SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Kahuzi Biega National – DRC
Volcanoes National Park- RWANDA
Mgahinga National Park - UGANDA

Link between protected areas, communities and tourism
Tourism, Conservation and Community Development

• Protected areas need tourism, and tourism needs protected areas.

• Tourism is always a critical component to consider in the establishment and management of protected areas, and the development of communities around the protected areas.

• Gorilla tourism within the great lakes region has the potential for eradication of poverty, unemployment and development of community.

• Our sustainable tourism initiatives benefit the people of the community by the process of community development through tourism.

• Due to tourism locals now protect nature with all its ecosystems, habitats and species. (Supporting SDGs 15)
CHALLENGES

• Security for funding: Significant investment is required from the private and public sectors to facilitate major infrastructure development and upgrading existing facilities

• Shortage of trained workforce and inadequate training: Limited training facilities exists in the Virunga massif

• High taxation on the tourism industry, within the countries bordering the Virunga massif

• Local infrastructure problems

• Political instability, provoking displacements of peoples and decline to the populations of wildlife in the parks

• Human Wildlife conflicts and Poachers,
• Include sustainable tourism alternatives in all trips while visiting the gorillas so that the local community should also gain from tourism industry.
• Go green and limit over tourism for the benefit of conservation.
• Reduce your carbon footprint.
• Support responsible tourism options in within the great lakes region’s parks.
• Take care of heritage places and preservations of our local cultures which is showcased to visitors thus impacting social lives of the locals.
• Organizing workshops for stakeholders and policymakers to educate the locals on the advantages of conservation of the parks.
Conclusion

- Community Based Tourism Enterprises need emergency funding to overcome Covid19 pandemic crisis and to ensure that the positive economic and social development is seen.

- To minimize the negative effects of Covid-19, by funding social and wildlife projects within the local communities.

- Make grants available to community based tourism organisations, which must be used solely to pay local staff or support community projects.

THANK YOU