Embaka
Saving African golden cats

embaka.org

No African golden cat left behind

A 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE **EMBAKA- COMMUNITY LED CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION**

PHOTO: Sebastian Kennerknecht

About us

OUR MISSION

To conserve the African golden cat through community livelihood improvement

OUR VISION

To spearhead the **conservation of the African golden cat** in Uganda and across the species range **through community-led conservation** practises

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE EMBAKA AND AGCCA PARTNERS, WHOSE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK FORM THE BACKBONE OF OUR SUCCESS.

We also want to express appreciation to our local communities and the national wildlife authorities for their enthusiasm for the conservation of the African golden cat.

We are grateful to our financial partners for their unwavering support, and for always being there for us. Together, we have built a family that is integral to the EMBAKA's journey.

Embaka- a Ugandan local community-led conservation (CBO) counts **16 years of successful community-led conservation and ecological research** on the African golden cat in and around **34 protected areas** in Uganda and **18 other countries** of the African golden cat range.



PHOTO: Sebastian Kennerknecht

Executive Summary

We have expanded our **local community engagement** from 350 local families in 2021 to **11,934 today**.

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED **1,237 SMALLHOLDER LIVESTOCK** FARMS AS DIRECT ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FAMILY ANIMAL PROTEIN AND INCOME FOR BUSHMEAT HUNTING.

We have expanded the beneficiaries of our small savings and credit program to **2,087 families** to diversify family income. We have increased the number of **dental care beneficiaries** to **2,388** providing an incentive for local community support for African golden cat conservation.

We have established a standardized species range wide camera trap system, not only to assess and monitor the population status African golden cat, but also to evaluate the impact of our community-led conservation initiative.

We have successfully led the IUCN RedList Assessment of the African golden cat.

The ever-growing Embaka and AGCCA family, now with **39 partners** in **19** of the **20 countries of the species range**, is a testimony of our united continental effort. The need to extend anti-hunting initiatives to more local families remains pertinent, as bushmeat hunting remains a serious threat across the African golden cat range.

Our conservation efforts have been internationally recognised by the 2025 Emerging Conservationist Indianapolis Prize and the 2024 National Geographic Society WayFinder Award presented by KIA.

Your trust and confidence inspire us to reach new corners of the African golden cat range.

Thank you for being an integral part of African golden cat story.



Mwezi "Badru" Mugerwa
LEADER, EMBAKA

PHOTO: Embaka/Stuart Tibaweswa/National Geographic

Embaka **hosts** the AGCCA



EMBAKA IS A PROUD HOST AND COORDINATOR OF THE AGCCA - A NETWORK OF CONSERVATIONISTS SPEARHEADING THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT 34 FOREST HABITATS IN 19 COUNTRIES OF THE SPECIES RANGE.

While Embaka was recently (2021) formally registered as a CBO, it counts 16 years of successful coordination and implementation of community-led conservation and ecological research on the African golden cat in and around 34 forest habitats in Uganda and 28 other countries of the African golden cat range.

Embaka is the local *Kikiga* name for the African golden cat, and it reflects our aim of engaging local communities to mitigate human threats and their impacts on the species and its habitat through local community engagement and the provision of incentives (e.g., alternative sources of income and animal protein).

Embaka, together with the AGCCA is working in and around 34 protected areas habitats of the African golden cat in 19 countries: Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria,Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

ONGO COMMUNITY FOREST RESERVE

- **105** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **90** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **148** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

MPANGA CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE

- **43** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **240** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

BUDONGO CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE

- **60** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **204** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **234** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

BUGOMA CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE

KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

- **45** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **86** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **131** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

KASYOHA-KITOMI FOREST RESERVE

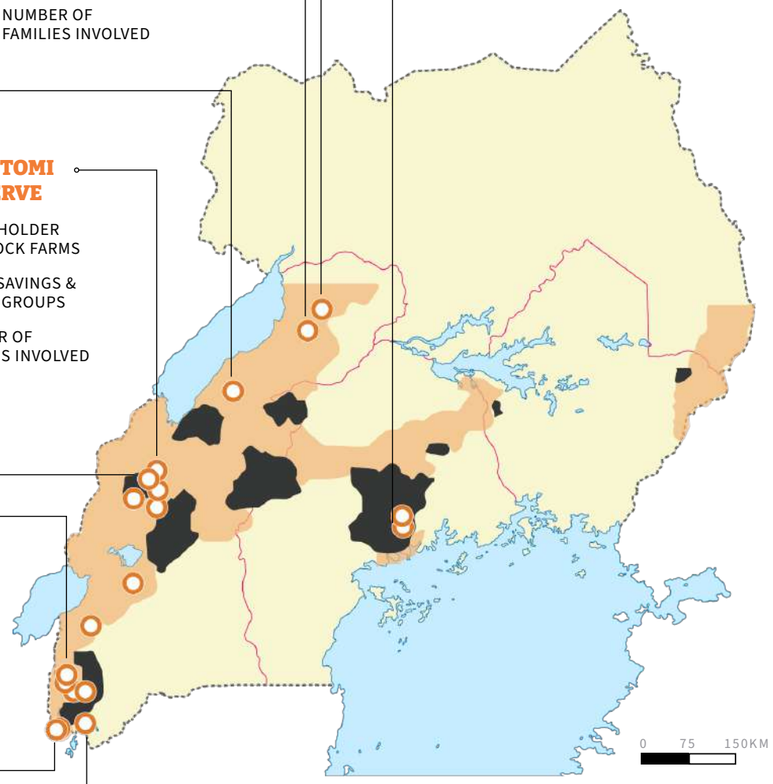
- **91** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **209** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **616** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

- **559** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **559** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **1,022** FREE DENTAL CARE BENEFICIARIES
- **2,623** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

MGAHINGA GORILLA NATIONAL PARK

- **43** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **117** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **284** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED



ECHUYA NATIONAL PARK

- **64** SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
- **198** SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
- **450** NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

- REGIONS
- AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT RANGE
- POSSIBLY EXTANT
- EMBAKA PROJECTS SITES

Our Partners in **19** of the **21 countries** of the species range.

EMBAKA, ESTABLISHED THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (AGCCA) IN 2019 WITH A LONG-TERM VISION TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES AGAINST HUMAN THREATS TO THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE SPECIES RANGE.

Our conservation actions are led and implemented by dedicated African conservationists alongside their local communities.

We currently have 39 partners in 19 of the 21 range countries. Our partners, together with their local communities at the heart of our operations, coordinate and implement the conservation of the African golden cat across the species range through community-led conservation practices.

Quick **Facts**

80 African golden cats **perished in snares at** three protected areas in Uganda in one year

Embaka
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Our esteemed partners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

SWCCF Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation

wildlife.ug by CTC Conservation Center

AFRINITY Reconnecting with Nature

WCN Wildlife Conservation Network

CAT SPECIALIST GROUP

INDIANAPOLIS PRIZE

ARK Wildlife Park

re:wild

PANTHERA

AGCCA

BIG CAT RESCUE A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL SANCTUARY

WORTH THE WILD Africa

ITFC

The Rufford Foundation

IUCN

GUINEA
Moyen-Bafing National Park

22 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
43 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
300 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

NIGERIA
Gashaka Gumti National Park

IN 2024, 89 CAMERA TRAPS DEPLOYED ACROSS THE PARK DOCUMENTED THE PRESENCE OF MANY ANIMALS NOT SEEN FOR DECADES, INCLUDING AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Krahn- Bassa Protected Area

50 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
112 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS

DRC
Lomami National Park

WE ARE RAISING AWARENESS AMONG IN FIVE SCHOOLS ABOUT CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT.

IVORY COAST
Comoe National Park

65 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
65 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
130 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

KENYA
Gatamaiyu Forest Reserve

61 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
189 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

SIERRA LEONE
Outamba Kilimi National Park

30 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
30 FREE DENTAL CARE BENEFICIARIES
250 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

LIBERIA
Krahn- Bassa Protected Area

20 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
43 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
300 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

GHANA
Afadjato-Agumatsa Community Conservation Area

POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT HAVE DECLINED AND OCCUR IN SMALL NUMBERS.

CAMEROON
Mpem et Djim National Park

50 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
112 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS
2,650 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

EQUATORIA GUINEA
Piedra Nzas Natural Monument

45 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
650 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED
2,650 NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED

GABON
Moukalaba-Doudou National Park

20 SMALL-HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMS
20 SMALL SAVINGS & CREDIT GROUPS

ANGOLA
Maiombe National Park

RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT SPECIMENS IN BUSHMEAT MARKETS IN ANGOLA.

UGANDA
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SPECIES RANGE
AGCCA PROJECTS SITES
0 150 300KM