

Integrity of Mt. Elgon as a Biosphere Reserve, Water Tower and a Proposed Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve

Makenzi PM.

Chair-Kenya MAB-NATCOM

Presented to the "Mountains Workshop" at the 4WCBRs 14-17th March 2016, Lima. Peru.

Outline:

- Description of Mt. Elgon
- Hydrology
- Biotic communities
- Mt. Elgon as BR
- Proposed TBR



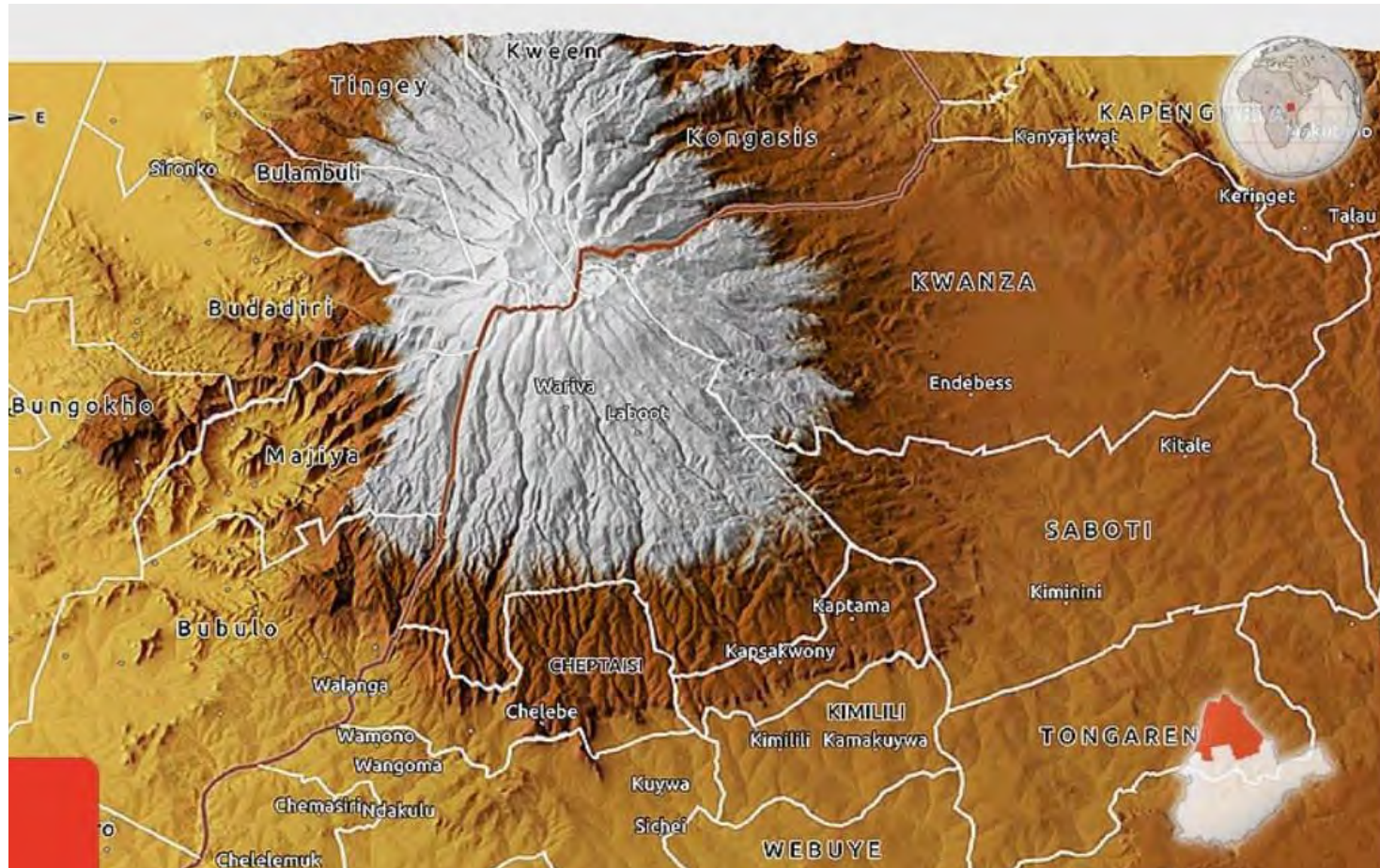
Mt. Elgon Description

- Mount Elgon(Kenya) Masaba (Uganda) –one of the extinct volcano mountains in East Africa
- Height - over 4321m above sea level (m.a.s.l).
- The mountain range, lies astride the Kenya - Uganda border and runs approximately in a North East-South Western direction.
- The mountain ecosystem occupies an area approximately 4,000 km² within the Lake Victoria Basin in Western Kenya and Eastern Uganda. (MERECP, 2014)



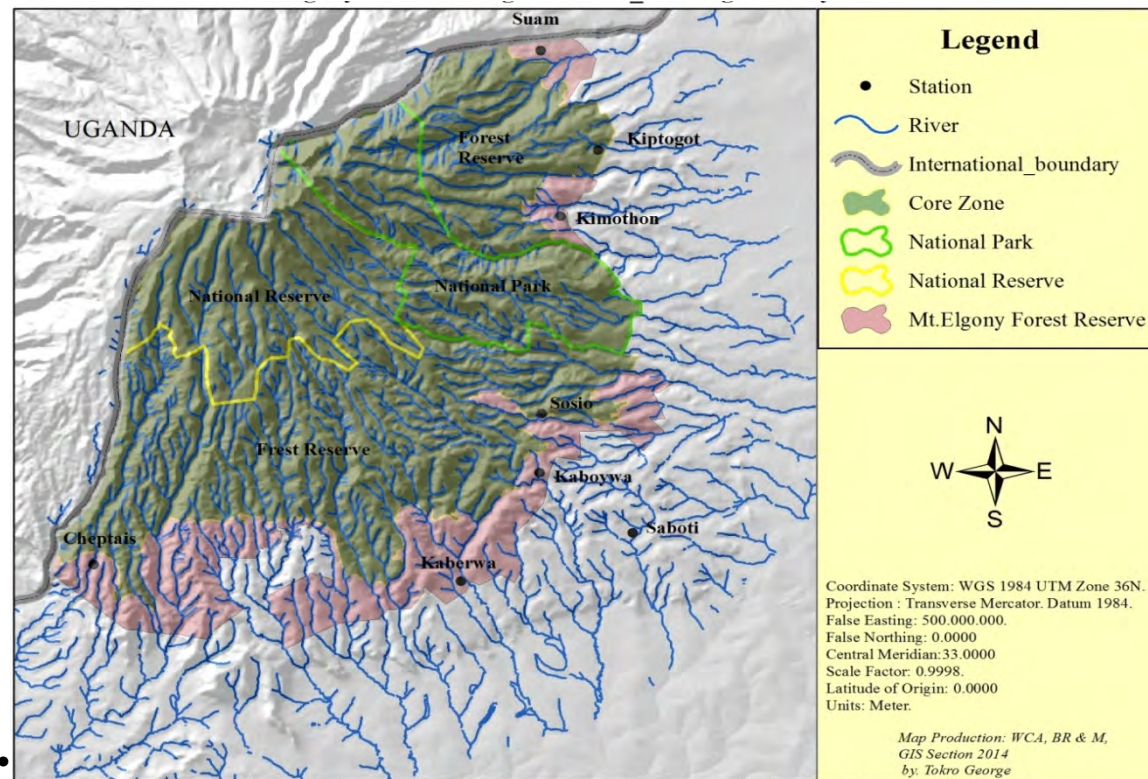
Mt. Elgon ecosystem

Comprises of two biosphere reserves, one on Kenyan side designated in 2003, and Mt. Elgon biosphere reserve on the Ugandan side designated in 2005.



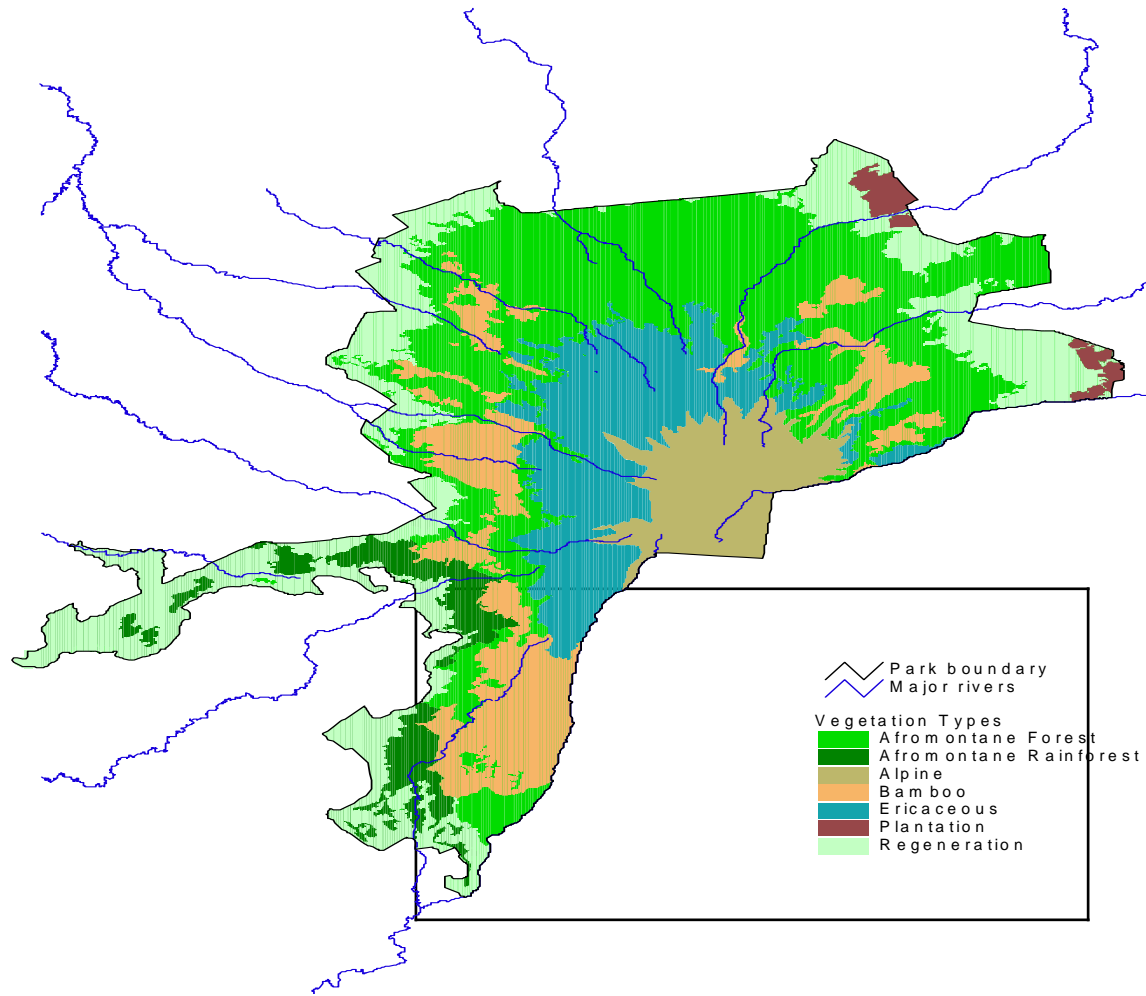
Hydrology

Mt. Elgon Ecosystem is an important water catchment for both Kenya and Uganda and the countries along the Nile basin. In Kenya, Mt Elgon is recognized as one of country's five major "water towers".

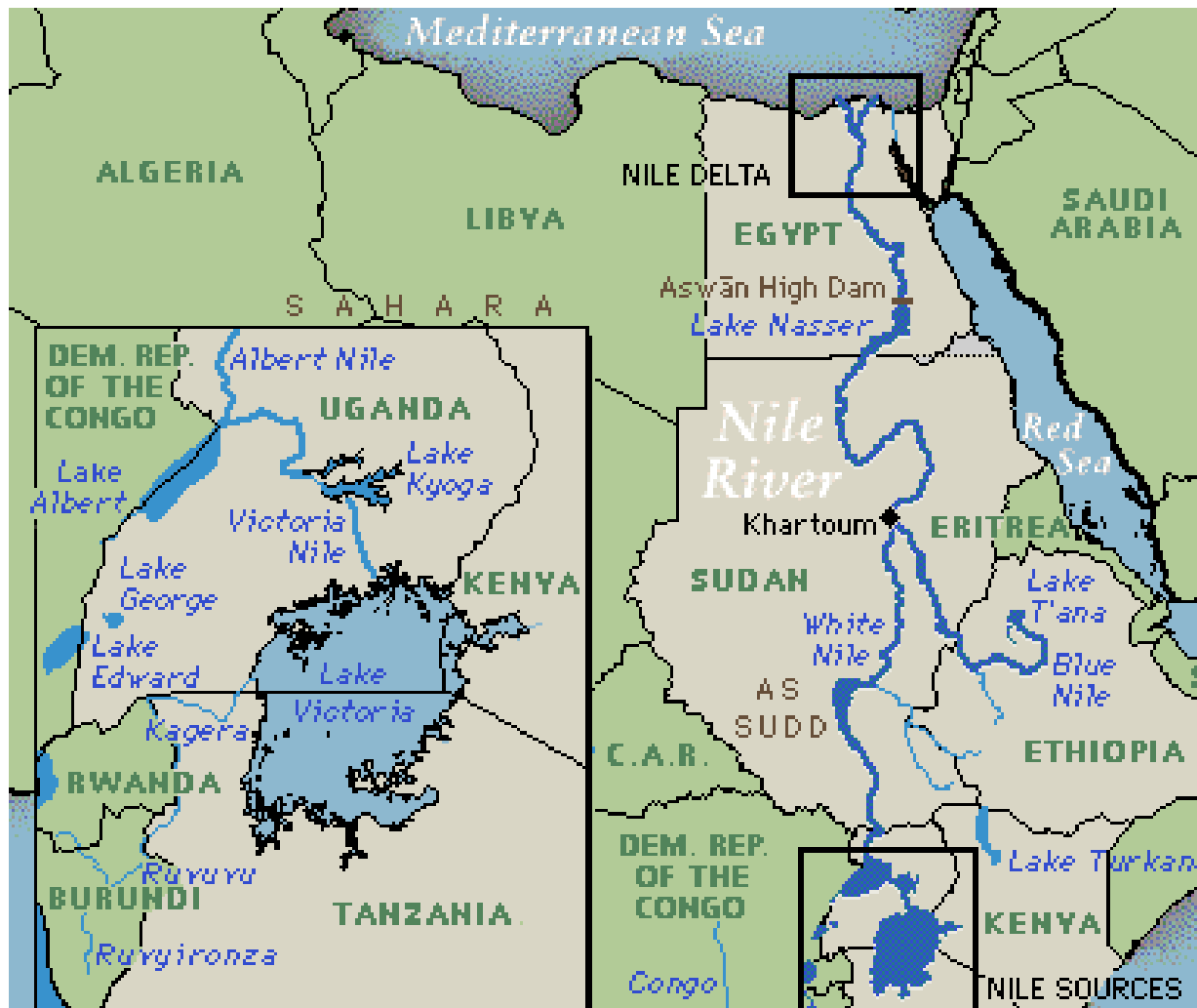


Source: TBR GIS teams from Kenya and Uganda, Map Projection WGS 1984. Measurement Units Degrees

Hydrology of Mt. Elgon on the Ugandan side



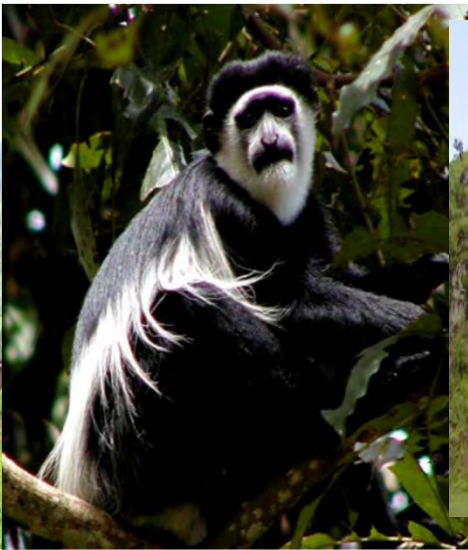
Mt. Elgon as one of catchments of the Nile Watershed



The Biotic communities of Mt. Elgon

- Mt. Elgon ecosystem is a habitat to 37 “globally threatened” species (22 mammals, 2 insects and 13 bird species).
- The Mt Elgon ecosystem is also home to 9 endemic animals, making the area a priority for species conservation.
- It is also home to 240 bird species
- A total of 67 reptiles and amphibians are documented from Mt Elgon region
- There is a total of 179 species of butterflies, (Larsen, 1991; Davenport, 1996)

The biotic communities



Some Endemic birds in Mt. Elgon



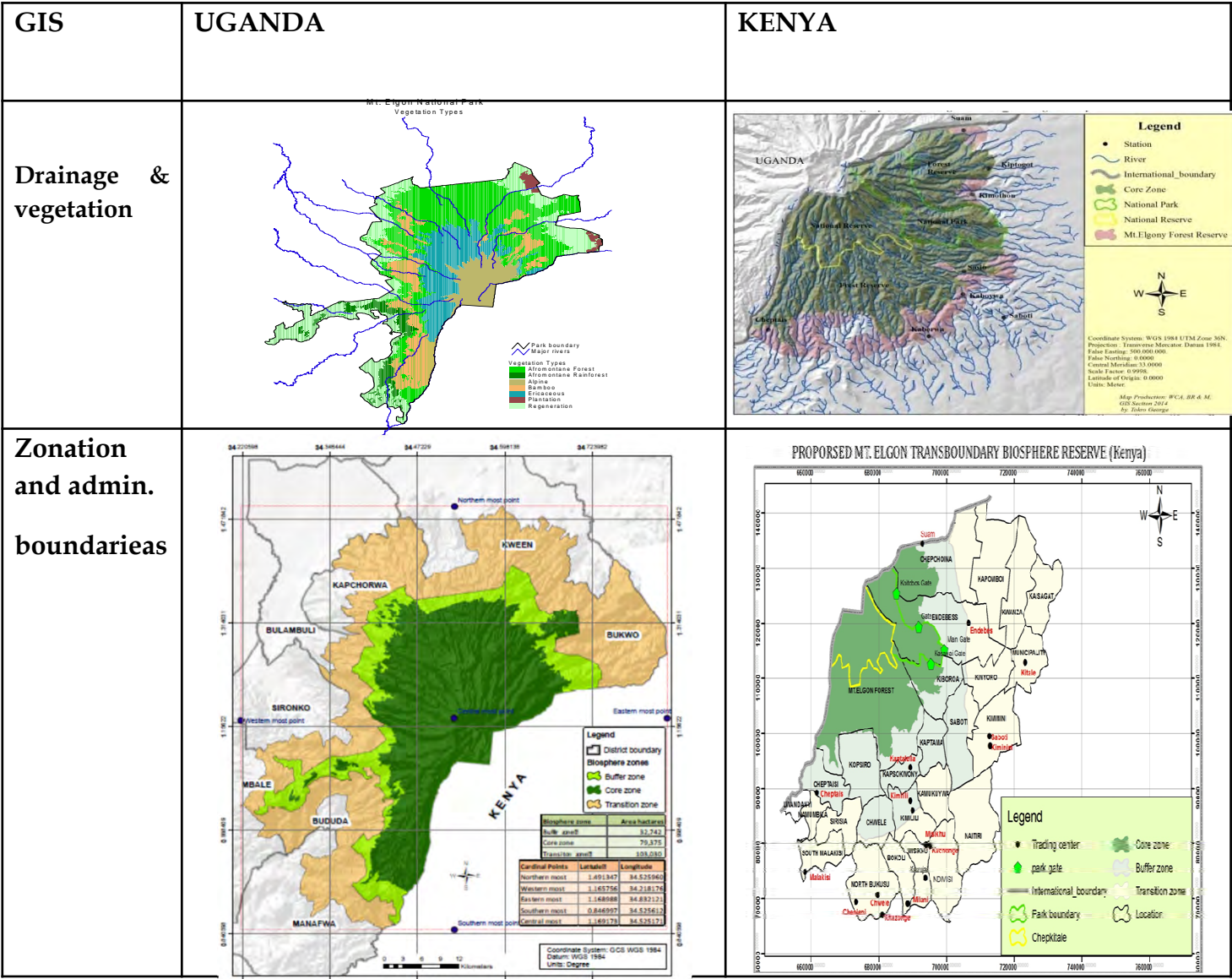
Mt. Elgon as UNESCO designated BRs in Kenya and Uganda

- Mt. Elgon ecosystem traverses between Kenya and Uganda.
- Individual Biosphere reserves already exist within the same ecosystem
- Mt Elgon biosphere reserve on Kenyan side was designated in 2003
- Mt. Elgon biosphere reserve on the Ugandan side designated in 2005

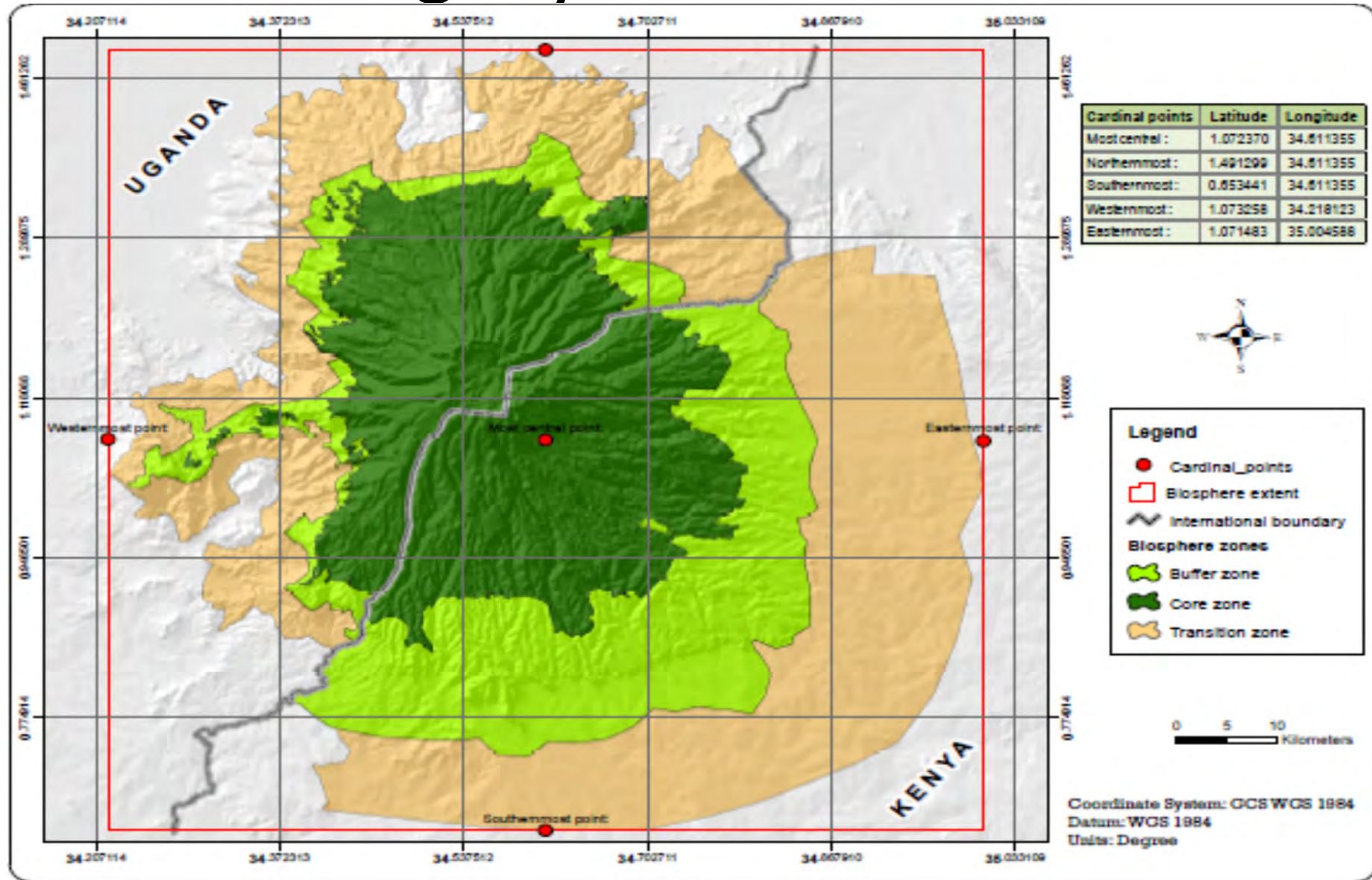
Proposed as a Proposed TBR (Elgony-Masaba TBR) Between Kenya and Uganda

- The Kenya and Uganda UNESCO –MAB NATCOMs have been seeking to collaborate in enhancing the functions of the two BRs by nominating the ecosystem as a TBR.
- Nomination of Elgony-Masaba Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) covering the whole Elgon ecosystem traversing Kenya and Uganda is on-going.

GIS of the Proposed Elgony-MasabaTBR



Elgony-MASABA TBR



CONCLUSION

Mt. Elgon as a TBR will not only enhance the functioning of the two BRs, but also will enhance economic development, environmental conservation and cooperation of the two countries in their sustainable development endeavor.

THANK YOU.