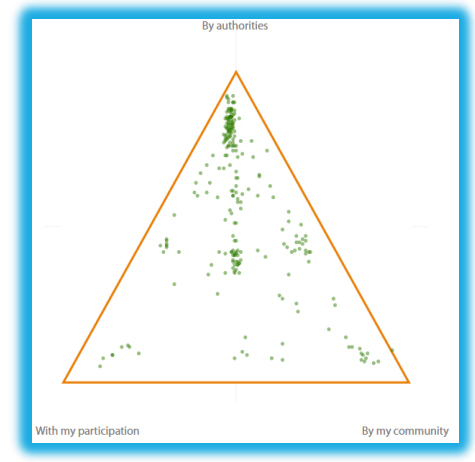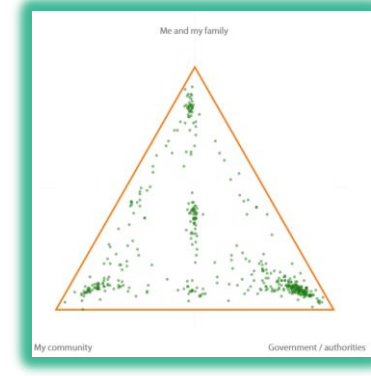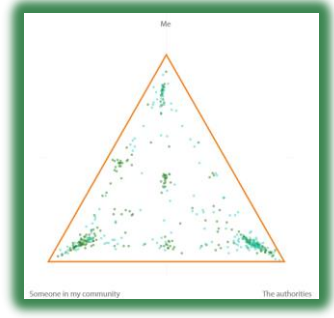*"Those days I used to do agriculture in Agoro-Agu and I would get so much produce from the forest land but now days the authorities of the NFA uganda has stopped me and also some people who used to dig there and worked me that if I go back there they will arrest me.so I no longer do agriculture there and I have no good food in my home to eat."*

Integration of people's perceptions

MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN UGANDA

Salete Carvalho

Content

❖ **The forest reserves in Uganda**
- ❖ Historical context of forest reserves in Uganda
- ❖ Forest sector reform
- ❖ Forest reserves management
- ❖ Extent and ownership of forests in Uganda

❖ **Understanding stakeholders' perceptions**
- ❖ Stabilising land use (PLUS)
- ❖ SenseMaker design and planning

❖ **Findings**
- ❖ Visualising patterns
  - ❖ *Landscape Governance Effectiveness*
  - ❖ *Participation in the decision making process*
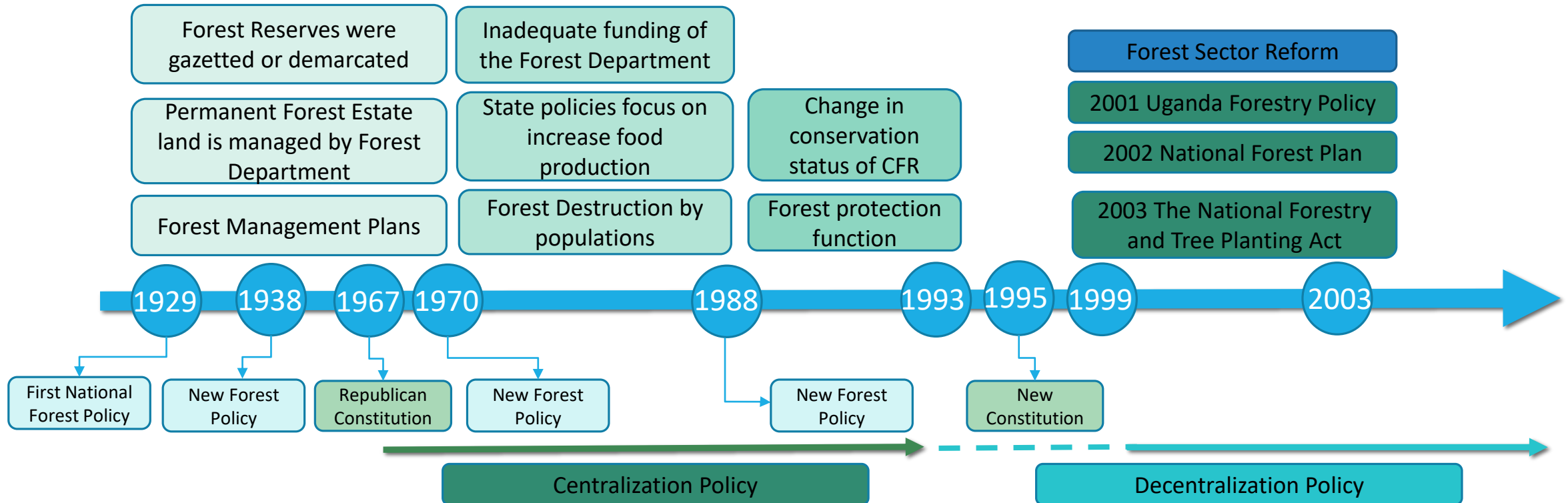
❖ **Conclusions**

Mount Elgon National Park

Forest reserves in Uganda

Historical context of forest reserves in Uganda

A Forest Reserve is an area of land designated, reserved/gazetted by an Act of Parliament for development of forests or tree growing activities.

Purpose:
- Biodiversity conservation and critical habitats;
- Generate sustainable sources of timber;
- Protection of environmental or ecotourism services;

Forest Reserves were gazetted or demarcated

Inadequate funding of the Forest Department

Forest Sector Reform

Permanent Forest Estate land is managed by Forest Department

State policies focus on increase food production

Change in conservation status of CFR

2001 Uganda Forestry Policy

2002 National Forest Plan

Forest Management Plans

Forest Destruction by populations

Forest protection function

2003 The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act

Timeline: 1929 — 1938 — 1967 — 1970 — 1988 — 1993 — 1995 — 1999 — 2003

First National Forest Policy

New Forest Policy

Republican Constitution

New Forest Policy

New Forest Policy

New Constitution

Centralization Policy

Decentralization Policy

Forest sector reform

Vision

"A sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda"

2001 Uganda Forestry Policy

Guiding principles for forest sector development and identification of new stakeholders that contribute to this development

2002 National Forest Plan

Provides the framework for the implementation of Forestry Policy

2003 The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act

A regulatory framework for the management of the country's Forest Reserves

Forest sector reform

What is new?

Institutional Framework

Participatory Forest Management approach

National Forestry Authority (NFA)
Mandated to manage the Central Forest Reserves (CFR's)

District Forestry Services (DFs)
Under the local government supervision Mandated to manage Local Forest Reserves (LFR's)

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
Mandated to manage the National Parks and Wildlife Reserves

Local Communities
Partner with NFA and DFS in **Collaborative Forest Management**

Partner with UWA in **Community Resource Management Arrangements**

Extent and ownership of forests in Uganda

Source: UNEP-WCMC (2017). Protected Area Profile for Uganda from the World Database of Protected Areas, July 2017. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

Spatial Reference
Name: GCS WGS 1984
GCS: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Page units Degree

Protected Areas
- Forest Reserve
- National Park
- Wildlife Reserve

Private Land	Government land
87%	13%

Central Forest Reserves		
No	Hectares	% of gov. land
506	1,173,753	37,8%

Local Forest Reserves		
192	5,000	0,2%

National Parks (10) & Wildlife Reserves (12)		
22	1,928,907	62%

"Since UWA started their work, we no longer get many things from the forest as compared to the past. These people have been good and we had appreciated them but they caning people which is not good. This does not mean that we don;t like them but they should stop caning people.I ask UWA to be polite so that we may work."

"The forest is good because we get malewa, grass for animals, green vegetables and fire wood. We also do farming near the fores or close to the boundary . The UWA rangers can cain you when you go to get the mentioned things above. I therefore ask that they allow us to collect malewa at least because we are used of it."

Understanding stakeholders' perceptions

Stabilizing Land Use (PLUS) project

Stabilizing Land Use: Protected Areas (PA) Categories V and VI as Landscape Mechanisms for Enhancing Biodiversity in Agricultural Land, Ecological Connectivity and REDD+ Implementation (PLUS)

Goal

By 2020, *"conservation and development benefits are demonstrated in four targeted landscapes through better use of Protected Area categories V and VI (or other appropriate area based conservation mechanisms), supported by alignment of national and sub-national policies, and landscape level actions."*

Outcome indicator

Seeks to track changes in stakeholders' perceptions about:

- ○ landscape governance effectiveness
- ○ stakeholder participation in the governance activities.
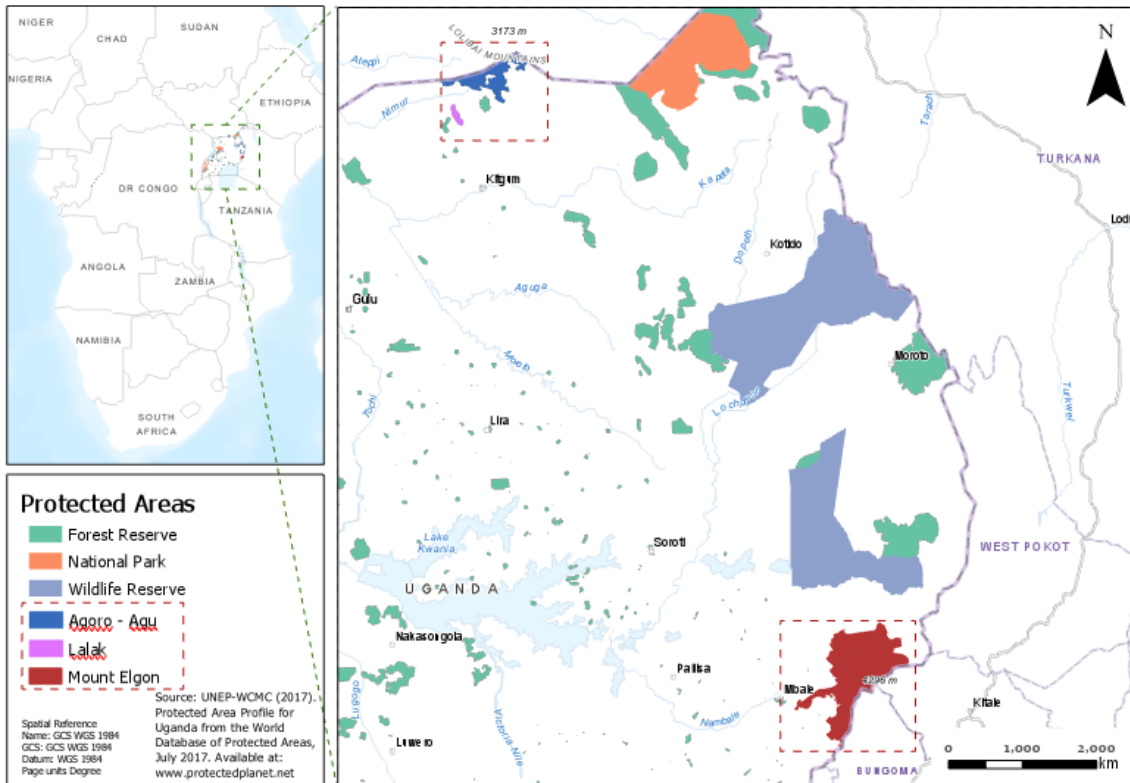
SenseMaker design and planning

IUCN
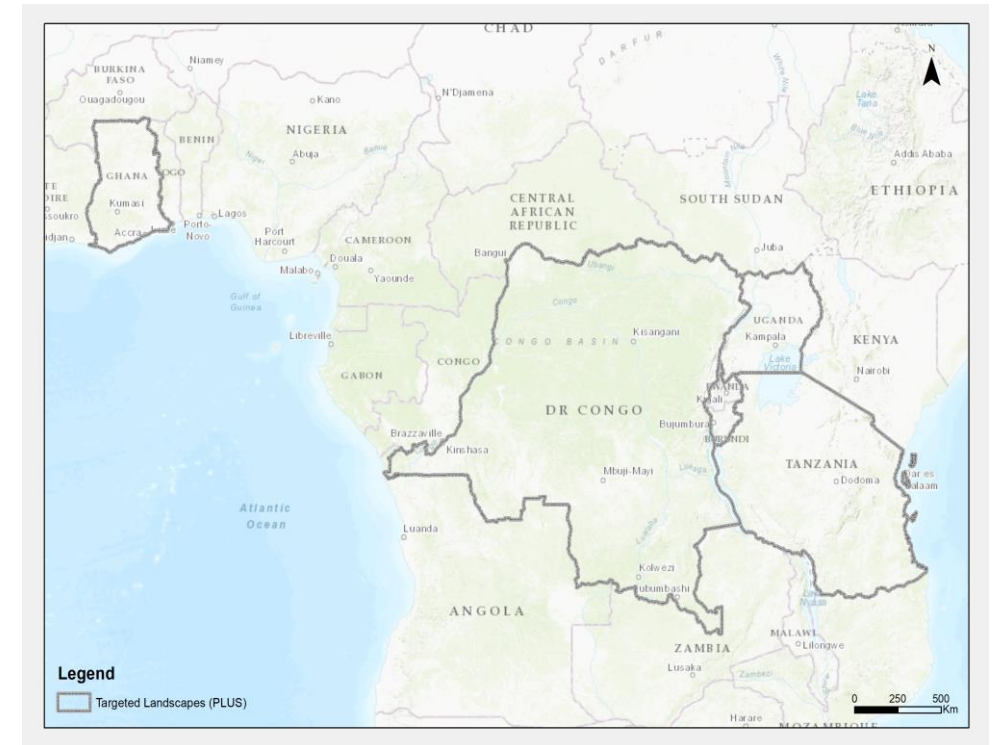
What is it?

❑ a data-rich and innovative tool that enables quantitative analysis of micronarratives (stories)

Purpose

❑ to gather quantitative information about people's perceptions supported by explanatory narratives

1
Prompting Question

2
Story Capture

3
Self-Signification

4
Visualising Patterns

5
Community Feedback

6
Deepen Insights

SenseMaker design and planning

1- Target areas: Agoro-Agu and Mount Elgon

Protected Areas
- Forest Reserve
- National Park
- Wildlife Reserve
- Agoro - Agu
- Lalak
- Mount Elgon

Spatial Reference
Name: GCS WGS 1984
GCS: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Page units Degree

Source: UNEP-WCMC (2017). Protected Area Profile for Uganda from the World Database of Protected Areas, July 2017. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

2- Development of the Signification Framework

Reflecting on the Mount Elgon National Park, can you share a positive or negative experience that you (your family or your community) had in/with this area. Please describe what happened?

Please share your story here:

T3. In my story, the Mount Elgon National Park was managed...

By authorities

N/A

With my participation

By my community

M1. Who was involved in the story? (max. 3 answers)

	Me and/or my family
	Other community members
	Uganda Wildlife Authority
	National Forestry Authority
	Local government
	Not for profit organisation

IUCN

D1. In the context of my story, the decisions made by the management of the Mount Elgon National Park are:

Fair   Unfair   N/A

SenseMaker design and planning

3- Training on SenseMaker data Collection

20 students from Busitema University
6 District Local Government (DLG) staff from Lamwo,
Bududa and Namisindwa Districts

4- Planning and conducting the SenseMaker survey

464 stories

Mount Elgon landscape: 235 stories
Budada district: 67
Namisindwa district: 168

Agoro-Agu landscape: 229 stories
Agoro-Agu CFR: 158
Lalak CFR: 71

SenseMaker collection
Claudia Van Gool (Voices That Count)

Data collection SenseMaker
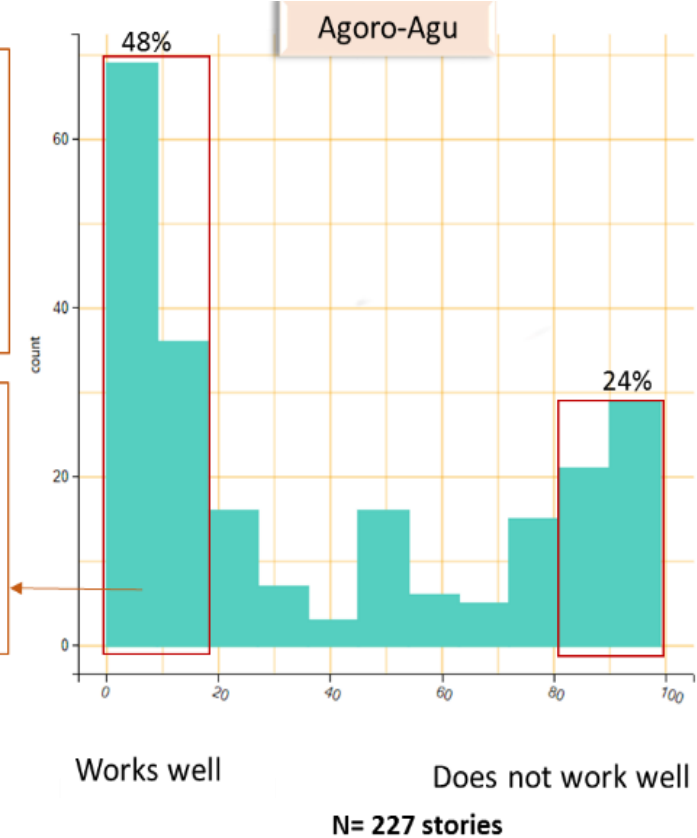Claudia Van Gool (Voices That Count)

Findings

In my story, the management was done by…

In the context of my story, the management of the Mount Elgon National Park/ Central Forest Reserve …

Mount Elgon

By authorities
40%

17%

3%   6%

With my participation   By my community

N= 234 stories

Agoro-Agu

By authorities
29%

11%

4%   29%

With my participation   By my community

N= 228 stories

Mount Elgon

41%

16%

21%

Works well   Does not work well

N= 234 stories
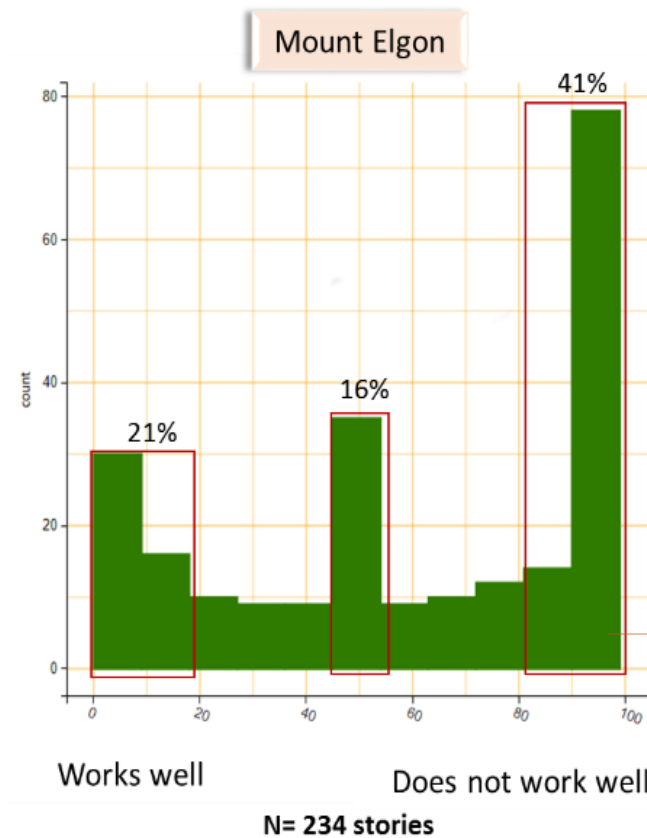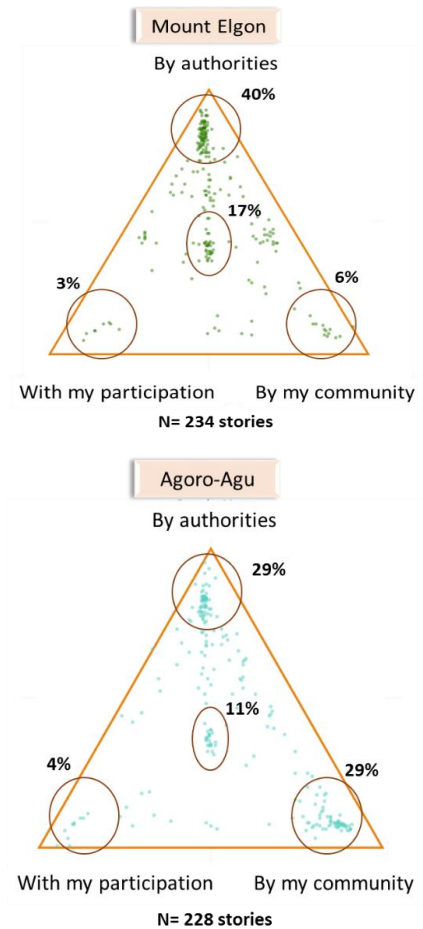
"Yes we have some things we get from the Mt Elgon forest for use like, food, wood and medicine for sick people but there is problem of the management of area to restrict people from accessing them, and we don't know why. yet long ago there was good water, good trees, animals, food for animals, but today such things no longer there so people of bushiy want IUCN to help us to go to mt Elgon."

"The government planted trees in Agoro-Agu forest with the help of the community members from which we do get building materials like logs and grass and some people are employed during the harvesting of the trees, we also go for hunting in the forest to get wild animals for food and sale. The lango people do come to steal the crops from the garden in the forest."

Agoro-Agu

48%

24%

Works well   Does not work well

N= 227 stories

In the context of my story, the decisions made by the management of the Mount Elgon National Park are:

Mount Elgon

40%

19%

24%

Fair

Unfair

N= 234 stories
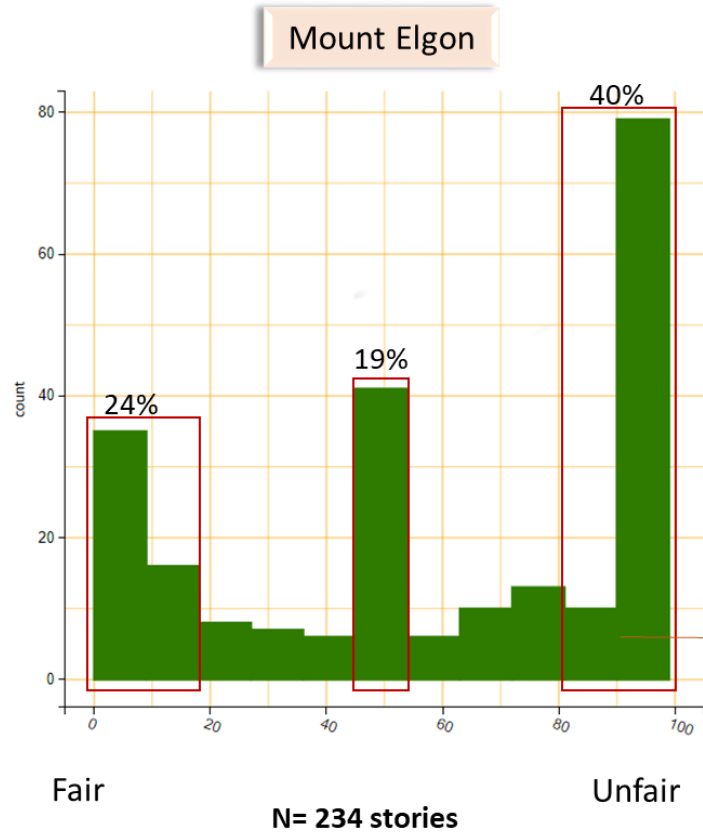
"I used to get fire wood bamboo grass for the animals mushrooms and we even used to cultivate and grow crops in the national park but we were not allowed to cut down trees. Now days we have been stopped by UWA guards to carry out the above mentioned activities in the national park. By stopping us now our living is a bit hard. So I call upon those responsible stakeholders to come for our rescue because things are worse. Really our relationship with UWA is not good because once you are found in the national park you harassed accusing you of destroying the resources in the national park."
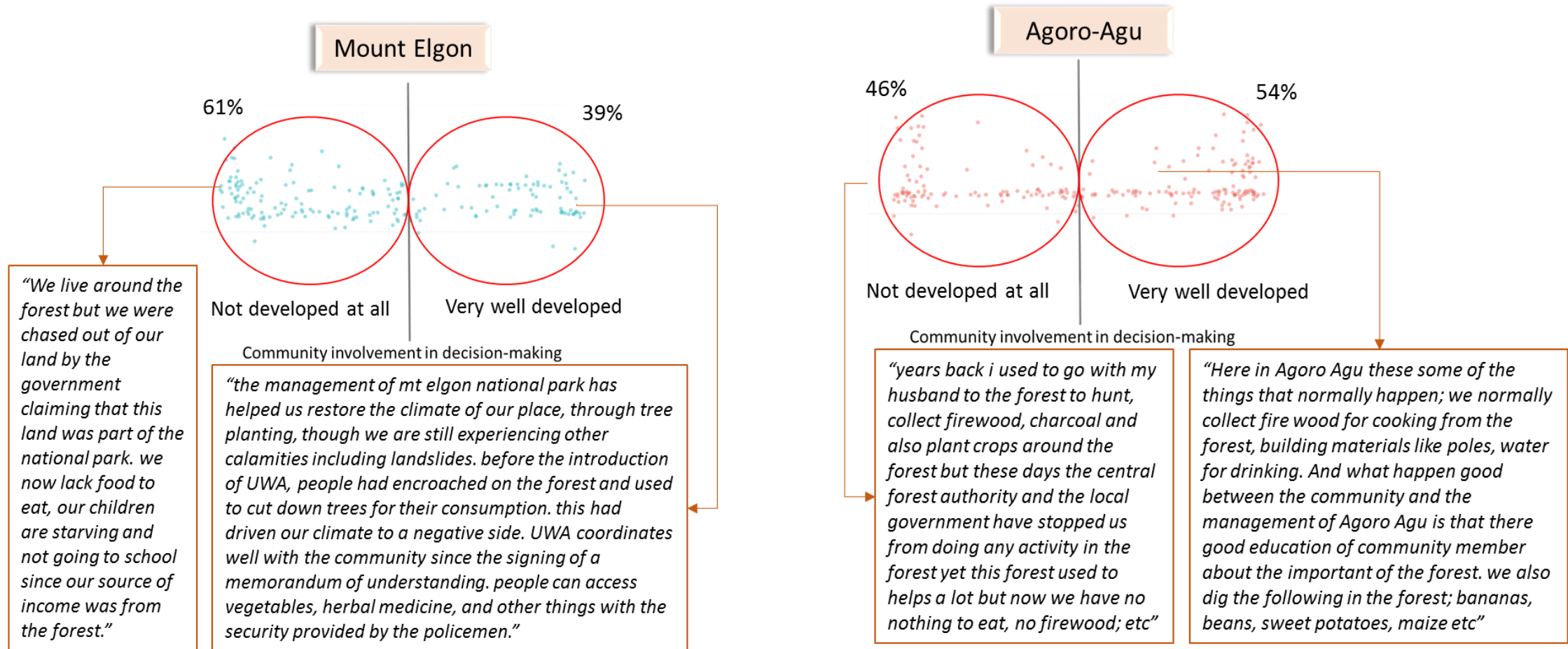
"what is most important is that when we wanted to construct the school we had to get timber from the forest in 2014.In 2017 we experience a lot of fire outbreak as people tend to burn the farms and the fire spread out to the forest. We are able to get water that flow from the rock which has reduced water scarcity problem. We have been restricted flow not to go and cut down the trees from the forest. And i feel it is good that we have been restricted."

"For me the important of this central forest reserved i have gotten is that it help me in cultivating crops such as beans and maize which help me to pay fees for my children and help me also to set fire for cooking and also i get grass from the forest for building my house from the central forest reserve and can also plant coffee from the central forest reserve freely because the government has allowed us to cultivate in some part of the forest so as to maintain our forest. The reason why we like this forest is because they allow us to grow crops from near which make us get money to facilitate our day to day needs."

Agoro-Agu

62%

19%

Fair

Unfair

N= 227 stories

How do you consider the community involvement in decision making process in your area?

Mount Elgon

61% 39%

Not developed at all   Very well developed

Community involvement in decision-making

"We live around the forest but we were chased out of our land by the government claiming that this land was part of the national park. we now lack food to eat, our children are starving and not going to school since our source of income was from the forest."

"the management of mt elgon national park has helped us restore the climate of our place, through tree planting, though we are still experiencing other calamities including landslides. before the introduction of UWA, people had encroached on the forest and used to cut down trees for their consumption. this had driven our climate to a negative side. UWA coordinates well with the community since the signing of a memorandum of understanding. people can access vegetables, herbal medicine, and other things with the security provided by the policemen."

Agoro-Agu

46% 54%

Not developed at all   Very well developed

Community involvement in decision-making

"years back i used to go with my husband to the forest to hunt, collect firewood, charcoal and also plant crops around the forest but these days the central forest authority and the local government have stopped us from doing any activity in the forest yet this forest used to helps a lot but now we have no nothing to eat, no firewood; etc"

"Here in Agoro Agu these some of the things that normally happen; we normally collect fire wood for cooking from the forest, building materials like poles, water for drinking. And what happen good between the community and the management of Agoro Agu is that there good education of community member about the important of the forest. we also dig the following in the forest; bananas, beans, sweet potatoes, maize etc"

Visualising Patterns: Participation in the decision-making process

The management decisions taken by the Mount Elgon National Park/Agoro-Agu Central Forest Reserve:

Mount Elgon

44%

28%

13%

Neglect the voice of the community

Take into account the voice of the community

N= 235 stories

Agoro-Agu

44%

33%

Neglect the voice of the community

Take into account the voice of the community

N= 227 stories

"I used to get fire wood, bamboo, grass for the animals, mushrooms and we even used to cultivate and grow crops in the national park but we were not allowed to cut down trees. Now days we have been stopped by UWA guards to carry out the above mentioned activities in the the national park. By stopping us , now our living is a bit hard. So i call upon those responsible stakeholders to come for our rescue because things are worse. Really our relationship with UWA is not good because once you are found in the national park you harassed accusing you of destroying the resources in the national park."
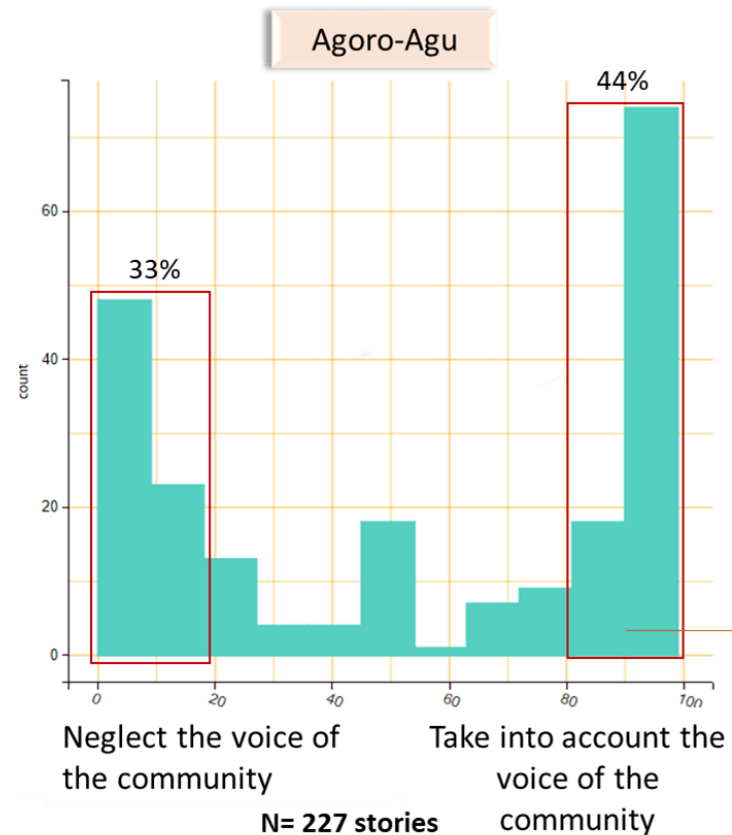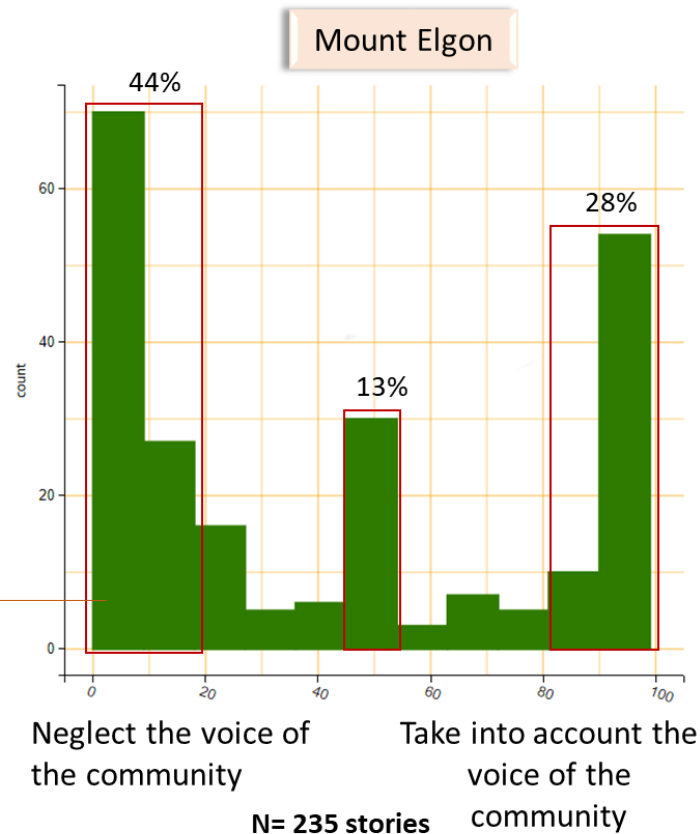
"What happened in the year 1941 that the Lalak forest helped people so much to start life in Katum here. We collect from the point called "wang tiko" (locally interpreted as the eyes of the beads) firewood, honey, which we also get from up there on the hill in the forest. The other good thing which we the people of Katum experienced was that the government and the community of Katum jointly agreed to protect the forest of Lalak. The other bad experience is some people set fire which burnt trees grass and other thing in the forest."

Community Feedback

Mount Elgon
- High levels of mistrust and conflict between Uganda Wildlife Authority and communities
  - Unclear boundaries;
  - High dependence of the local community on the forest resources;
  - Inadequate benefit sharing measures; and
  - Agreements on resource use not clear and sometimes not respected.

Agoro Agu
- Community is rebuilding itself after 2 decades of war
  - Unclear boundaries due to the war;
  - Vulnerable people with limited infrastructure and services;
  - Benefits from the forest reserves include: timber, fuel wood, fruit, etc.; and
  - Some conflicts with NFA and communities when they don't agree with the terms that govern their forest reserves.

Conclusion

Conclusions

Understanding people's perceptions:

- ✓ is a significant contribution to inform and improve management decisions
    - ✓ provides insights into perspectives, attitudes and values of the community;
    - ✓ more knowledge about the context, helps to address more needs and concerns;
    - ✓ opportunity to resolve conflicts.
- ✓ is a way to improve community inclusivity
    - ✓ by facilitating dialog between different stakeholders in the landscape;
    - ✓ by enhancing the relationship and strengthening partnerships between community and management institutions.

- – expensive and time consuming tool, need to be complemented by other tools

Sensemaker is a valuable approach for IUCN's goal of exploring M&E methods that support decision-making and learning processes of multi-stakeholder partnerships to drive sustainable development results.

"For us in patika here the forest near us agoro-agu, we get some assistance like bamboo, hunting, firewood to help push with life. Some people go to the forest to harvest bee honey by first cutting the tree where the honey is from the government. From the field here people use it for gardens and the animals are taken near in the forest because there is no where to keep them."

"Agoro agu central forest reserve help us with very many resources as follow; local herb, water for drinking ,good fertile soil for cultivation, fire wood pole for construction,task grass for drinking,will also help us to received rainfall, tourist attraction good nature of this place and honey."

Thank you

"I live in Sekululu village. time ago we when we were growing up, we had plenty of food, that's to say matooke, millet, sorghum and others. as the population of the people grew up, things begun changing. to meet demand for food, we started cutting down the trees in the forest to expand the land for settlement. we did it but soon or later, the government started gazetting the park and we were chased out of the forest."