BMCT ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10
LIST OF ACRONYMS

AOP  Annual Operations Plan

BINP  Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

BLP  Batwa Livelihoods Improvement Project

BMCA  Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area

BMCT  Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust

CARE  Cooperative Assistance & Relief Everywhere

ITFC  Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation

LCSC  Local Community Steering Committee

MGNP  Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

REPA  Rights Equity and Protected Areas

SWAMP  Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature Project

TAU  Trust Administration Unit

UWA  Uganda Wildlife Authority

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IF WE COULD GET A MAP OF THE WORKING AREA
We are glad to present our Annual Report for the Year 2009/10.

The Year was characterized by a slow recovery in our endowment Fund which kept just within the 7.5 % growth rate investment objective despite the hostile World Market environment.

Our funding was largely from the endowment Fund (26%), D. Swarovski KG (56%), CARE International (12%), and Greater Virunga Transboundary Conservation Programme (03%).

This source of funding enabled us to contribute handsomely to the livelihoods improvements of communities that we serve and to the advancement of conservation of Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks.

Our activities were mainly

1. The start up operations of the Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature project around BINP

2. Implementation of Batwa Livelihoods Project in which some land was bought for some Batwa households and houses built for the same households. These also received a few goats, sheep and agricultural seeds.

3. The start up activities of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Conservation Programme Agroforestry project. Over twenty selected farmers were trained in Agroforestry, tree nursery development and management and twenty nurseries were started to raise a minimum of 10,000 tree seedlings each.

We acknowledge our donors. D.Swarovski KG, CARE International and Greater Virunga Transboundary Conservation Programme(GV-TES) for their support to our efforts towards sustainable conservation of our great natural resources and livelihood improvement of surrounding communities.

We also commend our Fund Investment Consulting Manager for the invaluable service he rendered to BMCT over the year.

I commend the spirit of cooperation shown to our work by the many partners and communities in the field, and the hard work put in by the Trust Management Board and staff of BMCT

Conserving for Development.

Frank S. Karake
Chairman
Trust Management Board
Implementation of the FY 2009/10 Annual Operation Plan was in line with the BMCT 10 year Programme Plan’s four objectives namely:

1. Information about BINP and MGNP and environs made available for informing conservation and management decisions
2. Well-being of the peoples around BINP & MGNP improved
3. Ecological and integrity of BINP & MGNP improved and
4. BMCT managed as an efficient institution.

To this end the following were undertaken and or achieved:

a. Conservation awareness raising was done through distribution of 4000 A9 page calendars with conservation messages, holding twenty conservation awareness raising meetings in the twenty communities around the schools participating in the Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature Project, radio talk shows and use of Music Dance and Drama.

b. We undertook a photo census of all Batwa school children to ascertain the true numbers that we support with scholastic materials including uniforms. A total of 767 pupils were photographed and received the support.

c. With support from CARE International under the Batwa Livelihoods Project we were able to buy 13 acres of land and to build six houses with a kitchen, latrine and 2000 litre water tank for six households. 230 Batwa households received bean seeds and 15 households got potato seed. However yields were low as there was an unusual drought during the growing season. Four households received a goat and two sheep each to improve on their income and also on their soil fertility.

d. With funding from the Greater Virunga Transboundary Conservation Collaborative Programme’s Agroforestry and Tree growing component we trained over twenty tree nursery owners. The target per nursery was 5,000 assorted tree seedlings per season. By end of the year, with only one season a total of 118,600 had been raised. Popular species raised were, Pines, Eucalyptus, Grivellia, and Maesopsis. Over 280 farmers were identified for training in Agroforestry and tree growing and demand for tree seedlings was 400% of the available numbers an indicator of the need to grow trees as a way of improving peoples’ livelihoods.

e. We implemented the Sustainable Water Management for People and nature project, funded by D. Swarovski KG by:

i. Forming 20 Water sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clubs at the twenty participating schools.

ii. Holding Music, Dance & Drama competitions among the clubs on water, sanitation and conservation issues,

iii. Carrying out sanitation and hygiene in the schools by promoting proper solid waste management through use of good latrines, compost, provision of water boiling facilities at three schools

iv. Provision of three 20-30 cubic metre capacity rain water harvesting tanks at three schools who have other water source in the vicinity.
v. Selection and training of Village Water and Hygiene Promoters for Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology in the communities surrounding the participating schools

f. The study entitled “The costs and benefits of the Multiple Use programme in BINP, SW Uganda: A study of local people’s views and their implications”, was partly funded by BMCT. Field work was finished and data is being analyzed.

g. Membership of Trust Management Board remained the same. There was one resignation/ replacement of a community projects officer as well as hiring of a technical assistant.

**BMCT VISION**

“The biodiversity and ecosystem health of Mgahinga Gorilla and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks conserved in harmony with the development needs of the surrounding communities.”

**BMCT MISSION**

“BMCT will foster conservation of biodiversity in MGNP & BINP through investment in community development projects, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding park management and protection, and programmes that create greater conservation awareness.”

**CORE VALUES:**

- **Integrity**- striving to operate to the highest standards of professionalism, honesty and transparency
- **Innovation**- striving to maintain an innovative approach to achieving our mission, overcoming new challenges and finding ways to improve
- **Team work**- Working together as a team to take advantage of our strengths, skills and knowledge.
- **Collaboration**- developing partnerships and strategic alliances with other institutions and organizations in support of the mission.
- **Excellence**- pursuing and achieving excellence in all endeavours
- **Communication**- promoting and encouraging effective internal and external communications
- **Effectiveness**- to ensuring value for money in all MBIFCT programmes

**TRUST ADMINISTRATION**

1. **The Trust Deed**

The supreme working document of BMCT is the Trust Deed. Work on the revision of the original Trust Deed (1994) commenced in March 2009 and was about to be completed at the end of the year.
2. The Trust Management Board

The Board held three ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting in the year. The key decision issues included the approval of an audit report for the FY 2008/9 and budget for FY 2010/11.

The following were Board members during the year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Moses Mapesa</td>
<td>Chairman TMB/ Trustee, Uganda Wildlife Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Caleb K. Tumwesimire</td>
<td>Trustee/Local Community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Richard Sebagenzi</td>
<td>Trustee/Local Community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Mary Tushemereirwe</td>
<td>Trustee/Local Community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Miriam van Heist</td>
<td>Trustee/ITFC, Mbarara University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anders Aalbaek</td>
<td>Trustee/CARE International in Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Achilles Byaruhanga</td>
<td>Trustee/Nature Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Frank .S. Karake</td>
<td>Trustee/Private Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Justus K. Tindigarukayo</td>
<td>Trustee/Ministry of Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Ketrah Katunguka</td>
<td>Ex-officio Ministry of Justice &amp; Constitutional Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. George Serunjogi</td>
<td>Ex officio Ministry of Finance &amp; Economic Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Board sub-committees were functional and met as and whenever they were called upon.

6.3 Local Community Steering Committee

The committee sat once in the year and approved the community projects and vetted community projects for FY2009/10.

6.4 Trust Administration Unit

The unit functioned normally and implemented all Board decisions, reported to the Board as expected and participated in invited meeting by close partners.

One Community Projects Officer resigned and was replaced. A technical assistant in tree growing was hired to implement the Greater Virunga Transboundary Conservation Collaborative Programme’s Agroforestry and tree growing project.

External audits were commissioned as planned and all statutory obligations met. Uganda Revenue Authority extended the selected tax free status on our Fund for the next two years.

BMCT FUNDING & FINANCE REPORT

Funding of BMCT in the year was largely from the Swarovski KG 56%, BMCT Endowment Fund 26%, CARE 12 %, GV-TES 3% and others 3%.

The funds were disbursed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMCT Endowment Fund</td>
<td>436,022,700</td>
<td>212,694</td>
<td>121,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swarovski KG</td>
<td>914,022,103</td>
<td>445,864</td>
<td>184,000</td>
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</table>
BMCT Annual Report
for the Financial Year 2009/10

BWINDI MGAHINGA CONSERVATION TRUST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARE International</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
<td>97,561</td>
<td>48,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GV-TES</td>
<td>49,086,048</td>
<td>23,944</td>
<td>5,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>47,506,324</td>
<td>23,174</td>
<td>7,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,646,637,175</td>
<td>803,237</td>
<td>367,103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Projects</td>
<td>470,338,347</td>
<td>229,433</td>
<td>207,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batwa Support</td>
<td>180,638,745</td>
<td>88,116</td>
<td>27,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works in Progress</td>
<td>691,429,818</td>
<td>337,283</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board &amp; Committees</td>
<td>21,610,000</td>
<td>10,541</td>
<td>9,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>102,641,125</td>
<td>50,069</td>
<td>32,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Costs</td>
<td>179,979,140</td>
<td>87,795</td>
<td>90,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>1,646,637,175</td>
<td>803,237</td>
<td>367,103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exchange rate 1US $ = UGX 2,050

**VISITORS**

We were graced with the following visitors:

1. Dr. Christoph Imboden, D. Swarovski  Austria
2. Mr. James Bot  Country Director CARE International in Uganda
3. Mr. Eugene Rutagarama, Director IGCP, Kigali
4. Mr. Tom Sengalama Transboundary Secretariat, Kigali
5. Rt. Rev. Enoch Kayeye;  North Kivu, DRC

**DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, BMCT IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING THREE PROJECTS:**

a) Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park Project with funding from D. Swarovski KG
b) Batwa Livelihoods Improvements
c) Project with funding from CARE International Uganda
d) Tree Growing Project with funding from Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaborative Programme
Results:
Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park Project

1. Introduction
Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) received funding from D.Swarovski KG for the improvement of access to safe water and improved sanitation for the communities living around the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) in Kanungu District, SW Uganda. The 4 year programme started in 2009. It was initiated as part of Swarovski’s Corporate Community Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme in general, and linked to the Swarovski Crystal Society Trilogy on endangered wildlife the Mountain Gorilla (Gorilla gorilla beringei). The project is connected to the Swarovski Water School. BMCT is working with 20 schools with a population of 10,000 pupils/students and 2,000 households in their neighborhood.

2. Project goal
Conservation of BINP watershed through effective community participation in sustainable water use and management.

3. Project purpose
Improved sustainable water use and management in 20 schools and 2,000 households adjacent to BINP in Kanungu District

4. Objectives

Objective 1: Raise awareness of 10,000 pupils/students in sustainable water use in 20 schools adjacent to BINP in Kanungu district by 2012.

To make children (pupils /students) aware of the importance of sustainable management of water resources for the benefits of their own livelihoods and health, as well as of the surrounding ecosystems (incl. BINP) on which they depend and which is their primary source of water.

Objective 2: Supply clean safe potable water to 20 schools and 2,000 neighboring households by 2012.

To provide safe and permanent water supply (within at least 1 km of their homes) to selected local communities.

Ensure that all schools participating in the Water School programme have running water on the school compound.

Improve and secure the water supply for the Bwindi Community Hospital.

Objective 3: Improve water sanitation facilities at Buhoma Community Hospital and 20 pilot schools.

To improve sanitation in all the schools participating in the Water School programme.

To improve sanitation system for the Bwindi Community Health Centre in Buhoma.
Results /Achievements

1. Awareness raising
Awareness raising for behavioral change is core to the implementation of project activities. The Chairperson Kanungu District while officiating at a workshop, noted that water borne diseases are the third ranked killer diseases in the district after malaria and HIV/AIDS. She said; “The project will not only help our people to cut down on medical bills but also improve their livelihoods. The project will also contribute to the government efforts and mandate in creating awareness in sustainable water use and providing safe clean water”. She concluded by saying that targeting the pupils/students is a good foundation for the future generation. On behalf of Kanungu District Local Government, she pledged total commitment and support to the project to ensure its success and sustainability.

2. Awareness raising in the 20 schools
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clubs were formed in all 20 schools. They raise awareness among their fellow students and parents about sustainable water management practices and promotion of improved sanitation and hygiene practices in schools.

Music Dance & Drama (MDD) is one of the strategies that are used in awareness raising in 20 schools. MDD competitions were staged among the 20 schools where assorted prizes & trophies were won. This enabled pupils/students from different schools to meet and have a forum for interaction.
WASH Club students of Kirima Community Secondary School and San Giovanni Secondary School represented Water Schools at the World Environment Day National Celebrations on 5th June 2010 at Kihihi High School play ground. The event was presided over by Hon. Jesca Eriyo, Minister of State for Water and Environment. Students had an opportunity to present a song and a poem about water conservation.

3. Visit to the Forest
640 WASH club members visited BINP. They compared the physical appearance of the river inside and outside the park. They were concerned that water quality in communities is brown hence suffering from heavy loads of contamination through human water interaction.

Primary school pupils were fascinated with the living organisms in the water. One pupil commented “This is interesting! I have never seen living things in water as places I go to the water is brown and you cannot see such if at all it is there”.

“Stream water is clear and clean in the forest and as you go down-stream it becomes brown and dirty due to human activities that cause contamination”.

4. Sanitation and hygiene improvement in schools
BMCT launched a comprehensive campaign in all the schools about solid waste management. Poor waste management had negative consequences for the school environment, its natural vegetation and health of the children. Training in compost pit establishment and use were conducted in collaboration with health workers in Kanungu District Local Government. Assorted
tools were provided to enhance the capacity of the schools to effectively establish compost pits and maintain hygienic standards. WASH clubs are emphasizing sorting and separation of bio-degradable from non biodegradable wastes so that the biodegradable materials can be used to improve soil productivity.

One pupil had this comment to make. “I used to think that waste management at school was a punishment. I have learnt that keeping our environment clean keeps us safe from diseases. We shall always strive to keep Bujengwe clean for better life at school”

5. Promotion of Safe drinking water in schools
Safe drinking water is paramount for the pupils/students during school time. So far two units of drinking water boiling systems have been provided to two schools. Plans are under way to construct more units at all the Water Schools. This will reduce water borne diseases like typhoid, diarrhea, cholera, dysentery among children. Absenteeism because of sickness from water borne related diseases will be reduced and this may have some direct contribution to performance in school. The water boiling systems shall be complemented with agro-forestry component to enable schools have their steady supply of fire wood.

6. Provision of Rainwater harvesting tank to schools
Rural schools do not have gravity flow schemes, hence pupils have to use nearby streams to wash their utensils and wash their bodies during lunch break. So far three rainwater harvesting tanks (two of 30 m³ and one of 20 m³) were constructed to address water shortage in these schools. The programme will continue until all the 20 schools have safe water supply in their compound.
A cook fetching water from a pond is now using the rain harvesting tank at the school.

One Head teacher one Mr. Kamurasi had this to say. “Water at my school has been rather a challenge. Pupils used to walk more than 2 km to get water to use and some times they would do without water. Besides this, the event of water collection resulted into indiscipline cases as pupils would miss after noon classes, some mature boys going to bars in the trading centre disguising to be going for water”

However, providing water to schools alone is not enough. Provision to communities as well will advance the child education conditions both at school and at home. It is always taken as a role of a child to collect water before going to school and after school in the evening.

7. Organizing an exposure visit for 20 head teachers and WASH patrons

An exposure visit to St. Charles Lwanga Girls Training Centre, Kalungu- Masaka was organized for 40 teachers (9 F, 31M) from the 20 Water Schools to learn on the user friendliness of the Ecosan toilets. During the visit, teachers were briefed by teachers and students about the management of Eco-San toilets. The Headmistress of the school said:
“For me, it’s a miracle how everyone adapted to the new technology. But I believe the way we did it was to make teachers and students involved and become part of management and use group, which was crucial” says Sister Noellina Birungi Namusisi”.

8. Printing and distribution of Water School T-shirts
During the period, 10,000 pieces of Water School T-shirts were distributed to both teachers and children in all the 20 Water Schools. Sign posts were also erected to show participating schools.
9. Formation of Village Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promoters cluster groups

50 Community Educators (21 Females 29 Males) were trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology to spearhead improvement of sanitation and hygiene in communities neighboring the 20 schools under the Swarovski water School project. They have formed Village Water Sanitation and Hygiene promoters household cluster groups of between 20 and 30 households. So far 61 groups (1,844 households) have been registered by community educators. The initial trainings conducted have greatly focused on sanitation and hygiene improvement at household level. The training was based on the sample survey results conducted in 320 households in 8 different communities neighboring water schools which indicated that more than 40% of the communities did not have appropriate means of excreta disposal.

The Village Water Sanitation and Hygiene cluster groups were facilitated to identify and appreciate their sanitation and hygiene problems. They are being empowered to become autonomous by formulating their own internal rules and regulations that focus on sanitation and hygiene promotion and environmental conservation. They have been able to develop and implement Group Action Plans (GAP) focusing on Sanitation and Water conservation issues.

8. Community awareness raising through drama

Drama is one of the avenues of awareness raising in communities with high illiteracy rates. 25 members of a community based drama group – Bwindi Conservation Actors have so far performed in 13 villages reaching 2,467 persons. A five scene play was developed focusing on; human activities that are detrimental to water resources and the general environment, notably
hunting/poaching, burning of forests; contamination and misuse of water and poor sanitation that causes illness. The scenes in the play fascinated communities as people reflected on the poor water and general environment management practices in real life. Our target is to cause behavior and attitude change.

Community members watching drama shows

8. Use of Radio talk shows for public awareness

Among the variety of medium that have been used to disseminate information to the public was talk shows on local FM Radios in Kanungu District. Three Radio Talk shows were aired on Kinkizi FM and Kanungu Broadcasting Services. The talk shows highlighted the objectives of the project, the importance of conserving BINP and called on the benefiting communities to actively participate in the implementation and sustainability of the project.

In recognition of BMCT’s efforts in supporting communities to promote safe water and improved sanitation in the district, Kanungu District awarded the organization a Certificate of Appreciation by Kanungu District Local Government

Batwa Livelihoods Improvement project

1. Introduction

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) received funding from CARE Uganda under the Sub-grant: BMCT/004/UGA109/UG29201 & UG2501 to address the problem of Landless and near landless Batwa women and men in southwestern Uganda achieve sustainable livelihoods through diversified economic options and increased access to production assets. The project is implemented in the districts of Kisoro and Kabale
2. Project goal
Landless and near landless Batwa women and men in southwestern Uganda achieve sustainable livelihoods through diversified economic options and increased access to production assets. The project is implemented in the districts of Kisoro and Kabale.

3. Results:

3.1 Land purchase
Land was identified as the most needed item by the Batwa in the study done by BMCT in 1996. They highlighted the need to settle and produce both subsistence and cash crops. Therefore under this sub grant, land purchase and resettlement of Batwa households was given priority. Land purchase involves a rigorous exercise where the Batwa, the sellers and the buying organization are actively involved. So far 13 acres of land were purchased. So far BMCT has purchased a total of 330 acres of land since 2000.

3.2 House construction
All the land that was purchased under this sub grant was allocated to Batwa households with at least young children below 10 years. This was in line with the sub grant’s objective of combating children mortality amongst the Batwa. During the reporting period six units were constructed i.e main house, kitchen & pit latrine. Batwa had the responsibility of smooth mudding the houses which are now at different levels of completion.
3.3 **Livestock & subsistence farming.**

Four Batwa families: Dorotia, Mbonye, Tom Ndagije, Francis Ngurube each received 1 goat & 2 sheep. Francis Ngurube was so happy and he said “I’m going to be at the same level with other non Batwa since I have also got live stock which has been a monopoly of the non Batwa”. These animals are intended to boost their incomes as well as contribute to improving the soil fertility thus having a multiplier effect for better crop production for food security at household level. Soil stabilization bands were also established to curb soil erosion. Other seed distributed for subsistence farming are: potato seed, bean & maize seed.
Beans seed was distributed to 231 farmers, while 15 households received potatoes. Planting of crops was done on land previously bought by BMCT. However the Batwa said that the yield was not good due to the prolonged dry season that affected the beans.

3.4 Construct rain water harvesting facilities/tanks
In order to promote hygiene among the settled Batwa Five rain water harvesting tanks were constructed at the beneficiary’s residences. This will enable them access water for cooking, bathing & drinking.
Tree Growing Project

(i) Introduction:
Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) in partnership with Greater Virunga Transboundary Executive Secretariat is implementing a tree & fruit growing Project in 13 frontline parishes that border with BINP. The project goal is to contribute to the sustainable conservation of the biodiversity of Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks in Uganda and hence the greater Virunga Landscape. The beneficiaries will improve their livelihoods security through promotion of tree planting as an enterprise.

(ii) Identification of tree species
Nine meetings were held in the working region with potential tree nursery operators. At each meeting, the participants listed important tree species and tree uses in their lives and communities based on their own experiences and knowledge. The exercise helped in identifying preferred tree species that could be included in the project.

(iii) Training in nursery practices and management
A three- day training in nursery practices and management for 20 tree nursery operators took place at Holy Cross Guest House, Kanungu from 22 to 24th February 2010.

A grant of assorted seed (34kg of different tree species e.g. Maesopsis, Pinus patula, Pinus caribae, Grevillia robusta, Eucalyptus seed) were procured from National Tree Seed Centre at Namanve, Kampala and NFA, Mafuga and assorted tools and equipments were give to the trained 20 nursery operators. However two farmers dropped out and the remaining 18 farmers raised the following seedlings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of farmers</th>
<th>tree species</th>
<th>Pines</th>
<th>Grivellia</th>
<th>Eucalyptus</th>
<th>Maesopsis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Total 84,350</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>37,830</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ngurube infront of his water tank.

Kasokozo with his livestock near water tank.
(iv) Identification of potential tree growers:
Nine meetings were held at various places in the three districts to identify potential tree growers. A total of 283 individuals and organizations turned up.

The demand for tree and fruit tree seedlings (449,852) is 400% of the stock in the nurseries (118,610).

(v) Monitoring
BMCT and GV-TES staff monitored the farmers and gave technical advice to farmers.
Gratitude:
BMCT wishes to extend its gratitude to staff at the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaborative Programme Executive Secretariat in Kigali for their co-operation and assistance in getting this project to start. We appreciate the great interest exhibited by the nursery operators and potential tree growers.

12. Acknowledgements
We profoundly appreciate our Funders in the year and their representative officers, for their contributions and personal advice given on the projects we undertook together. Special thanks go to Dr. Christoph Imboden of D. Swarovski KG, Dr. Anders Aalbaek of CARE International in Uganda and Mr. Tom Sengalama  of Greater Virunga Conservation Secretariat, Kigali for their unstinting support and advice.

All our partners both in the working region and in Kampala, we greatly value you and call for more of your commitment to the cause of conservation and livelihoods improvement.

All participating communities, without your participation, our presence would have been of no use.

All the above and others not specifically mentioned we earnestly acknowledge your contributions to BMCT and to  “Conserving for Development”. 