



BMCT



Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust

ANNUAL REPORT **2021 -2022**
FINANCIAL YEAR

Conserving for Development



ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR 2021 -2022

Published by BMCT

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Citation:

BMCT (2020). Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust. Annual Report 2021-2022.

Acknowledgement:

Prepared by Mr. Tumwesigye Wilberforce and Mr. Kakuru Phares Kosia. Review and design layout done by Gaster Kiyingi (Tree Talk Plus).

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Cover Photo: *Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister for ICT and National Guidance, launching Kihembe-Batwa Model village.*



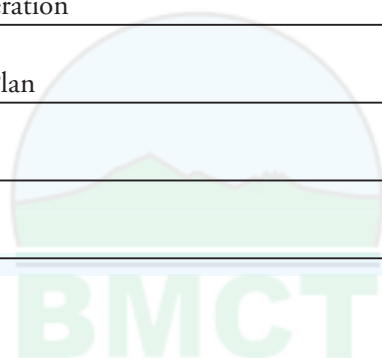
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List of Acronyms

Conserving for Development

BINP	:	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
BMCA	:	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area
BMCT	:	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
GEF	:	Global Environment Facility
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
UWA	:	Uganda Wildlife Authority



Kyentare Beekeepers Association, Western Ward, Kanungu T/C, Kanungu District receiving support from BMCT

Greetings from the Chairman, Board of Trustees

It is my pleasure to present the FY2021/2022 Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) Report and Financial Statement.

As BMCT, we have refocused and continued with our commitment towards conservation in Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA) and as such, BMCT provided community development grants worth UGX 178,000,000= to sixty-eight (68) groups, contributed to park protection through procurement and installation of 130 Kenya top bee hives in the hot spot problem animal areas to deter elephants from raiding crops, and constructed 30 baboon traps in communities around BINP. These interventions were aimed at improving the livelihoods of households around BMCA.

For instance, Mr. Mikwejye Abubaka from Bunangana, Kisoro District sells 10 liters of milk per day translating into Ugx 2,880,000= in a year. He is very happy with BMCT because he was able to pay the school fees of his child at Bishop Stuart University Mbarara, who has completed a bachelor's degree in computer science. He was proud of even getting cheap manure from his zero-grazed animals. He promised to give the revolving heifer to another beneficiary.

In a bid to build the capacity of communities to better benefit from the tourism industry, BMCT trained 126 (80 males & 46 females) youth from Rubuguri-Rushaaga youth carvers group from Kisoro District in art and curving crafts. In this reporting period, this group earned Ugx 9,557,000= further still, BMCT, trained 51(31 males and 20 females) Batwa youth from Kisoro district in tour guiding and birding skills to enable them to earn from tour guiding.

During the course of the year, BMCT continued to seek partnerships with other development partners to extend their services to all communities surrounding the two protected areas. In this respect, we collaborated with BIOPAMA Programme, an Initiative of the ACP Group of States financed by the



European Union's 11th EDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), D. SWAROVSKI KG/AWEC and Tools with a mission. BMCT will continue to look for practical partnerships with like-minded institutions to enhance its conservation and development objectives in Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA). The total income in the fiscal year ended 30th June 2022 was equivalent to UGX 1,598,931,575= and the total expenditure were equivalent to UGX 1,446,626,212=. These financial resources helped BMCT to contribute to its mandate.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to salute the vision of our founders and the entire conservation fraternity that has always supported BMCT. Our sincere thanks go to the staff of BMCT for relentlessly implementing projects and activities for this reporting year and to UBS- our fund manager in the USA for professionally managing the endowment fund.

As Board of Trustees, we are committed to strengthening the Trust through increased financial resource mobilization and improvement of community livelihoods and ecosystem health of both BINP and MGNP. O

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Mwandha'.

Mr. Sam Mwandha
Chairman Trust Management Board



RDC, Kanungu District witnessing the handover of a heifer to the beneficiary in Eastern Ward, Kanungu T/C.

Executive Summary

For the year 2021/22, BMCT provided support to projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of households around BMCA.

This was done through provision of grants to sixty-eight (68) community groups within BMCA. They included; Bee Keeping (13), Energy Saving stoves (1), Heifer Projects (11), Irish potato Growing (13), Mushroom growing (1), Passion fruit growing (3), Piggery Projects (17), Tree Planting (1), Vegetables growing (2) and Water Harvesting (6). The support created an impact for instance, Mr. Mikwejye Abubaka from Bunangana, Kisoro District sells 10 liters of milk per day translating into Ugx 2,880,000= in a year. He is very happy with BMCT because he was able to pay the school fees of his child at Bishop Stuart University Mbarara, who has completed a bachelor's degree in computer science. He was proud of even getting cheap manure from his zero-grazed animals. He promised to give the revolving heifer to another beneficiary.

In order to reduce dependence on resources in the protected areas, BMCT supported communities to invest in alternative sources of incomes (medium and small agribusiness enterprises) as well as art and craft value chains aligned along community tourism opportunities. BMCT trained 126 (80 males & 46 females) as Trainer of Trainees (ToTs) in various forms of handcrafts. project records indicate that there are increased sales in the last one year. As a result, Batwa youth have been able to sell crafts amounting to Ugx 9,557,000=

BMCT implemented a Batwa scholarship scheme where 127 (57 males and 63 females) pupils in primary schools, 11(8 males & 3 females) students in a vocational institute, 3(2 males & 1 female) students in secondary school). To improve Batwa housing conditions, a total of nine (9) Batwa permanent houses were handed over to beneficiaries in Kihembe Batwa settlement, Kanungu district and eight (8) and under construction at Kanyamahenene Batwa settlement, Kisoro district

Challenges faced in FY2021/22

1. Failure to occupy a plot bought by BMCT (Plot 9 BAT Valley land) on 2nd September 2015. BMCT bought this asset in form of land in Kampala and has become very difficult to possess and use exclusively. The said land was bought from Hon Nsereko/Kikonyogo investments on the premise that this was going to be a plot that would be owned/used without any encumbrances. It has now become very difficult to do any developments on this plot. BMCT is now interested in taking the total procession of this asset or understanding the position of ownership so that it can seek compensation for the value invested in the asset.
2. The Endowment fund which contributes over 90% BMCT's annual budget didn't perform to our expectations.
3. COVID -19 pandemic and its impact on tourism, Batwa education and livelihoods in the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area.
4. Fundraising has been less successful. However, TAU is still applying for grants to supplement the endowment fund.



Pupils of Mabayemeru SDA Primary School, Busanza S/C, Kisoro District receiving scholastic materials.

About BMCT

Vision

The biodiversity and ecosystem health of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) are conserved in harmony with the development needs of the surrounding communities.

Mission

To foster the conservation of biodiversity in MGNP and BINP through investment in community development projects, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding park management and protection, and programs that create greater conservation awareness.

Core Values

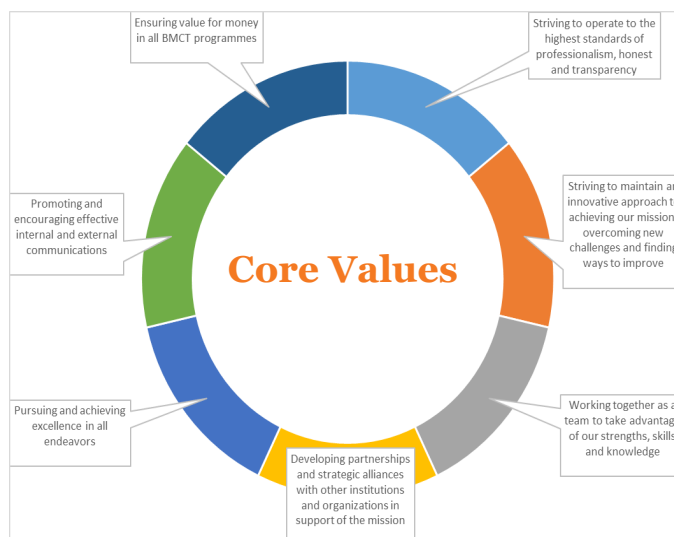
We focus on the environment, people and the economy with a view to conserve the biodiversity and ecosystem

Strengthen resilience of livelihoods for improved wellbeing of people in the targeted communities



Support protection and management of BINP and MGNP

Generate and disseminate knowledge and information on socio-economic and ecological trends within the BMCA.



The BMCT Board

Conserving for Development

BMCT was established under the Uganda Trust Act in 1994, as a registered Conservation Trust Fund mandated to support conservation of Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) and contribute to uplifting the livelihoods of the people in communities adjacent to these national parks. It was the first Conservation Trust Fund in Africa established by Global Environment Facility (GEF).



Mr. Sam Mwandha, Chairman
From Uganda Wildlife Authority.
Joined the TMB in 2018



Dr. Gladys Kalemwa, Trustee
From Local NGO.
Joined the TMB in 2019



Ms. Annet Ireba Kobusinge, Trustee, From
Ministry of Finance.
Joined the TMB in 2019



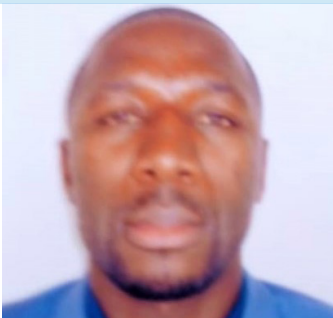
Ms. Nakyeeyune Cotilda, Trustee
CARE International
Joined the TMB in 2020



Ms. Charlotte Kamugisha
Trustee, Private Sector.
Joined the TMB in 2019



Ms. Kiconco Anna
Trustee, LCSC, Rubanda
Joined the TMB in 2019



Mr. Bazamanza Nelson
Trustee, LCSC Kisoro
Joined the TMB in 2019



Mr. Stephen Fred Okiror
Trustee, from MTWA
Joined the TMB in 2019



Mr. Kanyeihamba Johnes
Trustee, LCSC Kanungu
Joined the TMB in since 2019



Dr. Babaasa Dennis
Trustee, From ITFC
Joined the TMB in 2021



Mr. Tumwesigye Wilberforce
Trust Administrator
Joined the TMB in 2022



Byumba Mauritius thorn planting group, Byumba Parish, Kayonza S/C, Kanungu District receiving equipment.

1 Support protection and management of BINP and MGNP.

Contribution to managing problem animals in Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area

BMCT in partnership with UWA annually contributes to the control of Human-Wildlife Conflicts around Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA) to foster a harmonious co-existence between the park and community, a positive step toward the sustainability of wildlife resources.



A completed live trap Byumba, Bujengwe Parish

The support is to supplement conservation efforts in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) through strengthening mitigation measures against crop destruction caused by problem animals especially baboons and elephants in BINP, stone wall repairs of 410 meters along Kanombe and Nyagakenke villages in Gisozi parish, Muramba sub-county in MGNP and train staff in Human Wild Conflict data collection and analysis.



A completed live trap Nyamishamba, Bujengwe Parish

Problem animals are the major source of conflict between park management and communities around Protected Areas. Damages caused by problem animals take many forms including; the destruction of crops and property and competition for natural resources. To reduce the above BMCT worked closely with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in enhancing approaches for managing problem animals in the 2 Protected Areas (EAs) as shown below;

Construction of live baboon traps

Construction of thirty (30) baboon live traps; seventeen (17) in Rushamba Zone and thirteen

(13) in Kayonza Zone was completed. Eight (08) Problem Animal Management groups were mobilized to construct the live traps using traditional knowledge and experiences, works to be undertaken were negotiated and MoUs signed with the community groups to construct the 30 live traps in hot spot villages around BINP. In BINP 30 live traps were constructed in 29 villages. Twenty-seven (27) baboons have been trapped by most of the established traps and eliminated in villages namely; Musheija (01), Nyakabingo (05), Kagoma (02), Rwamiyumbu (01), Nyamishamba (01), Kacerere (04), Mushorero (02), Kazahi (02), and Rubona (02) in Kayonza Zone and

Nyakabingo (02), Buhamba (02) and Kitunga (02) in Rushamba Zone.

Establishment of bee fence to deter elephants from raiding crops

One hundred thirty (130) Kenya top bar hives were supplied for installation in hot spot problem animal damage areas to deter elephants from raiding crops. These include Rwaburegyeya (80) and Bigandu (50) to cover 0.3 Km (outstanding boundary length in Rwaburegyeya and 0.2 km in Bigandu respectively). There is an established 05 km bee fence expected to reduce crop raids once a sizeable number of bee hives are colonized. Projects like beekeeping have contributed to the sustainable management of natural resources and increased biodiversity. These projects have given local communities and the government economic incentive for the retention 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 bushfires, discourage people from grazing animals, cutting trees, and harvesting other forest resources. After some time these areas become green because the vegetation is allowed to grow. It is also a source of income and this has changed people's attitude toward relying on the forest.

Repairs of broken sections of the buffalo wall

A distance of 410 meters of the buffalo/stone wall in MGNP in 2 villages of Nyagakenke and Kanombe was repaired/maintained by the hired community members hence reducing crop damages and subsequent conflicts while 8m were reinforced with cement along the buffalo crossing corridor. Maintenance processes were supervised by MGNP staff, usually Community Conservation Rangers (CCRs).

Prompt repairs registered reduced crop damage. During the project period, there were only two (02) crop damages in the whole of the quarter compared to 20 cases in the respective quarter of the previous financial year 2019-2020. This signals the importance of instant repairs and indeed the benefit of the project. Community engagement in conservation activities especially during the Coronavirus pandemic improved park-community relationships.



The two photos are repairs of damages caused by buffalos along Nyagakenke and Kanombe villages, MGNP

Group members realized some income during the project hence a big contribution to their livelihood. Crop damages were minimized and harvests were increased thus incomes increased and realized.

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. The relationship was strengthened by a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed between park authorities and members of Gitenderi Protect the Environment Group (GPEG). The group was mandated to reinforce and repair the Buffalo wall around Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

BMCT is grateful for the initiatives undertaken by the communities and their cooperation in these efforts. Whereas beekeeping may be considered largely an income-generating activity, the community trust that it is an effective way to reduce 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 to minimize negative impacts on the parks that are habitats of the most endangered species on planet earth.



Mr. S. Nterejimana, Shunga village, Nyarutembe, Nyabwishenya S/c, Kisoro District receiving heifer from BMCT.

2 Strengthen resilience of livelihoods among targeted communities

Support to communities around BMCA with grants in form of community projects

BMCT strives to improve the well-being of people adjacent to Bwindi and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks by diversification of products for income generation to improve livelihoods.

During the FY2020/21 and FY2021/22, BMCT verified and funded 124 community projects to support BMCT supports communities around Bwindi and Mgahinga National Parks 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 criterion formulated by BMCT to choose the most viable depending on the prioritized needs of the communities and organizational objectives. The project selection criteria always consider the contribution of the project towards conservation, the vulnerability of beneficiaries, and the development needs of the people among others.

In the FY2021/22, BMCT supported sixty-eight (68) community groups within BMCA. They included; Bee Keeping (13), Energy Saving stoves (1), Heifer Projects (11), Irish potato Growing (13), Mushroom growing (1), Passion fruit growing (3), Piggery Projects (17), Tree Planting (1), Vegetables growing (2)

and Water Harvesting (6). These are intended to provide alternative income-generating opportunities to communities around BMCA and reduce pressure on park resources.



RDC, Kanungu district handover bee hives to members of Kyentare Bee Keepers Association, Western Ward, Kanungu District

Livestock projects

Livestock-supported groups/individuals reported progress and it clearly shows that there is more than a 100% increment in piggery projects. Heifer projects beneficiaries reported great improvement. For instance, Mr. Mikwejye Abubaka from Bunangana, Kisoro District sells 10 liters of milk per day translating into Ugx 2,880,000 in a year. He is very happy with BMCT because he was able to pay the school fees of his child at Bishop Stuart University Mbarara, who has completed a bachelor's degree in computer

science. He was proud of even getting cheap manure from his zero-grazed animals. He promised to give the revolving heifer to another beneficiary.

Agricultural Projects

Potatoes are essentially a food security crop with good prospects for increased domestic urban demand. The bulk of the crop is grown in the highland areas of south-west Uganda in the districts of Kabale, Rubanda, and Kisoro. Supported agricultural projects like potato growing/production are primarily supported by numerous chain players: agro-input dealers, seed multipliers, farmers/producers, marketers (agents and traders), and processors. Although progress has been made at various levels of the value chain, challenges remain that must be addressed before the region can optimally exploit its full potato production potential and upgrade its entire value chain.



Members of Buzooba Women Group, Kisoro District receiving potato seed.

Environmental Projects

Energy cooking stoves and tree planting

In a bid to minimize the adverse effect of deforestation, BMCT supported 100 households from Kanungu United Group, Kanungu Town Council, Mugandu Tukore Group of Kinaba S/c, Kanungu district and Nyamasiizi Bakwara Tukwatanise Group, Ruhonwa Parish, Hamurwa Sub County, Rubanda district with the construction of energy-efficient cooking stoves.

These households used open fire to cook their food, meaning they used more firewood hence increasing deforestation. The energy cooking stoves reduce reliance on wood fuel among participating households by providing clean technologies (energy-saving stoves) thus contribute to improved health and economic conditions. According to the beneficiaries' stoves have brought about a number of significant economic, health, environmental, livelihood benefits to the beneficiaries.

Environmental contribution:

The energy-efficient cook stoves reduced the amount of fuel wood consumption by beneficiary households, Reduced the frequency of travel of households especially women and children to collect fuel wood, Minimized work load and expense to be incurred by households to purchase fuel wood, reduce deforestation which in turn contribute to decreased soil erosion and increase soil fertility.



Tukamuhanwa Julius (above) from Kinaba S/c, Kanungu District, and Matskiko Gideon (below) from Nyabwishenya S/C, Kisoro district, receiving heifers from BMCT.

Economic benefits:

According to beneficiaries, the average household fuel wood consumption has decreased. The amount of fuel wood previously consumed in two days by the open fire is currently used for 6.-7 days. The money used to buy fuel and wood was saved to cover another part of household expenses like paying for school. Households invest the time that was previously used for fuel wood collection invested on other types of household livelihood options.

Social benefits: The duty of fetching fuel wood was reduced and children reduced absenteeism from school and engaged in studying which contributed to improve school performance.

Challenges

Limited access to quality agro-inputs. The high cost and limited access to agro-inputs hinder the use of production-enhancing inputs such as fertilizers. The agro-input dealers who directly supply farmers buy the inputs from distant places, incurring high transportation costs that translate to high-cost inputs. There is limited access to improved

potato seed as Kachwekano Zonal Agriculture Research and Development Institute (KAZARDI), is the only institution mandated to produce seed.

Limited access to financing is also a challenge to potato production, marketing, and processing. This study found that all of the actors on the value chain experience financial constraints because of collateral requirements and long loan application processes. As a result, actors primarily receive credit from informal credit sources such as village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), which charge higher interest rates and are less capitalized. High seasonality in the production cycle and extreme weather conditions (drought) affect potato production. Long dry spells coupled with a lack of irrigation result in yield losses. A lack of organized storage affects farmers, traders, and processors. Storage facilities are crucial in addressing the challenge of seasonality and price fluctuations, both of which affect profit margins at all levels of the potato value chain.





Batwa supported students during Brick Laying and Concrete Practice at African International Christian Ministries - Kabaale District

3 BMCT, and the Batwa livelihoods.

The Batwa Formerly Forest dependent, an indigenous group of people found within the BMCA have since the early 1990s struggled to adapt to a lifestyle that is not directly dependent on the natural forests they lived on hunting, wild meat, honey, and wild fruits.

Notable among their struggles is the ability to appreciate and embrace formal education within their communities. Until recently, it was notable that most of the Batwa who were able to attain education were unable to reach beyond mid-primary education with most of the dropping out in the lower primary level pointing out issues like discrimination while at school, lack of parental guidance and initiative, lack of role models, lack of food among others.

BMCT instituted the Batwa scholarship scheme where a few committed Batwa pupils and students are supported with lunch at school, uniforms, books, pens, pencils, and sanitary wear. Students attaining secondary education are taken to boarding schools for exposure and easy monitoring and fair performers from the primary level are enrolled in technical institutions.

Daniel Ntegerejimana a graduate of Bricklaying and Concrete Practice (BCP) from Kihiki Community Polytechnic Institute is a testimony to technical education. Currently, a mason in Kisoro District Daniel has a monthly income of Ugx 600.000= This has greatly improved his life style and that of

his family and his self-worth. Frank Katungi another scholarship scheme beneficiary is currently upgrading his certificate in BCP to an advanced certificate in National certificate in building construction II with more Batwa youth coming up with such vision and ambition, we are yet to see a generation of role models within the Batwa community. BMCT has focused more on technical education for Batwa and it is slowly starting to pay off as seen above that there is currently a proposal for mobile technical skills training centers for Batwa settlements to ensure extensive coverage of the skills program.

Achievements of the scheme

- 108(57 males and 51 girls) pupils are being supported in primary schools, 6 (4 males & 2 females) in secondary school, and 7 (3 males & 4 females) in vocational institutes scheme.
- One female completed University while 9(6 boys and 3 girls) finalized their vocational studies.
- 25% completion rate of primary pupils sponsored through the BMCT scholarship program.
- 76% completion rate for vocational students sponsored through the BMCT scholarship program
- Nine (9) Batwa youth have been able to attain jobs after the successful completion of their vocational training.

Challenges of the program

Despite the milestone achieved by the scholarship program, it has not been without any setbacks. Some of such setbacks include:

- There is little or no involvement of parents in the education of their children. Most of the Batwa parents cannot provide even the basic school necessities like pocket money for the children in the boarding section or food for the day scholars
- Limited absorption of the skilled Batwa into the labor market after vocational training.

Improved Batwa housing.

Batwa population is one of the people living in abject poverty, their living conditions are also very poor. This is because according to the BMCT report 2020, 37.7% of Batwa live in temporary houses and the worst affected district in the BMCA is Kisoro with 49.2% of Batwa households staying in temporary houses.

Over the years, BMCT has constructed fifty-nine (59) homesteads for the Batwa within BMCA. During the 2020/21 financial year, eight (8) permanent houses are under construction in Kanyamahene cell, Rushaga Parish, Rubuguri Town Council, Kisoro district. This is intended to improve the housing conditions of the Batwa and establish a model village in the district. The purpose is slowly help them to adapt to living in settlements rather than keep moving from place to place. As a result of constructing houses for Batwa the following has been observed;

- Improved Sanitation and hygiene among the Batwa. Due to the provision of pit latrines and continuous sensitizations, sanitation and hygiene have greatly improved. Diseases like diarrhea, and dysentery are no longer common compared to the past. Some of the Batwa now have a positive look as some Batwa have bought land to increase their acreage.
- Batwa's self-esteem within the community has improved. Batwa interaction with the non-Batwa freely

with minimal inferiority is observed. They feel so proud because they have homes like Bakiga and Bafumbira.

- Due to having better houses, Batwa are smart because they keep their clothes in the well roofed main house that is free of smoke. Unlike in the past where clothes were kept in huts where they cooked thus smoke would turn colours of their clothes
- Food security: Settled Batwa have resorted to tilling the land BMCT gave them without migrating from place to place in search of food.
- School dropout among the resettled Batwa families has reduced: School going children among the resettled families is higher and stable than the non-resettled families because children have a sense of belonging to a family with a good residence like that of a non Mutwa whose children they are studying with. The young were the most frequent visitors to the forest so helping them to acquire education greatly reduced the frequency of going into the forest



We found a new home. We are together again, Kihembe Model Village

Usually referred to as conservation refugees, Batwa pygmies have for long lived as squatters on neighbors’ land after having been evicted from their ancestral forest home in the 1990s to make way for a national park. Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT) the first conservation Trust in Uganda has finally offered some Batwa families a place that they call home.

BMCT was started in 1994 to conserve the environment whilst responding to the development needs of the communities surrounding the two national parks of Bwindi and Mgahinga. Since 2000, BMCT has purchased land for these Batwa both in Kisoro and Kanungu districts accumulating to 406 acres to date.

In addition to buying them land, in 2009, BMCT was the first organization to engage in constructing houses for the families. These were made of mud bricks which the Batwa would make themselves but from 2018, the organization embarked on building modern house with kitchens and toilets.

To date, we have built 56 houses for different Batwa families. However, this is just a small portion of how many still lack decent housing. Very few development partners would wish to fund housing for beneficiaries thus BMCT relies solely on its endowment fund to finance Batwa housing. If we had any donor funding maybe BMCT would afford more houses for such families.

This year, to celebrate the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples that is globally commemorated every 9th



Minister for ICT and National Guidance, Dr. Chris Baryomunsi handing over constructed Batwa houses to beneficiaries of Kihembe settlement, Kanyantorogo S/C, Kanungu District.

August, BMCT has organized a Launch of the first Batwa model village under the theme “Everyone deserves a home” on 9th November 2021 in Kanungu district. This corresponds to the 2021 international theme “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract”. The aim of the celebrations is to raise awareness of the Promotion and Protection of indigenous peoples’ Human Rights.

Reasons for establishing a Batwa model village

- A Batwa model village would lessen Batwa discrimination and marginalization from none Batwa.
- A model village would create a sense of self-esteem among the Batwa
- The model village would in the future be a tourist attraction center earning income to Batwa for better livelihood improvement.
- A model village would act as a demonstration to Batwa and non-Batwa that they can live (Batwa) a decent life in good houses, with the land where to plant crops for food security.

Launching Kihembe Model village

Kihembe Batwa model village is one of the successful areas BMCT has implemented. After the construction of 9 (nine) main houses, kitchens, and pit latrines in 2021, BMCT thought it better to launch the Kihembe Batwa model village. This model village was launched in November 2021, in Kengoma village, Kihembe parish,

Kanyantorogo Sub-county in Kanungu District.

A number of guests were invited for the occasion with the guest of honor being the Minister of ICT and National guidance who is also a Member of Parliament for Kinkizi East constituency; Honourable Chris Baryomunsi.

Comments from the Kihembe Batwa beneficiaries

Kihemebe Batwa model village beneficiaries were the happiest and most jubilating persons of the day. They sang, danced and praised BMCT for the wonderful activities it has done in their area of residence. Below are some comments from Kihembe Batwa. Bagiritimwe Frank a Mutwa beneficiary was heard saying:

“BMCT has done wonderful activities for us such as, buying and allocating us land where we plant crops, building us houses where we stay, supporting our children in school. All these have made us support ourselves without going to beg for food like in the past. We cultivate the land and feed ourselves”. Thank you BMCT.

Kagongozo a Mutwa beneficiary was also heard saying:

‘I have joy and happiness for the descent house BMCT constructed for me. We used to stay in a hut built of grass from the ground up to the top. We were always miserable whenever it rained because the rain would fall on us and everything would be waterlogged including the bed, blanket, and clothes. Therefore BMCT is like a savior to us for the descent houses it built for us. Our belongings are no longer water-logged when it rains’. Well done BMCT, Kakongozo said





BMCT staff receiving an award from Uganda Safari Guides Association (USAGA) for the most indigenous people-centered Organization of the year 2021.

4 Tour guiding skills for income generation

“And the award for the most indigenous people-centered Organization of the year 2021 goes to Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust”

It was all thumbs up for the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust as they received recognition for the most indigenous people-centered organization at the African birding expo 2021.

The Award winning organization has been recognized on a number of events for their contribution towards promoting conservation



in a people friendly way but at this particular event, the award was for their contribution towards the growth of the tourism sector in general and birding in particular with in the communities around BINP and MGNP.

BMCT, a trust fund formed in 1994 to

conserve the two National parks of BINP and MGNP in harmony with the development needs of the neighboring communities and true to her mandate, BMCT has remained at the forefront of harnessing the conservation of these two National parks, through funding park management, research and funding community development programs. It is no wonder the Trust's efforts and that of other stakeholders that BINP is currently the world's number one heritage site.

Batwa, Bakiiga and Bafumbira are the dominant tribes in the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area that currently covers the Districts of Kisoro, Rubanda and Kanungu. Bwindi Mgahinga conservation Trust has stood out in promoting development within the park neighboring communities especially amongst vulnerable groups. Projects like art and crafts making, formation of community tourism trails, tour guiding, and bird guiding among others have slowly picked up as alternative livelihood sources for the communities around the protected areas thus differing from the traditional livelihood means like agriculture that caused strain on natural resources.

With lockdowns easing across the globe, tourism is slowly resuming and so is the



TRUST with her efforts to prepare the communities in particular the Batwa youth to tap into the tourism industry. The focus has mainly been on skilling youth with employable skilling in tour guiding and birding, equipping them with the necessary tools for the trade both socially emotionally and physically with affirmative action being applied to bring the marginalized Batwa youth on board.

BMCT with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has over the past years carried out skills training, innovation challenges and capacity building for the youth in birding, tour guiding, handicrafts, formation of community tourism trails where 126 (80 males & 46 females) youth participated.

Project records indicate that there are increased sales in the last one year. Trained youth have been able to sell Gorillas (Ugx 4,550,000=), Masks (Ugx 800,000=), Baskets (Ugx 4,057,000=) and necklaces (Ugx 950,000=). The amount is shared amongst themselves to buy basic necessities

like food and clothing. Investments in form of livestock (goats and chicken). This has attracted the interest of youths. The trained youth were also linked to Uganda Safari and Guides Association (USAGA). Three of the female participants were rewarded prestigious awards (in form of birding equipment) at the function and are already members of the Uganda Female Birders Association, a huge step towards promoting gender impartiality in tourism activities within the BMCA.

5

Key results in the BMCT strategic plan

Conserving for Development

Strategic Objective	Description	Output	Challenges	Way forward
Objective 1 Support protection and management of BINP and MGNP	On Participatory Resource Management			
	1. Reduced movement of problem animals	There is a 12% decrease in the number of illegal activities within BINP and MGNP (859 cases in 2020 and 756 cases in 2021).	Strengthening the Buffalo Wall in MGNP is too expensive	Review our method of work to employ cost-effective methods e.g. plant Mauritius thorns.
	2. Access regimes supported in the community	No resource access re-gimes supported by BMCT		Form multiple use groups /areas e.g. in Rushaga for support in the next phase.
	3. Invasive crops	BMCT has not done anything	Limited funding	See if it can be done in the next phase if funds are available
Objective 2 Generate and disseminate knowledge and information on socio-economic and ecological trends within the BMCA	1. Disseminate knowledge on climate change impacts -	ITFC research conducted on the effect of BMCT community projects and UWA revenue sharing on the mitigation of illegal activities	BMCT does not give guidelines for its information dissemination	Partner with UWA to give or produce a full paper on the new vision. BMCT should develop clear guidelines for publicity, and information dissemination to all partners.
	Uptake of research findings to inform BMCT work	BIOPAMA project is a result of the research findings		Continue /improve using research information for programming guidance.
	Information dissemination platforms supported by BMCT	Use all photos that are coming from the field.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a distinctive budget for publicity. - Include corporate items in our publicity materials. - Diversify the items given out e.g. envelopes, pens, note books, wrist bangles, branded pocket files. - Corporate shirts (use Nytil)
Objective 3 Strengthen the resilience of livelihoods for the improved well-being of people in the targeted communities.	Improved livelihoods and well-being of Batwa	Batwa census was conducted and shared with all BMCT stakeholders.	The land is not being used productively as it's given away.	Mindset change program to counter land usage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cross-exchange visits among Batwa. Select a few quality people (Batwa) children -Have those in the upper classes go to a boarding school. -Have MOU with the Batwa parents on small responsibilities.
	Increased biomass for energy	-10 acres in Rubanda -5 acres in Mukono -12 acres in Rutendere -5 acres of carriandra in Gisozi	Mapping and documentation of how these woodlots are used are not there. No information on whether communities are using the woodlots.	Document any communities using the woodlots and if the acres from what BMCT gave have increased
	Institutional use	20 water schools are using energy-efficient technologies		More institutions are to be guided and encouraged to use energy-saving technologies. Venture into briquette making for our communities

Strategic objective	Description	Output	Challenges	Wayforward
	House hold use	325 households using improved technologies supported by BMCT.	Bio-sillary and manure	Using local materials, especially for CODAB There bio toilet in Rubuguri P/S or any other in Kanungu.
	Increased returns from investments in eco-tourism	-126 youth trained in wood carving -100 woman trained in basketry and each woman has trained 2 women making it 200 women in total.	Marketing	Look at marketing especially digital marketing. Venture into timber dealers – association to support conservations (take back to woodlots points).
	Increased access to microfinance	Nothing is done in this area		CODAB approach to look into this.
	Water harvesting technologies	200 households have underground tanks.	Our underground tanks have been shown to have more risks e.g. mosquitoes, drawing, etc. for the community, dirt water from contamination. Peeling of the tapeline will contaminate many.	Construction of community water tanks going forward.
	Improved delivery of work plans and targets	-Staff retention is good. -Work plans are being done well and on time -All necessary staff according to BMCT structure is ok. -Gratuity interest goes to staff.	-Staffing levels is are lacking in the M& E area. -Monitoring of projects and evaluation is not done well. - Staff skills are not utilized. -lack of some tools to use while at work like a good camera. -Technical Personnel from field people do not want to work with BMCT due to little pay. eg. We pay 30,000 yet others pay 80,000 so we have lost service provision support.	Next year staff will have their steps increased so that their salaries can be increased. -Staff should be consulted before external consultants are engaged. -Revise the rates of community technical personnel. -BMCT can sponsor staff when they take personal initiative on a half basis/quarter.

Strategic objective	Description	Output	Challenge	Wayforward
	Innovative and cost-effective approaches for delivering BMCT services	-Development of CODAB approach. - Partnership has been created with WWF and supports some community projects.	-Some partners are open to partnership with BMCT -Partnership with the district personnel has been a problem as some take a long to submit reports.	-Explore the CAFÉ opportunity for a project proposal. - have clear targets and outputs when contracting any outside services. -invite and involve sub-county and district personnel in the relevant departments'
	Increased endowment fund capital	Not doing well, especially because of COVID -19 and now the Ukraine war.	BMCT has not mobilized for outside funding	-Diversify mobilization for external funding. - Channel some of the funds from the endowment fund. -Reach out to the government to increase the capital fund for the endowment especially if CODAB is successful. -Withdraw money from the fund for 3 years when it's doing well so that in hard times BMCT operations are not affected.
	Increase project funding	UNDP (\$40,000), BIOPAMA (\$50,000), AWEC/Swarovski (UGX 80,000,000=), and MUST (\$32,000) have been successful.	Fundraising is still a challenge	Partner with organizations Consolidate our efforts into a few project activities Let us select a few areas and activities.
	Technical cooperation and collaboration	Cooperation with WWF to do construction of community water tanks.		Every staff should support partnership creation. Improve on the partnership selection.
Objective 4 Strengthen BMCT's business model and accountability measures.	Synergies & value addition between BMCT and UWA community conservation initiatives	We work with UWA on park management to build and strengthen the buffalo wall.		

6

Financial Report


Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)
Trustees Report and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30th June 2022

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 June 2022

7. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	As at 30 June 2022 UGX	As at 30 June 2021 UGX
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	12.1	248,911,675	253,965,206
Trust fund	12.2	20,970,090,871	24,206,985,590
Investment property	12.3	946,972,342	501,963,425
		22,165,974,888	24,962,914,221
Current assets			
Receivables and prepayments	12.4	84,456,123	87,256,605
Short term investment	12.5	570,917,130	850,365,497
Cash and bank	12.6	346,263,541	101,627,416
		1,001,636,794	1,039,249,518
Total Assets		23,167,611,682	26,002,163,739
Accumulated Fund and Liabilities			
Accumulated fund			
Capital fund	12.1	248,911,675	253,965,206
Trust fund	12.2	20,970,090,870	24,206,985,590
Investment fund	12.3	946,972,342	501,963,425
General fund		948,711,753	948,976,032
		23,114,686,640	25,911,890,253
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Gratuity payable	12.7	-	49,550,369
		-	31,517,479
Current liabilities			
Tenants' security deposits	12.8	24,501,568	13,514,797
Payables and provisions	12.9	28,423,474	27,208,320
		52,925,042	40,723,117
Total Accumulated Fund and Liabilities		23,167,611,682	26,002,163,739

The Financial Statements on pages 16 to 32 were approved for issue by Management on _____ 2022
and were signed on its behalf by:


Chairman JMB


Secretary TMB

7

The Year 2021/2022

...in pictures

Skills development for communities around BMCA



Community engagement in BMCA



Supporting Batwa education



BMCT events in 2022



Education



Support to community livelihoods improvement



Support to communities with bee-hives



Support to communities with equipment

Support to communities with pigs





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, 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.

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