



**Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Plan (VMGP)
for the Batwa around the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park**

**UNDER THE PROJECT “Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development
(P170466)”**

**Prepared by the Ministry of Water and Environment and Uganda Wildlife Authority
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ACRONYMS

AICM	African International Christian Ministry
BINP	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
BMCT	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CRM	Collaborative Resource Management
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIP	Forestry Investment Programme
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GoU	Government of Uganda
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IFPA-CD	Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGNP	Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
MUST	Mbarara University of Science and Technology
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
PA	Protected Area
PROBICOU	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SNP	Semuliki National Park
TSP	Technical Service Provider
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VG	Vulnerable Groups
VMGF	Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework
VMGPs	Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Plans
VMGs	Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WB	World Bank
WRs	Wildlife Reserves

1.0 Introduction

The Government of Uganda (GoU) is implementing the “Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project”. The project is financed by the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank and GoU. The implementation of the project is led by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), and the National Forestry Authority (NFA). The development objective of the project is "to improve sustainable management of forests and protected areas and increase benefits to communities from forests in target landscapes". One of the targeted landscapes is the Albertine rift of which the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) forms a significant part.

During project preparation, the MWE, jointly with UWA and NFA, prepared and disclosed the project specific Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework (VMGF)¹ and the Process Framework (PF).² The VMGF and PF were prepared to meet the requirements of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) under the Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7) on Indigenous Peoples / Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities and ESS5 on Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement respectively.

The PF was prepared to guide project implementation in case it caused restrictions of access to resources in Protected Areas. It established a participatory process for determining appropriate use restrictions and measures to address adverse impacts on livelihoods that may result from such restrictions.

The VMGF provides guidance to the implementing agency on addressing the needs of **distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural groups** which possess the following characteristics, as defined by ESS7: (i) *self-identification as members of a distinct cultural group*; (ii) *collective attachment to geographically distinct -habitats or ancestral territories*; (iii) *customary cultural, economic or social institutions that are separate from those of the rest of the society*; and (iv) *an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region*. The Batwa around the Bwindi is such a group that meets these criteria in the IFPA-CD Project area. The purpose of the VMGF is to guide the preparation and implementation of Project interventions that may affect VMGs in the proposed project areas.

The VMGF and PF recognize the importance of rights and interests of the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMGs) / the Batwa and call for their effective engagement in the design, determination and implementation of the project. It is further advised that the level of engagement of the VMGs should be proportionate to the scope and scale of potential project risks and impacts that may affect them.

Both VMGF and PF draw on the use of existing participatory forest management mechanisms used by the NFA and UWA. Community participatory management models for managing protected areas, which are being promoted by the NFA and UWA, include all categories of community members.

¹<https://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/Vulnerable%20and%20Marginalized%20Groups%20Framework%20-VMGF%20for%20Uganda.pdf>

²<https://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/UG%20P170466%20Process%20Framework%20for%20disclosure.pdf>

Existing community forest co-management models

- (i) *Collaborative Forest Management (CFM)* - This is an arrangement that is provided for in the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003. By definition, “It is a mutually beneficial arrangement in which a forest user group and a responsible body share role, responsibilities, rights and returns (benefits) in a forest reserve or part of it.” To date, there are over 320 CFM groups in CFRs that are formally established or are in the process of being established.
- (ii) *Collaborative Resources Management (CRM)* - This is an arrangement of management in protected areas managed by UWA. It is based on the result of a negotiated process, whereby protected area management shares benefits, costs, decision-making authority and responsibilities, rights and roles in the management of wildlife resources with local communities and other stakeholders. UWA started establishing CRMs in the 1990s with an objective of increasing support for conservation.

The VMGF highlights the need to develop separate VMGPs for each Target Protected Area that is located in areas inhabited by groups identified as possessing the above characteristics, namely the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP), Echuya Central Forest Reserve (CFR), the Semuliki National Park (SNP) and the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP). This is, therefore, a specific VMGP for the BINP.

The project has four components with subcomponents as summarised in Table 1 below. Components 1 and 2 include activities in Target Protected Areas which are the focus of the VMGF and this VMGP.

Table 1. Project Components and Activities applicable to Target Protected Areas

Components/sub-components	Activities	Project Targeted Areas
Component 1: Investments to improve the management of forest protected areas.	Focus on improving the management of government-owned forest and wildlife protected areas to ensure they can continue to generate revenues and provide important environmental services. Provide support to seven National Parks, four Wildlife Reserves, and up to 28 Central Forest Reserves (CFRs). Implementation led by the NFA and UWA.	
	Summary of activities: Improve management of high biodiversity values of forests and for generating jobs and revenues that can help sustain their conservation and increase benefits to local communities.	
Sub-component 1.1: Improvement of infrastructure and equipment for the management of forest protected areas	Implemented by UWA and NFA	
	Activities include: (i) Provide investments in: (a) grading and maintenance of tracks and trails within protected areas to improve access for park management; (b) boundary planning (including community consultations) and demarcation (using boundary markers); (c) infrastructure (such as gates and fences); (d) equipment and community-oriented activities to manage human-wildlife (e.g. trenches, fences); (e) investments in staff ranger housing; (f) communications; (g) vehicles and equipment and; (h) management plan revisions and updates.	BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR

Sub-component 1.2: <i>Increasing the involvement of local communities in the management of forest and wildlife areas by increasing their access and benefits from these areas.</i>	Implemented by UWA and NFA	
	Activities include:	
	Technical assistance packages and training aimed at developing the skills at community level to actively participate and benefit from the management of forest and wildlife resources. The technical assistance packages will include targeted support for women to empower them to participate and take leadership roles in natural resources management. At field level, support will be provided for community engagement in the management of forest resources within protected areas. This will include establishment of collaborative resource management groups, collaborative forest management groups and support of livelihood activities with existing groups.	BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
Sub-component 1.3: <i>Restoration of degraded natural forests and habitats in wildlife and forest protected areas.</i>	Implemented by UWA and NFA	
	Activities include:	
	Restoration through natural regeneration (based on enclosure of areas) and, where needed, enrichment planting, including through engaging and employing local communities.	Not Applicable to BINP, MGNP, SNP & Echuya CFR
Sub-component 1.4: <i>Increased forest protection in CFRs and Wildlife Reserves (WRs) in close proximity to refugee settlements</i>	Implemented by UWA and NFA	
	Activities include:	
	At a small number of locations (e.g. at Bugoma Central Forest Reserve and Katonga Wildlife Reserve), deployment of additional resources to improve protected area management where there are site-specific threats to high value forest assets, either as a direct result of refugee incursion or indirectly by the added commercial demand for forest products arising from their presence.	Not Applicable to BINP, MGNP, SNP & Echuya CFR
	UWA and NFA to engage local communities in resource management efforts, including forest restoration, and strengthen enforcement efforts to better-protect remaining natural forests in these protected areas. Project supported activities include: (a) community livelihood activities (such as beekeeping and wild mushroom growing); (b) removal of invasive species; (c) forest restoration; (d) improvements for basic protected area management (communication and other equipment, vehicles, ranger posts, essential infrastructure); (e) improvements for wildfire management (fire observation towers and equipment); and (f) boundary demarcation.	BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
Component 2: Investments to increase revenues and jobs from forests and wildlife protected areas		
Increase revenues and jobs from these forest and wildlife protected areas through targeted investments in tourism and productive forestry		

Summary of activities: Increase the economic contribution of forests through boosting revenue generation and job creation and strengthening incentives for improved forest management. Investment in tourism infrastructure to achieve continued development of nature-based tourism, and in addition, investments to increase forest industry-based jobs and incomes. Targeted information campaign to narrow the gender gap in the forestry sector, support to women entrepreneurs and women-led producer organizations.

Subcomponent 2.1: Investments in tourism	Implemented by UWA and NFA	
	Activities include:	
	tourist reception, information and interpretive facilities in identified protected areas	BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
Infrastructure for new (or improving existing) tourist products and activities.		

Subcomponent 2.2: Investments in productive forestry	Implemented by the MWE.	
	Activities include:	
	Investments to further increase plantation area to reach a critical mass that can meet the demands of the local and regional market	Not applicable in BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
Investments to support processing and utilization of forest products to produce higher value wood products.		

Component 3: Improved tree cover, forest management and landscape resilience on private and customary land, including refugee hosting areas.

Encourage establishment of greater tree cover in refugee-hosting landscapes outside protected areas, supporting sustainable forest management and landscape resilience on private and customary land.

Summary of activities: Activities to be led by the MWE. This is to enhance the productivity of the landscape through improved tree cover, forest management and landscape resilience on private and customary land, including in refugee hosting areas. Support channeled through specialist service providers to work closely with District Local Governments (DLGs) to build capacity and facilitate implementation of agroforestry, small-holder plantation investments, and community forestry. The project will also support an on-farm wood fuels production scheme that will supply wood fuel to target refugee settlements. Activities to be carried out in host communities in refugee hosting districts.

Districts selected are: in Albert Rift (Hoima, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kamwenge, Kibaale, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa) and West Nile (Adjumani, Amuru, Arua, Koboko, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Obongi, and Yumbe).

Subcomponent 3.1: Increased tree cover on community land in refugee-hosting areas	Activities include:	
	Development of intensive, mixed-use agro forestry systems on household plots, with a strong orientation towards multi-purpose woody species that can provide fruit, fodder, fencing, fuel, shade, and also fix nitrogen, in intensive, multi-layered systems suitable for small areas.	Not applicable in BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
	Support for woodlots on private land. These will enhance the supply of timber, poles, fuel, and other plantation products with seedlings supply from the private nursery network to provide context-appropriate planting material and an extension support mechanism.	
Enhanced management and protection of natural forests on customary, leasehold and freehold land, through support to establishment of community forests and implementation of activities within them		

	Development and promulgation of Community Forest Regulations, through a consultative process that builds on existing guidelines and experiences, working with legal experts and GoU to secure assent and ensure dissemination and awareness-raising	
	Support for district local governments through capacity building, provision of basic support packages of office equipment, for mobility and operational costs.	
Subcomponent 3.2: Supporting farm forestry for refugee fuel supply	The project will, therefore, set up a program to purchase fuel wood from communities and supply it to refugees. This will simultaneously stimulate farm forestry, provide an energy lifeline to the refugees, and reduce pressure on natural woodlands.	Not applicable in BINP, MGNP, SNP, Echuya CFR
Component 4: Project management support		
Support to overall project management and forest monitoring.		MWE
Summary of activities: Support project management support activities to ensure cost-efficient, timely, and quality delivery of project activities and results.		
Support for fiduciary management aspects, including procurement and financial management safeguards, social inclusion and gender competency development including a project gender strategy/action, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting.		

1.1 Purpose of the VMGP

This VMGP has been prepared as a practical tool to guide the implementation of IFPA-CD project interventions that may affect the Batwa around BINP. The purpose of this VMGP is to document the identified specific actions that have been agreed with the affected Batwa as measures for avoiding, minimizing or compensating for potential negative social and economic impacts on them. This includes appropriate ways of engaging the Batwa to benefit from the project. The measures are described in the form of a management plan with specified responsibilities and timelines to ensure that implementation can be monitored throughout the project life cycle. The VMGP, therefore, highlights actions and strategies that will ensure that the Batwa³ living around BINP participate in, and equitably benefit from the project.

The Plan recognizes the cultural heritage of VMGs / Batwa as one of the key conservation values. This VMGP is also aligned with strategies and actions prioritized in the BINP General Management Plan 2014–2024⁴ which seeks to address specific concerns of the Batwa. These include the following:

- Working with the Batwa, take an inventory of all medicinal plants for further research and mapping
- Involve the Batwa in establishing herbal demonstration sites outside the park
- Together with the Batwa, Identify and map out earlier spiritual Batwa sites in the park
- Negotiate/collaborate with stakeholders to access Batwa cultural priority sites
- Identify and establish a centre in the park for Batwa forest experience demonstration as a tourism product

³ The Batwa are one of the recognised VMGs in Uganda that meet the criteria of the World Bank’s ESS7 description of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities. Some of them live on the fringes of and derive their livelihoods from BINP.

⁴ Section 7.7 On Cultural Values.

- Use forest experienced Batwa in tourism guiding
- Support Batwa elders to train young ones with the intention of passing on their forest experience
- Organize and train Batwa groups on identification and management of livelihood improvement projects
- Establish Batwa Conservation education dramas
- Work with other institutions to fundraise for the Batwa dance improvement.

The specific activities for the Batwa proposed in this VMGP for BINP will, therefore, supplement the management prescriptions already included in the General Management Plan for BINP.

1.2 Description of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park (BINP)

The BINP was originally established as the Bwindi (Impenetrable) Forest Reserve in 1932. Later it was established as a Gorilla Sanctuary by General Notice No. 584 of 1961 and amended by Legal Notice No. 53 of 1962, Legal Notice No. 567 of 1962 and Statutory Instrument No. 10 of 1964 (Protected Area System Plan for Uganda Vol. 4, 1999). The Impenetrable Forest came under National Park status by resolution of the National Resistance Council of 13th August 1991 and became known as BINP under Statutory Instrument Supplement No.3 of 1992.

BINP, which covers 321sq.km, is one of the few large expanses of forests on the African continent of the Afromontane forest vegetation type, where lowland and montane vegetation communities meet. It forms a significant part of the great Albertine Rift ecosystem and is known for its Pleistocene refuge characteristics that make it an extremely high bio-diversity spot⁵. As a home to half of the world's Mountain Gorilla population, it is also the only area in the world that hosts both the highly endangered and globally significant Mountain Gorilla and the Chimpanzee in the same habitat. With minimal human disturbance, coupled with community benefits arising out of ecotourism, the conservation of the endangered mountain gorilla and other unique biodiversity of the site is enhanced. It is also an Important Bird Area (IBA) and, at the same time, a World Heritage site.

The park is zoned into four zones: the tourism zone, wilderness zone (strict conservation zone), administration zone, and the collaborative management zone (where community members are allowed access under permission from UWA, as per below).

Permitted Activities in the collaborative management zone

- Resource harvesting where appropriate as per collaborative management agreements
- Research, monitoring, and Park operations
- Accompanied visitor use
- Visitor information and interpretative services
- Fire management activities
- Small scale garbage disposal sites for garbage originating from works permitted in the zone

Permitted Facilities/Infrastructure in the collaborative management zone

- Approved structures/facilities in support of research, monitoring, and Park operations
- Improved trails and bridges

⁵ Uganda Wildlife Authority, The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, General Management Plan 2014-2024

- Latrines and approved garbage disposal sites
- Structures to facilitate cultural tourism initiatives supported by community residents

Prohibited Activities in the collaborative management zone:

- Unaccompanied visitor use, either on a day or overnight basis
- Resource harvesting without approval under a collaborative management agreement
- Agricultural encroachment and settlements
- Timber harvesting
- Grazing and charcoal burning

Prohibited Facilities/Infrastructure in the collaborative management zone:

- Permanent/year-round structures in support of resource harvesting

During consultations⁶, the Batwa demonstrated their awareness of these restrictions. Through better engagement of the Batwa in CRM and provision of livelihoods support, the project is expected to have positive impacts especially if the Batwa are supported to engage in implementing activities that are not restricted in BINP. The Wildlife Act (2019), Section 29 provides for wildlife resource use rights under which the general public can benefit from wildlife. In line with this, the GoU has continued to promote participatory management of wildlife resources as a way of involving the communities around BINP.

⁶ Consultation meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/2022, Consultative meeting by the consultant with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 in Buhooma Visitor Centre, Consultative meeting with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 and Buhooma Visitor Centre, Rushaga on 21/6/2022.

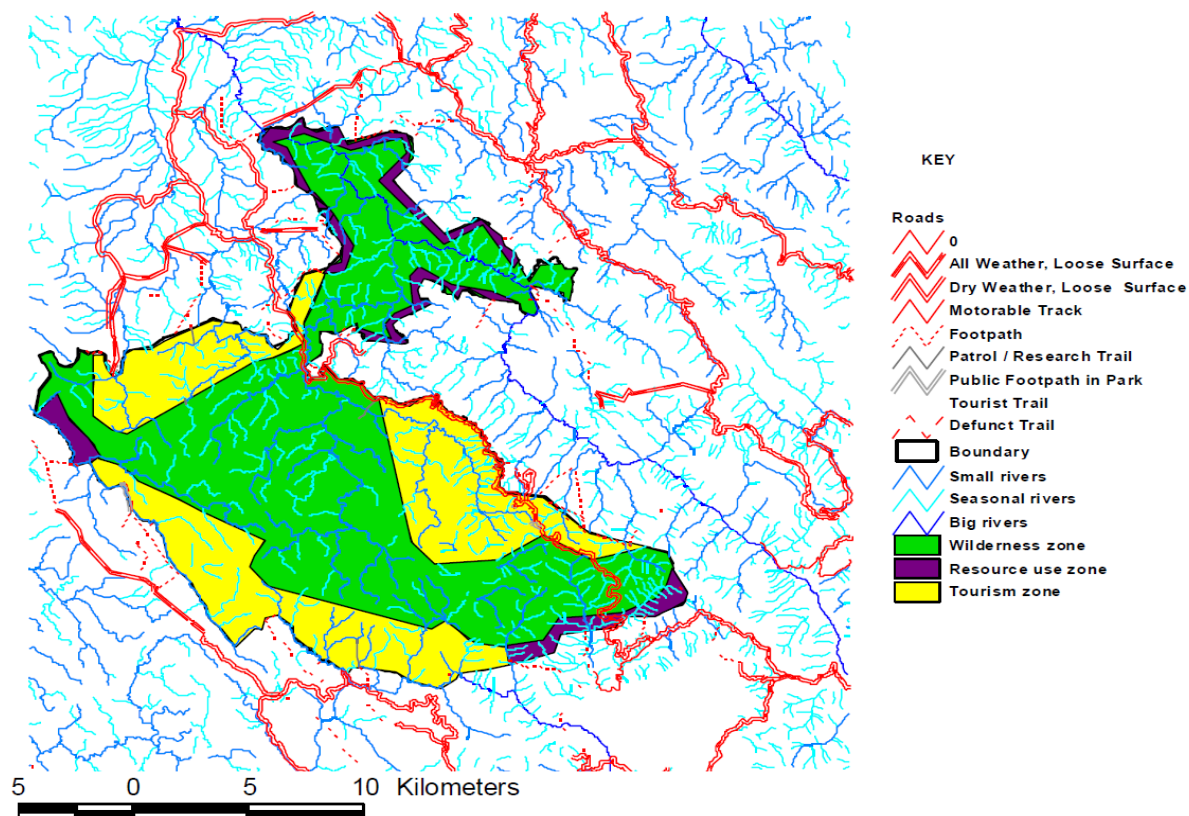


Figure 1. Map of BINP with Zoning

1.3 Existing community engagement / benefits

1.3.1 Collaborative Resource Management

According to the BINP General Management Plan 2014– 2024, in the **collaborative management zone** the management priority is to conserve the Park values through an integrated approach encompassing protection, education, restoration and community conservation approaches. Regulated harvesting of biophysical resources in a sustainable manner by community residents is allowed in agreed resource-use areas but only through negotiated collaborative management agreements. Collaborative management agreements clearly define the resources to be used, the resource user community for each agreement and the agreed resource-use area for that community, together with the agreed control and monitoring mechanisms. The zone is confined within 2 km distance from the park boundary where there are no tourism activities.

In BINP the CRM program has been implemented for 18 years and has registered reasonable success in improving park-community relations and community livelihoods. Although these communities are not majorly Batwa communities, some of the Batwa are members of these community associations that have established CRM arrangements with UWA. So far, fourteen parishes in BINP are benefiting from the program, where they are allowed to harvest forest resources such as firewood, handicraft materials (*Smilax auceps* and *Gouania longispicata*), medicinal plants and some have placed beehives in the park, all in a controlled arrangement. However, there is demand to involve more communities in this arrangement. Communities of Rutugunda and Kaara have expressed demand for firewood, while those of Kiyebe and Kinaba would like to have access to tree seeds. Bamboo is highly demanded by the Kashasha community for production of handicrafts.

According to the existing CRM arrangement, monitoring of resource off-take is supposed to be done by the resource users and park staff. This is clearly indicated in the agreement signed by both parties, but, unfortunately, this has not been followed. Only park staff and a few resource users do the monitoring. The majority of the resource users have not participated in monitoring resource offtake and other activities in the integrated resource use zone especially in the beekeeping areas of Nyamabale, Kashasha, Mushanje, Kiyebe, and Kitojo. Their participation has been challenged by limited understanding and appreciation of the roles of members of CRM institutions. This could be improved by strengthening the capacity of these CRM groups during review of existing Agreements and also during negotiation of new agreements.

Table 2. Showing current resource use agreements between Communities and BINP⁷

No	Location Parish	Resources accessed	Date of establishment
1	Nyamabare	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants Bee keeping	2010
2	Kaara	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants <i>Beekeeping</i>	2010
3	Kashasha	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants <i>Bee keeping</i>	2010
4	Mushanje	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings <i>Bee keeping</i>	2010
5	Kitojo	Bee keeping	2010
6	Kiyebe	Bee Keeping	2010
7	Mpungu	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants	2009
8	Karangara	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants	2009
9	Rutugunda	Craft materials, seeds, seedlings, medicinal plants	2009

The BINP General Management Plan 2014-2024 recognizes the role of the Batwa and the need to involve them specifically in the park management. The management plan has a specific output: ***Marginalized communities especially the Batwa involved in selected park programs.*** Through consultations with Batwa and review of the General Management Plan for BINP, specific cultural values have been identified and their importance in resource conservation is highlighted as shown in table 3 below, extracted from the General Management Plan. These cultural values have been confirmed through the consultation meetings with the Batwa and key stakeholders in June 2022 around BINP as part of preparation of this VMGP.

Table 3. Cultural Values of the Batwa and their importance in the Management of BINP

⁷ These are Resource Agreements presented in the Bwindi Forest National Park General Management Plan 2014-2024. Some the Batwa are members of these Collaborative Resource Arrangements.

	Cultural values	Importance in BINP management
1	Beliefs/Indigenous-local knowledge about medicinal herbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of resources • Respect for park resources in terms of human health improvement
2	Spiritual beliefs and practices	•Valuing the park as a home and thus motivation for protection
3	Tourism trails/Batwa forest experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified tourism products • Gainful engagement of the Batwa as tour guides, porters etc. •Promoting and preserving the Batwa culture and way of life as a tourism product
4	Batwa Music Dance and Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conservation Communication strategy and awareness raising • Empowering the Batwa community through generation of income

Source. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, General Management Plan 2014-2024

1.3.2 UWA's Revenue Sharing Scheme

In order to support its community conservation objectives and secure more support from the local communities, UWA has a long-standing revenue-sharing scheme. Under this scheme, 20 percent of all gate fee proceeds and a portion of the revenue from gorilla trekking permits are remitted for implementation of community projects in the sub-counties adjacent to the boundaries of the protected areas. Implementation of the project is done through the district local government; selection of subprojects that would benefit the communities is done by the communities themselves. Some examples of such community subprojects include local health clinics, schools, and so on.

1.4 The Batwa around BINP

The Batwa are former forest dwellers that lived as hunter-gatherers in most of the forested areas occupying the Great Lakes region, particularly in southwestern Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Lewis, 2000; Beswick 2011). They are typically of short stature, are traditionally hunters, and they love ancestral dancing, especially the Rutwa dance. During their forest habitation, they used to wear hides and skins. They exhibited social cohesion. Culturally, they pay a dowry in the form of sheep, goats, and honey. They have limited intermarriages with other members of the community. The Batwa currently live around Protected Areas in the Districts of Rubanda, Kisoro, Kanungu, and Bundibugyo.

As of 2014, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics estimates that there are approximately 6,700 Batwa people in Uganda, comprising 0.2% of the country's population.

In BINP, the Batwa occupy a number of frontline communities and settlements in the districts of Kisoro and Kanungu. Table 4 presents the list of Batwa communities around BINP.

Table 4: Batwa communities and settlements around BINP

Sector	District	Community	Parish	Sub county
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		/Settlement		
Southern Sector of BINP	Kisoro	Kanyamahene	Rubuguri	Kirundo
		Rushaaga	Rubuguri	Kirundo
		Byabitukuru	Rubuguri	Kirundo
		Nyabaremura	Rubuguri	Kirundo
		Bubale	Kirundo	Kirundo
		Kashaija	Rubuguri	Kirundo
		Mukungu	Nyundo	Nyundo
		Sanuriro	Nteeko	Nyabwishenya
Northern Sector of BINP	Kanungu	Bikuuto	Southern Ward	Butogota Town council
		Kebiremu	Eastern Ward	Butogota Town council
		Kihembe	Kihembe	Kanyantorogo Sub-county
		Byumba	Bujengwe	Kayonza Sub county
		Rurangara	Bujengwe	Kayonza Sub-county
		Kitariro	Rutugunda	Kirima Sub county
		Mukongoro	Central Ward	Buhoma Town council
		Karehe	Southern Ward	Buhoma Town council
		Buhoma	Central ward	Buhoma Town council
		Kitahurira	Buremba	Mpungu sub county

Source: Field Data

(a) Social – Economic organization

Similar to other communities in Uganda, men are traditionally the bread winners among the Batwa. During the early 1990ies, the Batwa were evicted from BINP to pave way for conservation. While the forest was the main source of the Batwa livelihood, there was no deliberate government resettlement plan at the time. In addition, there was no alternative land provided to the Batwa outside the conservation area. As such, lack of land increasingly became a key component of Batwa’s progressive marginalization and vulnerability. During the Batwa consultative meeting held in Rubuguri on 20th June 2022, it was observed that following the unplanned displacement, Batwa communities have depended on the work of NGOs who coordinate and support their livelihoods, with little or inadequate consultation of and involvement from the Batwa⁸.

“Kwiha obu batubinga omwihamba, Ebitongore nibyo bitweire nibituyamba burikimwe. Obwiire obwingi tibarikutwebuuzaho kumanya ebiritukwenda, kwonka ahabwokugira ngu titwiine kyokukora ni’twakiira burikimwe ekibaatuha”

“Since our displacement, we have continued to depend on the support from NGOs for livelihood, and in most cases these NGOs just come and implement projects according to their plans. We do not provide input in developing these projects, but, because we have no alternative, we have to accept whatever they provide to us”

A comment from a female Batwa Leader, during the Batwa consultative meeting in Rubuguri on 20th June, 2022.

Accordingly, through submissions from participants of a consultative meeting with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, and Buhoma on 22/6/2022⁹, it was revealed that

⁸ Batwa consultative meeting organized and Facilitated by the Consultant on 20/6/22 in Rubuguri Town council Kisoro District.

⁹ Consultation meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/2022.

the eviction from the forest dispossessed the Batwa of almost all their land rights. Most of the Batwa who own land have obtained it from support by NGOs, but even then, the few that have land do not enjoy the security of tenure. As a consequence of their eviction and subsequent loss of their forest-based livelihoods, the majority of the Batwa live destitute lives and suffer severe isolation, discrimination, and socio-political exclusion¹⁰. As such, they continue to live a life of neglect, begging for food and working as a source of cheap labor. Accordingly, during the consultative meetings held with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 in Buhooma Visitor Centre ¹¹ it was observed that most illegal activities such as poaching, wild honey collection, hunting and gathering within BINP, are often blamed on the Batwa by park by forest managers. This was also in line with the earlier observations made by Batwa leaders during consultative meetings in Buhoma and Rushaaga on 17th June 2021¹². In these meetings, it was also highlighted that, that Batwa's customary rights to the forest lands have not been recognized within Uganda and they have not been compensated for the loss of their lands and the resultant lifestyle (hunter-gatherers) since their eviction from the forest.¹³

(b) Batwa Population in Bwindi

According to the Batwa Population Census by Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT), carried out in 2016, there are a total of 578 Households of Batwa in both Kisoro and Kanungu Districts, with a total population of 2,656 people. Of these 1293 are Males, while 1363 are females. The average household size among the Batwa is 5 people and 68.8% of the Batwa are below 25 years. **Table 5: Population of Batwa in Kisoro and Kanungu Districts**

District	Number of House Holds	Males	Females	Total
Kisoro	413	908	972	1,880
Kanungu	165	385	391	776
Total	578	1,293	1,363	2,656

However, during the consultations undertaken during preparation of this VMGP with key stakeholders and leaders of the Batwa from different frontline communities/Batwa settlements¹⁴, around the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, the following population estimates were provided.

Table 6. Population Estimates for the Batwa frontline communities/settlements around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

District	Batwa Settlement	Sex		Total	Number of House holds	Average Household size
		Males	Female			
Kanungu (Nothern Sector of Bwindi)	Bikuuto	44	45	89	15	5.9
	Buhoma	4	6	10	3	3.3
	Byumba	68	69	137	21	6.5
	Karehe	20	23	43	10	4.3

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Consultative meeting by the consultant with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 in Buhooma Visitor Centre.

¹² One meeting was held at the offices of Bwindi Batwa Development Association (BBDA), and this was attended by selected leaders of the Batwa, while the other was organized in an open space in Rushaaga.

¹³ Consultative meeting with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 and Buhooma Visitor Centre, Rushaga on 21/6/2022.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Impenetrable Forest National Park)	Kebiremu	50	32	82	24	3.4
	Kihembe	46	45	91	24	3.8
	Kitahurira	27	43	70	10	7.0
	Kitariro	68	71	139	21	6.6
	Mukongoro	57	59	116	21	5.5
	Rurangara	24	28	52	13	4.0
	Byumba	7	5	12	3	4.0
	Total	415	426	841	165	
Kisoro (Sothorn Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park)	Bubale	20	22	42	10	4.2
	Kanyamahe	6	7	13	3	4.3
	Kashija	18	21	39	8	4.9
	Mukungu	90	90	180	35	5.1
	Nyabaremura	13	17	30	7	4.3
	Rushaga	38	42	80	16	5.0
	Ryabitukuru	22	28	50	12	4.2
	Sanuriro	61	67	128	21	6.1
	Total	268	294	562	112	

Source: Field Data

According to the table 4 above, out of the total population of Batwa in Kisoro and Kanungu (2,656) the project will directly involve a total of 1,403 (863 Males and 720 females) members of the Batwa community, while the remaining 1,253 will benefit indirectly. Of the 1,403 direct beneficiaries, 841 members shall come from the Northern Sector, while 562 shall be from the Southern sector of BINP. The indirect beneficiaries (1,253) live in settlements that are not listed in table 4 above because they do not border the national park.

It should be noted that, from the meeting with the Batwa held in Buhoma visitor centre on 22/6/2022, one male leader highlighted that the estimated total population of Batwa living in communities around Bwindi in Kanungu is 841¹⁵ which is higher than 776, the number reported by BMCT in 2016. This creates an impression that the population of the Batwa in Kanungu has increased, or the variation could be resulting from the migration of the Batwa from one district to the other.

For Kisoro District, according to the key stakeholder consultation meeting held in Rubuguri in June 2022, there are only 562 members of Batwa living in the Southern Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park although BMCT had reported a total of 1,880 in the whole district. It should, however, be noted that, other than the Batwa living near BINP, there are other settlements of Batwa in Kisoro District, especially in areas around Echuya CFR, MGNP, and other areas such as Kisoro Town.

It should also be noted that, given the need to understand the exact numbers of the population of the Batwa, these numbers will be updated based on the results of the upcoming 2023 National Population and Housing Census for Uganda undertaken by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

¹⁵ This population excludes the Batwa living in settlements that are not neighbouring the Park.

(c) Batwa Culture

Evidence from literature¹⁶ indicates that the Batwa had a unique culture largely associated with their hunter and gatherer lifestyle prior to 1991. A study done by Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) further reports that the Batwa were born and lived in the forests with most of them tracing their origin in Bwindi (MUST, 2020). According to the same study, more than one in three Batwa still identified themselves with the forest as their origin. Accordingly, some Batwa still go to the forests for spiritual and medicinal purposes under the arrangement of CRM with UWA¹⁷.

Traditionally, the Batwa had places set aside for burial and sendoff rituals associated with the last funeral rites. For example, burial sites were usually deep in the forests near big trees and the dead were buried standing upright. Traditionally, the Batwa worshiped, venerated, sacrificed, and offered appeasement gifts to their “god” in special places. However, when they were driven out from the forest, their cultural practice of worshipping ancestors was greatly interfered with, as they have restricted access to the forest. Like most traditional patriarchal communities, Batwa men were responsible for protecting their families and property, while the production of food and raising the children remained a role for the women. On the other hand, men were free to use their money and resources as they wished. The Batwa believe that they were created to be kings (*batware*) of the area¹⁸. Originally, the men were hunters, and the women were involved in ceramics. To be recognized as a man, one would first trap or kill an animal. Men would collect medicinal herbs to administer to male children, while women gathered these for themselves and their children. Men were responsible for providing fire (*gushingata*) and were also expected to be warriors.

A key element of the Batwa culture is their language. According to MUST 2020, about one-third of the the Batwa identified Orutwa (Rutwa) as their native language, although only a few old aged Batwa can still speak it. Evidence from the consultative meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/2022 also indicated that most of the Batwa can no longer speak Orutwa language as they have continuously adopted other languages spoken by the dominant communities within which they live. As seen in the consultative meetings,¹⁹ most Batwa are able to speak Rukiga and Kifumbira. Unfortunately, the Rutwa language (also known as Orutwa) is at risk of getting extinct in the community, as the language is not written and not promoted. For example, there is no local radio station in the area that uses/broadcasts its programs in Rutwa language.

(d) Land Ownership, Access, and Utilization

As a result of discrimination, marginalization, lack of land, and inadequate access to social, economic, and political opportunities and services, most Batwa around BINP live a destitute life. Before 1991 many Batwa did not have the concept of land ownership since they did not settle permanently in one place, as they moved from place to place hunting small game and collecting plants, fruits and medicines. During the community meetings with the Batwa during preparation of this plan held in Rushaga in June 2022, it was noted that some NGOs, such as BMCT, have purchased land for some Batwa households, while other Batwa remain landless. However, Batwa’s desire for hunting, medicinal plants, and religious

¹⁶ Fauna and Flora (2013), Batwa cultural values in Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, Uganda. A report of a cultural assessment, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (2020).

¹⁷ Mbarara University of Science and Technology (2020), The marginalization of the Batwa people of Southwestern Uganda, as an indigenous community, Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (2016) Batwa Population Census Report.

¹⁸ Interview with Gad Shemajere, A mutwa Leader, held on 18th June 2021, in Kisoro District.

¹⁹ Consultation meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/2022, Consultative meeting by the consultant with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 in Buhooma Visitor Centre, Consultative meeting with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 and Buhooma Visitor Centre, Rushaga on 21/6/2022.

rituals in the forests cannot simply be erased three decades after their evictions. They have continued to live with their desire to access forest resources.

A study conducted by MUST in 2020²⁰ found that the majority of Batwa Households do not own land. Most of the Batwa who owned land acquired it through the assistance of NGOs, most of this land was not registered, and some Batwa did not even have a sale agreement for the land they claimed was theirs. In a related study by BMCT (2016), 28 of the 74 members of the Batwa interviewed (38%) revealed to have benefitted from Trust land. Most of them live on communal land, with temporary shelters made of mud. Many of the Batwa sleep in the same room with children and visitors. It was also reported during the consultations with key stakeholders in Ruburi Town council on 20th June, 2022 that some Batwa who have no house at all have resorted to sleeping on verandas of shops in trading centers. During community Consultations²¹, most Batwa believed that land ownership, access, and utilization would be the answer to almost all their development challenges.

(e) Education

Batwa communities in Uganda are have poor education levels. Many studies have alluded to the fact that more than half of Batwa have no formal education at all²². Of those who have managed to acquire some education, there are more males than females. In a study by BMCT (2016) involving 74 respondents it was also observed that only 3% of the Batwa around Bwindi have achieved at least secondary-level education. The consultation meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/22 revealed that poverty, negative attitudes towards education, and discriminatory acts were the key leading causes of the low educational attainment among the Batwa. For example, during the meetings with Batwa in Kanungu (Consultation meetings held with the Batwa in Buhoma on 22/6/2022), it was observed that the children of other tribes such as the Bakiga do not want to associate with Batwa children in school, and it is common to insult Batwa children with negative comments. The pupils of other tribes do not usually share school materials freely with others. According to the Population Census carried out by BMCT (2016) among 171 Batwa members, the Batwa who have never attained any formal education in Kisoro accounted for 57.7%, while those who attained tertiary level of education - 0.4%. It was also noted that women constituted a bigger percentage of the Batwa who had never attained any formal education.

i) **Poverty:** Despite increased access to free education under the Universal Primary Education Program (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE), feedback from community consultations indicated that lack of educational materials like stationery and school uniforms contributed to poor educational attainment among the Batwa. More importantly, they do not have access to food at school and neither is it readily available at home and in the communities. Most Batwa do not have enough land to cultivate and even those who have are reported to be reluctant to adopt new culture of cultivation. Some of them end up renting out the land to other people, and they remain casual laborers in other people's gardens.

ii) **Negative attitudes towards education:** It was also observed that most Batwa still have a low interest in education and do not acknowledge the benefit of education. This is partly because the Batwa were not used to the mainstream system of education and, therefore, are not familiar with it, since their traditional system in the forest involved elders passing on their knowledge informally to the younger generation, orally and in practice.

²⁰ Mbarara University of Science and Technology (2020), The marginalization of the Batwa people of Southwestern Uganda, as an indigenous community.

²¹ Consultations between Batwa communities and the Consultant in June 2021, in Rubuguri and Rushaga, Kisoro District.

²² Mbarara University of Science and Technology (2020), The marginalization of the Batwa people of Southwestern Uganda, as an indigenous community, Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (2016) Batwa Population Census Report.

- iii) Despite disciplinary actions against learners by parents and authorities, most children do not obey and prefer to stay out of school.

“Our children do not like schooling; in many instances, they have been given books and other scholastic materials by non-governmental organizations and other well wishers. But when they leave home going to school, they end up loitering in trading centres and resort to begging.” (Feedback from the female Batwa leader during a Meeting with Batwa Leaders in Rubuguri, Southern Sector of BINP Kisoro District on 20/6/2022).

- iv) **Discriminatory acts against the Batwa at school:** There were reports of discriminatory acts against Batwa students, which affected their learning experiences.

“Yes, there are schools. We have schools in this area such as Iryaruvumba Primary school, and the Batwa children are allowed to join them, but the challenge is that when they reach there, sometimes they are not treated well just like others and because of that, they do not study very well. Because of that, they do not take education very seriously.” (Male key informant from Rubuguri Kisoro, District on 20/6/2022).

(f) Health and Wellbeing

During the consultative meetings with key stakeholders working on Batwa Issues, it was reported that, apart from the government aided universal access to health, NGOs and civil society have been at the forefront of Batwa health and wellbeing. It was also reported that the Batwa communities have the poorest health. This is also in line with findings of a number of studies (MUST (2020), BMCT (2016) which also raised concerns about the health of the Batwa. For example, in a study involving 322 Batwa around Bwindi, it was noted that 39% smoke, while 57.2% take alcohol. Of those who take alcohol, there are more men than women. More than 13% of those who take alcohol drink on a daily basis. In Batwa settlements/communities around BINP the reported HIV prevalence was 5.9%, with a higher rate among females than males. Regarding maternal health services, only 38% of the Batwa attend antenatal care. It has also been reported that only 50% of Batwa women have their delivery at a health facility. Only 37% of the Batwa have previously reported to have ever used a family-planning method. Only 32% of the Batwa children around BINP complete routine immunization schedule for children under 5 years. It was also observed that only one in five Batwa households had a latrine at their residence. During the field visit done by the team preparing this VMGP in June 2022 in Rushaga and Rubuguri, it was observed that cooking is carried out either in open spaces or in the rooms where they sleep.

Concerning gender-based violence (GBV), at least 1 in every 4 Batwa experience GBV in a period of just one month. This violence is largely perpetuated by spouses and is highly associated with increased abuse of alcohol and poverty²³. At least 30% of the Batwa in the area have reported physical violence. Most of the Batwa women have reported sexual, economic and emotional violence. GBV is further exacerbated by a myth that sleeping with a female Mutwa (*Mutwakwazi*) cures HIV/AIDS as well as back pain.

A number of community-based organizations and NGOs have programs in support of the Batwa (see below).

²³ Feedback from consultations with the Batwa in Rushaga in Bwindi held on 21/6/22.

Table 7: Community Based Organizations and NGOs and Other institutions working with and led by the Batwa around BINP

No	Organization	Location /District
1	Nkuringo Cultural Centre (NCC)	Kisoro
2	Bwindi Batwa Development Association (BBDA),	Kisoro
3	Batwa Development Organization	Kanungu and Kisoro
4	Batwa Indigenous Development Organization	Kisoro
5	United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)	Kisoro
6	Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous People in Uganda (CSCIP-U)	Kisoro, Kanungu
7	Batwa Indigenous Empowerment Program	Kisoro
8	Action for Batwa Empowerment Group	Kanungu
9	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICO)	Kisoro, Kanungu
10	Batwa Empowerment Village	Kanungu
11	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)	Kanungu, Kisoro
12	Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)	Kisoro Kanungu
13	International Gorilla conservation program (IGCP)	Kanungu, Kisoro
14	Gorilla Organisation (GO)	Kanungu, Kisoro
15	Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC)	Kanungu, Kisoro
16	United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)	Kisoro, Kanungu
17	Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)	Kanungu, Kisoro

2.0 VMGP Development Process and Approach

This VMGP was developed through a series of consultative engagements and also builds on the information gathered during project preparation, during preparation of the VMGF and the PF, as well as the specific engagements with the indigenous peoples that were undertaken as part of Uganda’s REDD+ Readiness process. The consultations that pre-date 2021 are reflected in the VMGF.

There were two stages of consultations specific to the development of this VMGP.

2.1 Structure of the Consultations

This VMGP has been developed with inclusive and systematic participation of the Batwa and local level stakeholders, including UWA, Kisoro and Kanungu District Local Governments, representatives from NGOs working around issues of Batwa and conservation of BINP. The target communities had previously been consulted during the development of Uganda’s REDD+ Program and during the development of the VMGF in March 2020. In every engagement (key informant interviews, focus group discussions) the consultations, therefore, are built on the same process and started by providing feedback on the status of the project and outcomes of the previous consultation process. The key aspects of the VMGF were highlighted and the participants were reminded of the key issues and aspects discussed during the previous consultations. Some of these issues include:

- The need to ensure that VMGs in general and their organizations/local leaders are not excluded by any means in activities of planning, selection, design, and implementation processes of the IFPA-CD project;

- Developing arrangements to channel benefits directly to Batwa, including initiation of a system whereby the IFPA-CD benefits could directly flow to the community level without going through a very bureaucratic process, which does not effectively respond to their unique needs. They proposed that setting up a special fund targeted to the Batwa themselves would increase the benefits directly within their communities.
- Strengthening Collaborative Resource access and management arrangements - across all the groups (Currently, the main resource access mechanism is CRM in BINP which is co-managed with UWA). Proposals were made to initiate investments aiming at strengthening organized Batwa groups and associations through skills development for production of high-quality craft products, bee keeping, and confidence building initiatives for the adult Batwa, so as to benefit more from the project.
- Ensuring coordinated interventions to address the needs of the Batwa to achieve conservation and development objectives and to promote culturally sensitive activities that promote/protect Batwa culture and norms.
- The need for government to effectively communicate and explain its policies and demonstrate how the marginalized Batwa communities would benefit from the legislative and policy provisions. For example, leveraging revenue sharing and tourism development for the long-term sustainability of VGMs engagement.
- Designing and implementing activities that consider the need for integrating conservation-friendly cultural values of the Batwa people into Protected Area management planning. Such an approach would not only be beneficial for conservation but will also be a good avenue to empower and enforce affirmative action, which can also spill over into education and employment skills based on indigenous knowledge.
- Creating and providing gender balanced employment opportunities such as tour guides, porters, boundary management, etc.

(a) Phase 1 of Consultations (June 2021)

The consultations were held in two phases. The First phase of consultations with leaders of Batwa was held in June 2021. These consultations were held when Uganda was under lockdown as part of government measures to counter the spread of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The consultative meetings, therefore, had to take into consideration the COVID-19 circumstances. Since public gatherings were banned, the consultation process relied on a few methods such as:- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), one-on-one physical discussions, within the recommended Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) of not more than 5 people organized within the framework of SOPs, and virtual or telephone interviews with the leaders of the Batwa. The interviews were conducted in the local languages of Rukiga, Kifumbira/Kinyarwanda that the Batwa around BINP speak. The team preparing the VMGP was already conversant with these languages. There was also a deliberate effort to ensure that the FGDs were organized in open spaces to avoid gathering and crowding.

In the Southern Sector of BINP, two FGDs were held on the 17th of June, 2021. One meeting was held at the offices of Bwindi Batwa Development Association (BBDA), and this was attended by selected leaders of the Batwa, while the other was organized in an open space in Rushaaga. The focus group meetings and the KIIs attracted a total of 15 participants who were mainly leaders of the Batwa. The consultations for the Batwa living in the Northern Sector of BINP were done on the phone. In total, the consultations reached out to 30 people. As a result, a draft VMGP was prepared. The review of this draft report, however, identified some gaps, majorly resulting from limited scope and methods used in

consultations due to COVID-19 restrictions. For example, the use of methods such as telephone interviews was not very appropriate given the cultural context of the Batwa. Such methods did not only limit the way the Batwa expressed themselves, but they were also challenging due to the limited number of the Batwa that own telephones. As such, the consultations were limited to only selected leaders of the Batwa.

The World Bank mission held in Kampala in early 2022 recommended the need for more consultations in order to (a) reach more stakeholders and more members of the Batwa in the project area, (b) involve more stakeholders such as the National NGOs working on the issues of Batwa, and (c) generate more site-specific baseline information.

(b) Phase II of consultations (June 2022)

There were dedicated consultative meetings held with the Batwa and/or Batwa representative groups in communities around BINP after the lifting of the COVID 19 restrictions. A total of 4 consultative meetings were held with the Batwa as summarized in the table below. The goal of consulting the Batwa who reside around BINP and depend on it for their livelihood was to learn about their concerns and preferences regarding the design and proposed implementation of the IFPA-CD project to give them equitable access to project benefits and minimize any unfavorable outcomes for the Batwa. Their opinions and the issues they presented have informed the finalization of this VMGP.

Table 8: Summary of consultations meetings with Batwa

	BINP Sector	Batwa Settlement villages represented in a consultative meeting	Venue of the Meeting	Date of the Meeting	No. of Participants
1	Southern sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park ²⁴	Nyabaremura, Mukungu Byabitukuru, Rubuguri, Kashaija	Rubuguri Town Council	20/6/2022	44
		Kanyamahene, Rushaaga, Bubale	Rushaga	20/6/22	40
		Sanuriro Settlement, Nteko	Sanuriro	21/6/22	43
2	Northern Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park	Bikuuto, Buhoma, Byumba, Karehe, Kebiremu, Kihembe, Kitahurira, Kitariro, Mukongoro, Rurangara, Byumba	Buhoma Visitor centre	22/6/22	40
Total Number of People					167

During these meetings, the participants were guided to prioritize activities and to rank impacts through an impact identification exercise. This was arrived at by making summaries of issues from the consultative reports²⁵. For the Batwa, consultations were conducted in vernacular to enable them to get a clear understanding of the project objectives, investments and implementation arrangements as well as to ensure active participation. Prior to holding these meetings, a communication was made to the Batwa by a telephone call, through their NGO representatives with message highlighting the

²⁴ A total of 3 meetings with the Batwa were organized in the Southern Sector of Bwindi alone.

²⁵ Specific area issues, needs and aspirations are already presented in specific Protected Area Reports and Annexed to the project VMGF document.

objectives for the consultations, consultation process, venue and intended outcome/outputs from the consultation meetings. During physical meetings the agenda below was followed:

Agenda of the consultation meetings held from 20th to 22nd June, 2022

Session 1: Introduction

1. Opening Prayer
2. Communication from a leader of Batwa
3. Remarks from District Local Government Authority

Session 2: Objectives of the meeting and Expectations

4. Presentation about the Project (objectives, investment in the PA/locality, implementation arrangements).
Presentation on likely project impacts of IFPA-CD project on Batwa and measures for mitigating identified impacts; Potential IFPA-CD project benefits to Batwa and implementation and financing arrangements to deliver these benefits; and Opportunities and mechanisms for uplifting Batwa participation in governance of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
5. Discussion and feedback
6. Closing



*Consultative meeting with the Batwa in **Buhoma UWA** Visitor centre on 22/6/22*



Consultative meeting with the Batwa at Sanuriro, Nteko Kisoro District Southern Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, 21/6/22

The VMGP is structured under guidance of the key components suggested under Chapter Six of the VMGF for IFPA-CD Project, and, as such, during the consultative meetings held on 20th, 21st and 22nd June, 2022 the Batwa from communities living around and obtaining livelihood from BINP were able to identify area-specific issues and actions to inform not only the development of VMGP but also generated **proposals to strengthen VMGP implementation**, as highlighted in the following sub-sections-

- The Batwa groups and community-based organisations around BINP are still weak in terms of capacity and much is needed to strengthen their capacity and organisation.
- There are still challenges in distribution of benefits, because the Batwa do not benefit as much as others from most development activities.
- Access to land for the Batwa continues to be a problem (There should be special effort to look for windows of acquiring more land for the Batwa).
- Livelihood continues to be a challenge; and, thus, there is a need to initiate income generation activities for the Batwa and also build their capacity in crafts making.
- The government of Uganda has never studied the issue of resettling Batwa; there needs to be a detailed study.
- The Batwa also need to be considered in Revenue Sharing; they are usually left out by the District Local Governments.
- The participation of the Batwa in the CRM groups is still minimal, and in most cases they still do not participate in decision making and leadership positions.

The Batwa highlighted that the IFPA-CD project should support the following management actions

- Institute incentives mechanisms for communities whose actions contribute towards reduced illegal activities such as awareness raising and sensitization.
- Negotiate and sign new CRM groups for Batwa and or increase membership of the Batwa in the current CRM membership.
- Involve the members of the Batwa in demarcation of park boundaries and boundary management by carrying out consultations and inviting their leaders to participate in actual demarcation.

- Build the capacity of CRM groups to ensure compliance with the MOUs by emphasizing specific roles and obligations of either party.
- Provide for participation of Batwa Cultural leaders in taking an inventory of all medicinal plants in BINP.
- Support the Batwa in establishing herbal demonstration sites outside BINP park,
- Provide for participation of Batwa Elders in Identifying and mapping out earlier spiritual Batwa sites in BINP.
- Include access to Batwa cultural priority sites in CRM agreements as one of the resources.
- Contribute to the maintenance costs of the existing Batwa forest experience trails tourism products.
- Recruit Batwa youth and build their capacity in tour guiding and tourism.
- Support Batwa elders to train young ones with the intention of passing on their forest indigenous knowledge and experience to future generations.
- Organize and train and build the capacity of leaders of Batwa-led NGOs and Groups in identification and management of livelihood improvement projects.
- Support Batwa music, dance and drama.
- Provide access to indigenous tree seedlings and support the Batwa to establish nursery beds to enhance income generation.
- Strengthen collaborations between UWA and other organizations both local and national such as Nkuringo Cultural Centre, Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICO), MUST, Bwindi Batwa Development Organization, and other partners to manage the Batwa Forest Experience trail.
- UWA should support specialized training on conservation for organized groups and develop their institutional capacity in proposal fundraising as well as extending support in the form of office equipment- computers etc. The organizations working with and led by the Batwa are summarized in table 6 table below:

Table 9: Community Based Organizations and NGOs and Other institutions working with and led by the Batwa around BINP

No	Organization	Location /District
1	Nkuringo Cultural Centre (NCC)	Kisoro
2	Bwindi Batwa Development Association (BBDA),	Kisoro
3	Batwa Development Organization	Kanungu and Kisoro
4	Batwa Indigenous Development Organization	Kisoro
5	United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)	Kisoro
6	Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous People in Uganda (CSCIP-U)	Kisoro, Kanungu
7	Batwa Indigenous Empowerment Program	Kisoro
8	Action for Batwa Empowerment Group	Kanungu
9	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICO)	Kisoro, Kanungu
10	Batwa Empowerment Village	Kanungu
11	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)	Kanungu, Kisoro
12	Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)	Kisoro Kanungu
13	International Gorilla conservation program (IGCP)	Kanungu, Kisoro
14	Gorilla Organisation (GO)	Kanungu, Kisoro
15	Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC)	Kanungu, Kisoro
16	United Organization for Batwa	Kisoro, Kanungu

	Development in Uganda (UOBDU)	
17	Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)	Kanungu, Kisoro

2.2 Consultations with key Stakeholders supporting the Batwa in BINP

Further consultations and deliberations were held with the key project anticipated implementing partners and stakeholders including local level UWA staff, representatives from the Kisoro District Local Government (Chief Administrative officer, District Tourism Officer, District Natural Resources officer), NGOs, and community development groups that represent and assist the Batwa around BINP. Participants were purposively selected based on their experience and work related to conservation in BINP and the Batwa.

Meetings of key stakeholders and non-governmental organizations working on issues of the Batwa in Bwindi were organized at Rushaaga – Rubuguri on 21/6/22 and at Buhoma Visitor centre on 22/6/22. These meetings were attended by a total of 17 stakeholders. The summary of meetings of key stakeholders is presented in the below.

Table 10: Summary of Key stakeholder consultations

	BINP Sector	Meeting	Venue of the Meeting	Date of the Meeting	No. of Participants
1	Southern sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park ²⁶	Key stakeholders (NGOs, UWA, District Local Government)	Rushaaga – Rubuguri	21/6/22	8
2	Northern Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park	Key stakeholders (NGOs, UWA, District Local Government)	Buhoma Visitor centre	22/6/22	9
Total Number of People					17



Meeting with selected Key Stakeholders in Buhoma UWA Visitor centre on 22/6/22

The Discussion with key stakeholders also generated information on the following:

²⁶ A total of 3 meetings were organized in the Southern Sector of Bwindi alone.

- Possible implementation arrangements for activities highlighted in the VMGP.
- The current needs and preferred options for livelihood of the Batwa around BINP and the current related conservation projects that could be supported.
- Previous experiences with interventions and conservation projects targeting the Batwa around Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to determine what works and what does not.
- Measures to strengthen the capacity of local authority especially the district Local Governments of Kisoro, Kanungu, and relevant government departments to address vulnerable groups' issues.
- Involvement of community organizations from the project area and the expertise from the local authorities and national level.
- Roles of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the VMGP for Batwa around BINP.

2.3 Applicability of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

The IFPA-CD project team has consulted with the Batwa during the project design with dedicated sessions specific to the Batwa, for example during the preparation of ESMF and preparation of VMGF. The preparation of VMGP has been entirely dedicated to Batwa, and their full engagement has been secured during this process. Informed consultations with Batwa were, therefore, carried out and this led to broad community support of the project. At the current stage, FPIC is deemed not to apply, because most of the project activities will be implemented in the park and, therefore, will have no adverse impacts on land and associated natural resources under customary use or occupation. The project will also not relocate any VMGs and will have no negative impacts on cultural heritage.

3.0 Specific issues for the Batwa and Management actions

3.1 General aspirations, and needs of the Batwa in BINP

The specific aspirations, needs and preferred options and activities to ensure effective participation of the Batwa in the IFPA-CD project were arrived at through a series of consultations conducted by the team preparing the VMGP during the development of this plan. Discussions were held with the Batwa who were guided to be able to identify their own issues and propose workable solutions.

The consultations with the Batwa identified several needs, aspirations and preferred options for prioritization, to enable effective participation during project implementation. Key Batwa priorities include:

- Engage Kisoro and Kanungu DLG to avail to the Batwa some of the remnant community forests for them to plant indigenous trees. Kisoro District has a number of community Forests (*the pocket forests of BINP*) which are governed by the District Local Government. These forests include- Buniga, Kabahimbe, Kobusina, Kafuga, etc. These forests have been acting as a shock absorber for BINP because people from the communities around access forest resources. There is, however, increased pressure on these forests and the rate of degradation is high. Some of these community forests could be given to the Batwa for them to carry out restoration by planting indigenous trees, as there are examples of where the Batwa have successfully engaged in planting trees.
- In collaboration with Kisoro and Kanungu DLG the Batwa could also be supported to create Herbariums/botanical gardens to plant and safeguard key medicinal and cultural plants. The botanical gardens will, therefore, be used for transfer of knowledge especially in cultural and herbal medicine. There is already a pilot between Batwa, Ruburi Town council, and MUST where the Batwa are collecting seedlings from BINP to establish an indigenous medicine garden in Kobusiina Forest. The project will support establishment of some more similar gardens, as there

is already demonstrated evidence that the Batwa are able to plant and take care of indigenous trees.

- Increase and enhance participation and involvement of the Batwa in decision making processes such as the committee for revenue sharing. Put in place deliberate efforts to have representation of the Batwa to advocate for the Batwa interests.
- Recruitment of Batwa (*those that qualify*) to work as UWA officers, guides and porters in BINP.
- Provision of seeds for food crops consumed by the tourism sector, to be grown as cash crops, rather than just sorghum. Some of the Batwa who have some small pieces of land could be supported to plant quick gestation crops such as vegetables which are highly demanded by the tourism sector. They could also be supported to produce products such as poultry used in the emerging hotels in the area.
- Improve maintenance and marketing of the Batwa Forest Experience trail in Rubuguri, Southern Sector of Bwindi. Although there exists a MOU between UWA and the Batwa on the Batwa Forest Experience in Rubuguri, the trail is operating under a number of challenges. These include limited visitors (*the Batwa lack marketing skills and would require support in developing and maintaining marketing tools such as a website*), high costs of maintaining the trail, lack of personal protective equipment for guides such as rain coats, gum boots etc.
- Ensure the preservation of Batwa culture (*Cultural Performances, Music, dance and drama*) through establishing a cultural centre.
- Promoting apiary and engaging UWA to allow the Batwa to rear bees on the park boundaries. They could also transfer wild bees from BINP in order to colonize the beehives in the park boundary.

It was explained to the participants of the consultations that a number of issues, like purchase of land, are beyond the project scope; however, cognizance of such issues is useful to other partners formulating their support to the Batwa.

3.2 Potential positive impacts of the project to the Batwa in BINP

In a series of consultative meetings with the Batwa that took place on i) June 17, 2021, at Nkuringo Cultural centre Rubuguri ii) on 20/6/2022 at Rubuguri Town Council iii) on 20/6/22Rushaga iv) on 21/6/22 at Sanuriro v) on 22/6/22 at Buhoma Visitor centre and vi) meetings of stakeholders and NGOs working on issues of the Batwa in Bwindi organized at Rushaaga – Rubuguri on 21st June 2022, and Buhoma Visitor centre on 25th June 2022, the participants observed that the implementation of the project will likely result in a number of positive impacts such as:

- Increased protection of Batwa's rights to access the forest resources and receive livelihoods support through CRM arrangements.
- Benefit from the project's focus on participatory planning for forest resources and improved access to decision-making and from activities targeting reduction of human-wildlife conflict.
- Benefit from improved tourism facilities and the resulting increased visitor numbers which will afford more tourism-related employment opportunities, thus improving their incomes and eventual livelihoods. This includes providing market opportunities for the Batwa made handcrafts and other tourism products such Batwa-managed trails.
- Enhanced livelihood of Batwa communities due to improved access to the designated areas within BINP.
- The Batwa will also be able to benefit from job opportunities provided by the project for removal of invasive plant species, restoration planting of trees, ecotourism opportunities, tour guiding and as casual laborers during construction works.

3.3 Specific interventions to enable the participation of the Batwa around Bwindi that can be supported under the IFPA – CD project

According to the consultative meetings²⁷ with the Batwa and other key stakeholders such as UWA, the envisaged specific activities that can be supported under the project, in line with the project scope and budget, include the following:

- Strengthening the management of CRM groups in BINP
- Working with the Batwa, to take an inventory of all medicinal plants for further research and mapping
- Conducting project awareness-raising campaigns to local Batwa communities on the importance of sustainable wildlife management.
- Organizing and training the Batwa groups on identification and management of livelihood improvement projects
- Carrying out a marketing drive for Batwa tourism products – e.g. crafts, Batwa tourism trails, cultural performances, etc

3.4 Measures to strengthen the capacity of local authority and relevant government departments to address VMG issues

The DLGs of Kisoro and Kanungu are key stakeholders for protection of BINP. At the Lower Local Government (LLG) Level, the mandate of the DLGs is implemented through Sub-counties, parishes and the Local Council (LC) System. All the authorities have roles to play to ensure that the Batwa are catered for in planning and implementation of projects. The DLGs are responsible for a number of roles. These include:

- Mobilization of Batwa Communities to participate in livelihood development programs.
- Organization and formalization and registration of Batwa-led community-based organizations, groups, and associations.
- Management, planning and use of revenue sharing resources in conjunction with UWA.
- Identification and prioritization of livelihood needs through the district planning and budgeting processes.
- Monitoring and evaluation of development and wildlife conservation activities in BINP.
- Protection of pocket forests around BINP through development of district guidelines and bylaws.

To enable them to perform their roles, there will be specific strategies put in place under the project to develop the capacity of DLG Authorities of Kisoro and Kanungu district. Some of these include;-

- Organizing specific awareness programs/meetings for the District Authorities to understand their roles, project issues of importance to the Batwa.

²⁷ Consultative meetings held with the Batwa in Rubuguri on 20/6/22, Sanuriro on 21/6/22, Rushaaga 21/6/22, Buhoma on 22/6/2022, as well as meetings with Key stakeholders and Batwa NGO leaders held on 22/6/2022 and Buhooma Visitor Centre, Rushaga on 21/6/2022 respectively

- Extend specialized training on World Bank social standards, the VMGF, as well as the VMGPs and their roles in implementation
- Include the selected District respective offices such as District Community development office, Natural resources office in monitoring missions for the project

3.5 Involvement of Key stakeholder institutions and their contribution to the project

BINP has a number of stakeholders and partners. Stakeholders' participation in management of wildlife resources should be enhanced through shared roles and responsibilities and ensuring equitable distribution and sharing of conservation benefits and/or costs. Wildlife conservation has diverse issues, diversity of stakeholders, and, therefore, needs to increase stakeholders' participation to enhance benefits from conservation. Protected areas are a source of various benefits to local people who need guidance to sustainably access these resources and manage any arising conflicts.

Networking and co-ordination will be geared towards exchange of information and expertise through meetings, field visits, workshops and online for efficient conservation of wildlife resources and avoiding duplication. Annual stakeholders' fora will continue to be organized as a way of ensuring information sharing (UWA used to organize annual stakeholder fora prior to COVID-19 at the Conservation Area level for all Conservation Areas; these were resumed in 2022, including in the BMCA (but after completion of the consultations on VMGP).

Table 11. Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities

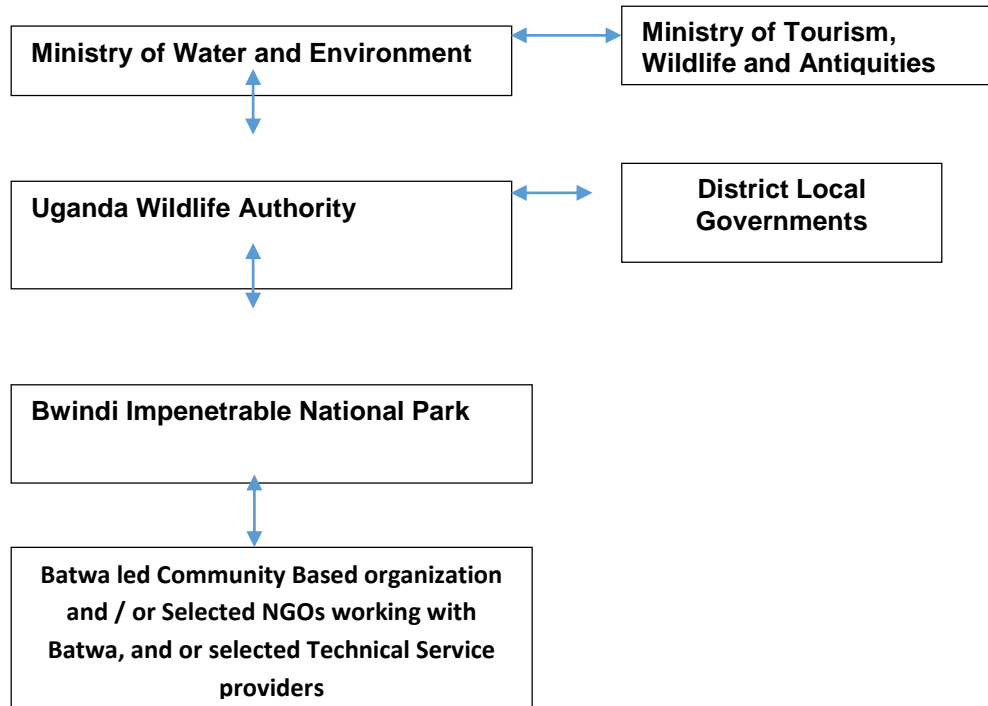
Key stakeholder	Role in the Implementation of the VMGP
Ministry of Water and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic direction and monitor overall implementation of VMGP • Overall supervision of the preparation and implementation of VMG Plan for BINP • Participate in the district level meetings in Kisoro and Kanungu districts • Coordinate with other Government Line Departments and agencies such as Ministry of Tourism for ensuring effective delivery of mitigation measures • Make budgetary provisions for implementation of project activities • Provide technical support for implementation of the actions in the VMGP
UWA (Chief Warden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of mitigation measures for adverse effects as per project components: Component 1 activities to be implemented by UWA in and around Bwindi and Component 2 activities to be implemented by UWA (for tourism-related investments). • Supervision of plans and reporting to MWE
District Local Governments (Kisoro and Kanungu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting communities in preparation of project activities • Participating in monitoring activities • Instrumental in mobilisation of communities, formation of CRMs, following up implementation of plans, including livelihoods and income-generating activities, on the ground provision of technical guidance, and dispute settlement

<p>Selection of implementors for the VGMP activities would be guided by the World Bank procurement framework. However, a number of non-governmental partners has relevant expertise that can be drawn upon. These partners are also important for regular engagement under the project.</p>	
<p>Pro-biodiversity conservationists in Uganda (PROBICO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise Batwa through Batwa Organizations, carry out training on VMG issues and conservation, strengthen the Batwa Forest Trail, work with Batwa in restoration and planting of indigenous trees in pocket forests, Livelihood, advocacy and revenue sharing management, support Batwa livelihood programs.
<p>International Gorilla conservation program (IGCP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community development enterprises around the BINP, support problem animal control, support tourism development, field equipment support
<p>Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Batwa access to land to facilitate livelihood demonstration projects, resettlement programs, and community development.
<p>Gorilla Organisation (GO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem animal control, energy saving technologies, enterprise development
<p>Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research
<p>Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health awareness, disease surveillance-human and wildlife
<p>United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for Batwa development, Mobilization of Batwa in BINP, and support for livelihood.
<p>Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on medical herbs, cultural sites and piloting medicinal gardens, supporting Batwa Forest Experience
<p>Nkuringo Cultural Centre (NCC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Batwa to promote cultural Tourism, Batwa Cultural performance, music dance and Drama and Batwa cultural values. Support the establishment of a pilot cultural Centre.
<p>Bwindi Batwa Development Association (Already has an MOU with UWA).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and mobilize the Batwa to participate in the project and related training programs, strengthen capacity of the Batwa, extend training and maintain the Batwa Forest Experience trail at Nkuringo.
<p>Other Batwa led NGOs, such as Batwa Indigenous Empowerment Programme etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of the Batwa, training and capacity building, knowledge sharing, and support of livelihood activities etc.

3.6 Coordination and implementation arrangements

The implementation arrangement will be guided by the plan and collaborating institutions will participate through a competitive process where needed. All activities will be guided by the BINP General Management Plan, this VMGP, and the approved project work plans; they will be closely monitored and supervised by BINP management as per the IFPA-CD implementation framework. MWE in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities will provide the overall strategic direction, supervision and overall monitoring of implementation of the plan in sync with the overall IFPA-CD project.

Figure 2: Coordination and implementation Structure



3.7 Activity implementation arrangements by the Batwa and how collaborating institutions will participate

During the Implementation of activities outlined in this VMGP for BINP, UWA and partners shall ensure a deliberate effort to include the Batwa-led institutions or institutions working with the Batwa in implementation of specific activities especially those targeting the Batwa, within the limits of requirements permitted under the World Bank Procurement Guidelines.

Specific terms of reference will be issued for specific activities and requests made. The requests shall be evaluated by the technical teams from UWA and MWE before a decision is made. Key considerations will include:

- a. Experience of the applicant working with the Batwa and other Vulnerable groups
- b. Membership and group structures (*if any*)
- c. Evidence of ownership of the proposed activity by Batwa
- d. Description of the modalities and direct Batwa engagement in the implementation and/management of benefits from the business activity.

The applicants for support to Batwa groups will include all supporting documents.

An appraisal visit consisting of Community conservation Warden or Chief Warden of BINP and District community Development Officer, Natural Resources officer of Kisoro / Kanungu District will be conducted to the applicants to appraise proposed applicants and other information provided in the application form, among others.

3.8 Monitoring and evaluation requirements

The implementation of this VMGP shall be in accordance with the overall M&E Framework for the IFPA-CD project. The MWE has the overall responsibility for coordinating M&E and ensuring that data and information are produced on time and of the necessary quality. Monitoring data will be collected at field and agency level by UWA and DLGs, and User Departments and forwarded to UWA and the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) for consolidated reporting. The PCU will conduct periodic field monitoring visits, on a case-by-case basis, purposely to verify information received from the monitoring reports.

The MWE is responsible for the overall monitoring and reporting on Project performance and results. The MWE will be supported by the PCU. Implementing Agencies, User departments and Technical Service Providers (TSP) will be responsible for collecting and analyzing monitoring data using an agreed format and availing this information to the PCU for action. Implementing Agencies (MWE and UWA), TSPs and User Departments will host and participate in any field monitoring visits.

Alongside the M&E Framework, project reporting formats and feedback mechanism will be developed for use by UWA, DLGs and the TSPs. In the case of the implementing agent for the Batwa or the TSP, the reporting formats will be appended to the Service Contracts. The VMGP already highlights key targets and indicators that shall inform the design of data collection tools for its Implementation.

(a) Day to day Monitoring

Monitoring will be the main mechanism through which the implementers of this VMGP will get the feedback and alerts on any delays and problems. The monitoring framework will help the implementers to measure the pace of implementation of activities. It enables timely responses while providing lessons on implementation strategies. It will also help to ascertain whether the IPFA-CD project activities are complying with this VMGP, the World Bank ESF and National policy and legal procedures that provide for participation of the VMGs (Batwa).

The implementation of this VMGP will rely on a participatory monitoring and evaluation process which will ensure monitoring of the effectiveness of mitigation measures to improve Batwa's standards of living. Monitoring will involve the Batwa leaders, so that they have a first-hand understanding and appreciation of the process. Their views on the positive and negative impacts should also be considered.

The project will support Batwa and other affected communities so that they are able to monitor the following:

- (a) The status of adverse social impacts (e.g. restricted access to forest and wildlife resources inside the project-supported forests, forest reserves etc.) and the effectiveness of mitigation measures outlined. The project will have to ensure that communities are aware of the potential adverse impacts to monitor; also, specific indicators to ensure effective monitoring of each impact.
- (b) The implementation of agreed activities.
- (c) There will be efforts to ensure participation of Batwa Leaders in monitoring structures and systems.

The monitoring activities will result in regular feedback on the implementation of the VMGP. The scope of monitoring indicators shall include the following:

- Collaborative resource management
- Livelihoods activities support
- Awareness
- Employment in project funded activities
- Application of the Batwa indigenous knowledge
- Tourism products' development.

(b) **Socio-economic Monitoring**

This will focus on the following changes to income levels, livelihood changes and standards of living of the Batwa. For areas in the vicinity of BINP, there is already baseline socio-economic information included in this VMGP and in the area management plans. As part of the VMGP implementation, the project implementers will use this detailed baseline information to monitor the planned activities and changes over time.

Follow-up assessments will update the data for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impacts of BINP management plan, community wildlife management and revenue sharing agreements and other project specific Action Plans. The specific monitoring indicators have been outlined in Table 12.

4.0 Administrative Reporting

Under this, the standard record of activities undertaken in each reporting period, along with financial information, will be provided. This will cover routine project activities reporting, equipment needs, and other administrative concerns (e.g., additional studies needed). For this VMGP, quarterly and annual project progress reports will include a section that details, for instance, the number and type of local meetings held, the number and types of grievances registered and their resolution, and the nature of measures implemented, as well as the findings on the socio-economic monitoring. This will benefit from routine collection of data from activity reports.

5.0 LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VMGP FOR THE BATWA IN BINP UNDER THE IPFA-CD PROJECT

The table below presents a sequence of activities, targets, assumptions etc. proposed in line with consultations with the Batwa held on 20/6/2022 at Rubuguri Town Council, 20/6/22Rushaga, 21/6/22 at Sanuriro, 22/6/22 at Buhoma Visitor centre and meetings of stakeholders and NGOs working on issues of the Batwa in Bwindi

Table 12: Logical Framework for BINP VMGP

Output and Targets	Specific activities for Batwa participation in the IFPA – CD project	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification
At least 100 Batwa being able to understand key CRM provisions and increase the involvement of the local Batwa communities in the management of the PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the management and inclusion of Batwa in CRM groups in BINP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Batwa participating in consultations on CRM (including female and youth²⁸) Number of functioning CRM groups where the Batwa are involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity reports UWA Annual reports Attendance lists
Reach out to up to a total of 300 Batwa with awareness raising information on the importance of sustainable wildlife management and forest conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct project awareness-raising campaigns to local Batwa communities on the importance of sustainable wildlife management and forest conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of awareness campaigns conducted Number of Batwa participating in the awareness campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance lists Activity reports
Working with the Batwa, take an inventory of all medicinal plants for further research and mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and document medicinal plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of medicinal plants and their importance conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity report Research report

²⁸ The youth are those persons between the age of 18 years and 35 years.

Identify and train a total of 200 Batwa, organize and train Batwa groups on identification and management of livelihood improvement projects (and, as appropriate, provide livelihoods support)	Engage the Batwa communities in new business opportunities through, forest based enterprises e.g. crafts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of specific training sessions conducted • Number of Batwa participating in the sessions (gender segregated) • Number of people benefiting from alternative livelihood support as a source of livelihood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity reports • Physical visits
Carry out marketing and training for tourism products	Carry out a marketing drive for Batwa tourism products Provide training on tourism	<p>Number of Batwa trained in tourism development</p> <p>Number of tourists visiting the Batwa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity reports • Reports from the Batwa organization(s) organizing the Batwa activities

6.0 Budget Allocation

Table 13: Project Budget for BINP VMGP

Management Action	Institution Responsible	Indicative Budget in Uganda Shillings	Timelines in Years				
			1	2	3	4	5
Component 1. Investments to improve the management of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Focusing on improving the management of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park) to ensure it continues to generate revenues and provide important environmental services.							
Strengthen the management of CRM groups in BINP	UWA	40,000,000					
Working with the Batwa, take an inventory of all medicinal plants for further research and mapping	UWA	25,000,000					
Conduct project awareness-raising campaigns to local Batwa communities on the importance of sustainable wildlife management	UWA	10,000,000					

Organize and train Batwa groups on identification and management of livelihood improvement projects	UWA	20,000,000					
Component 2: Increased revenues and jobs from forests and wildlife protected areas							
Carry out a marketing drive for Batwa tourism products – e.g. crafts, Batwa tourism trails, cultural performances etc	UWA, UTB	10,000,000					

6.1 Financing arrangements for the VMGP

According to the project implementation manual for IFPA-CD project, section 3 (the project description). Sub-component 1.2: is about increasing the involvement of local communities in the management of forest and wildlife by increasing their access and benefits from these areas. The activities proposed in the VMGP would be financed under this subcomponent.

This subcomponent will support technical assistance packages and training aimed at developing skills at the community level to actively participate in and benefit from the management of wildlife resources. This would include enhancing the adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities for climate resilience by strengthening their coping strategies, diversifying forest management-related employment opportunities and livelihoods, and adaptive planning and management. This comprises technical assistance packages with targeted support for women to empower them to participate and take leadership roles in natural resources management. At the field level, support will be provided for community engagement in the management of resources within BINP. This includes the establishment of new CRM groups and support of livelihood activities within existing groups. During the development of annual work plans, special attention should be paid to the inclusion and development of specific Batwa Institutions to gain the CRM status.

The budget line for the development of the Tourism Products (under Component 2.1.) should also be inclusive of funds for financing the specific tourism products for the Batwa.

6.2 Preparation of Activity plans, Budgets and Reporting

The budgeting arrangements for implementation of the VMGP shall follow those of the overall budgeting arrangements of the IFPA-CD project and shall be in accordance with GoU budgeting procedures and fiscal year (July-June). UWA in partnership with mandated officials from the DLGs of Kisoro and Kanungu, shall facilitate development of annual work plans and budgets for specific activities targeting the Batwa. These plans and budgets shall be guided by the VMGP and shall be integrated in the overall Annual work plans and budgets to be prepared by UWA by March 31, to be approved by IDA by April 30 of each year. This budget shall also be integrated in UWAs annual budget for the project. This shall be approved by the Project Steering Committee and thereafter by the MWE and the World Bank.

Once project funds have been received by UWA, funds for implementation of Batwa activities will be spent in accordance with approved work plans. UWA will work with the TSPs competitively selected to execute activities as per agreed terms. The Technical Service Provider shall report to UWA, and the financial reports shall be integrated into general Annual Reports of UWA.

6.3 Arrangements for Reviewing and updating the VMGP

The MWE and key partners such as UWA, in collaboration with DLGs and a selected Batwa-led institution, agent or technical service provider shall carry out a review of the implementation of this VMGP which will be aligned with the midterm review of the overall IFPA-CD project.

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