

BUNYORO TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BUTECOP)



MUHORRO TOWN COUNCIL KAGADI DISTRICT

Date: 10/10/2023

THE CHAIRPERSON LC. V
KAGADI DISTRICT
P.O BOX 39.

THRU:

THE NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICER
P.O BOX 39 – KAGADI
KAGADI DISTRICT.

“U”

Dear Sir.

**RE: PROGRESSIVE REPORT FOR BUNYORO TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BUTECOP)**

INTRODUCTION

Bunyoro tourism and environmental conservation program (BUTECOP) is a community based organization that strives for environmental conservation and rural development.

This organization started in 2011 by community members of Bunyoro with an aim of protecting both remaining community and Government forests and wetlands. The core call for this organization were: Climatic change resulting from deforestations and Wetland cultivation.

The hunting and killing of valuable animals which would even earn more income compared crop production from wetlands and forests for development. The destruction of historical sites, the migration of valuable birds , traditional medicines collected from forests, distortion of traditional culture and values all these fuelled the development of Bunyoro tourism and environment conservation program(BUTECOP).

This program is targeting to begin with communities of Kagadi district; particularly Muhorro town council , Muhorro , Bwikara , Rutete and Kabamba sub counties whose communities have lived with vulnerable

animals like Chimpanzees for decades in the small forests owned by individuals or families. The increase in the demand for land for cultivation has led to massive deforestation making the Chimpanzees homeless. This makes the animals to seek refuge in peoples Jack fruit trees, mango trees, etc. This increases the chances of these animals being killed by the local community because they feed on some specified crops like sugar canes ,jack fruits pineapples ,bananas etc. Apparently exebating the conflict between humans and the Chimps. Numerically the table represents numbers of chimps per village and sub county and their area of operation.

SUB COUNTY	PARISH/WARD	VILLAGE OF OPERATION	NO. OF CHIMPS	OTHER SUBCOUNTIES AFFECTED BY CHIMPS ACTIVITIES
MUHORRO TOWN COUNCIL	KARUSWIGA	KYAMAJAKA KARUSWIGA NYANZIGE	24	BWIKARA MUHORRO S/C KAGADI
	NYAMITI	KAHYORO NYAMITI	62	
KYENZIGE	NYABUHIKE	NYABUHIKE	15	KYANAISOKE MABALE
KASAMBYA	KAKAYO	KISOISORYA KAKAYO KIGANDO SIGOSEIRE	50	KIJANJU
NGUSE FOREST RESERVE	RUGASHARI	RUGASHARI	43	RUGASHARI PACWA KYANGWALE KABAMBA
BURORA			30	
KANGOMBE FOREST RESERVE	NYAKARONGO NYANSEKE KISURA KAMUKOLE	MABALE	N/A	MUHORRO S/C BWIKARA KYATEREKERA

More so, this program is targeting people who lived with chimps for decades `by providing them with alternatives of livelihood, supplying indigenous tree seedlings in order to rebuild the forests / homes of chimps and strongly encourage eco- tourism activities among community members.

This program is also more important as it plans to conserve the natural beauty for present and future generation. In the long run, the

program will mitigate the impacts of climatic changes which have resulted from deforestation and wetlands cultivation. In addition to the above the program is again important in that it will provide employment to both local and international persons

This program has to employ different approaches in order to mobilize both local and international communities in order to achieve its goal. The basic approaches include radio programs, Educational meetings and trainings, brochures for advertisements, coordination with other organizations and departments implementing related activities, voluntary community tree planting, development of campsites, development and adoption of new appropriate technologies aiming at conserving and protecting our environment

GENERAL ANALYSIS

Environmental degradation is one of the major climatic change variations caused mainly by soil erosion and deforestation. Which are influenced by topography factors and soil types. The run-off from rainfall is often heavily laden with silt thus polluting the water system.

In Bunyoro, farming and gardening has involved clearance of trees, burning and cultivation where the land is never allowed adequate period to fallow. Grazing and browsing of domestic animals in wetlands and forested areas, which influence regeneration negatively.

The un-planned human migration, settlement and poor land use practices have led to heavily degraded of land in Bunyoro. In addition to the forest destruction and general environment deterioration, there is also lack of future values related to natural forests in particular.

Again as a result of land abuse, animals like chimpanzees and birds are becoming homeless meaning that the dangers of hunting and killing of our valuable animals are high and others are also migrating to more dangerous places.

Therefore there is an urgent combined effort, skills from both local Non Government Organization and International Organizations, Local Governments and National level need to address and perhaps reserve some of the ecologically and economically unsound human activities with regard to forests and wetlands and land- use before catastrophic consequences befalls the region.

BUNYORO ECONOMICAL TOURISM POTENTIALS

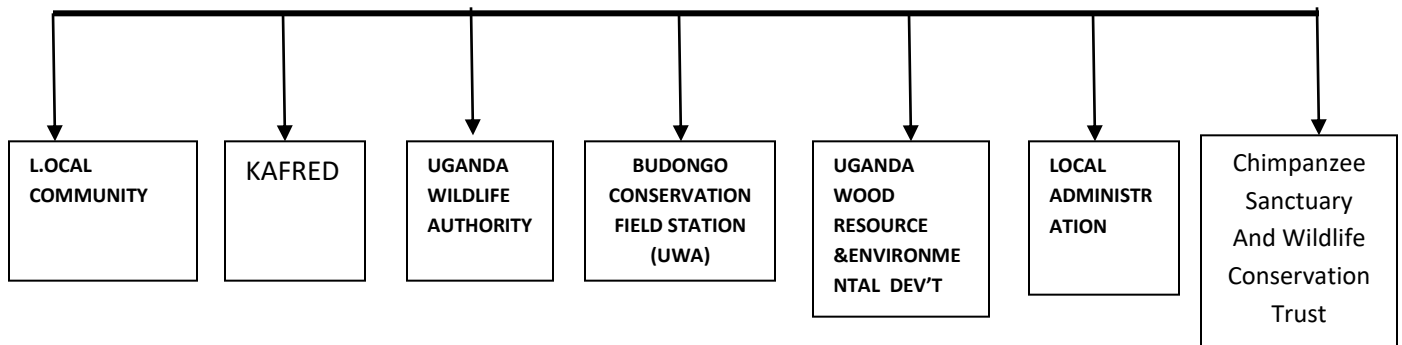
- ❖ Bunyoro region is blessed with a lot of natural resources economically potential for tourists attraction. Which will benefit both local, National and international communities in the long run when fully utilized. Among the natural resources include the following:-
- ❖ Most sub counties of Bunyoro region are blessed with chimpanzees. The Bunyoro Tourism and Environmental conservation program strongly believe that Bunyoro is likely to increase its revenue when chimpanzees are well conserved and ready for tourism activities.
- ❖ Bunyoro region is again gifted with different king palaces e.g The King Kabalega Rukira Basaija of bunyoro, Orubiri at Kyaterekera for Kabaka of Buganda Kingdom and its only Bunyoro Region where you can be able to visit Omukama Ruhanga Owobusobozi Palace (commonly known as a Healing City).
- ❖ Many cultures and cultural heritage sites are also found in Bunyoro region eg kaita Barogo in Kyenzige sub county, climbing rock Ruteete sub county (Mary Mother of Jesus), Ssemwema Carve Kakumiro, Rift Valley along lake Albert, Rivers Natural forests, traditional healers, dance and drama, black smith, basket weavers.
- ❖ Over 150 types of birds identified in this region eg papyrus Gonolek, kingfisher, great blue turaco, green blested pitta, African wood Owl among others suitable for tourism.
- ❖ Hippopotamus are also common in this region in both river Muzizi and lake Albert.
- ❖ Minerals of different types are common in Bunyoro for example oil and clay,

Objectives

1. To reduce environmental health hazards by protecting wetlands and forests.
2. To provide continuity of indigenous tree planting through the coordination of necessary organization / departments.
3. To foster preventive measures of wildlife hunting.
4. To provide alternatives of livelihood to community living along katyobona home of chimpanzees forests.
5. To sensitize communities on the importance of Tourism with the available natural resources.
6. To establish campsite, identify and develop other potential tourism sites.

Bunyoro tourism also partners with other institution to ensure the organization achieve the mission and bellow are the partners.

BUTECOP PARTNERS



The coordination of the above partners have played an important role in the establishment of this organization. Also several sensitization meetings have been conducted right from local communities and different local administration.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Bunyoro Tourism and Environmental Conservation Programm extends its appreciation to **Uganda Wildlife Authority** for the tremendous work and support given to the communities of Bunyoro more especially communities affected by chimpanzees on the following grounds.

Uganda Wildlife Authority (Kibale National Park) has played a great role in training both local communities and local leaders at different levels which actually has reduced the level of chimpanzees – human conflicts in different districts of Bunyoro e.g Kagadi, Kibaale Kabumiro e.t.c. this has again resulted to some communities form CBO's and clubs aiming at creating community awareness of natural resources.

The UWA opening up an outpost branch has also created a positive image towards the values of natural resources awareness majorly focusing on forests, wetlands, and chimpanzees- in the four districts (Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kibaale and Mubende) this further emphasizes the presence and values of chimpanzees in our region.

The provision of indigenous tree seedlings to local communities by UWA has really encouraged environmental conservation and the demand for more is high meaning that we can still restore some private forests.

Linkages, we also thank the presence and coordination UWA for linking BUTECOP to very important organizations for support for example Budongo Conservation Field Station, Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust – Uganda, Cross Cultural Foundation Uganda and even to districts Authorities. In this way BUTECOP has managed to realize some achievements listed below:-

Several Natural resources meetings conducted at local levels aiming at creating environment and wildlife awareness more especially in Human-chimpanzees community areas and a team chimpanzees sanctuary and wildlife conservation Trust from Ngamba Island.

On 29th 09, 2015, BUTECOP members were trained by the Natural Resources officer Kibaale District by the Names Balikudembe Luis at the Head Quarters gave them courage to stick to the objectives of the organization, this means that even some organization achievements are because of his training.

BUTECOP still thank Kibaale District through the forestry department under the leadership of Mzee Sam Mugenzi for working hand in hand on the radio program (KKCR) for availing with Airtime which is not easy to rise by this infant NGO.

Indigenous tree species have been planted by local communities supported by Uganda wildlife Authority (UWA) and more nursery beds for indigenous trees were raised in order to avail communities with seedlings for the purposes of environmental conservation and restoration.

18/07/2017, BUTECOP officially was linked to Government departments eg Uganda wildlife Authority, Budongo Field conservation station and Non Governmental Organizations like Chimpanzees sanctuary and wildlife conservation Trust in order to streamline its activities, technical support and guidance at Rwenzori Tours Kampala being facilitated by the Ministry of Tourism.

We do appreciate Dr. Assimwe Caroline of Budongo Field conservation station for coordination, courage and technical support.

05/2017, Dr. Assimwe Caroline of Budongo Field conservation station linked BUTECOP to attend a one day training in Global Forest Watch and monitoring in order to mitigate the level of deforestation in their operational area. The training took place in Hoima coordinated by Jane “Good all” Institute (JGI). Tools like Phones and T-shirts were also given to the trainee to be used during the duty execution.

15/05/2017 Cross-cultural foundation Uganda invited BUTECOP for the evaluation meeting held at Hoima Resort as one of the NGOs advocating for environmental conservation program.

12/Jul/2017 Cross-Cultural Foundation Uganda again invited BUTECOP for CCFU Research Report Launch at Fairway Hotel Kampala as their partner in cultural and environmental conservation.

10-11/10/2018. BUTECOP was officially introduced to both civil servants and politicians of Kagadi district and the way forward to conserving natural resources in the district. Guiding policies were also presented to members. The meeting was held in Kagadi Seyeya Courts. A continuous meeting was transferred to Tooro Resort Kabarole district the main purpose was to strengthen the NGOs working with environmental conservation program in Uganda, farming and ranching Guidelines policies were presented.

15/11/2017 A team of researchers contacted BUTECOP to guide them as they were conducting their research on chimpanzees living with communities of Muhorro Town Council- stressing the geneses of human- chimpanzee conflicts.

29/11/2018 - 30/11/2019 the Chimpanzee sanctuary and wildlife conservation Trust, launched sensitization meetings and seminars in Muhorro Town Council aiming at reducing the Human – Chimpanzees conflicts and they are likely to be with us for two – three years.

08/06/2018 A successful meeting was held at Muhorro Town council which left all Town council civil savants and politicians a reformed community towards attitudes of chimpanzees (formally they had a negative attitudes). Nowadays they are focusing on the potential benefits of wildlife conservation.

With the presence of BUTECOP a good number of tour Guides have been trained and more are still referred to KAFRED for the same.

Human- chimpanzee conflicts level reduced as result of sensitization meetings, seminars, consultative and field experience sharing at different levels.

Handcraft group of women trained from Bigodi community tourism Kamwenge.

The organization has 85 registered members from different parts of Bunyoro Region.

The renovation of BUTECOP head office is ongoing and the banders have been constructed at our head office Kayanja.

Radio program on Kagadi Kibaale Community Radio every Saturday is going on aiming at conserving nature.

Last year November, 2022, We hosted researchers from Sebitore researching on the relationship between Chimpanzees and human beings around Katyobona forest. We have not yet received their findings but they appreciated work done by both BUTECOP and UWA in our district Kagadi.

On 16th, May 2023 together with two UWA officers, we conducted a community meeting in Bugambaihe “A” village, Mairirwe Sub county. BUTECOP members, traditional healers and traditional birth attendants, attended in big number. The Chief Guest was VICE Chairperson LC. III Miss. **JANE MUSHEMERE**

7TH Agust 2019 Bunyoro Tourism and Environmental Conservation Programme applied for partnership with UWA for technical support and other relavant information that we strongly believe the smith running of our organization.

And we also managed to partner with ROBUST PHYTOLAB INNOVATION UGANDA the trains persons in various skills like herbal medicine, poultry, bee keeping etc. which are currently stationed at our office (BUTECOP). So far 16 individuals have acquired different skills from different innovations.



**COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION IN BUGAMBAIHE “A” VILLAGE
ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION MAIRIRWE SUB**

We put in place UWA office on the same building with BUTECOP Office located in Kitooro Cell, Muhorro Town Council, Kabonero street. The two offices (UWA and BUTECOP offices) have helped to attend community members who have conflicts with Chimpazees and making arrangements to pay their medical bills.

On 18th June, 2023 we held a sensitization meeting in Nyambeho Village, Muhorro sub county together with UWA officer Sgt. Amanyire Wilson on how to restore the corridor which were formerly linking chimpanzees to Kangombe forest reserve (Katyobona / Kyamajaka to Kangombe)



COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION IN NYAMBEHO VILLAGE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, NYAMACUMU PARISH, MUHORRO SUB COUNTY

BUTECOP also started a Community SACCO known as “Wildlife and Environmental Conservation SACCO”

We have also conducted a radio talk on Radio KKCR every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m sensitizing the community on how to Conserve wildlife and environmen



BUTECOP HERBALISTS MEMBERS SHERING EXPERIENCES AT PRIMATES CENTRE IN BUGAMBAIHE “A” VILLAGE MAIRIRWE SUB COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Since the launch of environmental restoration Campaign by Mzee Lee many trees of different types in different sub counties in Bunyoro region have been planted as indicated in the table below.



planted

01	Mbaziira Tom	10,0000	Nyankubebe Kyabayaga	Nyamasa Kisuurs Nyamukara	Bwikara Bwikara mpeefu
02	Kanyangoga Charles	10000	Kayanja Bugambaihe	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
03	Nkuranga Geofry	1000	Kayanja Bugambaihe	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
04	Balisigara Maliko	20	Kayanja	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
05	Ngabirano Lawrence	300	Nyamanga	Nyamanga	Muhorro Town council
06	Tuhaise John Ssalongo	300	Kamajaka	Karuswiga	Muhorro T.Council
07	Mugabi Nelson	5	Kyakajwiga	Nyamacumu	Muhorro Subcounty
08	Omuhereza Nyensi	400	Kyamajaka	Kyamajaka	Muhorro T. Council
09	Mwirumubi	100	Nyakabale	Nyamasa	Bwikara
10	Ssenjovu karoli	40	Nyabuhike		Kyenzige
11	Kirokimu Omuhereza	50	Nyabuhike		Kyenzige
12	Birakurara Francis	50	Nyamiti	Nyamiti	Muhorro T. Council
13	Byamukama Laurensio	40	Nyamiti	Nyamiti	Muhorro T, Council
14	Kahwa Anna	45	Karuswiga East	Karuswiga	Muhorro T, Council
15	Kadoma Robert	4	Nyanzige	Karuswiga	Muhorro T. Council
16	Ndiyo Teofry	300	Kayanja	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
17	Bugambaihe Catholic Church	600	Bugambaihe	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
18	Mugisa Selvastor	200	Kayanja	Mairirwe	Mairirwe
19	Rwahwire Omuhereza	100	Kayanja	Mairirwe	Maireirwe
20	Mzee Bosco	3	Songalao	Kitebere	Ndaiga
21	Omuhereza Kahwa	300			Mpeefu Ya Sande
22	Omukwenda Biing	3000	Nyakabale Kanyara	Nyamasa Kamusegu	Bwikara
23	Omuhereza	4	Kyakajwiga	Nyanseke	Muhorro T.

Additionally, some members have also enrolled for Bree Keeping project. This project helps members not to cut down pre mature forests. Some farmers/ members include Ngabirano Lawrence, Kanyangoga Charles Mbaziira Tom, Mzee Mafitizi and others.



PHOTO SHOWING BEE KEEPING BUTECOP PROJECT



BUNYORO TOURISM & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE IN MUHORRO T/C

Challenges

- Limited market for indigenous species on our nursery bed established.
- Lack of BUTECOP Website to enhance information sharing and marketing
- Lack of facilitation for chimpanzees monitors.
- Delayed Tourism activities which makes community members not value the chimpanzees existence hence accaraletes the Human –chimpanzees conflicts.
- Lack of transport BUTECOP 's operational is actually wide compared to some members owned old motorcycles makes difficulty and constantly respond to

the communities experiencing chimpanzees activities and even sometime we plan to move with UWA staff but we do fail to participate.

- Lack of finance for BUTECOP Sign Posts and Brochure development has hindered the flow of information hence making it difficult to allocate the organization.
- BUTECOP lacks finance resources to equip them with the required office equipments e.g computer system , tables ,chairs etc.
- We do some hostile community members during chimpanzee monitoring activity since the boundaries are not yet established.
- BUTECOP do lack posters during sensitization meetings and other training manuals and materials which makes work more difficult.
- There is a need to always organize study Tours that involves community members for experience sharing on how people live harmony with chimpanzees and even the importance of environmental conservation.

Recommendations

- More market is needed for indigenous trees
- Support for Website development
- Number of chimpanzee monitors increased
- Quick means of transport is needed
- Sign posts re-innovation

- Permanent establishment of chimpanzees sanctuary for easy monitoring and security of the three parties that is communities, chimpanzee monitors and chimpanzees
- Sensitization materials eg projectors, training manuals eg flip charts, books etc.
- A well designed budget for study tours
- Establishment of Environmental Conservation Education Centre Based in Muhorro or any other area within Bunyoro region. And the name shall be called Bunyoro Tourism and Environmental Conservation Educational Center.
- Sustainable Nursery beds for Indigenous tree species to ensure constant seedlings supply to the communities in different parts or districts in Bunyoro region for easy access
- BUTECOP Camp Site development in different areas and districts will also increase accommodations of tourists as people have different interest/product to view. This is because different districts are gifted differently.

CHALLENGES

- Much effort, resources and time have been devoted for educational meetings and seminars in different areas / places about conserving natural resources but our major challenge remain that we want to conserve the chimps and other important valuable animals which are living in private / individual forests. This delays the progress of the environmental conservation activities.
- The continuous forests encroachment on Government Forest reserves i.e. Nguse, Kangombe for example has led the very important animals to disappear and others takes refuge to private forests where they face problems of hunters. Animals in Kangombe forest reserve include chimps, Hippos, elephants and even birds of different types.
- Continuous Wetlands and forests are being destroyed in names of private forests in search for settlement, cultivation and charcoal has

accelerated the weather variation in the same region this means that our future will not favour the economic development and settlement.

- Hunters are still harassing wildlife for meat and leisure causing other animals migrating to dangerous places. And this is the real genesis of human – Chimpanzee conflicts in Muhorro town council.
- The organization has never received any financial support from Government and non Governmental organization. This has delayed the progress of natural resources conservation, and even people / communities may not see the value of the program to their children and household development. If the organization gates support from the above then it will be in position of attaining – acquiring land where animals stays in the names of private forests and wetlands, organization means of communication for natural resources monitoring, office equipments and campsite development.
- Lack of facilitation to carry out Organization activities.
- Hostile Community members who want to harass Chimpanzees.
- Delayed or inadequate compensation for community members who are affected by Chimpanzees.
- Lack of Uniforms like Organization T-shirts for community identification during workshops and Chimpanzee monitoring.
- Human wildlife conflict still exist in communities.
- Inadequate man power to travel with UWA personnel and also motivate them with some fringe benefits.

Compiled by,

Approved by,

.....
**MBAZIIRA TOM
SECRETARY**

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**REV. FR.BONIFACE BAMANYA
CHAIRPERSON**