

# Wildlife institute, US varsity partners in research

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**KAMPALA.** The Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute (Uwrite) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kent State University that will see the two institutions partner in research aimed at sustainable wildlife conservation.

The two institutions will carry out research in invasive species that has proved to be a menace at Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Mr Arthur Mugisha, the chairperson of the governing council of the institute, said the memorandum will help strengthen the research at Queen Elizabeth National Park.

"It is my sincere hope that this cooperation will give us a new direction in tracking the sustainable development of

wildlife resources in Uganda," Mr Mugisha said.

He said the agreement between the two institutions will make it easier for the institute to achieve its objectives.

## Exchange programmes

"We will start exchange of students, exchange of academic and research personnel for teaching and research, joint seminars and conferences, the hosting of visiting faculty from the other institution, development of joint research and publications; study abroad of students between institutions and development of specialised academic and research programmes, among others," Mr Mugisha said.

He said a group of students from Kent University are already in the country and will start their programme at Queen Elizabeth National Park.

"They will be working on invasive related research, testing different parameters that will range from Dung Beetle density and richness, Bird and

## UWRITE MANDATE

**Research.** Uwrite is mandated to coordinate, undertake and promote applied research and training to support sustainable wildlife management in Uganda. Officials from the institute say a national wildlife research agenda has been developed to champion this process. They, however, say this cannot be fully implemented without cooperation and coordination with other institutions.

animal species richness and water turbidity on the Kazinga Channel that will tell us the grazing opportunities and plant species regeneration."

Prof Andrew Lepp, the head of wildlife and tourism department at Kent State University, said the issues affecting wildlife conservation are global problems, which must be confronted through collaboration in research to handle them.

Prof Lepp said: "The issues that the conservationists are facing in Uganda are the same issues that we are facing in Ohio and when we put our minds together collectively and share expertise, that's when we will be able to get solutions and solve these problems together."

Prof Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, said the issues of research in wildlife conservation need combined efforts.