

CONSERVE. EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE UGANDA'S FORESTS

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Uganda's Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) are important natural assets that support biodiversity conservation, water catchment protection, climate resilience and community livelihoods. They also offer significant opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, through the Department of Forestry Management, is promoting ecotourism in Central Forest Reserves as a way of increasing appreciation and conservation of forests while creating opportunities for communities, tourism operators and other stakeholders.

Ecotourism activities include guided forest walks, bird watching, nature trails, camping, primate and butterfly viewing, environmental education, cultural experiences and research. Forests such as Mabira, Budongo, Kalinzu, Mpanga and Echuya offer unique biodiversity and nature-based tourism experiences.

The Ministry is working to improve ecotourism infrastructure, strengthen community participation, develop new tourism products and promote partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders. Priority investments include environmentally friendly visitor facilities, trails, signage, interpretation centres, camping and picnic sites, as well as digital platforms for information and visitor services.

Community participation remains central to the development of forest tourism. Ecotourism can provide opportunities for local employment and enterprises in areas such as guiding, accommodation, catering, crafts, transport and cultural tourism, while encouraging communities to participate in forest conservation.

Through sustainable ecotourism, the Ministry seeks to balance conservation, responsible recreation, community development and sustainable financing for forest management.

Experience Uganda's Forests

Visitors are encouraged to explore Uganda's Central Forest Reserves, discover their unique biodiversity and cultural heritage, and contribute to the conservation of these valuable ecosystems for present and future generations.