



Pandemic Poachers

Impact of COVID-19 on wildlife trafficking and conservation in East Africa & how the media can prevent another pandemic.

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Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

- UWA manages 10 National parks, 12 Wildlife reserves,
- Offers technical guidance to 13 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 community wildlife areas.
- The overall mandate of UWA is to conserve and manage wildlife in Uganda for Generations
- UWA has sole jurisdiction over National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, Supervisory role of Local and Private Sanctuaries.
- Out of the Uganda's total surface area of 241,551sq.km; 10% is gazetted as wildlife conservation areas managed under UWA

EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

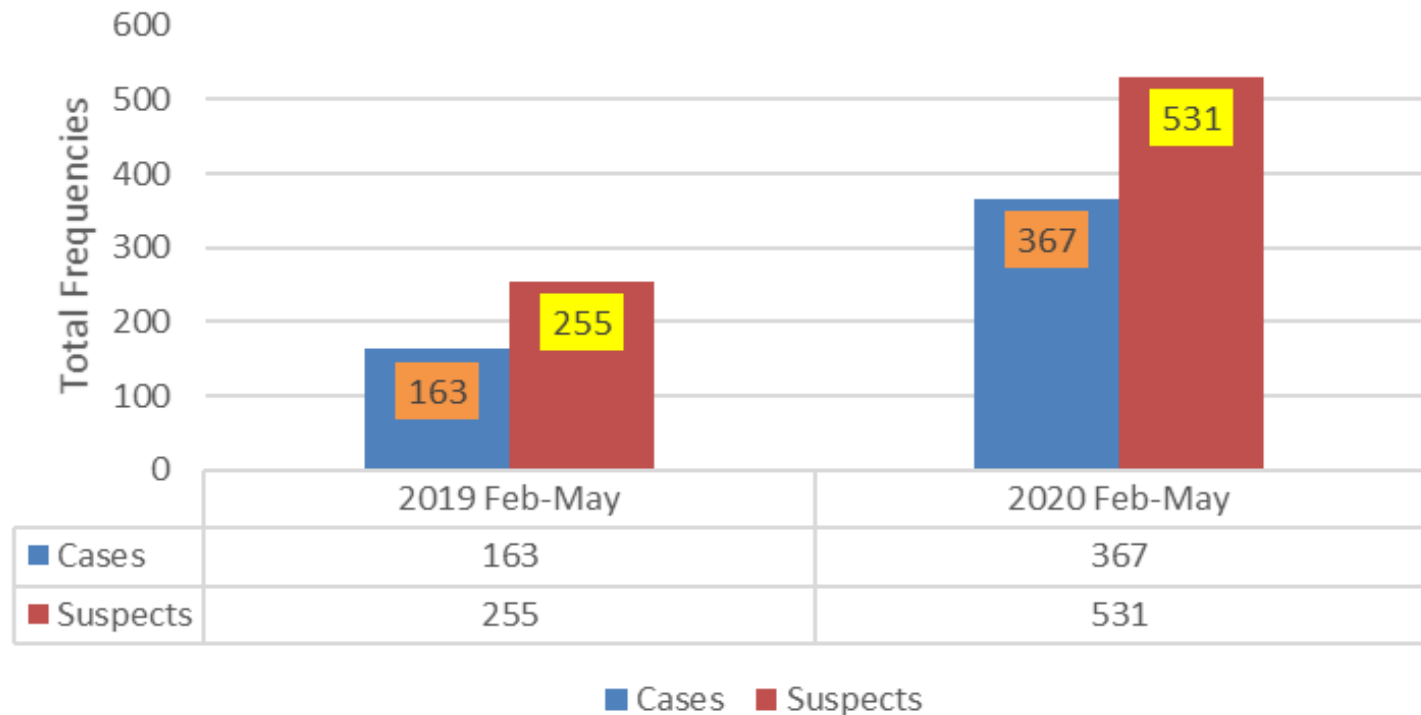
- The country experienced a total shut-down of the tourism sector.
- Reduction of visitors to the protected areas, hence reduction in revenue generation/funds.
- Loss of jobs
- Loss of livelihoods
- Pressure on Protected areas
- Made UWA vulnerable



Implications

Increase in Poaching

Trends of poaching Feb-May; 2019 and 2020





Implications

Increase in Poaching & illegal activities

- 1987 suspects involved in poaching and related offences into the CAs.
- 13645 different types of poaching implements confiscated
- 4314 assorted wildlife and wildlife products seized





Implications

Increase in Poaching & illegal activities

- 23 guns recovered



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Poaching and other illegal activities



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Disruption of Revenue Generation



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Implications

Risk to increase transmission of Zoonotic disease to humans

Reduction in Community engagement programmes

Halt on Research activities

Loss of Community benefits



Role of media

Showcase the magnitude of poaching and trafficking

Know the syndicates involved

Impact on economy

Impact on community livelihoods

Give a message of hope

Benefits of conserving

Understanding & highlighting the species status



thank
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SO MUCH
😊