

Quarterly I Report-Nyungwe National Park

Summary

- March 2024 tourism and hospitality sales totaled US\$131,899 (from US\$176,872 collected in February 2024; a decrease of 25%). There was an increase of 59% when compared to the 2023-March sales (US\$82,916), and an achievement of 120% of the targeted income for the first three months of 2024 (US\$426,703), also equivalent to 21% of the annual targeted sales (i.e. US\$2,428,046 budgeted for 2024).
- Although tourism and hospitality sales for February were down vs January, there was an increase when compared to figures for February 2023.
- January 2024 tourism and hospitality sales totaled US\$201,998 (from US\$238,307 collected in December 2023, a decrease of 15%). There was an increase of 70% when compared to the January 2023 sales (US\$119,082).
- In March, 499 snares were removed from the park by daily ranger foot patrols and by joint patrols carried out by rangers and eco-rangers. The same patrols made 13 arrests. In February, a total of 567 snares were removed from the park by daily ranger foot patrols and by joint patrols carried out by rangers and eco-rangers. The same patrols made four arrests. In January, 1093 snares were removed from the park by daily ranger foot patrols and by joint patrols carried out by rangers and eco-rangers. The same patrols made four arrests.
- In March, twenty-eight conservation awareness meetings reached 2510 community participants. In February, sixteen conservation awareness meetings reached 1,659 community participants. In January, twenty-four conservation awareness meetings reached 4400 community participants.
- In March, Nyungwe new headquarters construction: overall progress reached 84.7%, an advancement of 9%. In February, Nyungwe new headquarters construction: overall progress reached 77.4%, an advancement of 11% compared to the previous month's status (69.5 %).
- We hosted AP UK Board visit in Nyungwe National Park.
- Underwent the first Law Enforcement SOPs audit.
- SNA and 2023 annual report finalized and submitted.

Biodiversity Conservation (including Law Enforcement)

March 2024:

- **Road monitoring:** 41 animal carcasses were recorded from vehicle-animal collisions. Nineteen vehicle accidents (nine trucks, nine cars and one bus) were recorded along Kitabi-Gisakura main tarmac road. 148 kg of waste was collected along the road of which 71kg was biodegradable.
- Eighteen animal carcasses were found killed by snares.
- **Primate habituation and tracking activities were successfully done:** three groups of Eastern Chimpanzees (Cyamudongo, Mayebe, and Gisovu) and three groups of Colobus Monkeys (Gisakura, Uwinka and Gisovu) were contacted on 100% of the days. Biggest observed chimpanzees' group was 26 individuals (Mayebe group), 21 individuals (Cyamudongo group), and 10 individuals (Gisovu); while for Colobus Monkeys more than 600 individuals (Uwinka group), 300 individuals (Gisovu group), and 98 individuals for Gisakura group were observed.
- **Alien and invasive species removal and monitoring:** a total of 552 invasive plants of various tree species were removed from the previously colonised parts of the forest, employing 2874 man-days from communities around Nyungwe National Park.
- **Bat monitoring:** one SM4 sensor was deployed in the park (in Karamba area) to continue bat monitoring data collection.
- **Tree phenology study:** tree phenology data collection continued at Cyamudongo, Gisakura, Uwinka, Mayebe Nyabishwati, and Gisovu.
- **Water Monitoring:** In March 19,147,000 litres of water were consumed from seven water points captured from Nyungwe National Park (totalling 57,330,000 litres year to date). Notably, Gisakura Tea Company and Kitabi community water project emerged as major forest water beneficiaries in March 2024.
- **Facilitation of research partners:** two researchers were facilitated (including a researcher from The University of Western Australia conducting his PhD research on chimpanzee behavior and an independent researcher on attitudes and perceptions of road users to wildlife road kills was also facilitated). In collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB), park management facilitated the botany field school for 13 people including two park staff.
- **Internship:** three students from a secondary school neighboring the park were offered internship to fulfil their academic requirement.
- NMC represented by the Conservation and Research Assistant Manager participated in a consultation workshop organized by IUCN on the Development of a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme for Eastern Rwanda.
- 499 snares were removed from the park by daily foot patrols carried out by rangers and joint patrols with eco-rangers.
- Eight objects were seized including machetes, telephones and sacks among others.
- Thirteen arrests were made of which seven were reported to the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and six educated and released.
- Four cohorts of rangers' refresher training completed.

Biodiversity Conservation (including Law Enforcement)

In Feb 2024

- **Road monitoring:** 52 animal carcasses mainly snakes, squirrels, birds, Gambian Rat, mouse, Black-fronted duiker, Blue Monkey, Olive Baboon and Civet were recorded from vehicle-animal collisions. 167 kg of waste was collected along the road, including 58kg biodegradable and 109kg non-biodegradable. Six vehicle accidents (three trucks and three cars) were recorded along Kitabi-Gisakura main tarmac road.
- Fourteen animal carcasses were found killed by snares (including six duikers, five Gambian rats, one squirrel, one porcupine and one jackal).
- **Primate habituation and tracking activities were successfully done:** three groups of Eastern Chimpanzees (Cyamudongo, Mayebe, and Gisovu) and three groups of Colobus Monkeys (Gisakura, Uwinka and Gisovu) were contacted on 100% of the days. Biggest observed chimpanzees' group was 20 individuals (Mayebe group), 24 individuals (Cyamudongo group), and 11 individuals (Gisovu); while for Colobus Monkeys more than 600 individuals (Uwinka group), 250 individuals (Gisovu group), and 96 individuals for Gisakura group were observed.
- **Alien and invasive species removal and monitoring:** A total of 1001 invasive plants of various tree species were removed from the previously colonised parts of the forest; employing 5239 man-days from communities around Nyungwe National Park.
- **Bat monitoring:** SM4 sensors were deployed at different locations in the park to continue bat monitoring data collection.
- **Tree phenology study:** tree phenology data collection continued at Cyamudongo, Gisakura, Uwinka, Mayebe Nyabishwati, and Gisovu.
- **Water Monitoring:** In total, 16,042 m³ of water were consumed from seven water points in and around Nyungwe National Park. Notably, Gisakura Tea Company and Kitabi community water project emerged as major forest water beneficiaries in February 2024.
- **Training:** through the support of Bat Conservation International (BCI) and Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, two NMC staffs (Philbert and Jean Pierre) participated in five days bat monitoring training for rangers in Gishwati National Park.
- **End-Year Thematic Reports:** three reports were completed including the primate habituation and monitoring report, habitat restoration report and Partnership and Institutional collaboration for research. The park-wide survey report is still in progress.
- 567 snares were removed from the park by daily foot patrols carried out by rangers and joint patrols with eco-rangers.
- Fifty-five objects were seized including machetes, spades, picks among others.
- Four arrests were made and three of the suspects were reported to the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) while one was fined and released.

Biodiversity Conservation (including Law Enforcement)

January 2024:

- **Road monitoring:** 22 animal carcasses mainly birds, squirrels, snakes, L'Hoest's Monkey, Black-fronted duiker and Gambian Rat were recorded from vehicle-animal collisions. 500 kg of waste was collected along the road, including 64 kg biodegradable, 155 kg non-biodegradable and 281 kg non-identified waste. Five vehicle accidents (four trucks and one car) were recorded along Kitabi-Gisakura main tarmac road.
- Twenty-nine animal carcasses were found killed by snares (including eleven squirrels, eleven Gambian rats, three porcupines, two Blue Monkeys, one civet, and one jackal).
- **Primate habituation and tracking activities were successfully done:** three groups of Eastern Chimpanzees (Cyamudongo, Mayebe, and Gisovu) and three groups of Colobus Monkeys (Gisakura, Uwinka and Gisovu) were contacted on 100% of the days. Biggest observed chimpanzees' group was 32 individuals (Mayebe group), 24 individuals (Cyamudongo group), and 12 individuals (Gisovu); while for Colobus Monkeys more than 600 individuals (Uwinka group), 400 individuals (Gisovu group), and 95 individuals for Gisakura group were observed.
- **Alien and invasive species removal and monitoring:** a total of 8504 invasive plants of various tree species were removed from the previously colonised parts of the forest; employing 6173 man-days from communities around Nyungwe National Park.
- **Landscape restoration in the park:** 487 native seedling trees have been planted at different previously degraded sites.
- **Bat monitoring:** five guano samples were collected from the roosts of *Rhinolophus hilli* (Hill's Horseshoe bat).
- **Tree phenology study:** tree phenology data collection continued at Cyamudongo, Gisakura, Uwinka, Mayebe Nyabishwati, and Gisovu.
- **Water Monitoring:** In total, 22,144 m³ of water were consumed from seven water points in and around the park. Notably, Gisakura and Kitabi Tea Companies emerged as major water consumers in January 2024.
- **Facilitation of research partners:** two academic studies on chimpanzees by external researchers were facilitated. Topics include communities' perception on chimpanzee habituation, and chimps' behavioural thermoregulation.
- 1093 snares were removed from the park by daily foot patrols carried out by rangers and joint patrols with eco-rangers.
- Thirty-five objects were seized including machetes, small-jerrycans and 6.4 kg of food items.
- Four arrests were made and all suspects were reported to the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB).

Community Development

March 2024:

- Twenty-eight conservation awareness meetings were organized and attended by 2510 participants from neighboring districts.
- **Awareness through media:** three live radio talks were organized on the role of communities in Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation and adaptation. Twenty calls-in and thirty-five messages were recorded on Facebook.
- **Awareness through sport:** fifteen football and conservation training sessions were held with the 151 children from primary and secondary schools around Gisovu and Gisakura in partnership with the Centre for Global Sports (CGS).
- **Eco-clubs' visits:** five eco-club meetings were held in five schools around the park—397 students participated. Five new Eco-Clubs were created in various schools around the park—308 members.
- Eco-rangers participated in 27 joint patrols with rangers in the park and 123 patrols around the park.
- **Indigenous tree nurseries:** 11,000 bamboo cuttings have been planted into seedling beds, 178 tree seedlings (worth US\$174) sold to the road construction company, 210 seedlings transplanted to restore the park degraded areas, and 1000 seedlings planted by the communities in farms neighboring the park.
- **Cooperative Registration:** two cooperatives (including Cyamudongo fish-farming cooperative and Bweyeye eco-rangers' cooperative) received legal personality certificates from Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA).
- **Cooperatives:** one meeting held with Nyungwe Nziza Eco-Rangers' cooperative on the legal cooperative registration process—12 members participated. Drafted MoUs with four cooperatives supported by NMC.
- **Tourism Revenue Sharing Projects (TRSP):** NMC team and RDB staff jointly visited TRSP in Nyamagabe, Karongi, Nyaruguru and Rusizi Districts.
- Eleven cases of human-wildlife Conflicts (mainly crop raiding and beehive raiding) were recorded and filed for compensation.
- **Beekeeping:** continued inspection of the existing demo-apiaries (i.e. feeding, pest and diseases control, colonies management). Four beehives were installed to catch the new swarms.
- **Gisakura Community demo Mushroom farming project:** 78 mushroom tubes and 291kg of fresh mushrooms were sold to customers worth 576,600Rwf (US\$447).

February 2024:

- Sixteen conservation awareness meetings were organized and attended by 1659 participants from neighboring districts.
- **Awareness through media:** Three live radio talks were organized on the contribution of NMC/AP in the development of local communities around NNP. Twenty-three calls-in and fourteen messages were recorded on Facebook.
- **Awareness through sport:** eight football and conservation training sessions were held with the 145 children from primary and secondary schools around Gisovu and Gisakura in partnership with the Centre for Global Sports (CGS).
- **Eco-clubs' visits:** nine eco-club meetings were held in nine schools (four meetings in Rusizi, two in Nyamasheke, two in Nyamagabe and one in Nyaruguru, Districts). 668 students participated. One new Eco-Club was created at Rasano Technical Secondary School (TSS)—53 members.
- Eco-rangers participated in 29 joint patrols with rangers in the park and 121 patrols around the park.
- **Indigenous bamboo nurseries:** 11,000 cuttings have been pricked-out into seedling beds.
- **Cooperative Registration:** One eco-ranger cooperative Sugira Nyungwe Cooperative Eco-Ranger operating from Banda received its legal registration certificate from Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA).
- **Cooperatives:** five meetings held with four cooperatives on financial compliance, code of conduct at work and project development. 58 participants. One eco-ranger cooperative “Sugira Nyungwe Eco-Ranger Cooperative” from Banda received its legal registration certificate from Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA).
- **Tourism Revenue Sharing Projects (TRSP):** RDB, NNP and Nyamasheke District officially inaugurated the water supply project of the 2022-2023 TRSP at G.S Gisakura. 830 participants.
- Seventeen cases of human-wildlife Conflicts (mainly crop raiding, beehives raiding, and livestock killing) were recorded.
- **Piggery project:** All five pigs have been inseminated. Nine piglets were born from one pig at Nyarusiza Community Piggery.
- **Beekeeping:** inspection activities for the existing demo-apiaries (i.e. feeding, pest and diseases control, colonies management) were conducted. 74 Langstroth hives have been painted at Nyabishwati apiary.
- **Umuganda:** One Umuganda day was organized for the maintenance of a 1km road at Ruharambuga sector. 350 people participated (including 25 NMC-AP staff and 325 community members).

January 2024:

- Twenty-four conservation awareness meetings were organised and attended by 4400 participants from neighbouring districts.
- **Awareness through sport:** six football and conservation training sessions were held with the 150 children from primary and secondary schools around Gisovu and Gisakura in partnership with the Centre for Global Sports (CGS).
- **Eco-club visits:** four meetings of eco-clubs were held in four schools in Nyaruguru and Rusizi Districts (two meetings in each Districts). 871 students participated.
- Eco-rangers participated in 27 joint patrols with rangers in the park and 119 patrols around the park.
- **Cooperatives:** Four cooperatives (including Cyamudongo Tourism Community Center Cooperative, Cyamudongo Fish Farming Cooperative, Ruharambuga Pig Farming Cooperative and Gisakura Mushroom farming cooperative) were assisted to develop a five-year business plan.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflicts:** Thirty-three cases of human-wildlife conflicts (mainly crop raiding, beehives raiding, and livestock killing) were recorded. To mitigate livestock predation by small and medium carnivores, fifty raised shelters are being constructed (in collaboration with two other partners - TROCAIRE and BIOCOOR) for vulnerable households in Nyaruguru District and have reached 98% of completion.
- The Constituency for Conservation Index (CCI 2023) survey report was completed and submitted.
- **Cyamudongo fish farming project:** purchased 17,000 fingerlings including 10,000 tilapias; 4000 catfish and 3000 carpe that brought the total to 31,000 fingerlings introduced in the six fishponds.
- **Beekeeping:** completed the donor report and submitted a funding proposal to the donor (PIC).
- **Umuganda:** One Umuganda day was organized for the maintenance of a 3km road around Cyamudongo. 372 people participated (including 22 NMC-AP staff and 350 community members).

Park Revenue Generation (including Economic Impact, Tourism and Commercial Development)

March 2024:

- Community benefits amounted to US\$167,808 (1 US\$ = RW1282). This was calculated through local community employment (47%), local purchases (29%), revenue sharing (23%) and other community-managed income generating activities (1%) such as Pindura kiosk + toilets.
- Tourism and hospitality sales were US\$131,899 in March, 2024. There was a decrease of US\$ 44,973 (25%) compared to the previous month's total sales US\$176,872. The total sales of January - March 2024 (US\$510,768) are equivalent to 120% of the targeted/budgeted income for the first three months of 2024 (US\$426,703) and 21% of the annual targeted sales (i.e. US\$2,428,046 budgeted for 2024). Sales of January-March have increased by 48% from 2023 (i.e. US\$344,202) to 2024 (i.e. US\$510,768).
- 2252 paid activities were visited and 89 complimentary. Park entry fees, chimpanzee tracking, canopy walkway, and food and beverages being the best contributors to park revenues over the first three months of 2024 (90%).
- In total 2119 guests (paying plus non-paying) visited the park of whom 46% were Rwandan citizens, 3% East African citizens; 1% East African residents; 3% African citizens (Other than East Africans), 8% foreign residents in Rwanda, and the remaining 39% were foreign non-resident visitors.

February 2024:

- Community benefits amounted to US\$175,593 (1 US\$ = RW 1,275). This was calculated through local community employment (47%), local purchases (52%), and other community-managed income generating activities (1%) such as Pindura kiosk + toilets.
- Tourism and hospitality sales were US\$176,872 in February. There was a decrease of US\$ 25,126 (12%) compared to the previous month's total sales US\$201,998. The total sales of January - February 2024 (US\$378,869) are equivalent to 126% of the targeted/budgeted income for the first two months of 2024 (US\$299,788) and 15.6% of the annual targeted sales (i.e. US\$2,428,046 budgeted for 2024). Sales of January-February have increased by 45% from 2023 (i.e. US\$261,287) to 2024 (i.e. US\$378,869).
- 2141 paid activities were visited and 10 complimentary. Park entry fees, Chimpanzee tracking, canopy walkway, and food and beverages being the best contributors to park revenue over the first month of 2024 (85%).

- In total 1933 guests (paying plus non-paying) visited the park of whom 26% were Rwandan citizens, 2% East African citizens; 1% East African residents; 4% African citizens (Other than East Africans), 5% foreign residents in Rwanda, and the remaining 63% were foreign non-resident visitors.

January 2024:

- Community benefits amounted to US\$91,285 (1 US\$ = RW 1,262), calculated through local community employment (33.3%), local purchases (63.6%), and other community-managed income generating activities (3.1%) such as Pindura kiosk + toilets.
- Tourism and hospitality sales were US\$201,998 in January. There was a decrease of US\$36,309 (15%) compared to the previous month's total sales US\$238,307. The total sales of January (US\$201,998) are equivalent to 8.3% of the targeted/budgeted income for 2024 (i.e. US\$2,428,046). Sales of January 2024 have increased by 70% from 2023 (i.e. US\$ 119,082) to 2024 (i.e. US\$201,998).
- 2377 paid activities were visited plus 32 complimentary. Park entry fees, chimpanzee tracking, canopy walkway, and food & beverages being the best contributors to park revenues for the first month of 2024 (89.1%).
- In total 2103 guests (paying plus non-paying) visited the park of whom 25% were Rwandan citizens, 2% East African citizens; 1% East African residents; 4% African citizens (Other than East Africans), 3% foreign residents in Rwanda, and the remaining 65% were foreign non-resident visitors.

Management & Infrastructure

March 2024:

- **Nyungwe new HQ:** completed at 84.7%, an advancement of 9% compared to the previous month's status.
- **Donor reports:** Wyss Nyungwe (year 3 interim) narrative and financial reports for 2023/2024 were submitted to AP's Account Manager.
- **Fundraising:** Nyungwe received the Phoenix foundation's grant commitment of about US\$50,000 (US\$35,000 cash support and about US\$15,000 in-kind as equipment) to support the youth football and conservation programme—waiting for a formal agreement to be signed.
- **New trails and campsites:** campsites construction work along the 50 km Congo Nile Divide Trail and the Nshili-Uwasenkoko trail in continuation.
- **Visits:** six executive committee members of Rwanda Tours and Travel Association (RTTA) hosted on a familiarization trip to learn about the park resources for further packing and marketing. Also, six executive committee members of Rwanda Safari Guides Association (SGA) hosted on a familiarization trip to learn about the park resources for knowledge improvement and sharing with tourists. Forty-four students and lecturers from the University of Manchester hosted on an educational trip and learning about the conservation, ecotourism and community initiatives.

- **Workshops:** Commercial Development Manager (CDM) participated in an AP commercial development workshop that took place in Matusadona National Park/Zimbabwe from 4-8 March aiming at improving sales, marketing as well as discussing challenges facing commercial managers. Assistant Tourism Manager (ATM) participated in the International Tourism Exchange Berlin (ITB) “Berlin tourism trade fair” from 4-8 March 2024 that brought together more than 24,000 exhibitors and tourism champions from across the Globe.
- The first law enforcement SOPs audit for the park was completed.
- Nyungwe Marathon annual event on 9 March 2024, was successfully attended by 500 participants.
- Hosted the visit of AP UK Board in Nyungwe.

Management & Infrastructure

- **February 2024:**
- **Nyungwe new HQ:** completed at 77.4%, an advancement of 11% compared to the previous month’s status.
- **Donor reports:** SNA narrative and financial (annual) reports for 2023 were submitted to AP’s Account Manager.
- **Fundraising:** Received positive feedback from the donor (PIC) on the 2024 funding proposal that was submitted in January 2024. US\$35,000 has been approved.
- NMC/AP in partnership with RDB, developed and submitted a draft concept to GEFSEC for the World Bank funding opportunity—waiting for the feedback and way forward.
- **Training:** 28 freelance guides and shop attendants successfully concluded the introductory training session for the acquirement of FGASA (Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) Certificate.
- New trails and campsites: started the campsites construction works along the 50 km Congo Nile Divide Trail and the Nshili-Uwasenkoko trail.
- **Recruitments:** seven trackers were recruited and onboarded.

Management & Infrastructure

January 2024:

- Nyungwe new HQ: completed at 69.5%, an advancement of 15.2% compared to the previous month.
- **Donor reports:** 2023 reports and 2024 grant requests were submitted to Partners in Conservation (PIC) and the Hempel narrative and financial (annual) reports for 2023 were submitted to AP’s Account Manager.
- 2023 annual report completed and submitted.

- **Training:** 28 freelance guides and shop attendants started training, to be certified by FGASA (Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) – between 17 January and 12 February 2024.
- **New trails and campsites:** two new trails and areas for campsites construction were identified including the 50 km Congo Nile Divide Trail and the Nshili-Uwasenkoko trail. The two trails are expected to be opened by June 2024.
- **Recruitments:** a procurement officer and a treasury accountant were recruited.