

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)
Grant title: Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation at Bwindi-A Batwa Cultural Co-Management Approach
2. **Grant number:** CEPF 109068
3. **Grant amount (US dollars):** 101,374
4. **Proposed dates of grant:** 1 July 2018 – 31 October 2019
5. **Countries or territories where project will be undertaken:** Uganda
6. **Date of preparation of this document:** May 09, 2018
7. **Indigenous People affected:** *This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.*

1. Batwa

The project will be implemented in the southern sector of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park outside the protected area with 08 Batwa communities that border with Bwindi. These Batwa communities include; Nyabaremura, Higabiro, Kasheija, Kanyamahene, Bubaare, Rushaga, Byabitukuru and Nteko. We will focus more on Batwa who live in a zone of 4 km from the National Park boundary because most Batwa around Bwindi live in this zone and it is reported to have many incidences of illegal activities. There are about 60 Batwa households in totality that live in the mentioned communities with about 300 Batwa. The Batwa communities are small in size on an average of 5 households per community. The project leadership will work closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and more specifically the Community Conservation and tourism departments. We will also work with other stakeholders such as Nkuringo Cultural Centre, Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group and other key stakeholders that have previously worked with the Batwa.

The Batwa people are historically known as forest people and inhabited Bwindi, Mgahinga and Semuliki National Parks as their ancestral homes (Kabanankye & Willy, 1996; FFI, 2013). In 1991, the Batwa people were stopped from accessing these forests that were their main source of livelihoods and their homes. They currently live at the edge of the National Park and as squatters on community land or government land with a few households on land purchased to them by development agencies with no economic prospects and with abandonment by the National Government. Batwa were especially disadvantaged by the gazettement of Bwindi as the forest was the basis of their livelihoods and of practices that defined their ethnic identity. Batwa still look at Bwindi forest as their ancestral home and a source of their livelihood since no major alternative livelihood has been provided by the Government and other development

agencies. They feel they are not benefiting from the park and have not been engaged in the management (BSLP report, 2017).

8. Summary of the proposed project: *This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.*

This project proposes a (bottom up) cultural values approach to protected area management, as opposed to a traditional top down organogramic structure. The proposed approach will equip the Batwa (Bwindi Batwa Community Development Association), UWA, Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (UPCLG) and NCC to have a co-management and operational capacity and participate in Bwindi park management activities. A multi-stakeholder approach will be used during project design and implementation. The project will be implemented at Bwindi among the Batwa who live closer to the park boundary (within 4 km). Some of the project trainers are based in Mbarara which is within the South Western region where Bwindi is located. Some trainers will be sourced from Kampala, 1 trainer from United Kingdom and others from Bwindi region.

As part of preliminary activities, between January to February 2018, the lead contact Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko has involved various stakeholders such as Batwa leaders, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Nkuringo Cultural Centre and Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group on the proposal ideas to implement this project at Bwindi. This was achieved through community meetings with Batwa and face-to-face discussions with other actors. This has been focused at building the context of this intervention and creating ownership of the project as a sustainability mechanism. It has also aimed at assessing the existing co-management arrangements between UWA and the Batwa in the 8 communities where they live. I have specifically discussed with Batwa leaders led by Mr. Abudu Ricadi and Mr. Eric Tumuheirwe (see the attached letter of support dated April 15, 2018). The project team will further review key documents and build context for the project.

As a response to limited skills among the Batwa, the project team (led by Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko) will start with the drafting of a focused, innovative and a simple training manual between July 01 and September 30, 2018. The manual will cover various thematic areas such as; enterprise development, responsible tourism, research and leadership and negotiation skills. These are areas that link Batwa to taking up roles in the management of the Park but also are among the priority areas the Batwa would like to be involved in. The training manual will be piloted at Bwindi and revised to generate great results. The Batwa will be trained in the local language and using visual adult learning teaching aids and techniques. Various experts in the

identified thematic areas who have a community orientation and experience in adult training will be identified and recruited. These will supplement the project team (Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko, Prof. Nixon Kamukama, Dr. Arthur Mugisha and Mr. Peter Nizette and 3 additional trainers in tourism, sociology and forestry) that will also participate in the training. A Mutwa coordinator will help mobilise the Batwa for training. All training will be conducted at Bwindi and will be residential for all the trainers but the trainees will be residing in their homes.

In collaboration with UWA area warden, the lead contact will organize Batwa and form training groups with keen support from an international technical specialist (Peter Nizette) between September 01 and 30, 2018. MUST will organize capacity building and engagement meetings with Batwa communities and commence the training process. The training will take 3 cohorts; the first cohort will start in November 2018 to December 2018; the second in February to March 2019 and the last one in May 2019. At least 60 Batwa (35 men and 25 women) will be nominated by their communities basing on their ability and passion. They will be recruited and trained in the mentioned thematic areas. This will change Batwa mindset as well as their ability to engage and save their earned money. We will also integrate in 10 non-Batwa local natives (including 2 NCC leaders, 5 Local Council leaders and 3 UWA staff).

UWA (led by Mr. John Justice Tibesigwa) and Ms. Annah Amwikirize will organize cross-site visits between December 01, 2018 and June 30, 2019 to share experiences with other successful similar development processes in other Batwa or indigenous communities at Semuliki/Mgahinga (Uganda) and Masai in Kenya. The cross-site visits will coincide with the training cohorts.

In order to strengthen the BfE, between November 01, 2018 and end of January 2019, Prof. Nixon Kamukama assisted by two interns/field assistants will lead the component of developing the overall business plan that does not exist due to poor practices driven by emotion rather than demand orientation. This will include UWA, UPCLG, tour operators such as Let's Go Travel, Kazinga and Matooke safaris to give input from the demand side. We will do an analysis of the development needs of the Batwa to inform the business plan. A participatory approach will be used where the Batwa will be put at the centre of decision-making process to determine the course of the project ancestral focus in this suggested intervention and a gender analysis tool will be developed and used during project implementation. Consultation meetings will be held in Bwindi with the Batwa to integrate their needs in the business plan. The draft will then be shared, adopted and disseminated for use.

UWA and the project leader will also fix and buy some BfE equipment between October 01 and November 30 2018 such as Batwa Bark cloth, music instruments and dancing costumes. We will link with Kwetu Africa in Kampala (Mr. Saana Gateja) to get the relevant Batwa fabrics in order to create a good BfE presentation. Mr Saana is a finest Uganda artist that grew up and admired

the Batwa people while in Rwanda. In an attempt to create tourism awareness. Medard, Annah and John Justice will prepare brochures and organise radio talk shows at the local radio station-Voice of Kigezi in Kabale.

Together with the project leader and based on his position as former Head of UWA, Dr. Arthur Mugisha will facilitate the negotiations and negotiate access of potential resources that can be grown in the community. He will also engage UWA on other resource user rights for the Batwa in order to reduce pressure on Bwindi resources. Between May 01 and June 30 2018, we will also make consultations with the Batwa and relate to literature on vital cultural values and species that can be planted on Itambira as seed demonstration. Land has been identified at NCC where the demonstration seed nursery will be constructed beyond project duration. In May 2019, Arthur and Medard will present the draft resource user agreement to the UWA board for input and subsequent adoption. The meetings to revise and redesign the existing co-management arrangements will be held between May 01 and June 30, 2019. These meetings will be led by MUST and UWA. The meetings will be held at Bwindi involving Batwa and park leaders. These will eventually lead to user rights agreements that are expected to be signed by Batwa leaders (BBCDA) and UWA park managers in September 2019. This will lead to improved user rights agreements between authorities and Indigenous people for Bwindi.

In order to increase the participation of Batwa and in response to the need to have Batwa representatives, we will negotiate with UWA through one-one dialogue to have at least 2 Batwa (1 man and 1 women) as Batwa representatives. This will be done through;

- Round table discussion with key stakeholders (UWA and Batwa leaders) in October 2018 led by Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko, Dr. Arthur Mugisha and Mr. John Justice Tibesigwa.
- The Batwa will nominate potential Batwa leaders (through voting) who can ably represent Batwa interests on park management committees
- Focused meetings on resource user rights between UWA and the Batwa between May 01 to June 30, 2019 led by Dr. Arthur Mugisha and Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko.

Dr. Arthur Mugisha, Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko and Ms. Annah Amwikirize with support from interns will develop and print out communication materials between June and August 2019. These communication materials will be in form of leaflets, posters and brochures that talk about Batwa culture and their contribution to conservation. The materials will also include key messages in Batwa dialect and will visualize Batwa products. Batwa reading materials will also be a reference point for the Batwa generation to come. Two hundred school aged children (at least 100 Batwa children) will be educated on Batwa culture.

Between December 2018 and July 2019, Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko (MUST) and Dr. Arthur Mugisha (UPCLG) will organise and conduct information sharing and engagement workshops with local and Kampala based partner organizations during the life span of the project to increase engagement of stakeholders in Batwa issues and facilitate the project progress.

9. Potential impacts: *This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.*

There are no envisioned negative impacts in the short-term. This project will be training Batwa people in skills to better engage park authorities, in research skills, and in business and tourism. The project will strengthen the BfE to benefit, ultimately, the entire community. The project will also, if successful, **increase** Batwa rights to use of resources from inside Bwindi National Park.

In the long-term, poaching may be reduced, but at least per this project, will be due to Batwa voluntarily choosing not to poach, and be due to Batwa having increased legal access to resources from within the park.

The only envisioned negative outcome from this project is if possibly there is dispute over who gets to work in the BfE.

10. Participatory preparation: *This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.*

The principal investigator/lead contact operates in the area where the grant will be conducted. He already has an established level of acceptance and trust both among the Batwa communities, park officials and other key stakeholders in the area. The Batwa and all involved stakeholders have been notified and involved in the project design. In February and March 2018, we held six consultative meetings with Batwa leaders on developing this project and got consent of Batwa leaders who gave a letter of proposal support. In March 2018, we also held a meeting with staff of Uganda Wildlife Authority on the potentiality of this funding and the initial ideas that informed the letter of inquiry. A support letter to the grant was drafted and submitted to CEPF. The local organization Nkuringo Cultural Centre has already pledged support to enable a smooth ground of achieving the set targets. We have also generated consent from the Batwa in the submission of this proposal. Uganda Poverty and Conservation Group- a loose coalition of conservation organisations in Uganda has already been consulted to participate in the negotiations of Batwa resource user rights and take this on beyond the project time scope.

11. Mitigation strategies: *This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.*

1. We will use a bottom-up approach in selection of potential Batwa participants on the BfE and representatives on park committees. The Batwa will be engaged in their communities to nominate key people they think can best represent their culture and interests. We will avoid any level of bias or influence on who is selected to represent the Batwa. This will lead to project ownership and sustainability of the interventions.
2. The Batwa's level of education is still low. Most Batwa do not know how to read and write. This is a challenge when it comes to implementation of training programmes. The project has structured the training in a more friendly way to those adults who never went to school. We will use adult learning techniques such as show-cases, role plays and use of relevant teaching aids to make Batwa deeply understand the training concepts. During the negotiation meetings with UWA and other stakeholders, we will always recognize this inequity factor and apply an affirmative action during the negotiation processes.

12. Monitoring and evaluation: *This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.*

Batwa - The project leader (Medard Twinamatsiko) and Uganda Wildlife Authority senior warden-southern sector will be responsible for project implementation and monitoring. Batwa leaders will be visited monthly to ensure that the project targets and deliverables are met.

The Project Manager will undertake a follow up email with the Local Government representative to ensure the process has been managed smoothly and will report to CEPF any challenges the project faced in working to safeguards.

The project will request feedback from all field staff and provide 6 monthly progress reports on Safeguards to CEPF.

The progress results of the project will be presented in November 2018 at the Annual Research and Dissemination Conference to be held in Mbarara at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. The project team will receive feedback on the implementation process to inform subsequent targets and outputs.

13. Grievance mechanism:

All the information presented in this plan will be available in the appropriate language at Bwindi project office, MUST and UWA. MUST welcomes claims and comments from stakeholders and local community. During the all meetings that will be organized, MUST will inform local people and other stakeholders that they have right to raise a grievance at any time to MUST, Kisoro District or CEPF about any issue relating to the project. Before starting the project implementation, local communities will be informed of the objectives of the grant. They will be given telephone numbers and e-mails of contact persons at MUST, UWA and CEPF. This information will also be put on all education materials that will be produced during this project implementation including posters, brochures, and booklets. Contact information of the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director will be made publicly available in local language. MUST will respond to grievances raised by the communities' members and stakeholders in writing within 10 working days of receipt and communicated with CEPF within 15 days. Claims will be filed and considered in the project monitoring and reporting. Claims should be directed in the order below.

- Project Manager-MUST. mtwinamatsiko@must.ac.ug. +256 772 892 953
- Uganda Wildlife Authority-Senior Warden. jjitibesigwa@gmail.com. +256 772590018
- Regional Implementation Team. Maaike.manten@birdlife.org. +254-20-2473259
- CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- World Bank Uganda. Rwenzori House, Plo1, Lumumba Avenue/P.O. Box 4463 Lumumba Ave, Kampala, Uganda. +256 31 2221416