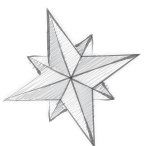


# Linking great ape conservation and poverty alleviation in Rwanda

Kigali, Rwanda, November 2015

PCLG EVENT REPORT



Poverty and  
Conservation  
Learning Group

## Acknowledgements

The meeting 'Linking great ape conservation and poverty alleviation in Rwanda' was organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Gorilla Organization with funding from the Arcus Foundation. The workshop was facilitated by Samson Werikhe of the Gorilla Organization, with support from Jillian Miller (The Gorilla Organization) and Alessandra Giuliani (IIED).

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Finally, we thank all the participants for taking the time to attend this workshop, and for their valuable contributions to the discussions.

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## About the project partner

The Gorilla Organization works internationally to save the world's last remaining gorillas in the wild, by funding small grass-roots projects, run by local African partners that tackle the real threats to the gorillas' long term survival. The Gorilla Organization understands that if gorillas are to have a realistic chance of survival in the context of Africa's significant challenges, conservation and poverty alleviation need to happen side-by-side. And so the Gorilla Organization works with local communities to find alternative resources to those found in the forest, lessening encroachment into the gorilla habitat and lifting local people out of poverty. For more information visit the Gorilla Organization's website (<http://www.gorillas.org>) or contact Jillian Miller at [jillian@gorillas.org](mailto:jillian@gorillas.org).



## About the event

For more information about this event and to view all the presentations visit <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/linking-conservation-and-poverty-alleviation-rwanda>, or contact Alessandra Giuliani at [alessandra.giuliani@iied.org](mailto:alessandra.giuliani@iied.org)

## Photo credits

All photos in this report were taken by Alessandra Giuliani, 2015.

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## ACRONYMS

ACNR	Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda
ARCOS	Albertine Rift Conservation Society
ARECO	Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes
BINP	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
FHA	Forest of Hope Association
HMP	Historically Marginalised People
IBA	Important Bird Area
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
LCG	Local Conservation Group
MGVP	Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
MINIRENA	Ministry of Natural Resources
NESDA	Network for Environment and Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NNP	Nyungwe National Park
PCLG	Poverty and Conservation Learning Group
RDB	Rwanda Development Board
REDO	Rural Environment and Development Organisation
RNRA	Rwanda Natural Resources Authority
SACOLA	Sabyinyo Community Livelihoods Association
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VNP	Volcanoes National Park

## BACKGROUND

Great apes, and particularly mountain gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*), are highly endangered and could disappear very soon from the wild without concerted interventions for their protection. Great apes often occur in areas of the world characterised by a high density of poor people. As a result, humans end up competing with great apes for the limited resources available in their environment, often endangering the survival of great apes. At the same time, great apes are of huge interest to conservationists and anthropologists for their close relationship with humans and for the ecological role they play. They also have high commercial value, considering that tourists are willing to pay substantial fees to see them. In the recent past, many initiatives have been trialled to minimise or eliminate the conflicts between local people and great apes. However, those initiatives have often been limited in their success, and, as we write, many communities living near great ape conservation sites remain poor and continue to put pressure on protected areas and the species living within them.

### Objectives and anticipated outcomes

Bearing this context in mind, this workshop was organised with the goal of bringing together field practitioners working on great apes conservation and poverty alleviation issues in Rwanda to:

- Provide a space for Rwanda based conservation and development organisations to share their experiences in linking conservation (and particularly great ape conservation) and poverty alleviation, reflecting on what has worked, what hasn't and why
- Understand the framework for conservation and development policies in Rwanda
- Identify what changes are needed (from specific practices to national policies) in order to maximise conservation-poverty linkages
- Develop practical proposals for how these changes might be brought about, and what role a group of conservation and development organisations in Rwanda could play (for example through information exchange, learning and joint action).

Anticipated outputs and outcomes of the workshop were:

- An improved understanding, among organisations working in Rwanda, as to the activities being undertaken by their peers, and the lessons learned in trying to link conservation with poverty alleviation
- Agreement on the need (or not) of some kind of forum to continue the dialogue and lesson-learning started at this event among Rwanda conservation and development organisations (including roles, responsibilities, way of working for the group)
- If possible, development of practical proposals for a number of activities that the group could address to bring about the changes at local and national level identified above.

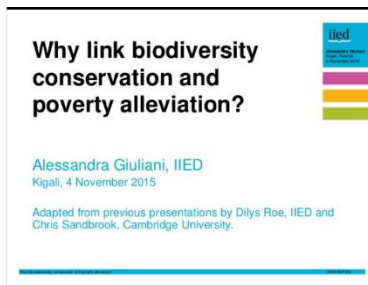
The workshop was based on presentations and discussions among and between participants. In total, about 30 participants attended this meeting. Besides Rwandan conservation and development practitioners, and government representatives, the workshop was attended also by representatives of the existing national chapters of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group in Cameroon, DRC, and Uganda. Their presence at this meeting served two purposes: to show Rwanda participants what a network like PCLG can do, and how it can operate in practice; and to give an opportunity to existing country chapters to strengthen their relationship.

The structure of the workshop revolved around a number of distinct themes. Day 1 (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November) was mainly focused on learning from each other and understanding the framework for conservation and development policies in Rwanda. On day two (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of November), colleagues from DRC, Cameroon, and Uganda shared their experiences of working as a network in their respective countries, providing concrete examples of the type of work they had done together, their achievements to date, and lessons learnt along the way. On Day three (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of November), participants visited some of the projects carried out near Musanze to link conservation and poverty objectives on the ground.

## DAY ONE

The meeting started with opening remarks from Samson Werikhe, the meeting's facilitator, who welcomed participants, provided an overview of the structure and objectives of this workshop, as well as of its anticipated outcomes.

Following on from Samson's introduction, Alessandra Giuliani (IIED), one of the meeting organisers, gave a short presentation on 'Why link biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation', the central theme of the workshop.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### Ice breaker

The meeting proceeded with an 'ice breaker' game. The goal was to set a relaxed tone for this workshop, and to give participants a chance to get to know each other in an informal setting. In order to encourage participants to introduce themselves to as many people as possible, participants were rewarded with a different letter every time they introduced themselves to another person. After 20 minutes, people were asked to return to their seat and use the letters acquired to form the longest possible word that best described the meeting (figure 1). The winner of the game, by popular vote, was Yvonne Bigengimana (ARCOS) with the word 'empowering'.



Figure 1 The words produced by participants during the icebreaking game.

## Participants' expectations

The ice breaker was followed by a round of introductions. Each participant was asked to introduce themselves and say one thing they would like to learn during this meeting and one thing they would like to see addressed (see figure 2). Many participants expressed similar thoughts about what they expected to get out of this meeting. For example, a common theme that emerged was the need to learn more about what other organisations in Rwanda are doing, and how they address issues relevant to poverty and conservation in their work. Others wanted to hear how PCLG works in Cameroon, DRC and Uganda from the people who run these networks. Finally, many Rwanda participants hoped this meeting would be the first step towards the establishment of a network of conservation and development practitioners in Rwanda, which would facilitate the sharing and exchanging of information about poverty and conservation issues in the country. Many attendees saw the potential for exploiting such learning opportunities at both individual and organisational levels.



Figure 2 Participants share their expectations for the meeting.

These are some of the reasons that participants voiced for attending the meeting and what they were hoping to get out of it:

*“Learn what other countries are doing to link conservation and poverty”* - Julius Nziza, Gorilla Doctors

*“Here to share my experience but also to learn from other PCLG national chapters”* - Stanley Dinsi, Cameroon PCLG

*“Linking poverty and environment is key. We need to learn from different experiences”* - Marshall Banamwana, Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA)

*“Learn how to alleviate poverty around national parks”* - Louis Rugerinyange, Chief Park Warden, NNP

*“Learn more about different approaches people are using to meet conservation and development goals”* - Yvonne Bigengimana, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)

*“Here to share successes AND challenges and to hear the experience of PCLGs from other countries”* - Salvatrice Musabyeyezu, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)

*“Learn what other people are doing and how we might be able to do things together as a group of organisations”* - Jode Garbe, Wild Rwanda

## Session 1 – The policy and institutional framework for linking poverty and conservation in Rwanda

This session was facilitated by Jillian Miller from The Gorilla Organisation and consisted of two presentations:

1. Rwanda pursuing a “Green Economy” approach to economic transformation, EDPRS II 2013-2018 – Marshall Banamwana, MINIRENA
2. Empowering women for gender mainstreaming in conservation and poverty alleviation – Dancille Mukakamari, Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes (ARECO – RWANDA NZIZA)

### **Rwanda pursuing a “Green Economy” approach to economic transformation, EDPRS II 2013-2018 – Marshall Banamwana, MINIRENA**

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) strives to achieve conservation and development goals in Rwanda. Currently, 10% of the country’s land is fully protected under four national parks. The Ministry of Environment has many policies, legislations, programmes and strategies in place to link conservation and poverty alleviation. These include Vision 2020, the Second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II), and legislations like the Organic Law on the Environment, the Land Law, and the Forest Law.

The country faces many challenges, like dependence on fossil fuel as the sole source of energy. As can be expected, this has potentially huge impacts on climate and affects conservation and development efforts. There is the need to explore and invest in clean technologies. High population growth vis-à-vis dependence on natural resources also poses a serious challenge.

Going forward, MINIRENA’s priorities include the integration of National Capital Accounting into the National Development Planning system, and speeding up the integration of environmental management practices at the regional level.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### **Empowering women for gender mainstreaming in conservation and poverty alleviation – Dancille Mukakamari, Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes (ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA)**

ARECO was founded in 1991 and later granted legal status by the Ministry of Justice in April 1992. The Association seeks to promote a sound environment for sustainable social and economic development. It operates countrywide with a special focus on fragile ecosystems and protected areas.

Over the years, ARECO has focused on empowering women so they can play a bigger role in decision-making in biodiversity conservation and community development. ARECO started working with women near Mukura Reserve in 2004 and has since extended its activities to Volcanoes and Nyungwe National Parks (NNP), and the Rugezi swamp.

Some of the key outcomes of ARECO’s work are:

- Awareness and advocacy campaigns on advancing the role of women in biodiversity conservation and development
- Trainings of women on cooperative management and creation of women based cooperatives, eg bamboo propagation and processing, energy saving, rain water harvesting, and beekeeping
- Self-confidence, active participation and strong ownership of women in programmes and projects.



While the key lessons learned by ARECO in the process are:

- Cultural barriers and negative attitudes can be changed
- Women-based enterprises provide a good model for linking environment and poverty goals
- Exploiting partnerships and synergies is very important
- We need to share best practices and use them for policy advocacy.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### Session 1 – Questions and answers:

Following these presentations, participants had a chance to ask questions to the presenters. The following were the key points raised during the discussion:

1. There are many good laws in Rwanda supporting the promotion of conservation and poverty alleviation linkages, but these are scattered among various government departments.
2. Women in Rwanda have equal rights to men and their right to access and own land is not disputed. All land in Rwanda is currently registered and women can own land just like men. Implementation of the law is not a problem either. The limiting factor is the mind-set of many men, which still has not changed. Women, on the other hand, often don't have enough information on their rights. For this reason ARECO carries out awareness raising activities in school to inform girls of their rights, and also discuss conservation challenges (education activities on conservation issues are traditionally tailored to boys).
3. Law enforcement is used only as a last option to uphold policies. Community awareness and sensitisation campaigns are considered more effective.
4. The long term sustainability of projects carried out within a community is a problem. There is often fear, on both sides, when a project comes to an end. But from ARECO's experience after 4-5 years communities are ready to be left on their own without fearing losing the benefits accrued during the project.

## Discussion – What are the key conservation and development priorities (and challenges) in Rwanda?

To facilitate this discussion, participants were divided in four groups. All groups were asked to debate what they thought were the key conservation and development priorities, as well as challenges, in Rwanda (see figure 3). After the breakout session, each group reported to plenary their conclusions. The results of this session are summarised below.

### What are key conservation and development *priorities* in Rwanda?

Human welfare: Conservation should be managed in a manner that spurs development in the local communities. And by development we mean that the local communities can afford to support education, health, shelter and any other basic livelihood requirements.

**Land conservation:** Land conservation is very important in a small but densely populated country like Rwanda. Land houses key resources for both conservation and development objectives. The judicious use of land paves the way for viable investments in conservation and development.

**Community awareness:** Communities need to be aware of conservation and development issues, risks, and values, so they can take action when necessary.

**Human – wildlife conflict:** Due to increasing interaction between wild animals and humans, there is a huge risk of disease transmission between the two. Such diseases can adversely affect the whole conservation and development process and any signs of outbreaks should be addressed immediately. Additionally, this interaction often causes conflicts, like crop raiding, attacks on people, etc.

**Ecotourism:** This is one of the best investment opportunity to link conservation and development. Many projects based around gorilla viewing have been implemented to date; revenue from these projects has accumulated over the years and invested in development projects.

**Wildlife Act:** Related to the point above, wildlife in general is the backbone of conservation and development initiatives, and its adequate protection will ensure continued investments in conservation and development initiatives. The Wildlife Act is a great tool to protect wildlife species.

**Buffer zone management:** Buffer zones are transition areas where active conservation and development take place. Therefore, effective management of buffer zones is crucial in ensuring a continued supply of resources from adjacent protected areas.

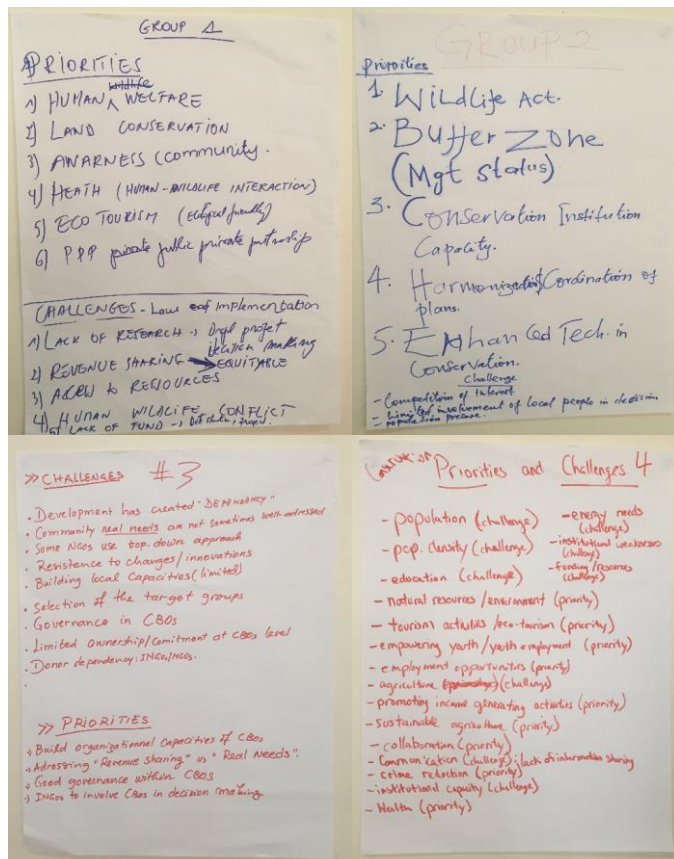


Figure 3 Discussions in groups.

**What are key conservation and development challenges in Rwanda?**

**Lack of research:** Investment in conservation and development projects should be based on solid research findings, but these are often lacking in Rwanda. More information is needed to develop sound management plans, and to monitor and evaluate progress in investments.

Inequitable revenue sharing: Groups entitled to receive benefits from revenue sharing schemes often do not get a fair share of what they are owed, and problems that should have been addressed by revenue sharing schemes remain unresolved.

Human-wildlife conflict: While wildlife can benefit people by providing an important source of revenue (eg gorilla tourism), it is also the source of many conflicts. Examples are crop raiding, loss of human lives, and population pressure on wildlife habitats (eg encroachment).

Lack of funds: Availability of funds is key in determining whether conservation and development projects succeed or fail. Very often good projects are abandoned before completion because they run out of funds.

Competing interests: Duplication of initiatives, lack of coordination and consultation amongst stakeholders can breed confusion and lead to lack of progress.

Limited involvement of local people in decision-making: Sometimes important decisions are taken by people with limited knowledge of local situations. The result is often an inadequate project design and eventually failure of the project. Local people, who are the primary beneficiaries, should be involved at all stages of a project's development, implementation and monitoring.

Population pressure: Increasing human population is putting extreme pressure on natural resources.

## Session 2 – Linking conservation and poverty alleviation: experiences from international NGOs working in Rwanda

This session was facilitated by Greg Bakunzi from Amohoro Tours and consisted of four presentations:

- Linking livelihoods and conservation: IGCP's strategies and lessons learned – Salvatrice Musabyeyezu, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)
- Gorilla Doctors: A One Health Approach – Julius Nziza, Gorilla Doctors
- Engaging local communities in conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda – Thierry Aimable Inzirayineza, Forest of Hope Association (FHA)
- The Gorilla Organization's approach - Jillian Miller, The Gorilla Organization

### **Linking livelihoods and conservation: IGCP's strategies and lessons learned – Salvatrice Musabyeyezu, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)**

Gorilla tourism is a great opportunity in Rwanda. IGCP also promotes cultural tourism, and other gorilla tourism related initiatives, like the production of local handicrafts. SACOLA, which stands for Sabyinyo Community Livelihoods Association, is an example of a private community partnership supported by IGCP. This tourism enterprise is owned by the community but privately managed. The revenue generated is then invested in community projects. IGCP is also dealing with climate change adaptation. For example, it helped planting over 190,000 trees for erosion control and agroforestry.

Key points raised during the presentation:

- There are many challenges in linking livelihoods and conservation, eg fairness of revenue sharing schemes, and weak governance
- IGCP provides capacity building, for example helping communities identify viable conservation and development projects in which to invest
- IGCP does not have an obvious exit strategy for some of its projects and any advice would be welcome.

### **Gorilla Doctors: A One Health Approach – Joost Philippa, Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project and UC Davis Wildlife Health Center**

This organisation is often known by the name of Gorilla Doctors, though their official name is Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP). The first 'Gorilla Doctor' was in the field in 1986. Now there are 15

vets working in Rwanda, Uganda and DRC. The ‘One Health Approach’ – which is common to many organisations, not just Gorilla Doctors - focuses on poor health as one of the attributes of poverty. Poor health leads to diseases, increased mortality, and absence from work. One-health activities benefit local communities by improving health and also monitor pathogens in wildlife that could potentially cause outbreaks in people. More specifically, Gorilla Doctors pay for health costs for trackers and their families; they try to decrease rabies rates in the park; they improve education, in collaborating with local people. The programme’s targets include: mountain gorillas and other wildlife species, human population (park workers and family members), livestock and companion animals.

Lessons learned by Gorilla Doctors while implementing the One Health Approach include:

- ‘Extreme Conservation’ works only if it is a collaborative effort
- Communities around the park are as important as the park itself to achieve conservation goals.

Key discussion points:

- Gorilla Doctors collaborate with local medical doctors and equip them with relevant skills to implement the One Health approach
- The Gorilla Doctors’ programme is sustainable in the long term because local vets and doctors are being trained
- Gorilla Doctors benefit local communities by ensuring that local people are healthy
- Gorilla Doctors pay health insurance for local people and educate the communities on how to improve their livelihoods
- Gorilla Doctors have exchange programmes with the University of California Davis and local hospitals.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### **Engaging local communities in the conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda – Thierry Aimable Inzirayineza, Forest of Hope Association (FHA)**

Forest of Hope Association (FHA) is a local NGO working for the conservation of the Gishwati Forest in Rwanda since 2012. FHA’s mission is to engage local communities in the conservation of the Gishwati Forest. There is a great potential for tourism activities in Gishwati. Both great apes and monkeys occur in this forest and as we know they are a great attraction to tourists. FHA has had some experience of trying to link conservation and poverty alleviation around Gishwati Forest. These are some of the key outcomes of their work:

- At least 10 jobs were created
- Local awareness about the need to protect Gishwati forest has increased
- Local dependency on forest resources has been reduced
- Conflicts between local people and conservation managers have been reduced.

Factors supporting the conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda:



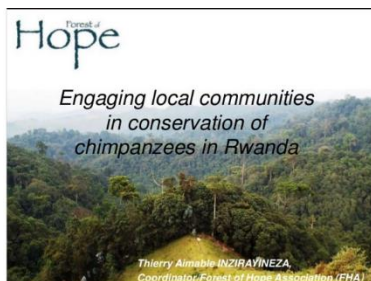
- Good working relationships with government agencies and other stakeholders. These include: army, police, Rustier District leaders, Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA).

Factors limiting the conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda:

- High human population density
- Land scarcity
- Insufficient local support for conservation activities
- Lack of long term funding for conservation activities.

Key lessons learned:

- Community based forest protection should involve local people to ensure the forest's continued existence
- Conservation education influences development results
- Helping local people develop alternative sources of income can reduce human-wildlife conflicts.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### **The Gorilla Organization's approach – Jillian Miller, The Gorilla Organization**

The Gorilla Organization has been operating in Rwanda since 1991, though originally it was called Digit Fund and was established by Dr Dian Fossey. While Digit Fund promoted a 'fence' approach to conservation, the Gorilla Organization's approach is based around supporting the communities living near great ape sites. The idea is that people who can take care of their needs will not go into a protected area and use its resources. So for example where people used to go into the forest to collect honey, the Gorilla Organization has supported the establishment of bee keeping enterprises outside the forest. 46 honey farms were created in Rwanda by the Gorilla Organization and eventually handed over to the local authorities to manage. Other projects supported by the Gorilla Organization include farming opportunities for the Batwa communities, and the provision of saving and loans schemes. The idea behind all these projects is that economically empowered people protect (and actually improve!) their environment.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

**Session 2 – Questions and answers:**

The following were the key points raised during the question and answer session that followed the presentations:

- In the case of SACOLA, IGCP provided the local community with project management, financing, and accounting skills at the start of the project.
- Gorilla Doctors don't treat people, but collaborate with local clinics and hospitals. The 15 Gorilla Doctors' vets are all local people, and they also have an education programme. So this project is sustainable in the long term.
- Over the past 20 years, the Gorilla Organization has played its part in Rwanda in trying to achieve both conservation and development goals.

### Session 3 – Linking conservation and poverty alleviation: experiences from the national organisations working in Rwanda

This session was facilitated by Felix Ndagijimana of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and consisted of four presentations:

- Linking tourism and conservation to communities for sustainable development – Greg Bakunzi, Amahoro Tours & Jean d'Amour Manirere, Pamoja Action
- ARCOS' contribution to community livelihoods through conservation agreements – Yvonne Bigengimana, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)
- Beekeeping for the improvement of communities' livelihoods and the conservation of the environment – Damascene Gashumba, Rural Environment and Development Organisation (REDO)
- Jode Garbe from Wild Rwanda

#### **Linking tourism and conservation to communities for sustainable development – Greg Bakunzi, Amahoro Tours and Jean d'Amour Manirere, Pamoja Action**

Pamoja Action is a national NGO established in 2004 to focus on the linkages between local communities and tourism, in order to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life in areas adjacent to mountain gorillas. The project targets local poor people: youth, women, and ex-poachers in Musanze, Nyabihu, and Burera Districts.

Key outcomes:

- 45 community micro-credit schemes were initiated and those schemes have helped increase household income by 10%
- Food security has improved, together with nutrition (thanks to the dissemination of beans high in iron)
- Youth employment has increased (2,129 young people enrolled)
- 8 hectares and 234 small livestock have been offered to local communities
- The tourism supply chain has improved, with an increase from 2 to 31 products that are offered to tourists that come from the communities.

Lessons learned:

- Community based tourism can be diverse and very profitable (eg community farming centres, intercultural exchanges, community museums).
- Tourists are interested in community activities
- Communities should be grouped into working associations to become more effective

- Youth and women play a key role in the supply chain for tourism enterprises
- Tourism and conservation revenues help in community development
- Amahoro Tours is not only focused on tours (making money) but have a more inclusive strategy.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### **ARCOS' contribution to community livelihoods through conservation agreements - Yvonne Bigengimana, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)**

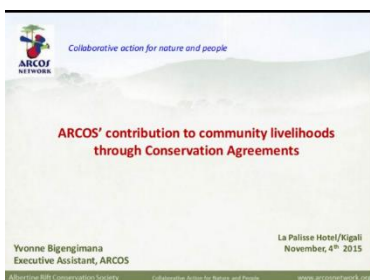
ARCOS is a regional conservation organisation focusing on the Albertine Rift region (from the northern end of Lake Albert to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika), the Great Lakes region and African Mountains. ARCOS' mission is to enhance biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for nature and people.

After 20 years of operation, ARCOS has achieved tremendous results in advancing the conservation agenda in this region. It has also received an award of excellence for promoting collaborative actions, advocating for sustainability in development, strengthening civil society networks and facilitating dialogue on conservation and development issues, among others. Some of ARCOS' results include:

- Increased community engagement in environmental conservation through the signing of conservation agreements
- Improved governance of community groups
- Initiation of coffee certification processes (coffee shading, organic manure, waste water treatment etc)
- Implementation of good practices for sustainable agriculture and bee keeping (soil erosion control and agro forestry, modern bee keeping techniques).

Some of the key lessons learned in the process are:

- Engaging community is not easy. A lot of effort is required to raise their attention and ensure their long-term commitment
- Working with good partners has made the conservation agreement approach successful
- It is important to manage the balance between the high expectations of local communities and the limited funds available for many projects
- Changing people's behavior takes a long time.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

## **Beekeeping for the improvement of communities' livelihoods and the conservation of the environment– Damascene Gashumba, Rural Environment and Development organisation (REDO)**

Rural Environment and Development Organisation (REDO) was founded in 1999 to involve local communities around Volcanoes National Park and Nyungwe National Park in implementing conservation and development projects, in order to eradicate poverty in the targeted areas.

Beekeeping is the main conservation activity around Volcanoes National Park and has greatly contributed to the enhancement of local people's welfare. These are some of the key outcomes of REDO's work:

- Modern beekeeping techniques are widespread
- An increased number of women are involved in beekeeping
- Beekeeping products are now available in local markets.

There are, however, many limitations affecting beekeeping in the area:

- Farmers are not good at competing with traditional market players
- Cooperatives remain dependent on slow and inconsistent local sales
- Production is still low, with only 4,050 tons of honey harvested annually
- Donors funding to beekeeping programmes is limited
- There is a high demographic pressure in the areas where REDO works
- Lack of capital for women to initiate enterprises, and, as a consequence, still limited involvement of women in beekeeping.

In conclusion, beekeeping has a huge potential to link biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation goals, but more work is required in this area.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

## **Jode Garbe from Wild Rwanda**

The mission of Wild Rwanda is to promote empowered and environmentally-conscious local communities in Rwanda through education, environmental conservation, and sustainable economic development. More specific goals of Wild Rwanda are:

- To increase awareness and protection of the endangered mountain gorillas
- To rescue animals of all kinds that have been illegally captured and confiscated
- To assist in creating economic independence for local communities in Rwanda.

These are some of the key points raised about Wild Rwanda during the presentation:

- Wild Rwanda focuses on the education of school children on conservation and development issues because this is a way to get to the adults too, and of course, they are the next generation



- They don't just provide education for children, but also the opportunity for children to engage in conservation projects in the longer term if they want to
- They have created an organic model farm, with a women's cooperative. The assumption made by Wild Rwanda at the start of the project was: if we provide them with land and training, they can manage on their own. In hindsight, the women's cooperative would have benefited from more supervision especially at the beginning of the project.

### Session 3 – Questions and answers:

The following were the key points raised during the question and answer session that followed the presentations:

- ARCOS: Working with local communities is difficult but possible. For example, the communities we are working with in Mukura are committed to reducing pressure on the forests and are implementing agroforestry. We have done some evaluation work already, and the impacts are there.
- Amohoro tours: They employ a two-tier strategy. To begin with it is all about the money; in the second phase (implementation phase) they go beyond it, and focus on empowerment, education, family planning. For example, one year a member of the group increased his income, and therefore got a second wife. But the following year he had to drop out of the group because he did not have enough money to stay, because now had two wives to support. Education and family planning can prevent situations like this from happening again.

## Group activity 1 – What works, what doesn't and why in linking poverty and conservation objectives in Rwanda

Participants were divided in two groups and asked to discuss what works, what doesn't work and why in linking poverty alleviation and conservation objectives in Rwanda. After the breakout session, each group reported to plenary their main conclusions (see figure 4). The results of this session are summarised below.

### What works and why in linking poverty alleviation and conservation objectives in Rwanda?

Community groups/cooperatives: Working with community groups has become increasingly easier over time. It is now simpler to bring together groups to implement community managed projects, like tourism enterprises, theatre, arts, local crafts, tourist guides, tourist campsites and other facilities. Over the years, community groups have experienced and learned the value of working together and are now more united than ever before.

Law enforcement: Biodiversity conservation laws and policies are in place and are now well understood as people have been sensitised about the law. Violators are arrested and prosecuted, however, incidences of violation are infrequent.

Stakeholders' communication: Information sharing among all key stakeholders has improved. Advances in communication technology (eg internet, mobile phones, Skype) has vastly contributed to this.

Revenue sharing: Although the revenue sharing scheme is far from perfect, money accruing from mountain gorilla tourism is shared with local communities living adjacent to Volcanoes National Park. These funds have been used to build roads, schools and health centres, and start small micro-credit schemes.

### What doesn't work and why in linking poverty alleviation and conservation objectives in Rwanda?

Revenue sharing: Revenue from tourism is not shared equitably. Local communities often get very little, and more benefits are accrued by those who are technically less entitled to them. Reasons for this are poor governance, biased policy implementation, and lack of tools to easily manage, control and monitor the implementation of the revenue sharing scheme.

Projects' sustainability: Most conservation and development projects are short term and have limited funding. This donor-dependency hinders the achievement of projects' conservation and development goals.

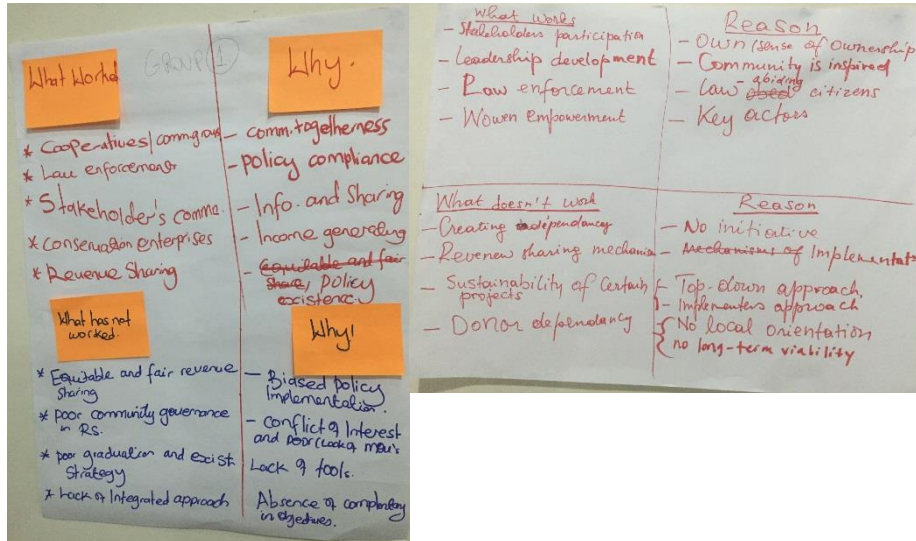


Figure 4 Discussion in groups.

## DAY TWO

### Introduction to day two

Samson Werikhe opened the second day of the workshop by looking back at some of the expectations from the workshop that people had voiced during the opening session on day one. It is clear the meeting has already addressed some of the issues on people's mind, like understanding what the best approaches to linking poverty and conservation are, and how to make these approaches and interventions sustainable in the long term. Other issues, for example around networking in Rwanda and what a PCLG could achieve in this country, will be the focus of day two of the meeting.

### Session 4

**This session included two presentations that could not be delivered on the first day.**

- Remarks from Antoine Mudakikwa, Rwanda Development Board, on the main conservation policies in Rwanda and the work the Rwanda Development Board does to achieve the country's conservation and development objectives
- Seeking Biodiversity Conservation through Improving Livelihood of Local Communities in Rwanda - Serge Joram Nsengimana, Association pour la conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) & Rwanda Conservation Forum

**Antoine Mudakikwa, from the Rwanda Development Board, gave some initial remarks on the main conservation policies in Rwanda and the work the Rwanda Development Board does to achieve the country's conservation and development objectives.** His remarks were followed by a discussion in plenary. Below are some notes that cover this session.

The policies in place in Rwanda are very good but there are implementation challenges. For example, there are very good laws around compensation of local communities from conservation activities, but the communities sometimes don't get a fair share of what is owed to them.

Tourism and conservation used to be under one office in Rwanda, now are under two different departments and they really try to emphasise conservation versus tourism.

Managing national parks in Rwanda is difficult because of poverty levels and population pressure. Conservation is clearly not a priority for these communities. A different perspective is provided by Akagera National park, which is privately managed. Decision making in this Park is easier as bureaucracy is less burdensome. It is difficult to estimate how much money goes from this Park to the local communities, but the feeling is that the communities are satisfied and their livelihoods improved. However, animal-human conflict is still a big challenge.

### **Seeking biodiversity conservation through improving livelihood of local communities in Rwanda - Serge Joram Nsengimana, Association pour la conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) & Rwanda Conservation Forum**

ACNR was created in 1992 and its mission is to promote biodiversity conservation through participatory and sustainable management of natural resources in Rwanda. More specifically, ACNR's objectives are to:

- Promote research contributing to the conservation of Rwanda's biodiversity
- Enhance ecosystems' conservation, acknowledging the links to the livelihoods of local communities
- Develop and implement a sound environmental education and awareness raising programme for the public
- Actively contribute to the enhancement of national laws and policies on environmental issues.

ACNR works with Local Conservation Groups (LCGs), these are groups or individuals who, together with relevant stakeholders, help promote conservation and sustainable development at critical sites for biodiversity (eg IBAs). Members are usually volunteers and are typically drawn from the local community but may also include local authority representatives, business people or other stakeholders.

The following are some of the points that emerged from the discussion in plenary following the presentation:

- Communities are trained to use natural resources sustainably (e.g. wetlands)
- Local communities members have become aware of the importance of conservation and now when they see illegal activities they inform local authorities and the police
- Local communities need to become independent in the long term, as ACNR cannot support them forever.

## Session 5 – The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG): the international network and the national chapters

This session was facilitated by Beatrice Kabihogo and consisted of four presentations:

- The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) - Alessandra Giuliani, IIED
- The Uganda PCLG: Linking conservation to poverty - Arthur Mugisha, Uganda PCLG
- Poverty and Conservation Learning Group: Cameroon experience three years after - Stanley Dinsi, Cameroon PCLG.
- DRC PCLG: Experience and lessons learnt – Paulson Kasereka, DRC PCLG

### **The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) - Alessandra Giuliani, IIED**

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an international network of organisations and individuals with a shared interest in integrated approaches to conservation and development. PCLG was established in 2005 to address the following problems:

- An on-going divide between conservation and development practitioners and policy makers on how and whether to link biodiversity conservation with poverty reduction so that poverty reduction policy better reflects biodiversity concerns and conservation policy pays greater attention to issues of poverty and social justice.
- The potential duplication of effort by a number of different organisations that are trying to strengthen this linkages between conservation and development objectives, but are currently grappling independently with the issues and not learning from each other.
- The lack of an established forum through which participants, from a range of backgrounds, can participate on an equal footing to share and analyse emerging experiences in linking conservation and poverty, and identify knowledge gaps and research needs.

PCLG pursues its goals through a range of activities that include: organising events and meetings; collecting and sharing information (PCLG website, newsletters and social media platforms); conducting research and research based advocacy activities. The PCLG's current research has a thematic focus on the links between great ape conservation and poverty in particular.

After a workshop held in Masindi, Uganda, in 2010, which brought together conservation and development practitioners from a number of African countries, a Cameroon and Uganda chapter of the PCLG were started in 2011, followed by a DRC PCLG in 2014.





## The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG)

Alessandra Giuliani, IIED  
5 November 2015

[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### The Uganda PCLG: linking conservation to poverty - Arthur Mugisha, Uganda PCLG

As mentioned in the previous presentation, a PCLG workshop was held in Masindi in November 2010. This meeting brought together conservation organisations from different African ape range states to share experience on what works (and what doesn't) in linking conservation and poverty alleviation. In conclusion to that meeting, participants agreed that it would be useful to establish a national chapter of the PCLG in various African countries. Uganda, was the first country to bring this idea to fruition.

More specifically, during the Masindi workshop, Uganda conservationists agreed - with IIED support - to:

- Build partnerships to fill missing links
- Promote evidence-based management
- Work together to shape policy and influence governance

U-PCLG works as a loose network of organisations and individuals who champion conservation and development goals. The network has been hosted by the Jane Goodall Institute since its inception. It receives technical support from IIED and PCLG international.

Some of the key achievements of U-PCLG to date have been:

- Advocating for an increase in the gorilla levy from \$5 to \$10
- Bringing different stakeholders together for the first time
- Supporting the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to commit to community conservation
- Identifying strategic community conservation issues
- Becoming a respected and valued network in Uganda.

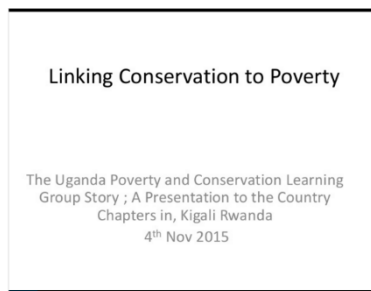
What does the future of U-PCLG look like?

- U-PCLG will remain a loose network of individuals and institutions, but with an agreed constitution and terms of references, which will strengthen the commitment of group members, and the group's recognition in the country.
- The group will look to increase and diversify its membership, to include more private sector actors, CSOs, public, youth and media.
- While most of the group's work so far has focused on Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP), in the future the group will expand its geographic remit.

While U-PCLG has achieved a lot over the past 4 years, the group has encountered many challenges along the way. These are some of the lessons learnt:

- Establishing a productive working relationship with policy makers can be challenging and time consuming
- Working as a group is a huge advantage
- Steady commitment from group's members is a challenge

- Members' interests and expectations can be conflicting at times
- Availability of funding is key to garnering interest in the group's work among members.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

### **Poverty and Conservation Learning Group: Cameroon experience three years after – Stanley Dinsi, Cameroon PCLG**

Cameroon PCLG was created in 2013 and is nested within GREG-Forêts, otherwise known as Cameroon's Forest Governance Learning Group, and hosted by NESDA-CA. Cameroon PCLG is made up of 21 individual members from across the conservation and development sectors: conservation organisations, sector ministries and the private sector.

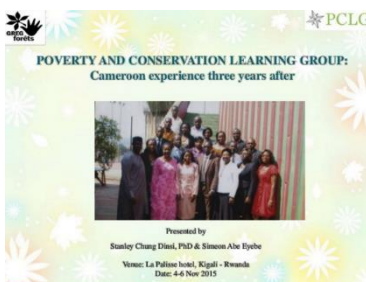
Cameroon PCLG members see great value in working as a network:

- Increased ability to influence conservation and livelihood policies, due to the credibility of Cameroon PCLG
- Increased participation of civil society in forest governance in Cameroon
- Bringing together people with different backgrounds means new knowledge is gained and experience shared.

However, working as a network comes with its challenges, like the difficulty of ensuring the continuous commitment of all group members, and the limited funding available for working as a group.

Some of the key achievements of Cameroon PCLG to date are:

- Communities in the south and south west regions of Cameroon have been sensitised (through short radio programmes, newspaper reports, TV documentary and workshops) on great ape conservation and local livelihood issues
- A mapping exercise was conducted aimed at identifying the main institutions, policies and laws put in place by the government to ensure conservation of the remaining great apes in Cameroon
- A study was carried out on the impact of private sector development activities on great apes conservation and local livelihoods.



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

## DRC PCLG: experiences and lessons learnt – Paulson Kasereka, DRC PCLG

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group in DRC (DRC PCLG) was established in 2014. The group aims to improve the links between great ape conservation and poverty alleviation in DRC, both in policy and in practice; integrate development objectives in the project portfolios of conservation organisations; and improve the capacity of these organisations to engage and influence development actors from public and private sectors to participate in the conservation of great apes.

DRC PCLG fills a number of gaps in DRC:

- It is the first national network to facilitate collaboration and exchange of information among conservation and development practitioners in DRC
- Works to increase the understanding of the linkages between great apes conservation and development in DRC
- Promotes an improved understanding of the use of livelihoods approaches and conservation tools in DRC.

Some of the key achievements of the group to date have been:

- Bringing together DRC conservation and development practitioners to share their experiences and to work together
- Research on great ape conservation projects with a livelihood component in DRC and whether or not they are improving the well-being of local people living in and around conservation areas
- Development of a communication and advocacy strategy for great ape conservation and poverty alleviation in DRC.

During its brief existence, DRC PCLG has faced challenges, but also learned lessons along the way:

- National NGOs without fundraising capabilities can be helped by the more experienced NGOs
- Working as a network in DRC is difficult due to distance and language barriers, among other things
- Engaging DRC-PCLG members in the group's activity can be difficult, due to everyone's busy schedule and communication challenges (distance and lack of reliable internet access).



[Link to the full power point presentation.](#)

## Session 5 – Questions and answers:

The presentations on the three existing national PCLG were very complimentary. Participants commented that it was good to know the different groups were organised differently according to their different realities. On the other hand, it was clear all groups were facing similar issues, for example with regards to adequate and long term funding. Some of the other key issues that emerged during the question and answer session were:

- Cameroon PCLG is made up of individual members, not representatives of organisations. So when an individual leaves a particular organisation they remain members of the group. The creation of national parks is a huge challenge in Cameroon because of human population pressure; however,

all land in Cameroon is owned by the state, so if the government decides to create a new national park they can simply go ahead and do it.

- DRC PCLG includes members from all over DRC, even though the coordination office is in Kinshasha. The work of the group, as well as its membership, is however focused on great ape sites.
- U-PCLG builds members' capacity through trainings, for example in how to write a policy brief. One of the targets of U-PCLG are companies neighbouring national parks whose activities impact on the communities surrounding the park, and on the conservation of gorillas and chimpanzees. The group is focusing first of all on private sector actors who have already showed an interest in conservation and development issues (for example tea growers around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park).

## Group activity 2 – Cooperation and information sharing practices in Rwanda: successes, challenges and lessons learnt

Participants were divided in two groups at the start of this session and asked to discuss the existing experiences in Rwanda aimed at improving cooperation and information sharing among conservation and development practitioners, and what we can learn from them. After the breakout session, each group reported to plenary their main conclusions (see figure 5). The results of this session, which was facilitated by Antoine Mudakikwa, are summarised below.

### Existing networks

There are a number of networks in Rwanda trying to address the links between poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. They include:

- Rwanda Conservation Forum
- EDPRS II/platform
- Albertine Network for Conservation Education
- Joint Action Development Forum (JADF)
- Environment and Natural Resources Joint Review (National Thematic Working Groups)
- Forest and Nature Conservation
- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Land and Mapping
- CoEBCP.

### What they do

Mainly these networks are:

- Involved in coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Championing policy advocacy

### Successes

So far these networks have succeeded in:

- Coordinating stakeholders
- Poverty alleviation effort
- Improving reporting systems.

## Challenges

However, participants feel that these networks face predictable challenges such as:

- Problem with governance of the platform
- Lack of clear objectives
- Lack of marketing/exposure
- Lack of participation
- Inability to influence change because they are not decision-making fora.

## Lessons learnt

A number of lessons have been learnt in the development and implementation of these networks:

- Collaboration is beneficial
- These are good platforms for lobbying and advocacy
- Funding resources are difficult to come by
- We need to take greater advantage of the existing fora we have
- Good platforms, with great potential to address key issues, but they need to be strengthened.

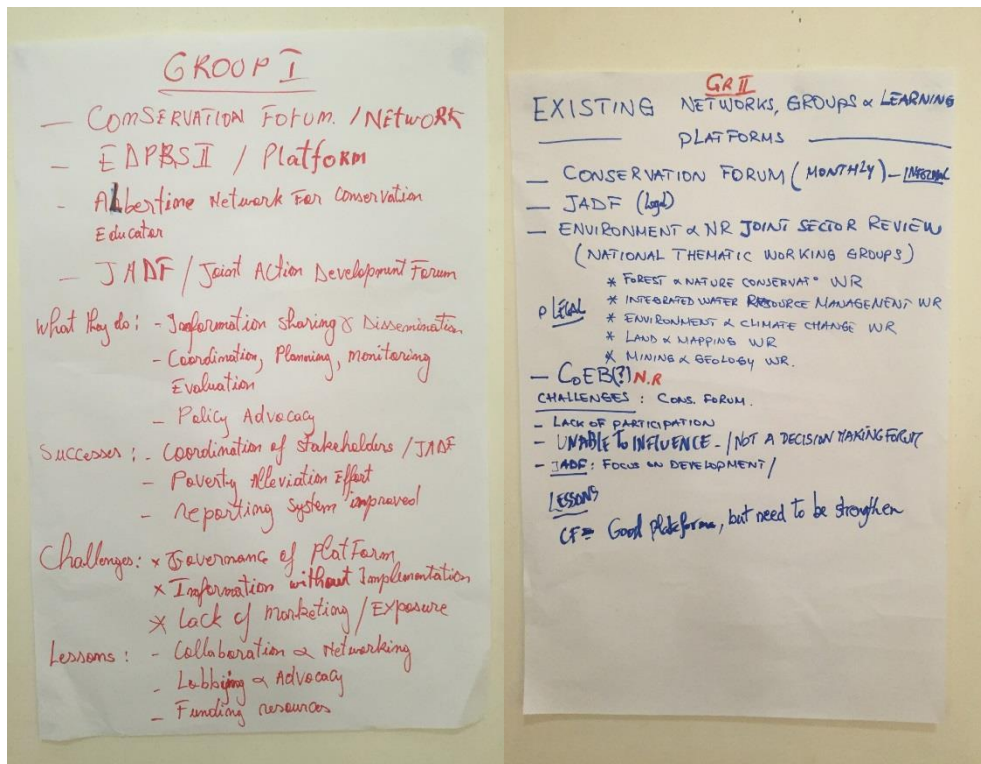


Figure 5 Discussion in groups.



## Group activity 3 – What role could a new conservation and development group play in Rwanda?

During this session, which was facilitated by Justin Rurangirwa, participants were asked to discuss, in plenary, if the PCLG model would be useful in the Rwanda context, and if we should take steps to set up a Rwanda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. The following are some of the key points that were raised during the discussion:

- There is a lot to do in the conservation field in Rwanda, so the network would contribute greatly to a number of conservation goals
- The group would be very useful to conduct advocacy activities
- It would be good to have a network that brings together different people and groups working in the conservation sector so they can work towards common goals.

In conclusion to this session, some participants expressed the opinion that a Rwanda PCLG would be a good idea and we should go ahead with it. The primary objective of this group should be policy advocacy. It would be good if this forum could be supported by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). In addition, and recognising that there are already many other platforms led by the government and private sector (as listed above), Rwanda PCLG could act as a link between these and ensure proper coordination.

Other participants, however, felt that establishing a brand new forum would take a long time and involve a considerable amount of work. It might be better to link it to an existing group like the Rwanda Conservation Forum. The Rwanda Conservation Forum is a fairly strong platform, and almost all the participants in this workshop are already part of it. At the beginning, the Rwanda Conservation Forum was a passionate advocacy forum, but over the years it has morphed into an information-sharing network, mainly used by students to showcase their work.

Further discussion on this led participants to concur that there was the need to convene a meeting with members of the Rwanda Conservation Forum to understand whether the Forum could 'host' a Rwanda PCLG. A group of volunteers was selected and tasked to organise a follow up meeting to discuss how this idea could be presented to the Forum.

## Discussion in plenary – Which activities could a conservation and development group undertake in Rwanda?

During this session, facilitated by Jillian Miller, participants were asked to discuss in plenary what a Rwanda PCLG - if formed - should do in the short as well as in the long term. The results are summarised in table 1 below:

What could this group do?	Networking / partnership activities	Research	Policy advocacy	Communication / awareness raising
<b>In the short term (12 month)</b>	Encourage partners from development organisations, private sector and other ministries to join the group; identify a suitable coordinator; develop a sound	Small research project to raise the profile of the group; the research could perhaps focus on the new national park; identify research priorities to address in the long term.	Policy advocacy might not be doable in the short term.	Raise the group's profile; develop an internal communication strategy (eg google group); national workshop to share key findings and explain to others what PCLG Rwanda is about.

	concept to present to the Rwanda Conservation Forum.			
<b>In the long term (1-3 years)</b>	Sustainable collaboration between organisations to achieve common goals.	Narrow research priorities (eg how conservation can support local communities near PAs in order to support decision makers).	Think about policy advocacy after the group has grown in strength.	A national event to show the progress and weaknesses of the group after it has worked together for 3 years.

Table 1 Proposed activities that a conservation and development group could undertake in Rwanda.

## Bringing it all together and agreeing a proposed way forward

In conclusion to the workshop, participants agreed that a smaller group of people should convene a follow up meeting to discuss: how a Rwanda PCLG could be organised; how to present the idea of merging/overlapping the Rwanda PCLG with the existing Rwanda Conservation Forum.

The people who volunteered to take this issue further were:

- Felix Ndagijimana, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund
- Greg Bakunzi, Amohoro Tours
- Jean Felix Kinani, Consultant in Conservation, Wildlife and Public Health
- Jillian Miller, The Gorilla Organization
- Justine Rurangirwa, Future 4 Kids
- Louis Rugerinyange, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Chief Park Warden, NNP

More photos from the meeting are available on the PCLG Flickr account:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/93257412@N06/sets/72157659632401394/>.

## Meeting evaluation

Before leaving, participants were asked to provide their feedback on the meeting. They did so by placing a 'dot' inside a circle. The closer to the centre of the circle, the higher was the satisfaction with that aspect of the workshop. These were the results:

**Organisation and logistics:** This met with some concerns. About 50% of the dots were clustered at the centre, but there were also some further away, with a couple of dots at the periphery. This points to the fact there was room for improving the way the meeting was organised, something the organisers take on board.

**Facilitation and process:** About 50% of the dots were near the centre of the circle, with some further away but none in the outer part of the circle.

**Presentations:** Overall, presentations were well received. The evaluation exercise saw almost all the dots clustered at the centre.

**Group discussions:** Almost all dots were clustered at the centre meaning that group discussions were generally well planned, conducted, and yielded good results.

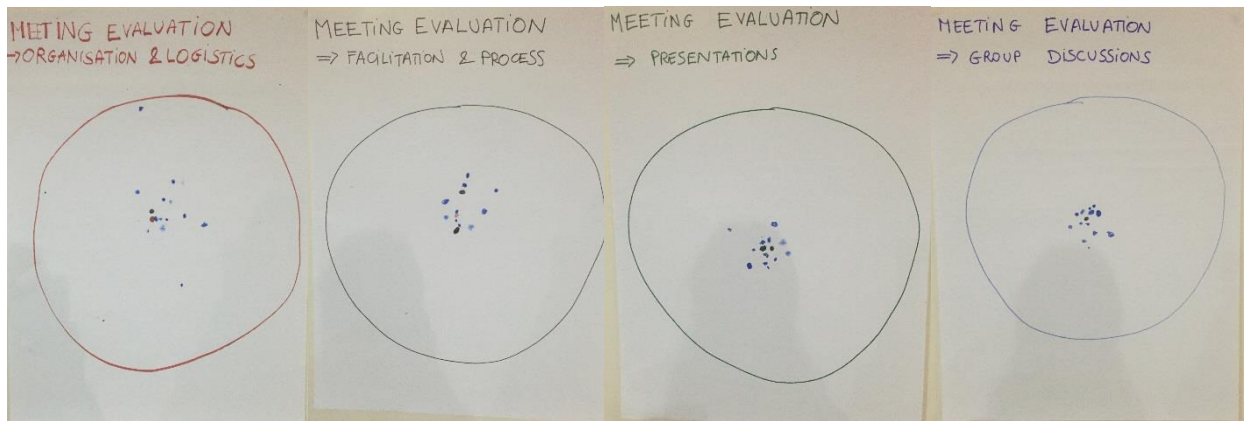


Figure 6 Meeting evaluation.

## FIELD TRIP TO MUSANZE

On Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 participants visited two project sites where they could observe practical experience of linking conservation and poverty.

The first site was a women's group project implemented by Pamoja Action (see figure 7) on the outskirts of Musanze. Participants met the women's group on site and walked with them through the entire demonstration project, observing the techniques used by these women for composting, mulching, selecting suitable crop varieties, and fallowing. An highlight of the field trip was the demonstration of a recent technique adopted by the group, that uses recyclable thread, as an alternative to wooden bean stakes, for growing climbing beans. This technique has many advantages: less wood bean stakes are used, and trees are therefore preserved; setting up the cotton thread is much less labour intensive than setting up the wooden bean stakes; cotton thread is cheaper than the wood alternative; harvesting is faster. The green cropping approach demonstrates the advantages of using farming techniques that ensure maximum crop production, and of working together in cooperatives of women. As a result of this project, households harvest more crops for domestic use and for cash, while ensuring continued protection of this important environment near the Volcanoes National Park, and ultimately the endangered mountain gorilla.



Figure 7 Photos from Pamoja Action Community Farm.



The second field visit was to a resettlement site of Historically Marginalized People (HMP) in Kabagorzi, at the foot of Volcanoes National Park (VNP). This project is supported by the local NGO Future for Kids. The HMP were previously roaming the VNP in search for a livelihood because they did not own land. Many lived in huts and offered cheap labour in exchange for food. The resettlement project provided these families with concrete houses, and gave them an opportunity to earn their living by cultivating land given to them by the project. These families also receive a small income from tourists who are on their way to VNP, who stop here to experience the culture of these rural people. Since its implementation, this project has seen conflicting results. Some families have embraced the opportunities offered, started cultivating the land made available to them regularly, and now can afford previously unimaginable benefits, like sending their children to school and paying for their health costs. However, many other families have refused to embrace this way of living and committing to regular work in the field, something unfamiliar to them and removed from their traditional way of living.



Figure 8 Kabagorzi Village project.

More photos from the field trip are available on the PCLG Flickr account (<https://flic.kr/s/aHskqgZCpn>).



# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 – Meeting agenda

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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### 08h30-09h00: Arrival and participants' registration

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### 09h00-10h30: Introductions & Opening Discussion – Facilitated by Samson Werikhe

09h00-09h10: Welcome and introduction to the meeting – Samson Werikhe, The Gorilla Organisation.

09h10-09h20: Why link biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation? - Alessandra Giuliani, IIED.

09h20-09h50: Ice breaking game with prize!

09h50-10h30: Roundtable introductions.

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### 10h30 – 11h00: Coffee Break

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### 11h00-12h15: Session 1 - The policy and institutional framework for linking poverty and conservation in Rwanda (15 minutes presentations, with 15 minutes at the end for questions) – Facilitated by Jillian Miller

- Rwanda pursuing a "Green Economy "approach to Economic Transformation, EDPRS II 2013-18 - Marshall Banamwana, MINIRENA
- Empowering women for gender mainstreaming in conservation and poverty alleviation - Dancille Mukakamari, Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes (ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA)

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### 12h15-13h00: Discussion: What are the key conservation and development priorities (and challenges) in Rwanda? – Facilitated by Samson Werikhe

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### 13h00-14h00: Lunch

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### 14h00-15h10: Session 2 - Linking Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Experiences from the International NGOs working in Rwanda (10 minutes presentations, with 20 minutes at the end for questions) – Facilitated by Greg Bakunzi

- Linking livelihoods and conservation: IGCP strategies and lessons learned - Salvatrice Musabyeyezu, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)
- Gorilla Doctors: A One Health Approach - Julius Nziza, Gorilla Doctors
- Engaging local communities in conservation of chimpanzees in Rwanda - Thierry Aimable Inzirayineza, Forest of Hope Association (FHA)
- The Gorilla Organisation's approach - Jillian Miller, The Gorilla Organisation

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### 15h10-15h40: Coffee Break

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**15h40-16h40: Session 3 - Linking Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Experiences from the national organisations working in Rwanda (10 minutes presentations, with 20 minutes at the end for questions) – Facilitated by Felix Ndagijimana**

- Linking tourism & conservation to communities for sustainable development - Greg Bakunzi, Amahoro Tours & Jean d'Amour Manirere, Pamoja Action
- ARCOS' contribution to community livelihoods through Conservation Agreements - Yvonne Bigengimana, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)
- Beekeeping for the improvement of communities' livelihoods and the conservation of the environment - Damascene Gashumba, REDO (Rural Environment and Development Organisation)
- Jode Garbe from Wild Rwanda

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**16h40-18h00: Group activity 1 – What works and why in linking poverty and conservation objectives in Rwanda? Facilitated by Arthur Mugisha**

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**18h00-18h15: Conclusion of day 1 and outline of day 2 – Samson Werikhe**

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**18h15-19h00: Drinks reception**

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**19h00-21h00: Dinner**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

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**08h30-09h00: Arrival and participants' registration**

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**09h00 – 09h15: Summary of day 1 and overview of day 2 – Samson Werikhe**

**Session 4**

- Remarks from Antoine Mudakikwa, Rwanda Development Board, on the main conservation policy in Rwanda and the work the Rwanda Development Board does to achieve the country's conservation and development objectives - Antoine Mudakikwa, Rwanda Development Board
- Seeking Biodiversity Conservation through Improving Livelihood of Local Communities in Rwanda - Serge Joram Nsengimana, Association pour la conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) & Rwanda Conservation Forum

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**09h15-10h45: Session 5 - The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG): The international network and the national chapters (15 minutes presentations, with 30 minutes at the end for questions) – Facilitated by Beatrice Kabihogo**

- The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) – Alessandra Giuliani, IIED
- The Uganda PCLG: Linking Conservation to Poverty – Arthur Mugisha, Uganda PCLG
- Poverty and Conservation Learning Group-PCLG: Cameroon experience three year after– Stanley Dinsi, Cameroon PCLG
- DRC-PCLG: Experience & lessons learnt – Paulson Kasereka, DRC PCLG

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**10h45-11h15: Coffee Break**

**11h15-12h45: Group activity 2 – Cooperation and information sharing practices in Rwanda: successes, challenges and lessons learnt – Facilitated by Antoine Mudakikwa**

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**12h45 – 13h00: Group photo**

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**13h00-14h00: Lunch Break**

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**14h00-15h15: Group Activity 3 – What role could a new conservation and development group play in Rwanda? – Facilitated by Justin Rurangirwa**

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**15h15-15h45: Coffee Break**

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**15h45-17h00: Discussion in plenary – Which activities could a conservation and development group undertake in Rwanda? – Facilitated by Jillian Miller**

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**17h00-17h30: Bringing it all together and agreeing a proposed way forward – Jillian Miller**

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**17h30-17h45: End of the day, closing words, and meeting evaluation – Samson Werikhe**

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### Friday 6th November 2015

#### **Field trip to Musanze:**

Leaving the La Palisse Hotel at 06h00 AM arriving in Musanze at 08h00 AM.

8h00 AM to 13h00 PM: Visit to two poverty and conservation projects.

13h00 PM to 14h00 PM: Lunch.

14h00 PM: Return to Kigali.

16h00 PM: Arrival at La Palisse Hotel.

## Appendix 2 – Participants list

Name	Organisation	Location
Alessandra Giuliani	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	London, UK
Antoine Mudakikwa	Rwanda Development Board	Kigali, Rwanda
Arthur Mugisha	U-PCLG	Kampala, Uganda
Beatrice Kabihogo	U-PCLG	Kisoro, Uganda
Benjamin Mugabukomeye	International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)	Musanze, Rwanda
Damascene Gashumba	Rural Environment and Development Organisation (REDO)	Kigali, Rwanda
Dancille Mukakamari	Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes (ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA)	Kigali, Rwanda
Dustin Smith	Barefoot College	California, USA
Eugene Mutangana	African Parks - Akagera Management Company	
Felix Ndagijimana	Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund	Musanze, Rwanda
Greg Bakunzi	Amohoro Tours	Musanze, Rwanda
Hannah West	Barefoot College	Kigali, Rwanda
Hellena Nambogwe	U-PCLG	Kampala, Uganda
Jean d'Amour Manirere	Pamoja Action	Musanze, Rwanda
Jean Felix Kinani	Consultant in Conservation, Wildlife and Public Health	Kigali, Rwanda
Jillian Miller	The Gorilla Organization	London, UK
Jode Garbe	Wild Rwanda	
Joost Philippa	Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP) - Gorilla Doctors	Musanze, Rwanda
Julius Nziza	Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP) - Gorilla Doctors	Musanze, Rwanda
Justin Rurangirwa	Future 4 Kids	Musanze, Rwanda
Liliane Umukunzi	Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes (ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA)	Kigali, Rwanda

Louis Rugerinyange	Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Chief Park Warden, NNP	Nyungwe, Rwanda
Marshall Banamwana	Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA)	Kigali, Rwanda
Paulson Kasereka	DRC PCLG	Kinshasa, DRC
Prosper Uwingeli	Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Chief Park Warden, VNP	Musanze, Rwanda
Salvatrice Musabyeyezu	International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)	Kabale, Uganda
Samson Werikhe	The Gorilla Organization	Kisoro, Uganda
Serge Joram Nsengimana	Association pour la conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) & Rwanda Conservation Forum	Kigali, Rwanda
Simeon Abe	Cameroon PCLG	Yaoundee, Cameroon
Stanley Dinsi	Cameroon PCLG	Yaoundee, Cameroon
Thierry Aimable Inzirayineza	Forest of Hope Association (FHA)	Musanze, Rwanda
Yvonne Bigengimana	Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)	Kigali, Rwanda



The PCLG is coordinated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), one of the world's most influential policy research organisations working at the interface between development and environment.



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## Biodiversity, Poverty

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*Keywords:*  
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Network

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an international network of organisations and individuals that promotes learning on the linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, in order to improve policy and practice.

