



**BMCT**

# Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust



**Annual Report 2017/2018**

*Conserving for Development*

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## *Annual Report 2017/2018*



**SWAROVSKI**  
WATERSCHOOL



Published by BMCT

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**Citation:**

BMCT (2018). Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust. Annual Report 2017/2018.  
Acknowledgement:

Prepared by Kakuru Phares Kosia. Design layout and review was done by Gaster Kiyingi (Tree Talk Plus).

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**Cover Photo:** *Promoting tourism around Mgahinga National Park*

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# List of Acronyms

BINP	:	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
BMCA	:	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area
BMCT	:	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
GVTC	:	Greater Virunga Trans-boundary Collaboration
IIED	:	International Institute for Environment and Development
ITFC	:	Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation
LC II and LC III	:	Local Council Two and Local Council Three
LCSC	:	Local Community Steering Committee
MGNP	:	Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
TAU	:	Trust Administration Unit
TMB	:	Trust Management Board
UGX	:	Uganda Shillings
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
WASH	:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



# Foreword

We are pleased to present the 2017/2018 Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) Annual Report. The focus this year has been on community development grants, and obtaining commitment of communities to park protection. This year, there has been a reduction in interest to access Protected Areas (PAs) to harvest resources therein. We are thus contributing to the long term survival of habitat of the most endangered mountain Gorillas. We are grateful to all stakeholders, development partners, and the Trust Administrative Unit (TAU) who have contributed a lot this financial year.

BMCT has increased capacity in supporting income generation and continues to seek partnerships with development partners to extend this service to all communities surrounding the two parks. We collaborated with International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) to skill communities around Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, SWAROVSKI to improve local environmental education using appropriate educational approaches in water schools and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to increase opportunities for local community products in the tourism sector, among others. BMCT will continue to look for mutually beneficial partnerships with like-minded institutions to enhance its conservation and development objectives.

The annual income for the year ended 30 June 2018 was Ushs. 3,392,282,521 of which Ushs. 41,804,540 was International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) grant, Ushs. 72,600,000 was a UNDP grant and Ushs. 103,843,591 was Swarovski KG grant while the rest was from BMCT sources. The BMCT sources

are the Endowment Fund interest/dividends and equities appreciation, interest on bank balances/ short term deposits and income from rent of the BMCT premises in Kampala and Kabale.

Over the last 25 years BMCT has invested Ushs. 12,551,246,972 into grants for communities around Bwindi and Mgahinga National Parks. The projects range from agricultural, livestock and conservation for both men and women. Key areas (projects) of interest to note here are:

- i) Climate change adaptation and mitigation through improving resilience of communities (focusing on energy saving technologies, improving tree coverage in the landscape and increased awareness on adoption and mitigation measures).
- ii) Sustainable livelihood activities in Kisoro, Rubanda and Kanungu districts including soil and water conservation practices, social empowerment to marginalized groups, and gender mainstreaming in all our interventions.

We acknowledge the support from our partners from District Local Governments in Rubanda, Kisoro and Kanungu and local community beneficiaries for the tremendous support and collaboration.

Uganda Wildlife Authority, too, is appreciated for its collaboration and cooperation.

We thank staff of BMCT for their successful implementation of the planned program activities.

Special thanks go to John Adams with whom we manage the endowment fund. The professional advice he provides in astute investment opportunities has made the fund to grow.

On behalf of the Trust Management Board, I pledge our commitment to strengthen the long term sustainability of the Trust through increased financial resources, improvement of community livelihoods and ecosystem health of the two National Parks.

Achilles Byaruhanga  
**Chairman Trust Management Board**



*Anna Sekuya of the Batwa Community from Nyundo Sub-county, Kisoro district, tending climbing beans*

## Executive Summary

BMCT continues to provide long-term reliable support for projects promoting sustainable use of natural resources around MGNP and BINP, in order to minimize the negative impact on the parks that are habitats of the most endangered species on planet earth.

During the financial year 2017/18, BMCT implemented a number of projects with the purpose of increasing awareness creation among farmers, integration of conservation into community development programmes, mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and improving Batwa livelihoods through involvement in agricultural enterprises and education. The primary goal was to promote activities related to conservation of biodiversity both on farm and in the Bwindi and Mgahinga forests. The selection of these projects was done through empowering communities in the two parishes adjacent to the park.

The projects were selected through use of sensitisation meetings, writing of proposals by communities, submitting them for vetting at Local Council II and Local Council III respectively. They were further verified by staff and Local Community Steering Committee together with government representatives to ensure that they are in line with government development priorities. Finally, disbursement of funds to support implementation of the selected projects was done. Results reveal that BMCT's continuous support has reduced community's over-dependence on the forest and improved community behaviors and perception towards forest conservation.

Projects like beekeeping give local people and the government economic incentive for the protection

of natural habitats and is an ideal activity in our conservation program. Beekeepers have admitted that being close to the forest has helped them in beekeeping and reduction of illegal activities especially wild fire because where beekeepers have put their hives they protect and avoid bush fires, and discourage people from grazing animals, cutting trees and harvesting other forest resources. After some time these areas become greener because the vegetation is allowed to grow. It is also a source of income and this has changed people's attitude of relying on the forest. This has contributed to sustainable management of natural resources and increased biodiversity.

Communities were supported with income generating projects and a total of 1,050 (389 males & 661 females) members benefited with about 60% women beneficiaries. BMCT is implementing a Batwa Scholarship Scheme, currently supporting 121 (60 males and 61 females) pupils in primary schools, 2 in secondary, 5 in technical institute, and 1 at university. The beneficiaries are also provided with; uniforms, exercise books, pens, pencils, nickers & sanitary pads (for girls), lunch and other scholastic materials.



Promoting Bamboo growing in BMCA - a Bamboo nursery in Kabale Municipality

## About BMCT

BMCT was established under Uganda Trustees Act with funding support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Government of Uganda.

**Vision:** To conserve the biodiversity and ecosystem health of Mgahinga and Bwindi Protected Areas in harmony with the development needs of the surrounding communities.

**Mission:** To foster conservation of biodiversity in BINP and MGNP 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:** operating to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and transparency
- **Team work:** taking advantage of BMCT strength, skills and knowledge
- **Collaboration:** partnerships and alliances in support of the BMCT mission
- **Excellence:** Pursue excellence in all endeavours
- **Communication:** effective internal and external communication.
- **Effectiveness:** Ensuring value for money in all BMCT programs
- **Innovation:** maintaining innovative approaches to achieving the mission

### The Trust Management Board

All Board sub committees were functional and met as scheduled in their respective terms. The following were Board members during the reporting period:

1. Mr. Achilles Byaruhanga, Chairman Trustee / Nature Uganda.
2. Mr. Frank. S. Karake, Trustee / Private Sector.
3. Dr. Andrew Seguya, Trustee /Uganda Wildlife Authority.
4. Mr. Caleb K. Tumwesimire, Trustee / Local Community Representative, Kanungu District.
5. Mr. Wilberforce Mucunguzi, Trustee / Local Community Representative, Kisoro District.
6. Ms. Mary Tushemereirwe, Trustee / Local Community Representative, Rubanda District.
7. Dr. Robert Bitariho, Trustee / Mbarara University, ITFC.
8. Dr. Akankwasah Barirega, Trustee / Ministry of Tourism.
9. Ms. Tukamushaba Harriet, Ex-officio Ministry of Justice and Constitutional affairs,
10. Ms. Rutazana Daphine Keitesi, Ex-officio Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
10. Dr. Ian Clarke, Trustee, Prominent Personalities.
11. Annet Kandole, Trustee, Care International in Uganda.

### The Trust Administrative Unit (TAU)

The TAU implemented all Board decisions, reported to the Board as expected and participated in meetings organized by partners. The Trust administration staff remained the same from the past reporting period. External Audits were conducted as planned.

### Local Community Steering Committee

The committee held 2 meetings which involved planning for the financial year and approval of community projects.





*Problem Animal Management : Strengthening Buffalo wall along Mgahinga Gorilla National Park*

## Contribution towards managing problem animals in PA

BMCT worked closely with Uganda Wildlife Authority in enhancing approaches for managing problem animals in the protected areas. This financial year, the focus was on the following:

- In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, the focus was on beekeeping while in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, the focus was on Buffalo walls.
- Beekeeping around BINP boundary was promoted to ensure that bees act as protection for communities against problem animals. Two hundred beehives were procured and distributed to 39 (35 males and 4 females) community members. In addition to distribution of the beehives, recipients were given basic apiary skills to be able to manage the hives as a business.
- Strengthening 400 meters of buffalo wall in MGNP especially along the Rwanda boarder was done. The re-enforcement was carried out in areas where Buffaloes regularly break out to cause damage to community property especially crop gardens. As a result of constructing the embankments, Buffalo raids have reduced tremendously. Buffalo (and other animal populations) have stabilized since they are no longer killed by villagers when they raid. The relationship between the park management and community members has improved since there is reduced destruction of community property/ gardens; as well as working together as a

team in park management issues.

- BMCT supported communities around BINP and MGNP with income generating projects (Heifer, Goats, Irish Potatoes, energy cooking stoves) to supplement their household needs. These projects have provided alternative livelihoods options, there is reduced pressure into Protected Areas (PAs), reduced poverty, increase biodiversity and improved forest ecosystems.

BMCT is grateful for the initiatives undertaken by the communities and their cooperation on these efforts. Whereas beekeeping may be considered largely an income generating activity, the community trust that it is an effective way to reduce on human-wildlife conflicts.

BMCT will continue monitoring the effectiveness of the above approaches and where necessary, replicate them in other places with similar problems.

BMCT will continue providing long-term reliable support for projects promoting sustainable use of natural resources in MGNP and BINP, research and conservation of biological diversity in order to minimize negative impacts on the parks that are habitats of the most endangered species on planet earth.



*Tiwagye Simon, Rubuguri Town Council, Kisoro District: BMCT has integrated domestication of indigenous trees whose products have traditionally been gathered from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP).*

## 2 Climate Change Adaptation in BMCA

### a) Domestication of indigenous tree species

The strategy is aimed at reducing over-dependence and exploitation of wild populations. It helps farmers develop new tree crops to capture economic opportunities and reduce pressure on the two Protected Areas (PAs).

It is aimed at identifying marketable products from the wild and create opportunities to generate income for communities. Domestication of the local tree species has commercial potential in local, regional and international markets. Marketability can only be assessed by their position in the local rural and urban market places.

Tree domestication has yielded important lessons. Indigenous knowledge has been the source of basic information in the seed source, propagation and tree management. Local people have known, used and valued these species as part of their culture and way of life. The people know their uses, durability, hardness and strength, seed germination, growing habits (open or shaded) and growth rates (fast or slow growing).

Tree domestication focuses on indigenous tree species in a bid to promote biodiversity and genetic resources conservation. The planting of these tree species in ecosystems that they normally inhabit will support an “ecosystems” approach to biodiversity conservation. A list of species for food, wood, fuel and other uses has been identified. Growing indigenous tree species known to the communities ensures active participation of local communities. This reduces project costs but also reinforces the goal of participatory approach among community members.

Tree domestication offers a myriad of options for a revitalized reforestation and agro-forestry programs. It could also have potential impacts on biodiversity and genetic resources conservation, and community forestry. There is a need for continuous engagements of indigenous and local community leaders for their traditional knowledge as a source of information on natural resources management. Tree domestication programs will be successful if participatory approach is adopted because needs of local communities will be improved for improved conservation and better quality of life.

## b) Tree Planting

BMCT has established a tree planting culture among communities in addition to promoting energy saving stoves in a bid to enhance the adaptation mechanisms. This movement aims at reducing the amount of wood energy being used.

BMCT established a nursery bed at Kiyora where tree seedlings are raised and then distributed to communities in the BMCA at no cost to encourage forestry and Agroforestry practices. The species raised are *Calliandra spp*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Pinus patula*, *Maesopsis eminii*, *Sesbania sesban* and fruit trees. These tree seedlings especially *Calliandra spp* are distributed to farmers under the sustainable land management program to rehabilitate and conserve soil fertility in the areas on steep slopes where the effects of climate change are severe especially due to soil erosion.

The first community to benefit from the sustainable land management program are the Batwa of Mukungu and Rushaga in Rwabataha valley.

BMCT set aside Rwabataha valley as a demonstration area for proper soil management in response to climate change on steep slopes. There were food shortages, thus poor

health and premature deaths among the communities. As an intervention, the slopes of Rwabataha valley have been planted with *Calliandra* along trenches that are dug across the hills to curb the effects of soil erosion, hold water for the dry season among other soil management reasons.

BMCT also adjusted her policies in community projects funding towards addressing the effects of climate change with reduced funding for animal husbandry projects to put priority on agricultural and afforestation projects. This is aimed at encouraging communities to take on projects that help in addressing the effects of climate change.

BMCT is constructing energy saving stoves with an aim of reducing the amount of trees cut down for firewood in the community. Three groups from communities in Kisoro and Kanungu and Rubanda Districts benefited from the construction of modern cooking stoves in 2017/2018.



Promoting fruit tree growing among schools in Kanungu district.

One of the beneficiary groups was Nyanamo women's group, in Bukimbiri parish Kisoro District. The women have taken up the project with great enthusiasm on learning that in addition to the many benefits of these stoves, they will contribute greatly to environmental conservation through reducing deforestation.

The stoves in addition to their environmental conservation advantages have helped these groups improve their kitchen hygiene through reducing smoke, helped save time through using less firewood and improved nutrition through keeping food warm for quite a time. These stoves are also durable and safe for families with sick people and children.



*Training Batwa communities on soil and water conservation in Kirundo sub-county, Kisoro District*

## c) Promoting Soil and Water Conservation

**Soil erosion is one of the hindrances to profitable crop production in the most parts of Uganda and more so in the BMCA, characterized by steep hill slopes where vegetation cover has been washed down during heavy rains. The water erodes away top soil downstream thus leaving less productive soil that cannot support crop growth.**

In an attempt to curb the above challenges, opening trenches and planting *Calliandra* trees on the Batwa land at Kashija Batwa settlement has been conducted to adopt good practices in soil and water conservation. This work involved demonstrating to farmers how to improve their capacity to plant and maintain climbing beans. Soil and water conservation trenches of 150 meters were constructed (and covered with over 18,000 *Calliandra* tree seedlings) in 9 acres of land in Kirundo sub-county, Kisoro district. The aim was to enable Batwa and non Batwa farmers adopt Farmer Field School approaches to implement sustainable land and agriculture management. *Calliandra*

trees are agro-forestry species that prevent soil erosion and degradation and improve soil fertility. *Calliandra* maintains soil organic matter and biological activity favorable for soil fertility. When the soils are fertile, there is increase in harvests and food production to support food security and foster extra income.

The availability of food at homes will improve nutrition and promote happiness in the homes (a happy child is a

strong, healthy, and well-fed child) and enable families stay healthy and productive. Cross visits were organised among different Farmer Field Schools to learn and embrace different sustainable land management skills and increase the level of participation in implementation of new innovations.

According to the Community Development Officer, Kirundo Subcounty, Kisoro district, soil and water conservation practices such as soil bands and using *Calliandra* has reduced run-off, soil erosion in the area. This implies that integrating physical soil and water conservation practices with agronomic soil and water conservation practices are essential to increase both provisioning and regulating ecosystem services. Additionally, the use of *Calliandra* and elephant grass can be used to harvest fodder for animals, bean stakes and fuel wood.



*Promoting vegetable growing for improved nutrition*

## d) Staging Your Garden for Improved Harvests

**Steep slopes are difficult to cultivate especially due to heavy rains which washes away fertile top soils favorable for plant growth and survival. We have highlighted a few measures to employ to get better products.**

### Trenches

The trenches are to control soil erosion by checking the speed of running water. They should be dug 2-3 ft deep and wide and should be stabilized by elephant grass. The elephant grass is multipurpose i.e. for stabilization and feeds for animals which provide manure. It also filters soil from the running water.



*Promoting soil and water conservation in Kirundo Sub-county, Kisoro district for increased soil productivity*

### Organic Manure

Consider using organic manure other than artificial fertilizers. When organic manure decomposes, it improves the soil structure thus increasing its ability to retain soil

nutrients and water which eventually aid in plant growth. Unlike artificial fertilizers which with time deplete the soil organic manure limits the chances of toxins and chemicals building up in the soil.

### Agroforestry

They control runoff and soil erosion, thereby reducing losses of water, soil material, organic matter and nutrients. They also maintain soil organic matter and biological activity at levels satisfactory for soil fertility. Besides that, they also check the production of soil toxins in the soil.



*Promoting Calliandra growing for climbing beans stakes and reducing soil erosion.*

# 3

## Providing alternative means of livelihoods to communities around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park ...*increasing household incomes*

BMCT supports communities around Bwindi and Mgahinga National Park annually through projects requested by the communities depending on their needs. The beneficiaries are the occupants of the first two parishes adjacent to BINP and MGNP in the three surrounding districts of Kanungu, Rubanda and Kisoro.

The applications received from communities are vetted starting from the parish level using a criteria formulated by BMCT to choose the most viable depending on the prioritized needs of the communities and organizational objectives.

The projects selection criteria always considers the contribution of the project towards conservation, vulnerability of beneficiaries and the development needs of the people among others.

Projects ranging from crop growing, animal rearing, conservation were supported. Due to outbreak of the *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) disease in the districts of Kisoro and Rubanda, a decision was made to stop funding for animal husbandry projects.

The emphasis for this year's funding was,

therefore, put on projects that contribute to environmental conservation like tree planting. This financial year 2017/2018 a total of 1,050 (661 females and 389 males) were supported in the districts of Kanungu, Kisoro

and Rubanda (see Figure 1). They were supported in Energy saving stoves, Water harvesting, Irish potato growing, goat rearing, sheep rearing, vegetable growing, heifer, apiary and fruits growing.

Basing on the results of the monitoring

research carried out June 2018, these projects have greatly helped in improving people's house hold income in addition to helping communities appreciate the need for conservation the two forests.

Projects like tree planting and energy saving stoves construction have greatly contributed to modifying the climate through increasing forest cover and reducing the amount of trees being cut down for fire wood respectively. Energy saving stoves have also contributed towards improving the health of special needs people in the community. Community grants have reduced community's over-dependence on the forest and improved community behaviors and perception towards forest conservation

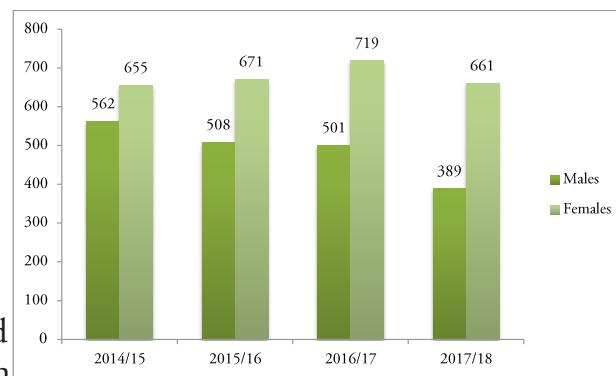


Figure 1: Supported community members over the years



*Batwa Pupils of Kagoma Primary School receiving scholastic materials from BMCT*

# 4 Batwa Empowerment

## a) Batwa Education

The Batwa sponsorship scheme in schools was adopted by BMCT Board. The scheme considers better academic performing pupils, regular attendance in schools, parental support among others factors. Basing on these factors, 121 (60 males and 61 females) pupils were selected from 12 schools in Kisoro, Kanungu and Rubanda districts. The scheme also supports two students in secondary schools, 5 students in tertiary institutions and one at University. The scheme supports all beneficiaries with school fees, food for lunch, uniforms and all the necessary scholastic materials. In addition, secondary, tertiary and vocational students are supported with personal needs.

The scheme has registered improvements in enrollment in upper classes by 44% in 2017 from 34.4% in 2016, changed attitude towards education, improved hygiene and health since the pupils are fed at school. It has been noted that the beneficiary Batwa pupils and students share scholastic materials and food with fellow Batwa pupils and students who are not on the scheme. BMCT sees this as an opportunity for future programming.

BMCT is grappling with record keeping (enrollment, attendances, daily/weekly/monthly subject performance) by the schools, lack of teachers motivation towards the scheme and the poor attitude of the parents towards education which threatens the sustainability of the scheme.

On a positive note, there are records of Batwa pupils excelling to first and second positions in classes. In some schools Batwa pupils have been elected as prefects due to their good performance and conduct in schools. A good example in Rubuguri Primary School a female Mutwa (Kamagambo Jacinta) is a games prefect. This is an indicator that the Batwa children self-esteem in schools has improved, a trend we hope will produce a generations of Batwa with a higher social self-esteem which is very big step towards solving the problems affecting the general Batwa community. An improved social self-esteem will enable Batwa attend and complete school.

BMCT hopes that in future the Batwa should leave a decent life after attaining the necessary training and education. They will have access to health facilities, access to financial schemes such as village savings and loan associations and compete for leadership positions.



*George Kakongozo's makeshift house before BMCT constructed a permanent house for him*

## b) Improved Batwa Housing conditions

The Batwa have had challenges with housing for ages and this has had an impact on their social status. Their way of life is characterized by landlessness, makeshift housing facilities, poor sanitation, rampant diseases outbreaks amongst others.

As part of its programming, BMCT developed settlement plan that has been used for years purchasing land, construction of houses and undertaking livelihood improvement programs. This year, five houses were constructed for five households with a total number of 32 people. These were previously living in dilapidated housing structures which exposed them to diseases, a low self-esteem and a poor attitude towards development.

The last two financial years have seen BMCT switch from constructing mud and wattle houses to constructing permanent houses (using bricks and cement) for better sustainability and longevity. Construction of permanent houses raises profiles of the beneficiaries which helps them to own and appreciate the project and ensures proper maintenance. The selection criteria for the beneficiaries was communal involvement where BMCT engages the members of the settlement to identify those amongst them that are in dire need for shelter. The beneficiaries are therefore people with dilapidated house structures, very tiny huts compared with the size of their families, child headed families, elderly and single mothers

or households whose breadwinners are not healthy enough to be able to construct a house.

One of this year's beneficiaries, 59 years old George Kakongozo is exceptionally thankful and excited by BMCT's move, after years of living in a small hut with a leaking roof which he says he constructed when he still had energy. Together with his wife Jane, the couple was stranded when their longtime home collapsed last year due to the heavy rains forcing them to move into a very tiny makeshift hut that only had space for a single bed on the floor. The couple have no children since they lost all of them during their childhood most probably due to such terrible housing conditions. The couple now hope for improved health with their new homestead as Mrs Kakongozo is quoted saying " *we are grateful to BMCT for this house and may the Lord reward them abundantly*"



*George Kakongozo's new house under construction by BMCT*



## c) Increased food security among the Batwa



*Food security requires secure land and secure soils*

Food security among the Batwa is not only about producing a lot of food. The food has to be available, and accessible. To achieve it, BMCT set up 2 demonstration sites in Rwabataha and Kashija Batwa settlement, Kisoro district where 30 households were trained in better farming practices that conserve soil and the environment for example compost manure application, crop rotation and agro forestry.

As part of the intervention to improve food security among the Batwa, BMCT encouraged and supported each household with 5 kgs of climbing beans and 25kgs of irish potato seeds for growing. They were able to harvest an average of 30kgs of beans and a sack of irish potatoes per household.

BMCT has also developed a programme of scaling up to other Batwa settlements like Kihembe Batwa settlement in Kanungu district. This programme will increase production and productivity in agriculture and Agro-forestry thus making agriculture among the Batwa better. We shall at the same time share knowledge and information on how to deal with the pests, animal diseases and post-harvest handling.

The Rwabataha Batwa group leader, Sunday

Bernard revealed their plan for sustainability; *“We want to take care of our crops so that we get good harvests. We shall get what to eat, and keep the rest for the next season’s seeds. We don’t want to go begging for food ever again.”*

He adds, *‘That is why we are particular about productivity and having good yields. We are also looking at the context of Batwa development, which is providing an environment that can make agriculture production among the Batwa easier’.*

In order to make agriculture among the Batwa more efficient, we have trained them in agriculture as a business. In doing this, we have incorporated Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) to manage finances and records better so that they can be able to attract financial institutions to lend them in future. We have also encouraged them to focus on agriculture as a business for improved household incomes.

# 5 Innovation Challenge : Scaling Up Projects

*BMCT priority is to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem health of Mgahinga and Bwindi protected areas and ensuring harmony with development needs of surrounding communities.*

## Who benefits

The beneficiaries are community based groups in communities adjacent to Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, whose niche is arts and crafts to provide an alternative way to improve their sources of income and tap in the tourism industry.

To achieve this, BMCT invests in tourism promotion through collaborative community development projects that improve their livelihoods and income generation, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding for park management and protection, and programmes that create greater conservation awareness.

Five community groups in the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area have finished their first phase of training where products have been identified and worked on to facilitate diversity. Most of the participants were already used to the skill but producing single type or monotonous products.

Some of the new produced items include table mats, beads, baskets, bamboo utensil which can be re-designed to suit customer needs and preferences.



*Training women in making beads*

## Basketry

Hinga-raza is the name given to the finest basket made by Women Communities close to Bwindi and Mugahinga National Parks. It means simply the method of mountain terrace farming. The digging and laying fallow. The method visibly adorning numerous hills of Kisoro and Kabale that extends to Rwanda and Congo is a beautiful pattern to look at, even when effected on the baskets.



*Women groups making baskets*

The training required the makers to produce three sizes of open baskets that fit into each other. They are given sizes of 16 x 14 cms, 14 x12 cms, and 12 x 10 cms. The largest baskets with a lid will be produced during the last three day workshop in July 2018 by a merit selected group. It was necessary that the 30 producers of different skill levels learn from each other the making of the open baskets in the first training sessions.

## Beads

There is no visible tradition of jewelry making in the BMCA region in recent years, although history tells us otherwise. The tradition of metal work and bead work is an old one in this material rich part of the Great Lakes Region. Based on that BMCT trained women groups in making beads as an income generating activity to improve their quality of life.



*A Pupil at Buhoma Community Primary School using a tippy tap for improved personal hygiene.*

## 6 Promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene among Water schools

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) in partnership with D. Swarovski KG is implementing a Sustainable Water Management for People and Nature around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP). The purpose is to improve local environmental education using appropriate imaginative educational approaches in water schools for sustainable behavior change among children as agents of change.

From the monitoring report, 61.5% of water schools access safe water through the gravity flow scheme, 30.8% protected springs and 7.7% unprotected springs. 100% of the boilers in Waterschools were functioning with 94% had cleaned in and around the boiler at the time of the visit. This implies that learners in those schools take boiled water. There is a need for partners in the water sector to ensure that all schools in the area access water from a protected source to reduce water borne diseases.

The study indicated that 100% water schools had installed hand washing facilities. This means that Waterschool learners normally wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before and after eating. Some of the learners we interacted with specified that the importance of washing hands range from disease prevention to keeping clean.

According to the study only 85% of WASH Clubs are functional with the WASH club anthem, conducting hygiene related debates, Music Dance and Drama competitions and cleaning latrines on a regular basis with a work plan. School WASH clubs form a basis for education, awareness, self-reliance, management and leadership for children. These Programs among Waterschools in Kanungu district have positively impacted on childhood behavior and influence family WASH practices.

According to the study, 90% of the latrines were clean at the time of the visit. This shows that the team did not observe any fecal matter around the compound and latrines were clean. The team also assessed the level of neighboring communities' awareness and knowledge on proper sanitation and hygiene practices and 74% of communities had established and maintained sanitary facilities that include cleaning pit latrines, rubbish pits, drying rack and hand washing facilities.

Fifteen percent of the water schools use Teachers guides on Water, Sanitation and Environment that were distributed by BMCT and Swarovski but none of the schools have a complete water school curriculum. Most schools have some type of health or hygiene education as part of their regular curriculum and teachers have been trained in those programs.

## 7

## Financial Report

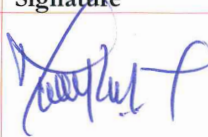

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)  
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements  
Fiscal Year ended 30 June 2018

## 6.0. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 6.1. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2018 Ushs	2017 Ushs
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7.8	388,671,401	506,347,535
Trust fund	7.9	23,879,396,211	21,120,278,221
Investment property	7.10	1,884,912,640	1,860,294,847
		<b>26,152,980,252</b>	<b>23,486,920,603</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Receivables and prepayments	7.11	22,808,838	29,816,818
Short term investments- FDR	7.12	605,000,000	-
Cash and bank	7.13	810,514,436	2,442,444,388
		<b>1,438,323,274</b>	<b>2,472,261,206</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>27,591,303,526</b>	<b>25,959,181,809</b>
<b>Reserves and liabilities</b>			
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>			
Capital fund		388,671,401	506,347,535
Trust fund		23,879,396,212	21,120,278,221
Investment fund		1,884,912,640	1,860,294,847
General fund		1,294,780,087	2,305,752,937
		<b>27,447,760,340</b>	<b>25,792,673,540</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Tenants security deposits	7.14	11,313,258	9,925,557
Payables and provisions	7.15	18,404,947	23,228,751
Commitments	7.16	113,824,980	133,353,961
		<b>143,543,186</b>	<b>166,508,269</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>143,543,186</b>	<b>166,508,269</b>
<b>Total reserves and liabilities</b>		<b>27,591,303,526</b>	<b>25,959,181,809</b>

The notes (7.1-7.27) to these financial statements for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2018 form an integral part thereof and should be read and construed as such.

#	Name	Position	Signature	Date
1	Achilles Bambuya	Chairman-TMB- BMCT		10/10/18
2	Wilson Bammerinde	Secretary/Trust Administrator, BMCT		10/10/18

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## The Year 2017/2018 ....in pictures



*Training women in basket weaving, Rushashara, Mgahinga*



*WASH Clubs refresher training in Kanungu district*



*Left: RDC, Kisoro district planting bamboo at RECTC Right: Bamukaka Group, Butogota TC, receive goats from BMCT*



*Waterschools. Left: School children in Kanungu District, drinking boiled water (Right) Promoting handwashing.*



*World Wildlife Day Celebrations: Left: MBCT Staff and Children Marching in Kasese. Right: Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, inspects MBCT stall.*



*Wood Carvers in Mgahinga*



*Women making art and crafts for sale*



*Conservation awareness creation in Ikumba sub-county, Rubanda District*



*Promoting fruit trees growing among Waterschools, Kanungu district*



*Visiting model farmers*



*Left: Batwa Low-esteem houses (Right) BMCT promoting Batwa housing for improved quality of life*



*Left: Promoting bamboo planting to reduce pressure on park resources. Refi: Vegetable growing for improved nutrition and income*



*Left: Training on making beads. Right: Training on making baskets*



They year 2019 will be the year when we commemorate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of BMCT. It gives us great pleasure to make this announcement now and to extend our advance gratitude to our friends and to those that have supported us through the times. We still have the goals of the Organization at heart and will continue to take pride in their achievement. We will be informing you of the date and venue for the commemorative event.

## About Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) was established in 1994 under the Uganda Trustees Laws. Its mission is to foster conservation of biodiversity of Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) through investments in community development projects, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding park management and protection and programmes that create greater conservation awareness. It is mandated to work with communities surrounding Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP). This area is also known as Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA). The area of operation is located in South Western Uganda, bordering DRC and Rwanda with operational headquarters in Kabale at Bwindi Trust House and a sub office in Kampala.

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust.  
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