

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
2. Grant title. Improved NNP Management through Partnership and Adoption of Innovative Conservation Measures
3. Grant number: 109075
4. Grant amount (US dollars); 100,000 USD
5. Proposed dates of grant. July 2018-October 2019
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Rwanda
7. Date of preparation of this document: May 2018

A. Project background

Nyungwe National Park (NNP) was established in 2005 and is managed by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). This project is not increasing the present size or boundaries of the park and is not changing existing laws governing the management of the park and public access to it or its resources.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) started working in NNP in 1988 through the creation of Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project (PCFN). Since then, WCS has worked with an array of local, national, and international partners to advance the cause of conservation in Rwanda.

This project is a result of many years of working experience and partnership with RDB and communities around NNP. It is based essentially on the following studies and papers:

- NNP, (2016). Ranger Based Monitoring Report. Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda.
- NNP (2017). Ranger Based Monitoring Report. Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda
- Moore, J. F., Mulindahabi, F., Masozera, M. K., Nichols, J. D., Hines, J. E., Turikunkiko, E., & Oli, M. K. (2017). Are Ranger patrols effective in reducing poaching-related threats within protected areas? *Journal of Applied Ecology*.
- Plumptre et al., (1999). Biodiversity surveys of the Nyungwe Forest Reserve in S.W. Rwanda
- Rwanda Development Board, Nyungwe National Park Management Plan, 2012-2021
- Mugabo et al., (2017). Perceived Behavior and Attitudes of Communities Surrounding Nungwe National Park toward the Conservation of NNP, Rwanda, manuscript in process
- Salafsky, N., & Wollenberg, E. (2000). Linking livelihoods and conservation: a conceptual framework and scale for assessing the integration of human needs and biodiversity. *World development*, 28(8), 1421-1438.
- NISR, (2012). Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda

- Republic of Rwanda, (2013). Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy II: 2013-218
- Nyamasheke District Development Plan (2013-2018)
- WCS –RDB park management forum, planning, and community reports

Based on this foundation of information as well as consultations with project partners, 3 project areas were defined:

1. **Adoption of SMART system.** RDB prioritized a transition from MIST to Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to better manage RBM data in Rwandan national parks. The SMART system remains very effective and has been implemented in 600 sites in 55 countries, including WCS Africa program supported protected areas in East African countries (Uganda and Tanzania), and Republic Democratic of Congo. RDB has not yet transitioned MIST to SMART system in either NNP nor in other national parks because of financial restraints. With CEPF support, WCS plans to support this initiative to improve NNP management through the use of SMART. Comparing to the MIST, the SMART system will help: i) integrate threat and ecological data; (ii) integrate patrol data with intelligence gathered from a variety of different sources; (iii) provide a more complete picture of poaching and the people involved; (iv) provide an improved analysis and reporting of illegal activities and animal populations; and (v) ensure compatibility with a wide range of Global Position System (GPS) tools.
2. **Animal Monitoring in NNP.** Animal population monitoring is important to measure the success of conservation efforts in achieving conservation objectives. Over the last 20 years, RDB has focused on monitoring more conservation threats, assuming that threats reduction will improve animal conservation. However, the results from park-wide surveys (WCS, 2014) showed mixed success in conservation of animal species because some populations, such as the *Colobus angiogenesis* and *Cercopithecus mitis* showed decline in population. More recently, emphasis has been placed on monitoring animal populations with the objective of collecting information necessary to: (1) provide managers with information on the status of wildlife populations before deciding on the appropriate course of conservation action to take; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of management actions relative to stated objectives; and (3) learn about which actions lead to the success or failure of a particular conservation approach, in order to specifically inform and improve upon management practice in the future. WCS will support NNP training in animal population monitoring, and equipment necessary for collecting and analyzing sufficiently large amounts of high quality data on animal populations.
3. **Promote Alternative livelihoods.** Due to high poverty and limited livelihood alternatives, dependence on park resources is high in areas around protected areas of Rwanda and in NNP particularly. WCS, in partnership with RDB and local authorities, has initiated alternative livelihoods activities aiming to improve community livelihoods and park-community relationships. The project will promote alternative livelihoods in the Cyato sector of the Nyamesheke District, an area in which prevalence of illegal activities is high and poor households comprise 73% (2,631) of the total population in the sector.

B. Participatory implementation

WCS has established a unique and long-term partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), which is the main partner in the implementation of this project. RDB has expressed the need to transition from MIST to SMART to improve NNP management and the need of capacity of its staff to monitor animal population to be able to measure the success of conservation efforts in achieving conservation objectives. RDB has provided a letter of support to this project. RDB will oversee the implementation of this project toward meeting its needs and objectives.

With Nyamasheke district, a decentralized local government with a mandate of developing communities, WCS has discussed the possibility to extend the revolving fund in other sectors including Cyato. The district has given approval of the project and delivered a letter of support to WCS. The district is also a partner with RDB to improve NNP conservation. The Nyamasheke district will ensure that communities sustainably benefit from the project and improve their livelihoods, which will also contribute to the achievement of the districts' economic targets.

WCS and Réseau interdiocésain de microfinance (RIM), a local microfinance organization, whose mission is to contribute to poverty reduction (<http://www.rim.rw/>) signed an MOU in september 2017 for the implementations of the revolving fund around Nyungwe. WCS and RIM have regular meetings (monthly & quarterly) to discuss progress, challenges and future plans of the revolving fund program. In march 2018, during the revolving fund steering committee meeting in which RDB, RIM and WCS participate, the expansion of the revolving fund to other sectors was discussed and priority sectors which include Cyato sector agreed upon. RIM will be responsible of training of beneficiaries in financial literacy and project development which will results into individual sustainable livelihoods projects to be supported by the this project.

At the beginning of the project implementation WCS will meet with all partners to discuss the road map for project implementation and roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The project is not instituting new restrictions. Per the law, people entering the park or collecting park resources without permission are acting illegally. There are existing mechanisms under Rwandan law involving park authorities, local government representatives, police, and courts to resolve disputes and respond to people illegally entering the park.

This project is focused on “affected persons” from the following cells of Cyato sector bordering the park: Mutongo, Bisumo, Rugali. The project is designed to help the poorest households from

these cells who are likely to enter into the forest for resource collection. In other affected districts surrounding Nyungwe WCS and RDB promote/will promote livelihood alternatives with other sources of funding.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

RDB and WCS through their education and outreach program in place since 2008, regularly sensitize local communities on values of the park, the boundaries, and the rules/regulations/laws. The message is shared through locally elected Community Liaison Officers (called ANICO) who assist in park-communities conflicts resolution, Nyungwe radio program and social marketing events. Communities are not only informed about the laws/rules/regulations and sanctions related to park resources illegal uses, there are also encouraged to embrace sustainable livelihoods alternatives.

The project will respond to people caught impermissibly entering the park in varying ways depending on circumstances and per park regulations that are known to the community.

This project will engage the eligible cells in Cyato sector in a microfinance program through Village Savings and Loan Associations and provide inputs to livelihood activities that do not involve illegal use of park resources.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

If any dispute, controversy or grievance arises, affected persons, WCS, RDB, RIM and local authorities at sector level will first seek to resolve the dispute or address grievance through informal discussions. During induction and awareness meetings about the project, communities will be given contacts details of people from WCS, RDB park level to whom they can address their grievances and disputes. At these meetings, WCS will also tell stakeholders that if they are uncomfortable with approaching these parties, that they are free to approach the RIT, the CEPF Secretariat, or the local World Bank office. WCS will display a poster and use pamphlets directing stakeholders to these many paths in case they have a complaint

All such discussions are and will be confidential but documented and will be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations for purposes of applicable rules of evidence. If the dispute, controversy or claim cannot be resolved informally within 15 days, WCS and RDB will report them to Nyamasheke district for mediation.

In the event that no amicable agreement can be reached through the above mechanisms, the complainant or the defendant is free to take the case to the justice or court.

In any grievance mechanism: “WCS will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

Stakeholders will be advised to raise their complaints in the order listed below, but the information below will be available to all, and all will be advised that they are free to express their concerns to any of the parties below with whom they feel most comfortable.

Mutongo, Bisumo, Rugali respective ANICOs

RDB Community Conservation Warden; Jule Cesar Dushimimana. +250788629410

RDB Nyungwe Chief Park Warden: Pierre Ntihemuka. Tel: +250788317029

WCS Nyungwe Project Director : Mediatrice. mbana@wcs.org. +250788301641

WCS Rwanda Program Director: Anecto Kayitare. akayitare@wcs.org

CEPF Regional Implementation Team. Maaike.manten@birdlife.org. +254-20-2473259

CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org

World Bank Rwanda: rwndaalert@worldbank.org . +250 591-3300

F. Implementation Arrangements

Component	Stakeholders involved	Roles and responsibilities
Adoption SMART system	RDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible and lead of the SMART system adoption - Select park staff for training - Adoption of SMART system in NNP and in other protected areas
	WCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide trainings and required equipment for the SMART system - Monitoring and evaluation
	District, sector authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization of local communities to abandon illegal activities
	Local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperate with RDB, WCS, district and sector authorities to abandon illegal activities and adopt alternative livelihoods
Animal Monitoring	RDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible and lead of the project - Select staff for training

	WCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide trainings and required equipment for Animal Monitoring - Monitoring and evaluation
	District, sector authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization of local communities to abandon illegal activities
	Local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperate with RDB, WCS, district and sector authorities to abandon illegal activities and adopt alternative livelihoods
Livelihood alternatives	RDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible and lead of the project - Mobilization of beneficiaries - Identification of beneficiaries
	WCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization of project beneficiaries to adopt new livelihood measures - Identification of beneficiaries - Project implementation (purchase inputs/equipment.) - Monitoring and evaluation
	District, sector authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization of communities to reduce illegal activities and adopt new alternative livelihoods - Identification of beneficiaries
	Local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with WCS, RDB and sector and district authorities to identify beneficiaries - Work with WCS, RDB and RIM to identify alternative livelihoods - Work with WCS to purchase inputs or equipment - Manage the project and contribute to the revolving fund
	RIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train the project beneficiaries - Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation

WCS Country Director (Anecto Kayitare) and WCS Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project Director (Bana Mediatrice) will ensure project implementation as planned and will report to CEPF every 6 months.