

Tripartite Declaration

On the Transboundary Natural Resources Management of the Transfrontier Protected Area Network of the Central Albertine Rift

The Democratic Republic of Congo

The Republic of Rwanda

The Republic of Uganda

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**RECOGNISING** the necessity to conserve the unique ecosystem of the Central Albertine Rift Transfrontier protected area network through the collaborative management of the Volcano National Park, Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Semliki National Park, Ruwenzori Mountains National Park, Kibale National Park and Virunga National Parks for the benefit of the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and the international community;

**ENVISIONING** the Central Albertine Rift transfrontier protected area network together with the surrounding landscape conserving endemic and high biodiversity values sustainably;

**TARGETING** the establishment of a strategic transboundary collaborative management system that enables sustainable conservation of the Central Albertine Rift biodiversity for long-term socio-economic development;

**CONSCIOUS** of the benefits to be derived from close co-operation;

**MINDFUL** of the principle of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of the three states; and thus

**ACCEPTING** that This Agreement shall in no way be construed as derogating from any provision of the domestic law in force in the countries of the Parties or any other agreement entered into between the Parties; and

Now therefore it is hereby declared that:

1. The Central Albertine Rift Transfrontier protected area network is recognized as a transboundary ecosystem shared by the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo hereby referred to as "DRC".
2. the efforts to coordinate and collaboratively manage these protected areas as one ecosystem, and especially the development of a Transboundary Strategic Plan are hereby appreciated and noted respecting the borders of the three countries.
3. The final Transboundary Strategic Plan for the Central Albertine Rift Transfrontier Protected Area Network shall be fully recognized and accepted by the three countries.
4. efforts shall be made to initiate the development of a collaborative protocol amongst the three governments to ensure formal agreement of management of

the transboundary protected area network that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and subsequently to the common goal of poverty reduction in the three countries.

5. Recognizing the need to finance this initiative, the ministers do hereby accept to lobby their respective governments and other key players to make a financial commitment to enable implementation of the transboundary strategic plan as mentioned in article 2 above.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned have agreed on this declaration in duplicate in the English and French language, both being equally authentic.

Anselme ENERUNGA

Name

Anselme

Signature

14 Oct 2005

Date

**Excellence Minister ANSELME ENERUNGA,**

**Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests, DRC**

MITARI PROTAIS

Name

MITARI

Signature

14<sup>th</sup>/oct/05

Date

**Excellence Minister of State PROTAIS MITARI,**

**Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Investments Promotion, Tourism and Cooperative, the Republic of Rwanda**

AKAKI AYUMU JOVINO

Name

AKAKI

Signature

14/10/05

Date

**The Honourable Minister of State JOVINO AKAKI AYUMU,**

**Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, the Republic of Uganda**



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Anselme ENERUNGA                      Anselme                      14 Oct 2005  
Name                                              Signature                                              Date

**Excellence Minister ANSELME ENERUNGA,**  
**Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests, DRC**

MITARI PROTAS                      Protas                      14<sup>th</sup>/oct/05  
Name                                              Signature                                              Date

**Excellence Minister of State PROTAS MITARI,**  
**Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Investments Promotion, Tourism and Cooperative, the Republic of Rwanda**

AKAKI AYUMU JOVINO                      Ayumu                      14/10/05  
Name                                              Signature                                              Date

**The Honourable Minister of State JOVINO AKAKI AYUMU,**  
**Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, the Republic of Uganda**