Red Rocks Sustainable development project initiatives success and Impacts

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

We have worked with community partners and cooperatives to host farm tours and farm activities, like planting indigenous fruit trees and learning about domestic farm animals and horticulture. Protection and Preservation of endangered tree species for traditional herbs and medical plants , we have been and still are establishing tree nursery bedding to supply to communities where at current we have supplied more than 100.000 tree seedlings to the communities adjacent to park and more than 300 families at all the centers we operate from have learnt and gained knowledge on how to host farm tours and learn from our visiting tourists

2. CONSERVATION RESEARCH

We have been conducting action research primarily focusing on the flora and fauna around the Volcanoes National Park, whereby our team prepares advice on natural and ecological resource management. Conservation education awareness rising within communities, Schools and among beekeeping cooperatives while passing the message for animals that can't speak themselves

3. ART FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Art for conservation, the culture of the communities we serve are intricately tied to the natural world surrounding them. So we help local communities to preserve not only the volcanoes National park flora and fauna, through artisan of animals which can't speak for itself, but also the historic cultures and traditional arts of the region, for communities to gain access to sustainable sources of income from tourism in order to install in them a sense of preserving the national park environment.

4. LIVESTOCK SUPPORT

Having seen that Livestock plays a significant role in the survival of Rwandan families, we have been supporting small-scale dairy activities, to improve livestock nutrition, and facilitate healthcare for women-headed families and discourage them from poaching for meat in the park. We have also been training families on how to effectively utilize animal waste by recycling animal waste for biogas home use (substituting for wood fuel and lessening environmental depletion) and composting manure to boost crop production to the communities adjacent to the Volcanoes National Park. 200 families have been positively impacted by this project.

5. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

We enable Women banana bark weaving association for widowed single mothers in skills development so that with the income earned from selling woven baskets, mats, and other artisanal pieces, these mothers gain financial independence for themselves and their children for the alternative of what they used get from the protected area. 200 women now work in our centers making artworks which pre Covid-19 scenario they used to gain money from the artworks which they sell to tourists.

6. PROTECTION OF LAND FROM DEGRADATION

Communities adjacent to volcanoes national park depend on the small plots of land their own, so protecting that small land from degradation, prevents them from encroaching the park, we initiated conservation and protection of their land from degradation by tree planting in the community gardens using Red Rocks Initiative of banana seed bags (Igihoho Seed Bags) made in banana backs which are biodegradable and can often be decomposed and are suitable for soil conservation, instead of petroleum-based plastic containers as well as preventing it from soil erosion. More than 300 families around our conservation center have now learnt the benefit of using the biodegradable seedbags made from banana barks as opposed to the polythene seedbags.

7. AGRICULTURE PROJECT

We support small-scale subsistence farmers who neighbor-protected areas. We train local farmers to compost manure, maintain ecological organic agriculture practices to conserve biodiversity as well as creating into them the culture of financial savings for sustainable development. 200 families have been trained on how to compose manure and maintain ecological agricultural practices thus benefitting the whole villagers.

8. BOTANIC GARDEN

We established a botanic garden to observe precisely how tourism, conservation, and community development in order to complement each other. Our gardens preserve traditional plant species with medicinal value, to conserve disappearing tree spices traditional doctors used to poach in the national park which is in the process of being upgraded to be a community conservation research center

9. ANIMAL WELFARE

We contribute to livestock food and vet-care to low-income communities as a means of enhancing animal welfare and preventing/mitigating the outbreak of pet-related diseases. We partner with individuals and organizations to provide low-cost veterinary care to pets and livestock. Our local vets invite volunteer vets, vet nurses and other animal specialists to help improve the lives of animals in the Virunga Mountain region. This project have positively impacted more than 100 youth who have learn some basics on veterinary activities are doing well in the community since they share their knowledge learnt with locals farmers

10. EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Education leads to opportunity. We promote educational opportunities, including volunteer-led English programs and computer literacy, as a way to expand local youths' resources and broaden their horizons and we get the opportunity to educate these younger children to understand and develop a strong awareness about forests, wildlife, and conservation.

11. SPORTS PROGRAM

The world of sports offers a powerful and natural platform for participation, exchange and inclusion. Through our sports program, we bring together communities and individuals to discuss environmental conservation, raising local awareness of the need to protect our environment.

12. COMMUNITY HEALTH & SECURITY INITIATIVE

We’re invested in the health and security of the communities we serve. Sustainable community development requires a comprehensive approach, which is why we promote healthcare issues ranging from clean water and reproductive rights and nutrition. We promote awareness of sexual and reproductive health rights, family planning, nutrition, and proper hygiene and sanitation through our Community healthcare project. We educate vulnerable communities, particularly targeting historically marginalized people, the so-called forestry indigenous people.

13. CULTURE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Partnered with government institutions and signed partnership agreement to preserve Community cultural heritages/sites for travel and tourism attraction and organizing and conducting annual Cultural Harvest Season festivals as preservation of culture and heritage, with the overall goal of increasing public awareness of nations cultural and natural heritage. We have involved more than 200 youths who now works as guides and translators to tourist, thus creating job for the educated jobless youth, making them our ambassadors to preserve our cultural heritage.