2. Analysis of aerial photographs of 1962, Land sat Ms and Spot imagery taken in 1995 and 2006.
3. Household surveys
4. Consultations (stakeholders- local governments, NFA, CBOs and community leaders
5. Review of projects' quarterly and annual reports
6. Engagement of international and national consultants to evaluate the performance of initiatives (consultants' reports were reviewed to establish the contribution of projects to DRR)

Results

1. **Baseline studies** showed:

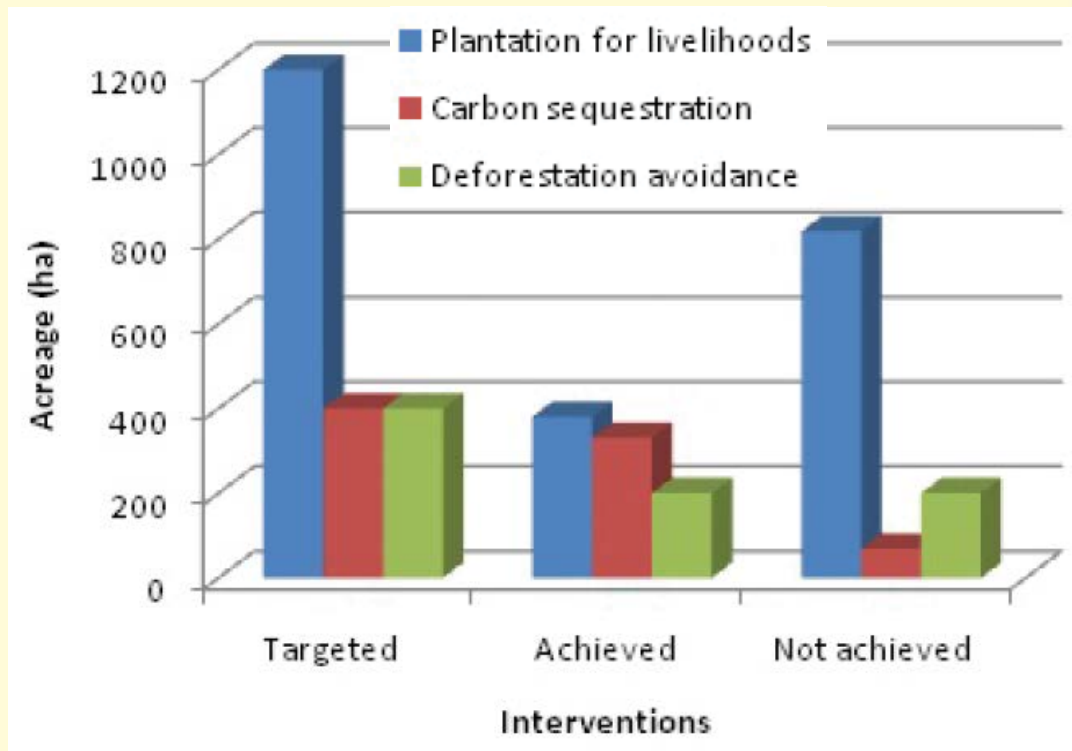
- The problem of landslides was not new
- Landslides and floods had
 - displaced more than 10,000 people,
 - claimed the lives of about 600 people,
 - affected the national economy (resettlements and rehabilitation efforts).
- Most of the landslides occurred on farmland areas (outside MENP) which have experienced heavy deforestation
- Whenever, landslides occurred in Mt Elgon, lowlands would experience floods.
- Intensification of disasters coincided with degradation of MENP



Results

2. Ecosystem based initiatives

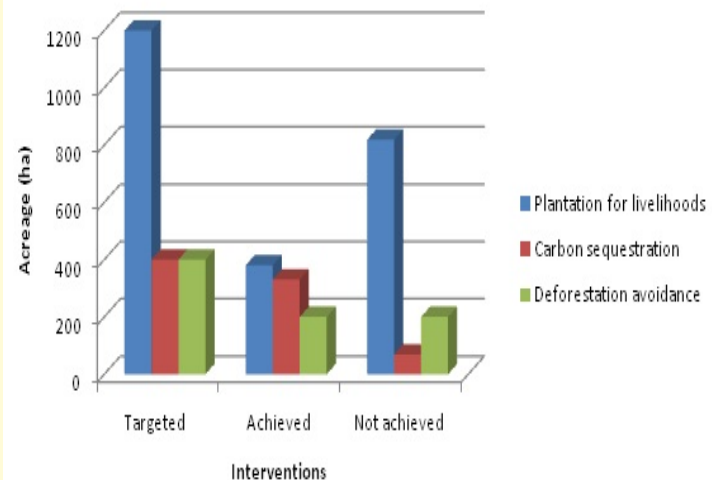
- LVBC- Mt Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Program (MERECP)
- UNDP – Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC)
- IUCN – Ecosystem Based Adaptation Project (EBA)



Results

MERECP supported:

- CBOs to manage community revolving fund (US \$ 10,000) as livelihood (household income) improvement,
- Establishment of livelihood forest plantations (1200 ha)
- Restoration of degraded areas
- Provision of incentives for deforestation avoidance to two communities for respecting and protecting the integrity of MENP



Results

TACC supported:

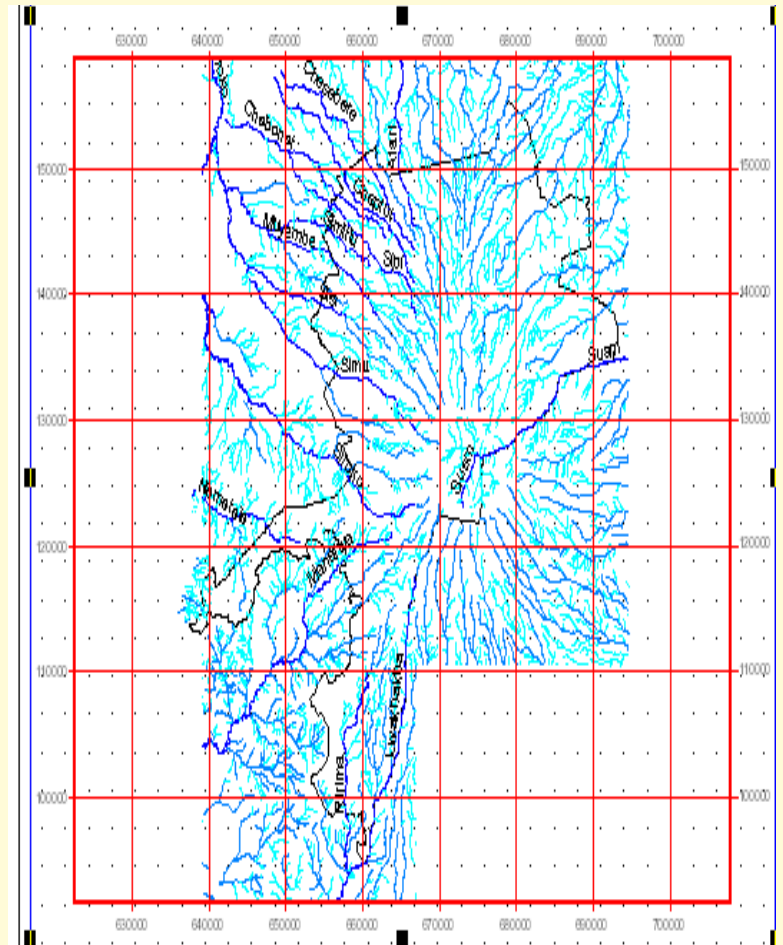
- Communities to benefit from GEF Small Grant Support Program
- Communities to gain from voluntary carbon trade (with assistance from ECOTRUST)
- Local governments in the region to formulate Integrated Territorial Climate Plan (2014-2029)
- Process to form a Regional Climate Change Forum



Results

EBA supported:

- Communities to tap and utilise water from R. Sippi (as a key ecosystem service from MENP) for irrigation
- Over 1000 households to strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacity
- Communities to restore water catchment and manage the river



Lessons

1. To replicate EBA approaches requires identification of key ecosystem good and service as entry point for local people and other stakeholders
2. Integrated Territorial Climate Plan guides local governments/authorities to incorporate climate change issues into district/county development plans
3. Linking ecosystem goods and services with local community livelihoods and ecosystem conservation is a good incentive
4. Participation of local people and other stakeholders in DRR interventions is crucial

Lessons

- 5. Effective early warning systems are essential
- 6. Approaches that go beyond traditional efforts of relief and reconstruction are more effective in improving resilience, reducing vulnerability and addressing environmental problems/disasters
- 7. Using a landscape/trans-boundary approach strengthen stakeholders collaboration and coordination

