

# ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY



## Introduction

The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) was founded in 1995 as the only regional conservation organization with the sole focus on the Albertine Rift biodiversity conservation. Since its creation to now, ARCOS Network has grown and it increased its geographic areas of intervention from the Albertine Rift region to Africa Great Lakes region and Africa Mountain Ecosystems. Our overall goal is to enhance conservation of critical ecosystems and promote sustainable development in the Albertine Rift, Africa Great Lakes region and African Mountainous regions through collaborative actions between various partners. ARCOS received MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2012, up to now ARCOS champions the promotion of collaborative conservation and development actions in the region.

ARCOS is a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee in the United Kingdom. It is also registered in Uganda and Rwanda with a Regional Coordination Office in Kampala and liaison office in Kigali.

## ARCOS' Agenda

### Mission

ARCOS' Mission is "To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for nature and people".

### Vision

ARCOS' Vision is "All important ecosystems are healthy, viable and rich in biodiversity. They provide sustainable benefits to people, whose livelihoods are much improved as a result of effective policies, respect for nature and strong participation of stakeholders in natural resource management. ARCOS has significantly contributed to this achievement".

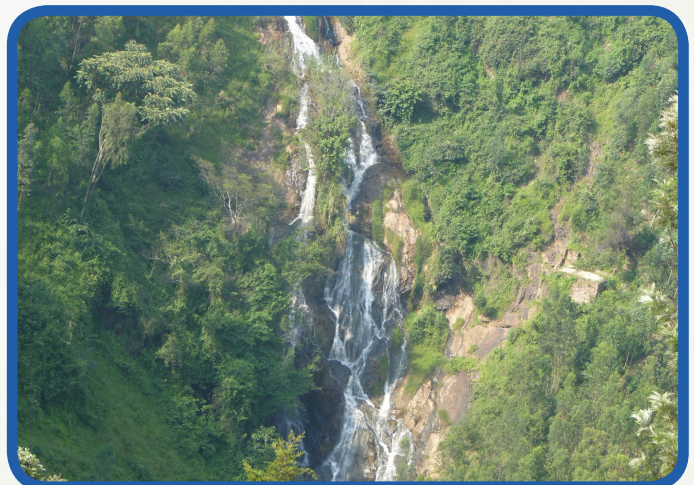
## Values and Approaches

ARCOS Network brings together a wide range of stakeholders interested in conservation and sustainable development. Our approaches are based on the following pillars:

1. We facilitate networking with local, national and international players to enhance sustainable development through information and experience sharing,
2. We empower our network through policy dialogue, capacity building and policy engagement when implementing our work. We work with all kinds of organizations – NGOs/CBOs, academic institutions, governments and increasingly business;
3. Our activities on the ground take an integrated landscape approach focusing mainly in protecting biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services, building Nature Based Community Enterprises (NBCEs) and building shared vision among stakeholders to address threats.

## Our geographical areas of intervention

- Albertine Rift and Focal Landscapes
- East Africa and Africa Great Lakes Region
- Africa Sustainable Mountain Development



## Our strategic Areas

- Sustaining biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services
- Building resilience to climate change
- Supporting efforts for integrated water resources management
- Promote energy efficiency and access to clean and renewable energy
- Promote sustainable agriculture and improved food security



## Our work at a glance

### We Network

Since its establishment, ARCOS has taken networking and stakeholders' engagement at the centre of its operations and today, ARCOS Network is able to influence change at different levels.

### We Empower

From its establishment, ARCOS has put capacity building, information sharing and stakeholders empowerment on the top of its priorities.

### We Act

As a regional organisation, one of our key strategic decisions is to ensure the right balance between regional/national and international processes and field activities. ARCOS embraces ecosystem-based management applied at landscape level aimed at regulating the use of ecosystems so that we can benefit from them while at the same time modifying the impacts on them so that basic ecosystem functions are preserved. Our landscape approach in field interventions is a holistic approach integrating ecological, economic and social aspects necessary to meet the needs of people and nature. Our field interventions are focused in the Albertine Rift region and working through partners for actions beyond the region.

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