Key Stage 4
Uganda case study

Student worksheet

Geography of Uganda

Uganda is a country in east-central Africa. It is a land-locked country about the size of Great Britain.

Uganda has a varied landscape containing forests, mountains, rivers and lakes. These diverse ecosystems are home to a high biodiversity (large number of different species). In an effort to conserve this Uganda has 60 protected areas including ten national parks, which are open to visitors.

Economics of Uganda

Uganda is one of the poorest nations in the world and is classed as a low income country (LIC). In 2012, 37.8% of the population lived on less than $1.25 a day. Despite consistent economic growth, there has been no significant reduction in poverty. It remains rooted in the country's rural areas, which are home to 84% of Ugandans.

An initiative for economic growth is to increase electricity generation. Only 12% of the population has access to electricity, the rest depending on burning wood and charcoal for fuel.

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.

Uganda's largest hydropower project is the Bujagali hydropower project which was completed in 2012. There are plans to further increase the number of dams.

Many of Uganda's rivers are used for rafting, which brings many tourists to the area.

Your task

Write a case study on the plan to increase the number of hydroelectric power stations in Uganda. Include information on:

- The environmental impacts
- The effects on quality of life for the population.

Conclude with an opinion - do you think more dams should be built? Give reasons for your answer.

Useful websites

Bujagali hydropower project www.bujagali-energy.com
Ecotourism or hydroelectricity in Uganda? goo.gl/FmwjRq
Arguments against a dam in Uganda www.isimbadam.com