



# Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust

Annual Report 2012/13



# Welcome from the chairman

Water is one of our most vital resources and the way it is managed is crucial for preservation of our nature, for improvements in human health and welfare, and for social and economic development. Through increased access to safe water and sustainable water use, we can reach a balance that will equalark has suffered from widespread abuse of its resources caused by community members who due to lack of knowledge and lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities, illegally benefit people and nature. The Swarovski Water School Project teaches young pupils and students about the value of maintaining watersheds and other natural resources. Through safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices in schools, children learn to appreciate the value of water and are encouraged to share their newly-gained knowledge with their families and other community members to encourage replication of the water schools' conservation-friendly and health promoting practices at home.

The first Water School opened its doors in 1999 in Austria's Hohe Tauern National Park, the project has since then grown to include China, India and Uganda. In Uganda, the project is implemented in communities bordering the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a habitat to half of the world's population of the highly endangered mountain gorillas. The national park has suffered from widespread abuse of its resources caused by

community members who due to lack of knowledge and lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities, illegally were entering the park to collect water, firewood and building materials. Thereby threatening to destroy the forest's ecosystem and further complicate the survival of the gorillas. By creating awareness, providing safe water and promoting good sanitation and hygiene practices among the park adjacent communities, the Water School Project actively seeks to minimise the pressure on the park's resources, while at the same time stimulating improved health conditions, well-being and local growth.

The Water School Project in Uganda is implemented by the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust, a local non-governmental organisation devoted to foster conservation of biodiversity of Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks through community development projects, research and ecological monitoring, promotion of effective national park management and protection, and through programmes that create greater conservation awareness. This document is about the achievements and experiences of the Water School Project in Uganda.

Charity Bwiza,  
Programme Manager

New text and  
photo



## Acronyms

<b>BALANCED</b>	Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence In Development
<b>BMCT</b>	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
<b>BINP</b>	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
<b>PHE</b>	Population Health and Environment
<b>WASH</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Associations

# Bwindi Mghahinga Conservation Trust

## Conservation for people and nature

### Vision

The biodiversity and ecosystem health of Mghahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park conserved in harmony with the development needs of the surrounding communities.

### Mission

BMCT will foster conservation of biodiversity in Mghahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park through investment in community development projects, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding park management and protection, and programmes that create greater conservation awareness.

The Bwindi Mghahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) provides long-term support for initiatives promoting research or conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources in the Mghahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park while at the same time promoting development and welfare of neighbouring communities.

BMCT engages in community development for sustainable conservation which will benefit people and nature immediately and in the future. BMCT works with health activities, especially relating to water and sanitation issues, infrastructure development to enhance community quality of life and livelihoods and conservation activities that impact on the protected areas and global issues like climate change. All activities apply participatory methods to ensure ownership and continuity.

Kanungu District

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

Kisoro District

Mghahinga Gorilla National Park

Kabale District



## Cross-cutting approaches: The VSLA methodology

BMCT uses Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) as an entry point for addressing community members and strengthening the impact of our programmes. VSLA members meet once a week to save, which makes them easily accessible for community change agents (described on the following page) and BMCT staff. A VSLA is a micro-credit model under which 25-30 members meet in a self-managed group once a week to save and borrow money. Members can take out loans to invest in income generating activities such as commercialised farming, goat rearing and small businesses, or they can use the loans to

meet expenses like school fees and medical bills. All members pay 10% interest and have three months to repay the loans, resulting in a steady growing pool of money, which is shared among the members once a year. VSLA members are provided with security against unforeseen emergencies and they have access to means to invest in the future. As a result, VSLA members experience pronounced economic and social progress leading to an overall increased well-being and enhanced quality of life.

## Cross-cutting approaches: Using community change agents for lasting results

Community change agents are locally based men and women who are trained by BMCT or one of our partners in community mobilising and programme implementation. The agents are selected by community members and they are trusted and respected within the implementation areas. Using community agents makes it easier and more effective to mobilise people for participation in meetings, workshops and other programme implementation activities.

Because the community change agents are locally based, the training they have received benefits the whole community and contributes to build up local capacity, which in turn increases ownership and deepens the understanding of BMCT's programmes as well as the approach helps consolidate results and achievements in a long-term perspective.

## Working together

*"All Community agents have been elected locally, which means that the community members know us and trust us. In cooperation with teachers from the Water School, I have conducted home visits to assess the water and sanitation status. This was later followed up by community action plans that were developed and displayed in classes indicating daily, weekly and monthly activities for when each of the households would complete the agreed activities."*

*Richard, Community agent*



## Cross-cutting approaches: Mitigating negative effects of climate change

In Uganda, as elsewhere, climate change is severely affecting rural populations whose primary livelihood depends on land cultivation or on other natural resources. Changed rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts make it difficult to predict when to prepare the land for sowing, resulting in ruined harvests and increased food insecurity.

To mitigate the negative effects of climate change, BMCT is implementing an agroforestry component within our major programmes such as the Water School Project, the Batwa empowerment programme

and the Population Health Environment programme. This is done to protect the environment and to ensure that communities have permanent access to firewood for cooking without harming the environment. BMCT also promotes energy saving stoves in households to reduce the amount of trees that are currently being cut for firewood and to reduce health implications of smoke filled cooking environments. To protect the nature and to promote alternative conservation-friendly livelihoods in the area, BMCT distributes tree seedlings to be planted at schools and private woodlots in the target areas.

# Water Schools

Conservation of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park watershed through effective community participation in sustainable water use and management.

## Clean water for improved health and welfare in schools and communities

With funding from D. Swarovski KG's Water School Project, BMCT provides clean water and improved sanitation to poor rural communities in Kanungu district.

Water is the most important natural resource for human health and welfare and the way it is managed is decisive for social and economic development. In Kanungu district access to clean water is very limited and many people have no choice but to rely on unprotected water sources or over-exploit the safe water points for their daily consumption. Consequently, water borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, and typhoid are common among children and adults as well as the lack of water restricts development of new livelihood opportunities. The Water School Project teaches young pupils and students about the

importance of conserving watersheds and other natural resources, and about safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices in school and at home. Through knowledge building and active participation, the children learn to appreciate the value of water and they are trained to share their newly-gained knowledge with their parents and other community members to encourage self-replication of the conservation and health promoting practices at home.

By creating awareness, providing safe water and promoting good sanitation and hygiene practices among the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park adjacent communities, BMCT seeks to minimise the pressure on the park's resources, while at the same time stimulating improved health conditions, well-being and local growth.

*"When the Water School Project was introduced at our school, most of us were not aware of the impact water and sanitation have on our lives. Since then, many things have changed; because we have access to clean water, we are more healthy and the training on hygiene and sanitation has led to improved personal appearances and a much cleaner school compound. If someone throws garbage on the ground, he or she is immediately asked to move it to the garbage pit."*  
James and Sylvia, WASH Club members at xx Secondary school



*"The many improvements at the school have increased enrolment, reduced incidents of diseases and promoted improved personal hygiene among the students and teachers, who are now healthy, wear clean clothes and bathes regularly. Compared to before, there is a cleanliness around the school which reaches well into the surrounding community."*  
Edson, Headteacher at Nyamiyaga Secondary School

# Improved hygiene and sanitation

BMCT has implemented conservation, water and health educational programmes in 14 primary and six secondary schools in Kanungu District, under which Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Clubs has been formed as key drivers of transformation. The club members raise awareness among the other learners and their parents about sustainable water management and basic sanitation and hygiene practices in school and at home. Through the WASH Clubs, teachers and learners have acquired new knowledge and the club members are literally showing them how to put actions behind the words by transforming the schools into ideal models of good water and hygiene conduct.

To consolidate the results of the WASH Clubs and to further improve the pupils and students learning environments, BMCT has installed solar power panels at suitable secondary schools. The electricity is used for illumination of reading rooms and dormitories. Nyamiyaga Secondary School has also received three computers, making computer lessons compulsory for all A-level students at the school.

*"As a role-model and member of the WASH Club it is my responsibility to put in practice the things we learn. I am very proud to participate in improving the hygiene and sanitation at the school but I am almost more happy that my family and our neighbours have adopted the new practices. When I first told my parents about the dangers of unsafe water and hygiene, they agreed to use the new knowledge from my training at home but to be honest, I am not sure they believed it would change much. But by boiling water and building improved sanitation facilities, they have realised that small measures can have a huge impact. Our homestead is now clean and my younger brothers and sisters rarely fall sick like they used to do."*

*Chirstine, WASH Club members at xx Primary school*

Another very popular activity under the Water School Project have been the educative school drama club performances. To cause awareness among learners and community members through drama, music, dance, and poems, drama clubs have been formed within the WASH Clubs at the Water Schools.

Two assigned teachers from each of the participating schools have been trained by BMCT in how to use drama to effectively engage pupils in conveying information about sustainable water use and safe hygiene. To encourage pupils and students, drama competitions were held between the schools. This made the students putt in more effort, thus, enhancing the quality of the plays and emphasising the messages. The drama competitions were based on the theme 'Safe water and sanitation for a better learning environment', but the drama groups are conveying multiple messages on sustainable water management, sanitation and hygiene issues.



## Clean water supply

One of the biggest achievements under the Water School Project has been the construction of the Banyara Gravity Flow Scheme. Designed and erected by Ugandan engineers, the massive water scheme provides safe and clean water for 20 schools and 2,000 households. The source is located in the mountains allowing gravity to create sufficient pressure to transmit water through the 42.8 kilometre pipeline system, which includes four reservoir tanks (of capacities; 150m<sup>3</sup>, 100m<sup>3</sup>, 50m<sup>3</sup> and 30m<sup>3</sup>), five break pressure tanks, 58 tapstands and one protected spring. Each water point is managed by a local water user committee and the members have been trained in operation and maintenance. At schools located where the Banyara Gravity Flow Scheme has not been able to reach, 30m<sup>3</sup> or 20m<sup>3</sup> rain water harvesting tanks have been constructed to provide water for learners and teachers.

To improve pupils' and students' health and learning capacity, drinking water boiling systems have been provided to the Water Schools. The systems have insulated boilers which due to the heat isolation, use a minimum amount of firewood. The 1,000 litre tanks are filled with clean water from the Banyara Gravity Flow Scheme or the water harvesting tanks and produce freshly boiled water once a day serving both learners and teachers. The boiler and the water storage facilities are managed by assigned teachers and learners from the schools' Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Clubs.





## Better community health

Good sanitation and hygiene practices are essential for good health and improved life quality. WASH Club members and learners from the Water Schools have been trained to promote positive behaviour change within their communities through influencing their parents to adopt improved attitudes, behaviours and practices at household level.

By raising awareness in schools and communities and by explaining the connection between poor hygiene and contraction to spread of diseases, the Water School Project has created a strong incentive among learners, teachers, and community members to improve their personal hygiene and to install proper sanitation facilities at their homes. Among the many new initiatives are construction of latrines, hand-washing facilities, bathing shelters, rubbish-bins, compost-pits, as well as water boiling and safe water storage. As a result, sanitation and hygiene standards have greatly improved in schools and households.

## Enhanced conservation and local growth

The provision of clean and safe water in Kanungo district has reduced households' distance to water points from the previous two to four kilometres to less than 500 meters, resulting in a great reduction in time and energy consumption. Most households spent the extra time on agricultural production, supporting food security creation and stimulating local development in the district. Furthermore, people living in the area have taken up new water dependent livelihoods like brick-making and thereby generated additional income by utilising water for productive purposes.

The scheme has benefited local enterprises, among these are tea factories which have been able to reduce their production costs and increase their output as sufficient water supply is no longer a challenge. This has also had a positive return on the green tea leaf pickers, who receive a higher profit due to the increased demand. Furthermore, there has been a noticeable reduction of water borne diseases among children and adults. This development is currently being monitored by the local health centres in the district. The water scheme has promoted increased conservation of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park because fewer people enter the park to collect water and other natural resources.

To promote sustainability and to create a permanent structure for community mobilisation, Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups have been formed in all targeted communities under the Water School Project. Besides the many economic and social benefits of the VSLAs, the advantage of integrating the model in the project design is that members meet weekly and therefore easily can be addressed by the Community Educators or BMCT staff with new information about the project or to promote safe water and hygiene practises.

## Empowering women

Collecting water for cooking, drinking, washing, bathing etc. is by tradition a responsibility of women and girls and consequently, they are the ones bearing the heaviest burdens of insufficient water and sanitation services. As a result, women have less time for productive and income generating activities and girls are more likely to drop out of school to help their mothers fetching water and performing other domestic chores. Throughout the Water School Project, BMCT have actively integrated women in local water and hygiene management and more than 50% of the Water User Committee members are women. BMCT also seeks to improve the domestic gender balance by encouraging husbands and wives to work together as a team.





# BATWA

Empowering Batwa women and men in southwestern Uganda to achieve sustainable livelihoods through increased access to land, food security, diversified income sources, improved health and higher levels of education.

# BATWA

## Improving the welfare of Batwa people through improved livelihoods and social empowerment

BMCT partners with CARE International in Uganda to support Batwa women and men to participate equitably in decision making at household and community levels and to have improved sustainable livelihood security. Batwa are traditional forest dwellers of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park but were evicted of their habitat in the early 1990s when these were gazetted as protected areas. The Batwa never received any compensation for their loss of land and livelihood and today they rank among the most vulnerable people in Uganda. Batwa live in extreme poverty in small unsafe and unhygienic settlements on other people's land surviving only by the small amounts of food and cash they receive by offering cheap labour or begging. Due to this and a high prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse, depression and violence, Batwa people experience severe social exclusion and discrimination from other populations groups.

*"When we lived as squatters at the settlement, we did not have any land for cultivation of our own food so we survived by digging for other people in the area. For a day's work we were paid on average 3,000 shillings or about a kilogram of beans, which was not enough to cover our expenses or send our children to school. Luckily, we were among the families who were resettled! The difference in our life is almost unbelievable; we no longer depend on selling our labour; we grow our own food and rear goats and we have joined a VSLA."*

Allen

Since 1997, BMCT have supported the Batwa to achieve secure consistent income and to enable them to nourish their families and educate their children on their earnings. Initiatives have included procuring land, establishing permanent houses for 31 households in Kabale and Kisoro districts, providing improved agricultural and small-scale business training and disseminating hygiene and nutrition information.

Through the Securing Batwa Health, Education, Agriculture and Land rights (HEAL) project, BMCT works for a broader integration of the Batwa with the non-Batwa through access to safe shelter and productive land where farming is practiced for food security and income generation. VSLAs are used to promote social and economic inclusion of the Batwa and the neighbouring communities.





## Social and Economic Integration

The many years of destitution and social isolation of the Batwa have led to a cultural erosion, self-discrimination and despair often reflected in alcohol and drug abuse, petty crime such as theft and very poor personal hygiene and self-preservation. All of which have led to discrimination and hostility towards the Batwa from other population groups who often perceive them as dishonest and uncivilised.

BMCT seeks to address this by using the VSLA methodology as a tool for economic empowerment and integration of resettled Batwa households into their new communities. By forming mixed VSLA groups consisting of Batwa and non-Batwa, all members benefit from access to loans to improve household welfare and make new investments in income generating activities, as well as the interaction in the weekly VSLA meetings greatly reduces the social differences and prejudice that previously created mistrust and hindered integration among the two population groups.

The Batwa are well integrated in the VSLA groups and many groups have elected Batwa for positions in the executive leadership. Due to the

firm rules of VSLAs, which among others involve meeting the weekly minimum saving requirement, the VSLA membership have changed the life-style for many people and improved discipline and work ethic considerably. Regular savings made by the Batwa show that they are capable of financial management and planning as well as it indicates that enrolled Batwa households no longer live from hand-to-mouth or spend all money at hand on alcohol as in the past. The VSLA membership and the growing acceptance of Batwa in the project areas have furthermore prompted visible improvements in personal appearance and hygiene and many Batwa report that they feel more respected by and confident among the non-Batwa, which in turn have given them the courage to talk freely in public during the meetings and in the communities.

VSLAs have promoted a saving culture among the members and especially women have taken up financial management and proven to be skilled at making investments. VSLAs have further offered a much needed alternative financial services in the hard to reach rural areas of Kisoro District where micro-finance and banks are non-existent.

*"As members of a VSLA, we have many more opportunities and for the first time in our life we are able to make plans for the future. The income we get from digging for other people is very little - even if we work very hard, we can not save up enough money to invest in our own garden or any other income generating activities. Through the VSLA, we have been able to take out loans to buy additional potato seeds and my husband is currently preparing a shelter for poultry. When it is done we will buy chickens at the market and resell them for a profit."*

Mary

## Improved Livelihoods

Lack of land and very limited livelihood opportunities are among the most critical challenges facing the Batwa. BMCT works to accommodate this by procuring land and constructing permanent houses for Batwa families. To ensure sustained food security and higher income levels, resettled households are trained in environmentally and economically sustainable use of their new land. Through the Farmer Field School approach, Batwa have been trained in crop selection of ecologically viable crop types, planting, cultivation, post-harvest handling and seed production. Other initiatives include livestock rearing and establishment of kitchen gardens to cultivate fast growing vegetables like cabbage, spinach and eggplants.

As a result, more Batwa relies on generating food and income from their own land instead of selling their labour for a low wage. The improved farming techniques have further improved the relationship between the Batwa and their neighbours as the Batwa have been able to share their new knowledge with the non-Batwa for the benefit of the whole community.

*"The training has been very useful! Although we have been digging for other people for years, BMCT has introduced us to many new techniques for improved farming. These include manure application, spacing, line-planting, and seed production among others. It is amazing how big a difference it makes."*

Bosco



# Improved health and hygiene

Access to land and living in proper housing, have contributed to improve the health status among resettled Batwa but with a life expectancy rate at merely 32 years, Batwa health indicators are still among the lowest in the country.

Therefore, BMCT works to improve Batwa's health seeking behaviour and increase access to health services in the area by carrying out awareness campaigns on good hygiene and sanitation, offering health outreach services; advocacy with local health providers and capacity building of Village Health Team (VHT) members. Batwa have received health related services in areas covering immunisation, treatment, reproductive health, HIV testing, growth monitoring, de-worming, etc. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in hygiene related diseases such as malaria and other skin diseases, dysentery, cholera, and trachoma. Also, a reduction of morbidity from immunized diseases has been observed among the participating Batwa.

Improved hygiene and sanitation have greatly improved the health and self esteem of the Batwa. Resettled households have constructed drying racks, hand-washing facilities, bathing shelters and latrines. People bathe and wash their clothes regularly which have resulted in reduced incidents of sickness among the Batwa population and increased acceptance and respect from the neighbouring communities.

*"I use not to care about my clothes. Whenever it would rain they would become wet and I did not have soap or water to clean it when it got dirty. But now I hang my clothes and my house is clean so they do not become dirty. I also now dress smartly like other women. I am proud to be recognised as a woman. I am now able to attend church services without being discriminated"*

Dorotia

Not done - see email



# Education for a better future

BMCT has supported Batwa education in primary level since 1996. In the last two years BMCT has provided 797 Batwa school going children in Kabale, Kanungo and Kisoro districts with uniforms and scholastic materials to enable them enrol in local primary schools under the governments free Universal Primary Education programme. In spite of an increased enrolment rate, Batwa pupils still experience a poor performance and a high drop out rate, which are due to frequent school changes and lack of parental support, among others.

# Social empowerment

Extreme poverty, poor hygiene, violence, excessive use of alcohol, etc. have led to a social exclusion and discrimination of Batwa. To support social empowerment, welfare and equal participation by Batwa and non-Batwa in community management, BMCT has held thematic workshops for 17 resettled households covering areas such as rights, gender issues and conflict resolution; sanitation and hygiene, and creation of income generating activities.

Domestic and gender based violence continues to be one of the major obstacles for development in Batwa households. Due to alcoholism, particularly Batwa women are exposed to domestic violence or otherwise abused by for example not being involved in household decisions. In most cases where fight erupts, the women's household items are destroyed.

Not done - see email

To explain the damaging consequences of domestic violence, Batwa men and women were equally targeted at a gender and conflict resolution workshop. Through the training participants were enabled to understand

gender roles and provided with tools for building better relationships where wife and husband work together as a team to achieve improved income and welfare. The workshop also included anger management techniques, which has greatly reduced incidents of domestic violence among resettled Batwa.

*"I used to go drinking with my husband. After getting drunk, we would start fighting at the bar and when at home we would fight using pangas. In most cases we got injured and the next day we did not have anything in the house. This made us live in perpetual poverty as the money earned was used to buy alcohol only. Now I have understood how destructive alcoholism and fighting are."*

Name?

# Involving local leaders

Improving the lives of the Batwa in a long-term perspective involves forming relationships between Batwa, the surrounding communities and local service providers such as health centres and local governments. To support this, BMCT invited Kisoro District leaders to visit Batwa settlements of Chahi and Butobo to let them experience the progress of the households first hand. The district officials have shown clean housing, improved sanitation and confidence building interventions by resettled Batwa households. The gardens and livestock show the adaptation and self-reliance made by the Batwa to become self-reliant.



*...have shown that they can...  
...if they are involved in plan...  
...the word go. Their garden...  
...other ethnic groups so...  
...of hygiene and so...  
...pressive. The d...  
...interventions...  
...adaptation and...  
...made by...  
...ief Admini...*



# Population Health Environment Integrated Community Conservation and Development for a Healthy Population around Bwindi Conservation Area.

## Reproductive health and conservation

Population density and growth have significant impact on conservation and community welfare. In partnership with the Path Foundation Philippines inc., BMCT works through the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) project to raise awareness and increase access to family planning and reproductive health services for the rural population in Kanungu district.

There is a critical need for family planning and reproductive health services in Uganda where the fertility rate in rural areas remains high at 7.1 children per woman (compared to a national average of 6.7). It is estimated that less than 25 percent of all married women use contraceptives or other family planning methods resulting in a steady growing population and an increasing pressure on the ecological system and natural resources. Effective family planning in the Bwindi area and Kanungu District is constrained by a low level of education, under-financed health

centres, poor service delivery and limited awareness of sexual and reproductive health among the population in general and among the youth in particular. Furthermore, myths and misconceptions about contraceptives have created scare of infertility or other feared side effects, as well as conservative cultural and religious beliefs hinder many families and unmarried women in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Building on existing structures formed under other initiatives, the Population Health Environment project supports community change agents, adult peer educators and health workers to improve service delivery and it raises awareness of reproductive health issues, effective conservation and sustainable livelihoods among women, men and youth for improved family health and environmental-friendly social and economic long-term development.

### Gaining the ability to choose

"I was about to quit my contraceptives but when I got the opportunity to discuss my personal circumstances in a safe, comfortable environment with an adult peer educator. She explained to me the use of different contraceptives. This made me feel knowledgeable and confident and gave me the courage to continue with the contraceptives and I no longer feel that it is burdening me."

Peace (not pictured)



### Understanding family planning

"I always believed that a big family was a strong family - even if I could not afford to educate my children - but my wife did not agree. After counselling, I understood the importance of family planning and I eventually agreed to support my wife in using birth control. She is now happy and determined to have children by choice."

Medard (not pictured)

# Reaching the whole community

Frail implementation structures and lack of capacity are among the biggest challenges for delivery of family planning and reproductive health services to community members in rural areas like Kanungu district. Consequently, a large proportion of the population does not receive any counselling on the subject and are thus unable to make informed decisions regarding family size and choice of contraceptive methods. BMCT builds capacity by training community change agents, adult peer educators and health workers from health units in Kanungu district to deliver good quality services to communities for improved family health and social and economic development. BMCT has put in place a team of professionals already working in the district and community change agents. Their primary role is to ensure that up-to-date information about existing family planning services and birth control methods reach women and men alike. BMCT actively involves the whole family to ensure that men and women are equally informed and capable of making the right family planning decisions. This is fundamental because of the traditional gender patterns in Uganda under which women do not control their sexual and

reproductive health choices as it is up to their male partners to decide which contraceptive methods their partners should use.

To ensure that information reaches all community members, BMCT has held educative radio talk shows and facilitated drama group performances. Additionally, the VSLA methodology is applied as an entry point for community mobilisation and information dissemination. VSLA members meet once a week and to save, which makes them easily accessible for community change agents and BMCT staff. Through VSLA meetings members have learned about contraceptives, the advantages of having manageable families, and the importance of environmental conservation.

*"I joined VSLA to save money, but by coming to the meetings I have also learned about not having more children than I can manage to feed and educate."*

Rosemary

## PHE role-model families

To increase impact, BMCT has developed a PHE role-model family. These families are selected to promote and enhance impact of the project activities in the communities.

Quote from a role-model family will come in the next version!



## Fuel saving stoves

A majority of the population in Kanungu district depends on firewood as their main source of energy for preparing food and heating water. Most households still use the traditional three-stone cooking fireplace, which each day consumes large quantities of firewood.

Fuel saving stoves reduce the consumption of firewood with up to 60 per cent by maximising the heat transfer to the food and thereby shortening the cooking time significantly. Not only do the stoves contribute to a sustainable energy use, they also save the owners for the hours they used to spend on collecting firewood rather than working in the fields or going to school. The stoves also reduce the negative health effect caused by smoke from the traditional indoor fireplaces.

*"The energy saving stove has saved me and my children of the burden of fetching firewood every day. The traditional three-stone fireplace would consume the whole of it in a day. With the energy saving stove, the firewood lasts for a whole week and this has enabled me use the time to do other productive work."*

Jane (not pictured)



# Community Projects

Improving the well-being of people around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park by diversification of products for income generation to improve livelihoods

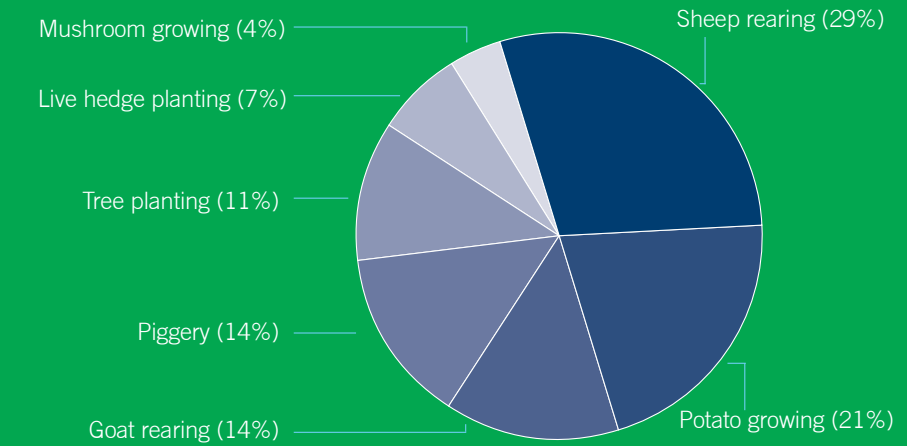
## Generating income through improved livelihoods

To increase income by diversification of livelihoods and improve the well-being of people living around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, BMCT has funded 26 community projects to support 501 (190 males, 306 females, and five youth) beneficiaries in Kabale and Kisoro districts.

The selection of projects was participatory and transparent. A total of 83 projects were selected for vetting in 27 parishes where the LC3 chairperson, Sub-county chiefs, LCSC members, Community Development Officers (CDO), NAADS service provider at sub-county level participated in the final selection. 31 projects were recommended for support out of which 26 were recommended to the LCSC for approval.

Agro inputs such as potato seed, animal breeds, tree seed, spawns, agro chemicals, animal drugs, pumps, drums, watering cans, jerry cans, hoes, pangas, rakes, polythene bags, knives, rolls of thread were procured and supplied to beneficiaries for implementing the following 26 projects. The NAADS service providers assisted in identifying potato seed and animal breeds, they also provided advice on how to use the agrochemicals and animal drugs. The support has increased income at household level and improved attitude towards conservation of the protected areas.

### Projects 2012/13



*"Growing mushrooms provides a welcome additional source of income. I use the extra money to meet the weekly savings requirement at the VSLA, bying household utensils and paying for my children's education. More to come in the next version... "*

Name

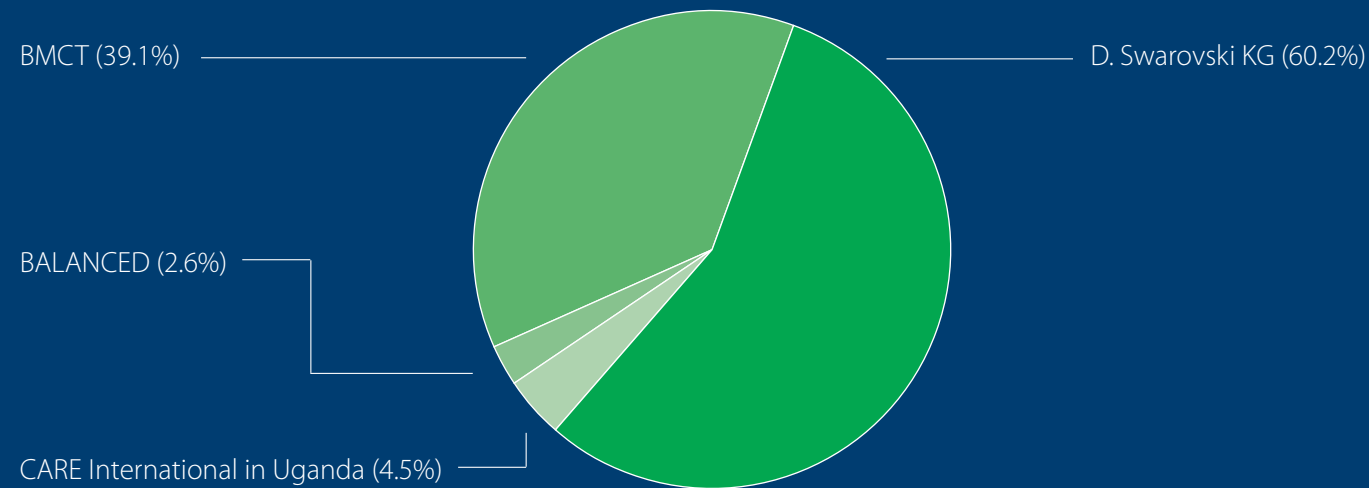


# Finance

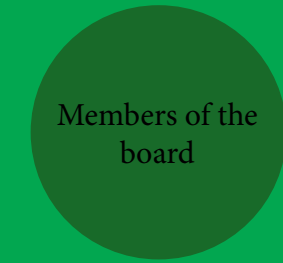
The world economy where we depend to finance activities experienced turbulences which impacted on the performance of our capital investment. We experienced negative impact on the endowment fund of 10.3 % reducing the fund from USD 6,733,810 to USD 6,040,517. However, BMCT has continued to proactively look for partners to facilitate the institution to contribute towards the achievement of our vision and mission.

## Funding by donor (Uganda Shillings)

D. Swarovski KG.....	1,181,121,506
CARE International in Uganda.....	89,274,684
BALANCED.....	52,000,000
BMCT.....	625,407,851
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,947,804,041</b>



# Members of the board



## Visitors

3. Nabimanya R. – DISO – Kabale
4. Kitembo Robert- Robtex Enterprise Ltd – Kasese
5. Ndyomugenyi – Regional Police Commander SSW
6. Barasa Lamu – Regional CID Officer SSW
7. Abey Mukoan – Greenfield CPA
8. Patrice Asimbellan – Green field CPA
9. Adrian Martin – University of East Anglia Norwich UR
10. Ricky Hernandez – Path FDN Makati City Philippine
11. Professor Said Iddi – TFF
12. Ms. Gladness Mkamba - TFF
13. Professor Yonika Ngaga – TFF
14. Mr. Lawrence Mbwambo –TFF
15. Ms. Helen Macha- TFF
16. Ms. Mariam Wilmore- TFF
17. Augustin K. Basabose – IGCP
18. Lars Enemark – Denmark
19. Ian Edlgles – Denmark
20. Thomas Lenmberb – Denmark
21. Kayitara Anecto – Rwanda
22. Byamukama James – Masaka
23. Odongo Henry – PIM Kampala



# Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust

## BMCT



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