**Key Stage 4**

**Conservation conundrum**

**Student worksheet**

**What is conservation?**

Conservation is the act of preventing a loss in biodiversity.

Many areas with high biodiversity are in less developed countries, and often the biodiversity there is threatened because of human activities.

**Why is biodiversity important?**

Maintaining biodiversity is important for humans. Ecosystems provide us with services such as regulating climate and water supply, providing food and raw materials and as places to provide enjoyment and recreation.

**Biodiversity in Uganda**

Uganda is a country in central Africa. It is a land-locked country but contains many lakes and rivers.

It has a high biodiversity and has 60 protected areas including ten national parks, which are open to visitors.

It is a country that is experiencing consistent economic growth. This has not translated into reducing poverty though, and many people in Uganda are poor, especially in rural locations.

Initiatives to expand the economy of the country include increasing its electricity generation. Currently, 80% of electricity is provided by hydroelectric power, generated using dams built on rivers. The rest is provided by two fossil-fuel power plants. Only 12% of the population has access to electricity, the rest depending on wood and charcoal, which they get from local forests, for fuel.

**Your task**

The Ugandan government wants to build a new hydroelectric dam. It could increase access to electricity, but it could also mean environmental risks and reduce the incomes of local people.

Use the information on this page plus the links below to carry out research.

Write a balanced argument. This includes:

- Arguments for and against the building of the new dam. You should consider environmental, economic and social impacts.
- Ideas for biodiversity offsets and how they would work.

**Useful websites**

Ecotourism or hydroelectricity in Uganda? [goo.gl/FmwjRq](https://goo.gl/FmwjRq)

Arguments against a dam in Uganda [www.isimbadam.com](http://www.isimbadam.com)

https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/conserving-nature