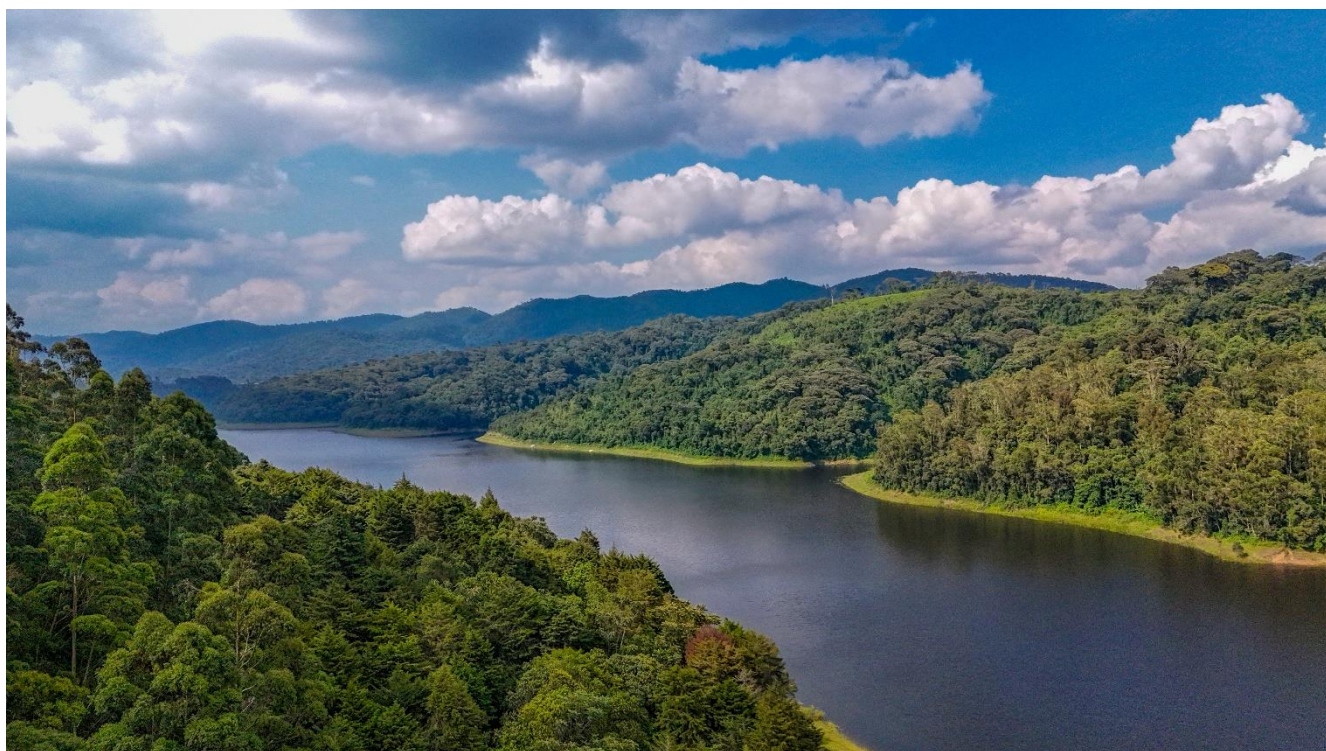


ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**United Nations Capital Development Fund
[BURUNDI]
[KAHUZI-BIEGA AND KIBIRA FOREST SANCTUARIES]**



Reporting Period	2024
Donor	Nature Investment Facility
Country	Burundi
Project Title	Kahuzi-Biega and Kibira forests sanctuaries
Project ID	04000030
Implementing Partner(s)	Communities of Hope (COH) and Conservation, Communaute de Changement (3C)
Project Start Date	01/06/2023
Project End Date	31/05/2028
[Year] Annual Work Plan Budget	375,00 USD
UNCDF Contact Person	[THEO WAY [Programme Coordinator] Email: theo.way@uncdf.org

1) Executive summary

The Nature Investment Facility's Kibira Forest Sanctuaries Project uses blended finance to link nature conservation with green investment in Burundi's Kibira National Park. It supports peacebuilding and conservation, empowering ranger force and recognizing the forest's importance to the Batwa people. The project catalyzes investments in nature-positive businesses, transforming Kibira's assets into green resources through a new financial model that includes clean energy, ecotourism, payment for ecosystem service, and the Kibira Foundation, ensuring sustainable funding and local leadership in biodiversity conservation.

The project is being implemented with the support of two national non-governmental organisations (NGOs): *Communities of Hope (COH)* and *Conservation, Communauté de Changement (3C)* hired through competitive process in 2023.

In 2024, the Kibira Forest Sanctuaries Project has made significant progress towards its goals:

- (i) The Kibira Foundation is fully operational and equipped to carry out its mandate under the Co-Management Agreement:
 - The Foundation is now recognized as a strategic partner in protecting the Kibira National Park alongside Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement (OBPE) the national agency. It is also promoting ecotourism by mobilizing the private sector in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism.
 - The Foundation has negotiated and signed a 10-year Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) contract with Hydronéo, securing \$150,000 per year for park protection and community development activities.
 - The team responsible for the day-to-day management of the Foundation is in place, including the Administrator and Technical Advisor.
- (ii) Kibira Protection Committees have been established in 17 villages to improve the relationship between the community and the park.
- (iii) A cultural centre has been established at the park headquarters with a mandate to provide cultural experiences that diversify the park's tourism products while promoting the participation and reconciliation between Batwa communities and the Park.
- (iv) The operational capacity of the Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (OBPE) has been strengthened through ranger training, renovation of the park headquarters and improved staff welfare.
- (v) Local communities' perception of the park has improved with the establishment of the cultural centre, promoting peace and reconciliation.
- (vi) Conservation efforts:

- The protocol for ecological monitoring and habituation of Chimpanzee is in place.
 - Over 1,000 people have been sensitised to chimpanzee conservation through cultural activities.
- (vii) Economic opportunities: 150 temporary road maintenance jobs have been created and over 100 association members have been supported to produce mushrooms enhancing sustainable livelihoods.

2) Background

Stretching from the coast of the Gulf of Guinea to the mountains of the Albertine Rift, the 200 million hectares of forests in the Congo Basin represent the last significant land-based tropical carbon sink in the world, making the forests critically important in the global fight against climate change.

The Kibira National Park located in Burundi, within the Albertine Rift ecosystem, it is a strategic priority for addressing the drivers of fragility and protecting high value forests and biodiversity. This mountain rainforest is one of the Burundian's major nature assets in terms of its social, environmental, and economic ecosystem services that encompasses an area of 40,000 ha along the Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) border.

Lack of viable economic opportunities and overpopulation have contributed to increased competition over natural resources, especially access to agricultural land. Rural households cope by expanding into protected areas, cultivating on steep slopes without recourse to sustainable practices for highlands, and draining wetlands for agricultural use.

This situation, combined with the impacts of climate change such as extreme temperatures and excessive floods have contributed to the loss of Kibira's biodiversity and its natural capital. Specifically, (i) decline of biodiversity will have a significant impact on tourism opportunities due to the loss of key attractions such as chimpanzees, (ii) the degradation of nature assets and the loss of ecosystem services will affect services that support different aspects of human well-being, including employment opportunities and agriculture productivity in the surrounding areas.

Against this backdrop, the Nature Facility-funded Kibira Forest Sanctuaries Project leverages blended finance to address regional instability in the Great Lakes by linking nature conservation with green investment in Burundi's Kibira National Park.

The project supports joint peacebuilding and conservation efforts, fostering sustainable peace by strengthening park protection through a newly deployed ranger force managed by the National Park Authority OBPE, while also recognizing the cultural, spiritual, and economic importance of the forest to the Batwa people. The project aims to catalyze investments to grow nature-positive tourism, driving sustainable development and transforming Kibira's natural assets into green catalytic resources.

The Kibira Forest Sanctuary Project builds upon the foundation established by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF)-funded Kibira Peace Sanctuary Project, aiming to strengthen the co-management agreement and establish a sustainable financing mechanism for Kibira Park.

Implemented by UNCDF, this project leverages blended finance to support a sustainable financial model for conservation. This includes an innovative financing approach that integrates a clean energy Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and a 10-year repayment scheme to the Kibira Foundation through a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) contract.

3) Progress review

Significant progress has been made this year across the project's key areas, contributing directly to the achievement of our outcomes.

Progress Towards Outcome 1: Strengthening Inclusive Approaches to Peacefully Manage, Restore, and Conserve High-Value Forests

The project strengthened inclusive approaches to peacefully manage, restore, and conserve high-value forests by prioritizing improved governance and co-management frameworks. The promotion of socially sustainable conservation that protects human rights, enhances local ownership, and supports marginalized groups, including women, youth, and the Batwa community is ongoing. The project actively addressed the drivers of deforestation and incorporating local perceptions of nature by engaging Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in co-creation processes. This engagement is crucial for integrating local knowledge and values into sustainable forest management, recognizing the central role of IPLCs in alleviating pressures on forests and promoting reconciliation.

Key achievements and ongoing activities as follows:

***Output 1.1:** The role of the state authorities in protecting and managing the National Parks is recognised and restored*

In 2024, the project contributed to improving the operational capacity of OBPE which is now able to effectively fulfil its mandate to protect the park and support communities.

Progress and results:

OBPE Capacity Building and operational effectiveness:

- (i) 32 Ecogardes received specialised in-country training in natural resource management, biomonitoring and chimpanzee habituation. This has improved their knowledge and enabled them to meet current standards required for effective management of a protected area.
- (ii) 3 buildings at the park headquarters were renovated in 2024. They provide accommodation (32 rooms and 2 bungalows) and a canteen with a kitchen for the ecoguards. This brings the total number of buildings renovated to 5 since UNCDF initiated the programme in the park in 2022. The rehabilitation of the buildings has allowed the Park's headquarters to become operational, with the necessary infrastructure in place, including electricity, internet, offices and field equipment.
- (iii) A canteen has been set up at the park headquarters to provide daily meals to the ecoguards, improving their well-being and directly strengthening OBPE's ability to protect and manage the park. A technical advisor has been recruited by the Kibira Foundation to work alongside the park director in September 2024, strengthening co-management and thereby

strengthening OBPE's role.

- (iv) Collaboration with key sectorial Ministries has been strengthened. High-level engagement of the Kibira foundation with the Ministries of Finance, Tourism, and Environment, including joint events and agreements, signals recognition and restoration of state authority as well as valuation of the Kibira as nature assets.



Image 1 &2 view of renovated buildings (Canteen and offices) at the Park HQ

Output 1.3: Populations of endangered primate species are monitored and protected

In partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), a leading international nonprofit focused on chimpanzee conservation, 3C helped the park develop and implement an ecological monitoring and habituation protocol for chimpanzees. This is a critical step that will ensure that informed data on chimpanzees are collected to create conditions for their protection and habituation.

Progress and results:

- (i) 12 trackers including 6 women have been recruited, properly trained and deployed in the forest to conduct habituation of Chimpanzee. The trackers were recruited through an open and competitive process from the communities surrounding Kibira Park. Following the recruitment process, they went to Gombe National Park in Tanzania for 10 days of training (9-10 October 2024). The training participants also include 2 Kibira foundation staff and the Kibira Park Director. Overall, the training has improved the trackers' knowledge of chimpanzee ecology and behaviors, disease surveillance and chimpanzee habituation and trekking. The team is currently in the field tracking a group of chimpanzees and collecting vital data to inform the overall habituation process.

- (ii) 46 people, including 32 ecogardes, 12 trackers, 2 Kibira foundation technical assistants have received 10 days trainings on chimpanzee biomonitoring.
- (iii) Biomonitoring of chimpanzee successfully launched to understand the distribution of chimpanzee in the park.



Image 3 Expert from JGI during training on biomonitoring



Image 4 trackers during training in Tanzania

Inventaire des chimpanzés par la Méthode de Reconnaissance



Image 5 JGI expert and ecoargdes during the biomonitoring survey

Output 1.4: Impacts of deforestation and degradation on forests reduced through targeted reforestation activities (forest and landscape restoration).

COH has closely worked with the Kibira and OBPE to develop a detailed forest restoration strategy. This included an analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest/land degradation in the park and surrounding areas managed by the communities. Through a combination of methods, including satellite image analysis and field visits, 227 ha of critical areas for restoration were identified in the park, as well as critical areas in the buffer zone/community areas.

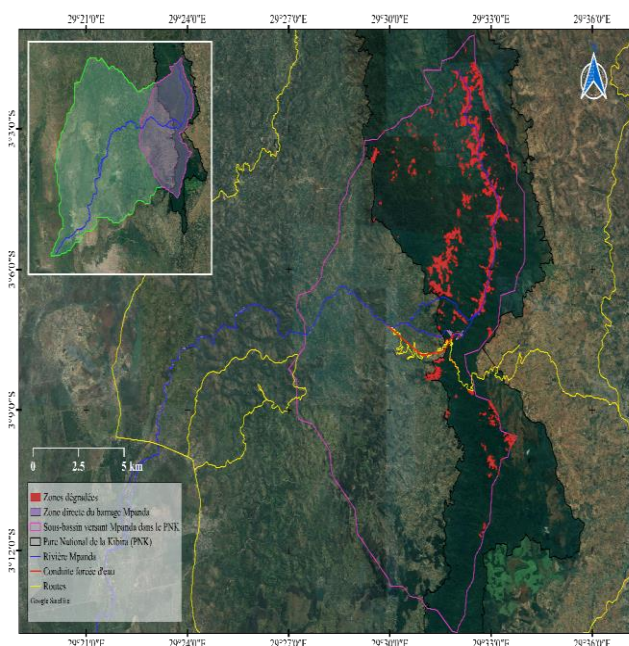


Image 6 Map of degraded forest in the Mpanda watershed

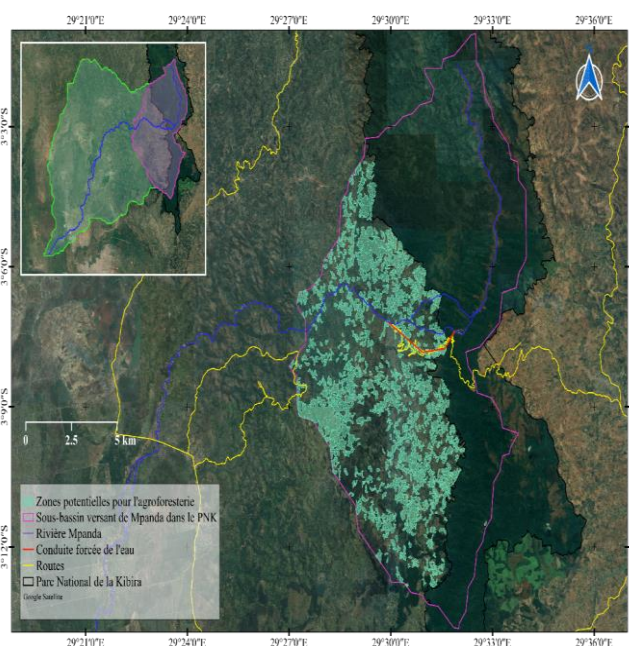


Image 7 Map of potential areas for agroforestry in the buffer zone

Progress and results:

- (i) Forest restoration strategy in place allowing implementation of direct reforestation and restoration activities with OBPE and local communities.
- (ii) Sustainable Management Framework (Kibira Foundation): Conflict driver analysis and mitigation contribute to sustainable management.

Output 1.5: Land access and rights of Batwa communities improved in order to allow Batwa communities to access conservation benefits and reduce land speculation due to poorly defined land rights

Access to land in the Kibira region is determined by many factors. One of these is the level of degradation that reduces land productivity. An analysis was carried out by COH to better understand the dynamics of land distribution and how land degradation affects access for the most vulnerable, including the Batwa. This analysis has provided guidance on actions to be taken, including safeguards

to protect the Batwa and avoid conflict with existing landowners.

As a result, a mapping of the land in the buffer zone was carried out, focusing on the most degraded areas, where the Kibira Foundation intends to develop conservation schemes that will promote nature-based practices and livelihoods for the Batwa.

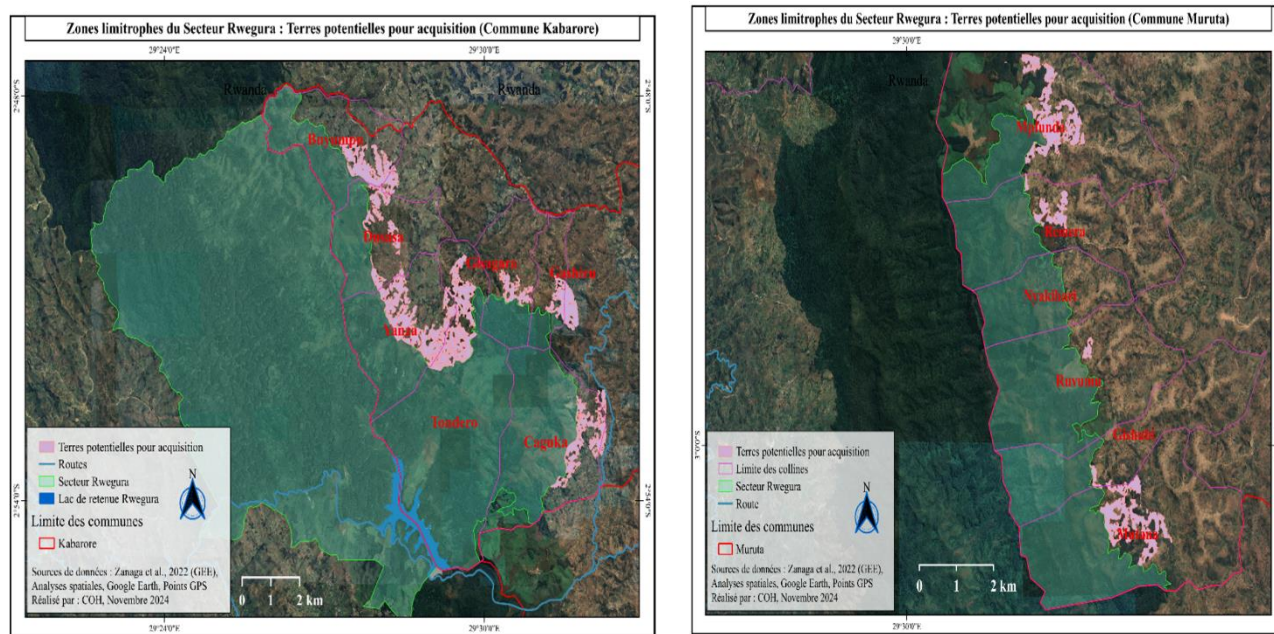


Image 8 et 9 Mapping of potential land to acquire in the buffer zone of the park

Output 1.6: Long term social cohesion, community resilience and development are promoted through enhanced linkages with the high-value forests.

COH has partnered with Kids of Kiatopa (KIOKA), a specialized entity on culture and art, to set up the cultural center. This included recruiting trainers, equipping the centre, setting up a library of traditional stories related to Kibira, organising training courses, cultural promotion activities, etc.

The cultural center within the park which symbolizes engagement between the park and the community to promote a peace-based conservation approach, offers numerous benefits:

- (i) Prospects for economic empowerment: The cultural centre offers specialized training courses to local artists and craftspeople, creating new income opportunities through the sale of handcrafts and cultural performances. They will contribute to the centre's activities by providing entertainment for tourists and students, performing shows, selling their handicrafts and conducting outreach programs on the link between peace, protection and environment conservation in local villages and schools.
- (ii) Social impact and Inclusion: The cultural center serves as a platform for community

engagement, bringing together members of different communities promoting peaceful coexistence and fostering a shared sense of ownership in protecting the Kibira Forest. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, including minorities and women, the center fosters social cohesion and breaks down barriers between different communities. In addition, the presence of the cultural centre on the Mwokora site provides a neutral space where *ecoguards* and communities can interact in a positive and non-confrontational setting.

- (iii) Environmental Awareness: Cultural activities such as shows, events and visits not only showcase the rich cultural heritage associated with the Kibira, but also raise awareness about environmental conservation and the importance of protecting the forest ecosystem.

In addition to the cultural center, several communities' engagement and socio-economic activities have been conducted. All of these contribute to social cohesion, resilience, and development.

Progress and results:

- (i) Cultural Heritage Center: The Center is now fully operational with the following trainings conducted:
 - Training in storytelling with a professional storyteller. 8 community members were trained for 3 days. They are now able to tell stories about the history of the Kibira to tourists and other community members.
 - Training in the manipulation of puppets, introduction to the recycling of waste materials into arts and crafts. 7 people trained over 12 days.
 - A 3-day artistic residency with a group of slammers, Congolese singers (total of 7 people) who are currently working together on the theme of deforestation, with a view to the creation of a show that will be performed in 2025 in Bujumbura.
 - On site training of 2 local guides in charge of welcoming visitors in the cultural center.



Image 10 and 11 Batwa communities performing at the cultural center during an event

- (ii) The foundation has elected 4 additional board members from the community living around the Park to ensure that peace, conservation and economic activities are planned and carried out in close consultation with communities.
- (iii) 17 Kibira Protection Committees established: Foster dialogue and collaboration between communities and the park.
- (iv) Alternative Livelihoods: Provide economic opportunities and strengthen community livelihoods.
- (v) Increased sensitization: Over 1000 people have been sensitized on protection of chimpanzee. A major event was organized on the 18 July, to celebrate the chimpanzee international day. The event focused on celebrating the coexistence of humans, peace with nature emphasizing the importance of collaboration between OBPE and local communities in protecting biodiversity.

Progress toward Outcome 2: Regional investment fund capitalized and deploying peace and nature-positive investments.

Output 2.2: Policies and strategies implemented to ensure peace and nature positive impact of investments

In 2024, UNCDF has structured an innovative financing instrument to support the Mpanda Hydropower PPP project to bridge the financing gap and move towards implementation. This transaction will help to improve the project's financial readiness and bankability. The Performance grant covers the costs associated with lenders' due diligence processes, ensuring that financial institutions have the necessary information to assess the project's viability and risk profile. This transaction also aims to reduce the

project risks and support the conservation of the Kibira national park.

Progress and results:

- (i) Hydronéo has prepared an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Mpanda project. The ESIA has identified social and environmental risks and associated mitigation measures that will contribute to a peaceful environment during the construction and implementation phases of the project. For example, the issue of Batwa community involvement has been addressed by promoting the principles of Free Prior Informed and Consent (FPIC) to ensure that the voices of the Batwa are heard and taken into account.

Output 2.3: Additional public-private capital mobilised and catalysed leading to an increased amount of finance available for locally led businesses.

The benefits of the co-management agreement and the role of the Kibira Foundation in promoting peace and mobilizing the private sector were highlighted this year.

Progress and results:

- i. The Foundation has identified a private operator who plans to promote tourism in the park headquarters with improved infrastructure (renovation of bungalows) and additional tourism products including recreational activities, thermal springs, etc. Since the park headquarters has been abandoned for many years, the Kibira Foundation has helped to create conditions for private sector investment.
- ii. Further private sector involvement is also in the pipeline. The Kibira Foundation has identified a site within the park (Teza sector) for the construction of luxury eco-lodges that will boost ecotourism in the region. Ongoing discussions have shown a strong commitment from the government and some interest from the private sector. However, a feasibility study needs to be conducted. The Kibira Foundation will have to mobilize funds for this purpose.

4) Gender equality and Women's empowerment

The project has made good progress in enhancing women's representation and empowerment in the Kibira region prioritizing their inclusion. Women now hold 45 of the 119 positions on the 17 Kibira Protection Committees. Furthermore, 2 women were elected to the Kibira Foundation board, ensuring representation of diverse community voices. Economically, the project supported alternative livelihoods (mushroom, honey, and fruit plant production), women were 60% of the beneficiaries. Though these income-generating activities women were able to contribute to their families' well-being, covering essential needs like food, school fees, and medical expenses, improving their status within households.

5) Government Engagement and Collaboration

UNCDF's engagement with the Burundian government in 2024 has resulted in increased ownership and recognition of the project's innovative approach. The project collaborated with the Ministry of Finance, co-hosting a high-level roundtable on blended finance in New York, presenting the Kibira project as a leading example; with the Ministry of Tourism, discussing ecotourism opportunities in Kibira, with the Kibira Foundation formally expressing interest; and most importantly, with the Ministry of Environment (and its agency OBPE), which is the key stakeholder. Through this collaboration the project co-organized the opening of the renovated park headquarters during Chimpanzee Day. In addition, OBPE's Director-General presented the project at a COP 16 side event. Finally, with the Ministry of Energy, responsible for Hydroneo's activities, with ongoing monthly meetings that ensure smooth project implementation.

6) Communication and visibility

Progress has been made in documenting lessons learned and project results. In addition to the communication products such as pictures prepared by the parties responsible, COH and 3C, the project COM team is producing short videos and human stories showcasing the project's results. The recruitment of a communication consultant is ongoing to support these activities. This documentation will be critical to capture valuable insights and disseminate project achievements.

7) Co- funding:

- i. Peace Building Fund: 3M The Kibira Peace Sanctuary project ending in December 2025.
 - The Peace Building Fund (PBF) is providing complementary funding for the first phase of the Kibira Peace Sanctuary project. This complementary funding strengthens the project's impact and aligns with its focus on economic development, environmental conservation, and community engagement. The PBF specifically recognized the Kibira Foundation as a valuable model for natural resource co-management in Burundi, highlighting its potential to address expertise gaps within the evolving ecosystem. This complementary support from the PBF reinforces the project's goals and enhances its potential for success.
- ii. New co-Investment and opportunities:
 - UNCDF has developed a 2.6M over 7 years which is under consideration for funding from Mohammed bin Rashid Global Initiatives (MBRGI)

8) Partnership and Coordination

This project complements the ongoing work of partners in the Kibira Park. The project strengthened partnerships and coordination through meetings with key stakeholders that are operating in and around the Kibira Park including UNESCO, UNDP, ENABEL, OPBE and IFAD. These discussions fostered collaboration and coordination, addressed challenges, and identified potential synergies.

Key outcomes include:

- (i) UNESCO: UNESCO, is implementing Output 1.2 of the project: *Kibira National Park designated as World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve and Kahuzi Biega National Park removed from list of World Heritage Sites in Danger due to substantial reduction in the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation*. UNCDF and UNESCO are working together to ensure that joint actions are taken when it comes to engaging stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Environment and OBPE.
- (ii) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP, implementing the EU-PACECOR project (2022-2027), which includes activities such as Park development and management plan (PAG) development, park map creation, trail digitalization, and other initiatives, expressed appreciation for coordination with UNCDF to avoid activity overlap. From the outset, we have maintained ongoing discussions with UNDP to ensure complementary activities.
- (iii) ENABEL: ENABEL, also implementing the EU-PACECOR project in Kibira, similarly appreciated coordination with UNCDF. Discussions with ENABEL, currently signing a new EU-INTPA NaturAfrica cross-border project between Rwanda and Burundi, emphasized the importance of establishing a coordination platform for key Kibira Park actors. ENABEL expressed interest in understanding the Kibira Foundation's role and objectives, which were clarified as resource mobilization and revenue generation, community support, ecosystem protection and restoration, and serving as a mechanism for sustainability and co-management in Burundi. The meeting highlighted the Foundation's crucial role in facilitating collaboration, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting Kibira ecosystem conservation.
- (iv) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): IFAD, implementing the PIPAR-V and PRODER projects in provinces surrounding the park, is currently targeting Collines bordering Kibira Park under the PRODER project and will share the targeted area list with UNCDF upon completion. A value chain study is also underway within the PRODER program, with findings to be shared with UNCDF. Within the PIPAR-V program, IFAD is conducting a honey value chain study. These projects present collaboration opportunities with UNCDF in areas such as conservation, protection, and buffer zone creation.

9) Project Risks and Issues

Several key risks have been identified.

The current security risk restrict access to Kibira Park, which limited tourism and economic growth. This risk can be mitigated by engaging in discussions with stakeholders to advocate to open up some parts of the park in specific safe zones, while highlighting the potential economic benefits of increased access. Finally, the development of nature-positive value chains is both a risk and an opportunity. Capacity gaps within local cooperatives is a risk to successful value chain development. This risk can be mitigated through technical assistance, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices and buffer zone creation. On the other hand, opportunities can be explored through feasibility studies for value-added processing partnerships, supporting the adoption of digital tools, and conducting a comprehensive mapping exercise that *must* include Batwa communities to ensure their participation and benefit, further reducing the risk of exclusion.

10) Lessons Learned

- It is critical to ensure continuous engagement. The proactive approach ensured complementarity with UNDP and other partners and prevents duplication of efforts and strengthened of synergies.
- Leverage on the Kibira foundation strengths is key. The Kibira Foundation's has strengths and a critical role as a National model for co-management which demonstrates the importance of building on local capacities.

Financial Sustainability:

- The importance of diversifying funding sources. The project is working to secure funding from MBRGI and additional funding opportunities with LLM/Norad which will be critical to ensure the long-term project goal and sustainability.
- The use of innovative financial models: The Public-Private Partnership model, which included the PES contract, demonstrates the potential of innovative financing mechanisms to leverage private sector investment for conservation and peacebuilding.

Project Implementation:

- Capacity building is critical: Strengthening the Kibira Foundation is one of the focus of the project including staff recruitment, training, and the establishment of KPCs highlights the importance of capacity building which will ensure ownership and long-term sustainability.
- Conservation: Relying on regional or international organizations with unique technical expertise enhances the reliability and quality of the activities carried out.
- Environmental and social aspects addressed at once: The Mpanda project's focus on both environmental and social impact mitigation demonstrates the importance of considering both aspects.
- Ecotourism: Government engagement is critical to ensure that necessary policies are in place as well as all facilitation and permits to attract private sector operators. It is also

essential to ensure proper coordination among key Government Ministers and administration.

Communication and Advocacy:

- Lessons learned and documentation is critical. The project is currently focus on documenting lessons learned through videos and stories. This is critical for replication and dissemination of knowledge also for the benefit of other projects and stakeholders.
- Advocacy to influence policy: advocacy to support increased access to Kibira Park by engaging with stakeholders and highlighting economic benefits demonstrating the potential of strategic communication to influence policy decisions.

11) Conclusion and Way forward

Overall, the project achieved positive results across all expected outcomes and outputs advancing project activities, strengthening partnerships, and developing innovative financial mechanisms to support peace and conservation in and around Kibira Park.

The Kibira Foundation has significantly strengthened its operations conducting conflict analysis and mitigation activities (land restoration, agroforestry, and mushroom production benefitting 131 people), the establishment of 17 Kibira Protection Committees (KPCs) with 119 members to enhance community-park dialogue, the hiring of a technical advisor, increased local participation through community board member elections, and the creation of a cultural heritage center to promote tourism and the Batwa's involvement.

The capacity of OBPE has also been strengthened through trainings for ranger, the renovation of the park headquarters and operationalization, and improved of staff well-being though meals provided daily at the park. Community perceptions and reconciliation improved thanks to these efforts and the cultural center and the successful International Chimpanzee Day celebration are examples of this.

The \$1.5M Public-Private Partnership with the Ministry of Energy for the Mpanda project is also a major milestone and example of innovative financing to address risk mitigation, enhance environmental and social impact, and crowd in additional financing. This investment and the 10-year Payment for Ecosystem Services contract with the Kibira Foundation are critical to ensure the long-term sustainability and positive impacts on both the environment and local communities.

Documenting lessons learned will ensure that insights are captured and shared. Finally, the continued engagement with key partners like UNDP, ENABEL, BPF, and IFAD is providing synergistic opportunities and avoid duplication.

The project also faces some potential risks. Ensuring the Kibira Foundation's long-term sustainability and operational effectiveness requires continued capacity building and technical support. Advocating for increased access to Kibira Park requires navigation of security concerns and proactive engagement with stakeholders. Finally, to realize the full potential of nature-positive value chains it is necessary to effectively address capacity gaps within local cooperatives.

Continued monitoring and adaptive management will be essential to ensure the project's long-term success and contribution to peace and conservation in the region. In addition, significant progress has been made in resource mobilization. The project is securing \$2.6 million from the MBRGI and is actively exploring funding opportunities with LLM/Norad. These efforts will be crucial for ensuring the project's long-term sustainability and maximizing its impact.

ANNEX 1. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets		Comments
			2024	Target achieved in 2024	
Output 1.1: The role of the state authorities in protecting and managing the National Parks is recognized and restored	Net change in the incidences of conflict in the forest and buffer zone	12 incident report in 2022	12<	1	1 major incident was reported between Ecogardes and members of the Batwa communities who tried to enter the park illegally to collect bamboo.
	Number of rangers recruited and properly equipped	0	60	44 (32 <i>ecogardes</i> and 12 trackers)	32 ecogardes trained in natural resource management and biomonitoring 12 trackers recruited to conduct chimpanzee habituation surveys
	Number of women and Batwa rangers recruited and properly equipped	0	30	6	6 women recruited as part of the tracker team (50%)

	Number of hectares of protected area under improved management arrangement in the National Park and the Buffer zone	0	25,000	18217 ha	The data reflects the total area of park subdivision where the project has direct intervention.
Output 1.3: Populations of endangered primate species are monitored and protected	Net change in the reported incidences of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking	TBD	TBD	N/A	0 poaching cases on chimpanzees have been reported in 2024. The project is working to provide accurate baseline data based on the information collected during the biomonitoring
	Population of primates in target site following interventions	230-500	550	N/A	A chimpanzee survey started in November 2024 the report is expected in Q1 2025
Output 1.4: Impacts of deforestation and degradation on forests reduced through targeted reforestation activities (forest and landscape restoration)	Annual deforestation rates using globally available forest mapping sources indicated as percentage of tree cover reduction per year	-2.02	0	0	To be determined at the end of the programme
	Proportion of implementation area (ha) under effective restoration	0	2,000	120	The project is still working to ensure that restoration activities are effectively implemented in existing reforested areas before

					expanding into new areas.
Output 1.5: Land access and rights of Batwa communities improved in order to allow Batwa communities to access conservation benefits and reduce land speculation due to poorly defined land rights	Number of hectares of land acquired and secured for Batwa communities	0	2	0	The Kibira foundation has developed a safeguards protocol to acquire land for the Batwa, which is a preliminary step before the land purchase can begun
	Number of mechanisms promoting human rights and inclusion of Batwa	0	2	1	The Kibira foundation has developed a safeguards protocol to acquire land for the Batwa

Output 1.6: Long term social cohesion, community resilience and development are promoted through enhanced linkages with the high-value forests	Number of significant cultural heritage stories/symbolics collected from communities and amplified through appropriate communication tools and supports	0	5	6	
	Percentage of people within communities relying on target ecosystem products and services with improved perception of nature conservation	0	15%	0	The cultural center has just been established. Further assessment on communities' perception will be conducted in 2025 and 2026
Output 2.2: Policies and strategies implemented to ensure peace and nature-positive impact of investments	Number of policies or measures taken by the IF and Foundation to monitor nature and peace impact of investments following project support or influence	0	5	1	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Mpanda project has been developed.
	Number of ex post performance indicators incorporated by the IF to monitor and maximize peace and nature impact	0	5	0	This year the foundation has mainly focused on improving its capacities and identifying partnership/business opportunities with the private.
Output 2.3: Additional public- private capital mobilised and catalysed leading to an increased amount of finance available for locally led businesses	US\$ value of private finance mobilized to positively impact the Kibira forests	0	\$2M	\$0M	Ongoing discussion with the potential private sector investment for the construction of ecolodges
	Number of partners who commit to co- financing, complementary follow-up programming, pledges, PPPs, etc.	0	3	1	The Kibira foundation has identified one private operator willing to develop ecotourism in the park (Rwegura). A first analysis on cost for rehabilitation of bungalow has been conducted

	Total US\$ value (public and private) spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of the forests	0	\$10M	\$0	UNCDF is pursuing efforts in mobilizing additional fundings. Some project proposals are currently under consideration
--	---	---	-------	-----	---

	Number of communications materials and campaigns produced (including stories from on the ground, strategy, social media accounts)	0	4	1	One newsletter was released with the PBF
--	---	---	---	---	--