



2020 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Title of the Story: Click or tap to enter text

Destination Name: *(include any state, province or region)*

KAHUZI BIEGA NATIONAL PARK

Country: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Submitter name: GREGORY BAKUNZI

Email address: info@redrocksinitiative.org

Position: Founder

Nomination Category: *(Please check the boxes that indicate the focus of your story)*

- Culture & Communities
- Environment & Climate
- Nature & Ecotourism
- Islands & Seaside
- Immediate responses in dealing with the COVID -19
- Post COVID -19 recovery
- One of the 17 SDGs* *(if yes, which one)* Click or tap to choose

*The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. What are the Sustainable Development Goals? <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

For further information on Tourism for SDGs: <http://tourism4sdgs.org/>

Find detailed instructions for submitting good practices [here](#)



DESCRIBE YOUR GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Address each aspect of your good practice story in the different sections being specific including relevant quantitative and qualitative information.

Issues faced

The Pygmies lived from hunting and gathering. They learned how to farm through their contact with other clans. With these clans they would exchange produce from hunting in return for salt and beads. They lived inside the park area before it became a national park. They lived from hunting and gathering within this reserve. So in former times, the indigenous people knew how to protect the forest and used to look for water inside the Kahuzi Biega National Park.

Methods, steps and tools applied

We teach batwa skills to enable them interact with tourists. The women and youth are involved in selling products like handcrafts and it's through effective communication that they can engage with the tourists who visit Kahuzi Biega park they are able to uplift their living standards and help in conservation around Kahuzi Biega National Parks. Red Rocks Initiative for Sustainable Development helps batwa Communities to learn foreign international languages, housekeeping, capacity building, international architecture, modern farming techniques as well as the environment and its conservation through tree planting, trees are in such high demand that people from towns further away come and ask for trees, but because our goal is reduce pressures on Kahuzi-Biega we restrict tree distribution to the surrounding the park. We believe that through education, communities breaks the circle of poverty and hopeless.

Key success factors

Red Rocks Initiative for Sustainable Development Initiatives have been converging the theme of our vision, planning, and marketing strategies, with the aim of bringing the most efficient workflow solutions to our clients and the batwa community while providing value-added customer support and service, and earning a reasonable profit in the process that later goes to communities around Kahuzi Biega National Park for its sustainability. One of the most significant aspects of Cultural Tourism, is that we have been organizing events of attractions, all meant to improve the quality of life of the community's residents, as well as Kahuzi Biega national Parks sustainability while helping to preserve and improve traditional resources as well ; At Rocks Initiative, we have been increasing our share of this market segment by offering the same value-added service and support benefits that we bring to our commercial clients as well as batwa communities around Kahuzi Biega national Parks. In former times, the indigenous people knew how to protect the forest and the animals.



Lessons learned

Red Rocks Initiative for Sustainable Development have been conducting and increase community awareness on tourism and conservation- initiatives in general, and in particular Community awareness on parks management interventions especially on Parks revenue sharing since most of the communities are unaware of tourism revenue sharing projects, that are meant to improve community livelihoods.

Results, achievements and recognitions

In this initiative, we work with them to build synergies and partnerships with other organizations that do conservation and tourism. We encourage conservation and tourism-based farming like indigenous fruit growing, tree planting, indigenous domestic animals livestock i.e. cows, sheep, pigs; and beekeeping (Honey production/ processing), pets rearing and horticulture among others.

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There are links between traditional medicine practices and the batwa, we involve traditional healers recognized as "specialists" in adjacent to the forest of Kahuzi-Biega. Traditional healers are characterized based on their specializations. This result helps in creating strategies to preserve local traditional knowledge and apply it to the conservation of species. The Red Rocks Initiative for Sustainable Development initiative has a botanic garden that offers an opportunity to explore the plants and herbs that are used to cure many diseases. The traditional healer used to encroach in Kahuzi Biega National Park for different herbs, this has also provided a livelihood to those working there as they continue to tap into the tourism market and access of herbs for communities around park without going to poach them inside the Kahuzi Biega National Park.

Ever since the Kahuzi Zoological and Forest Reserve was created, the Pygmies were never asked for their views. This is because they were marginalised and considered sub-human. Being non-intelligent and marginalised how could they be included or consulted about this forest? The sole purpose in consulting or involving the indigenous Pygmies was for them to reveal the areas inhabited by the elephants, gorillas and other animals they needed to hunt or capture. We run a project called Supporting Indigenous Communities, with an aim of improving the lives of Batwa who lost their land as a result of eviction from the Parks's forest. Together with the ICCN we secured the land for



agriculture for the batwa community and equipped them with better agricultural techniques to help them cope up with the needs of life. Pygmy people lived inside the park area before it became a national park.

Additional references

Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from Youtube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL.

