

Building sustainable business partnership over protected areas: economic roles in Rwanda and in the region

Congo Basin Forests Partnership MoP16
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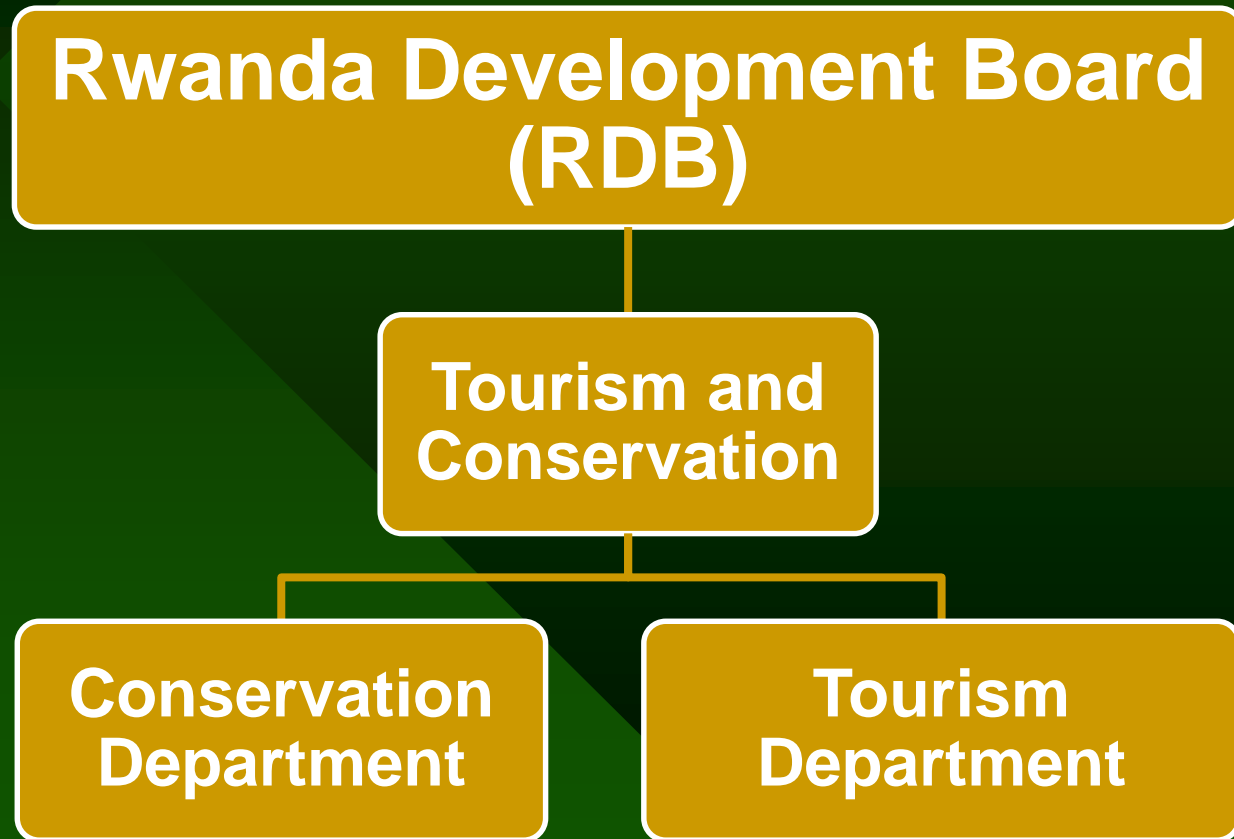


WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN RWANDA

“Conserving our rich biodiversity for sustainable development”

Mission: “To conserve the rich biodiversity of Rwanda for a sustainable development of the country and as an international heritage through the implementation of appropriate ecological principles and the promotion of strategic partnerships with local communities and other partners”

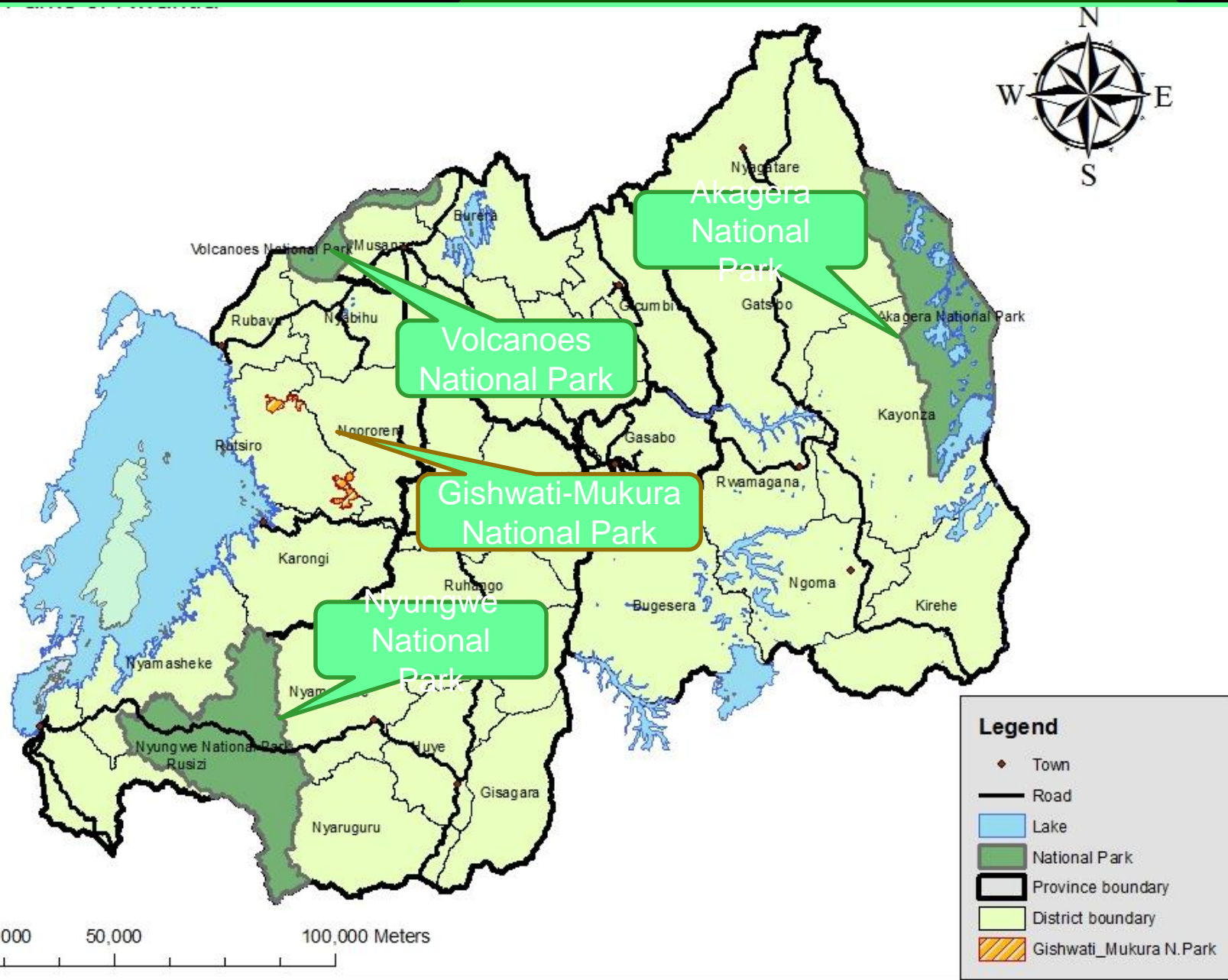
Management structure



Part of RDB's mandate

- **Mission: To fast track Economic Development through empowerment of Private Sector**
- *To participate in initiating and implementing policies and strategies in matters relating to tourism and conservation of national parks and other protected areas in matters relating to tourism, and advise the Government on the promotion of the tourism sector (Art 4, §4, Law No 46/2013 of 16.06.2013 creating RDB)*

FOUR BIODIVERSIFICALLY- RICH NATIONAL PARKS





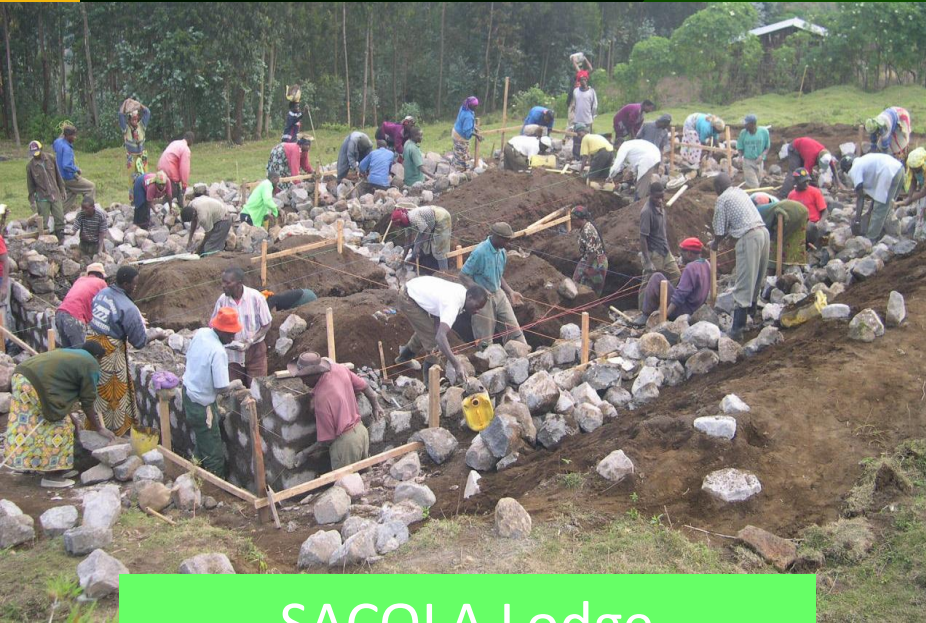
WE CONSERVE FOR THE FUTURE



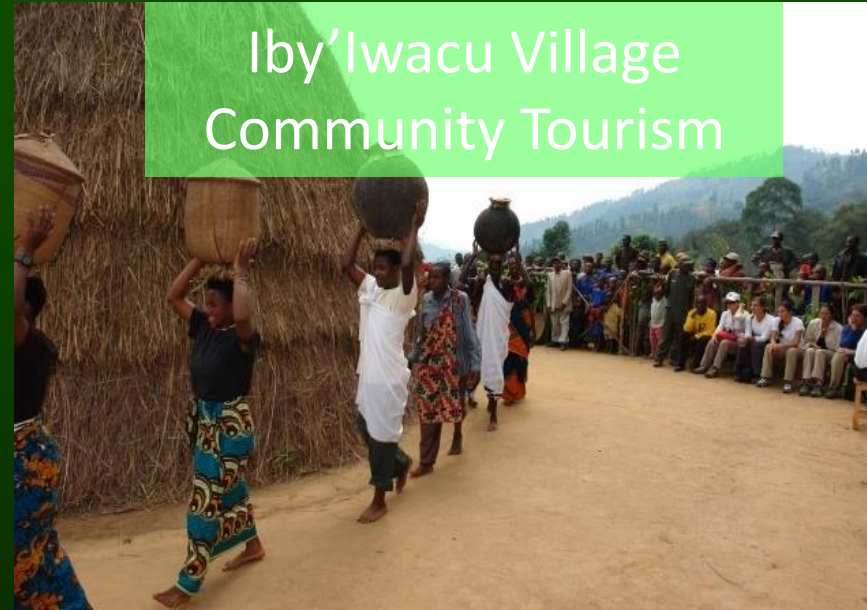
How we Conserve

- Conservation Planning
- Protection and Law Enforcement
- Research and Biodiversity Monitoring
- Wildlife Health Services
- Regulated Tourism Management
- Community Participation
 - Tourism Revenue Sharing
 - Human-Wildlife Conflicts Management
- Partnership & Transboundary Collaboration
- Technical Training

Economic Impact



SACOLA Lodge
Kickstart & end product



Iby'Iwacu Village
Community Tourism



CBFP
CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

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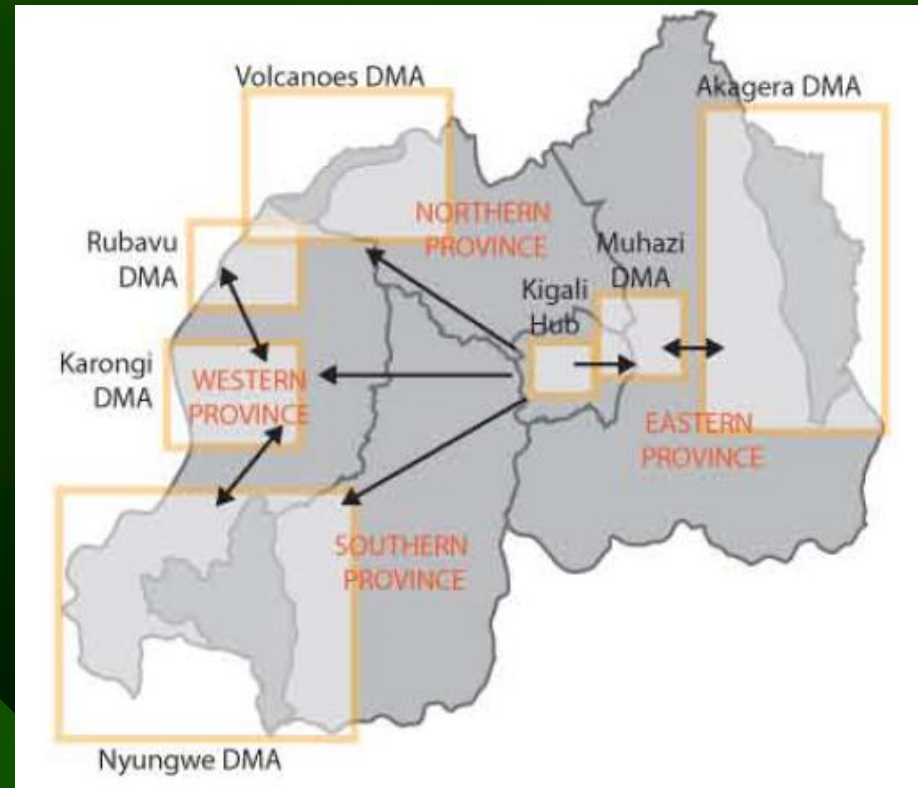
Destroying Poaching
Equipment

Towards sustainability

- Regulated Tourism
- Strategic Partnerships
 - Community Participation
 - Transboundary Collaboration

Regulated tourism

- 3 of the 6 Destination Management Areas defined around NPs
- Tourism in Rwanda is nature based
- The national Tourism strategy focuses on high end/ less environmental impact

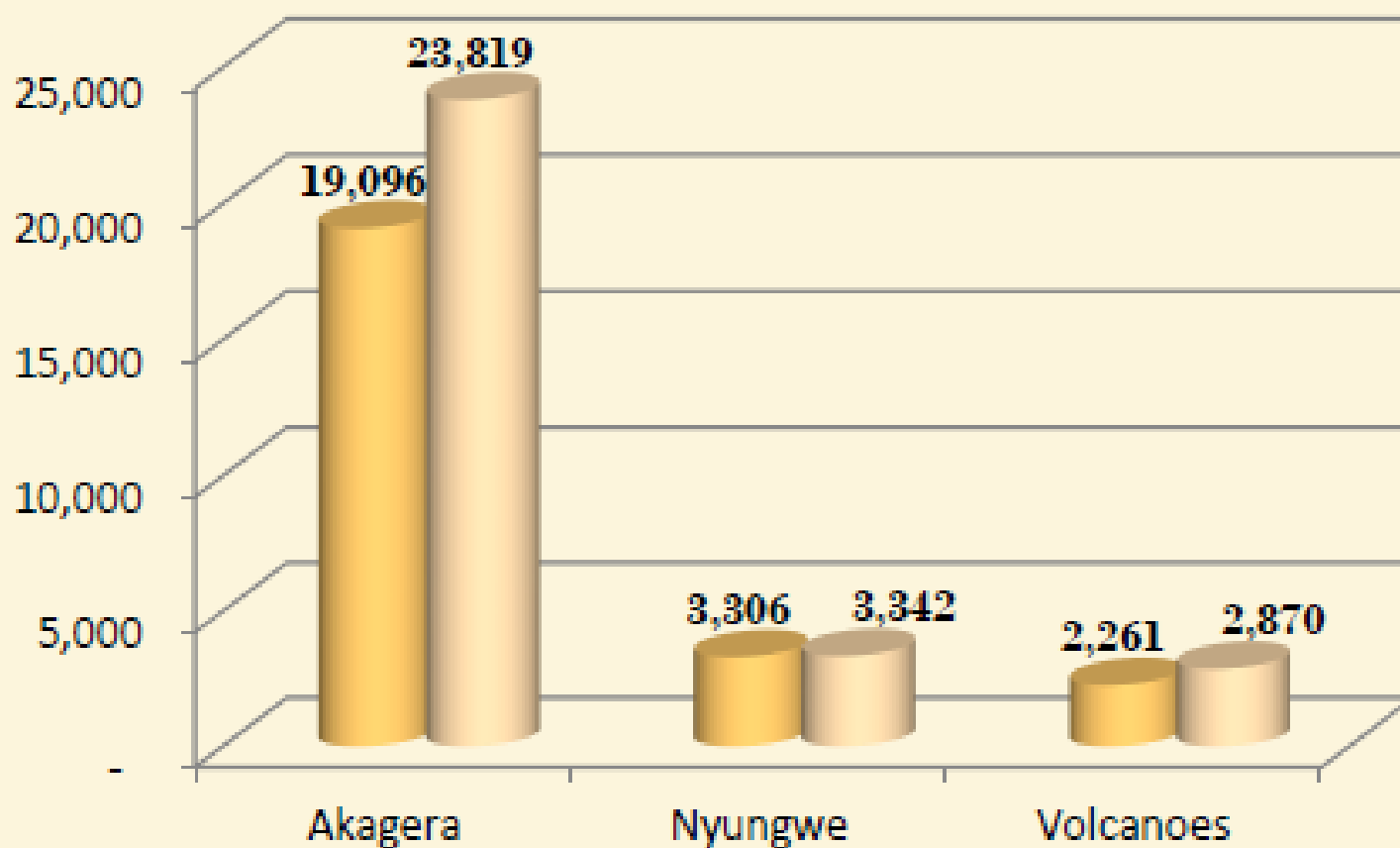


A typical example: Gorilla Trekking

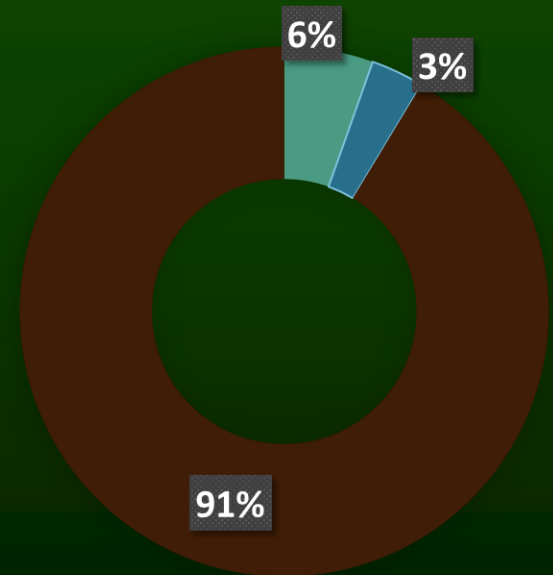
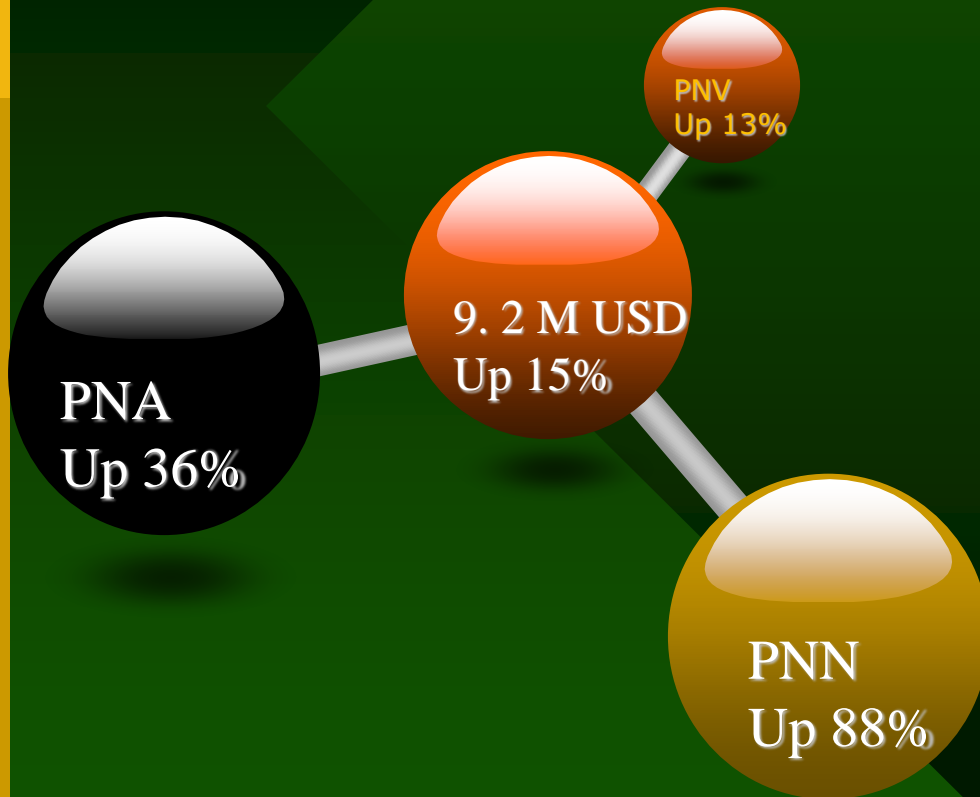


- <http://www.volcanoesnationalparkrwanda.com/activities/gorillatrekkingrwanda.html>

Park activities sold to domestic, 2014 vs 2015

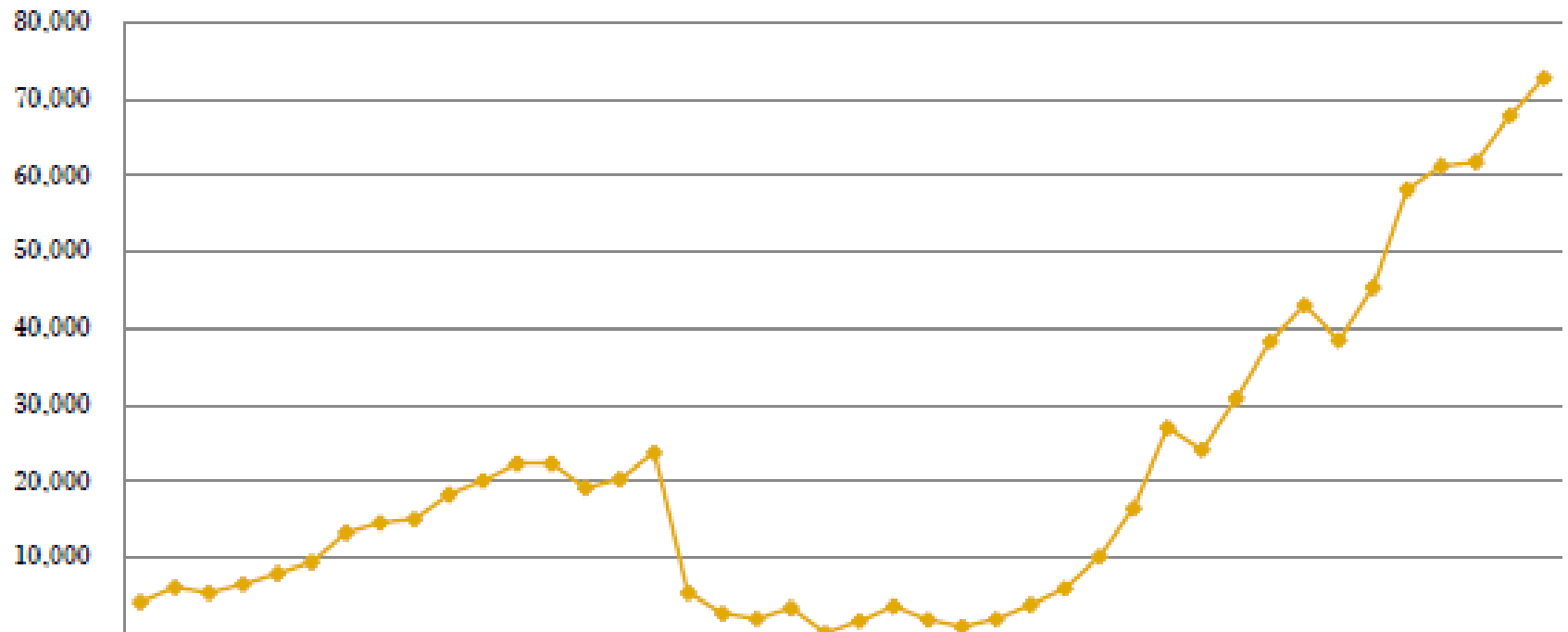


Park Statistics: Jan-July 2016



Best Performance Nyungwe
But Volcanoes still lead revenues

Park visits 1974-2015



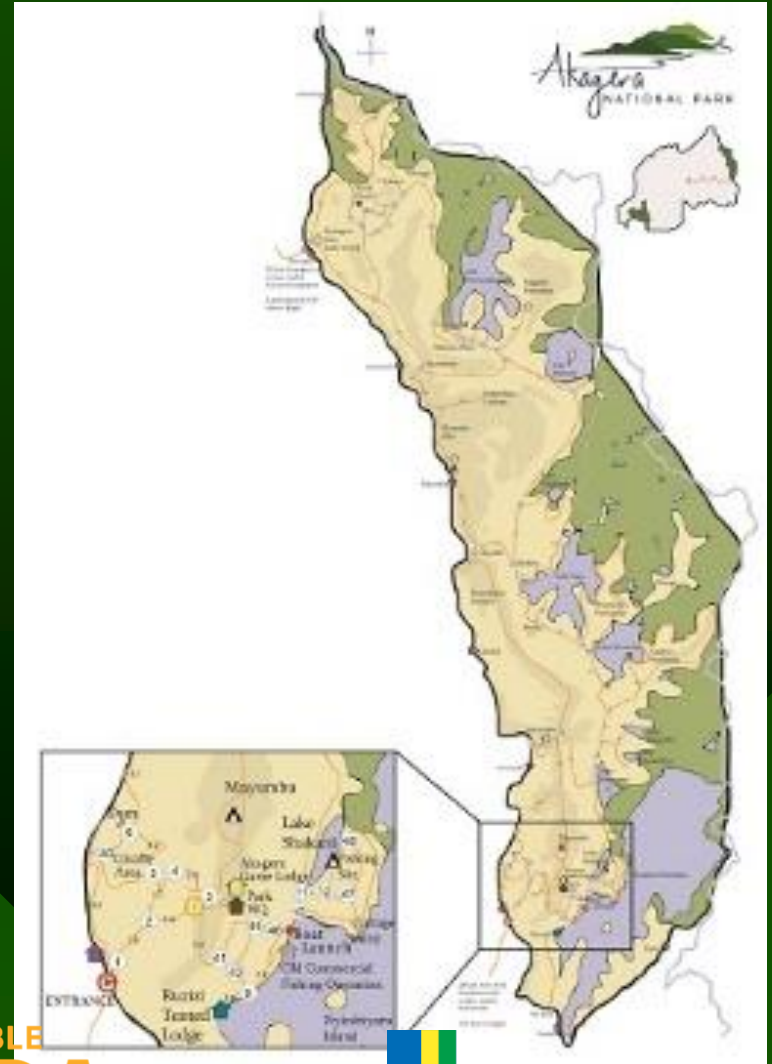
- **Tourism**
 - has come 1st foreign currency earner for the last 6 consecutive years
 - Contributes 3.5% to the GDP

AMC: Public Private Partnership



Akagera National Park

- Gazette in 1934
- Savannah park with wetland on half area
- 1122 Sq Kms



Akagera Management Company

- Joint venture between the Government of Rwanda and African Parks Network, NPO based in South Africa
- PPP agreement signed and began management of Akagera in March 2010
- 20 year management agreement
- Aim to make Akagera financially self-sustainable



Why Akagera in PPP?

Problems

- Reduced from 270,000 to 112,000 hectares
- Park inhabited after the Genocide (resettlement of people returning from exile)
 - Overgrazing
 - Introduction of exotics
- Human-wildlife conflicts
- Poaching

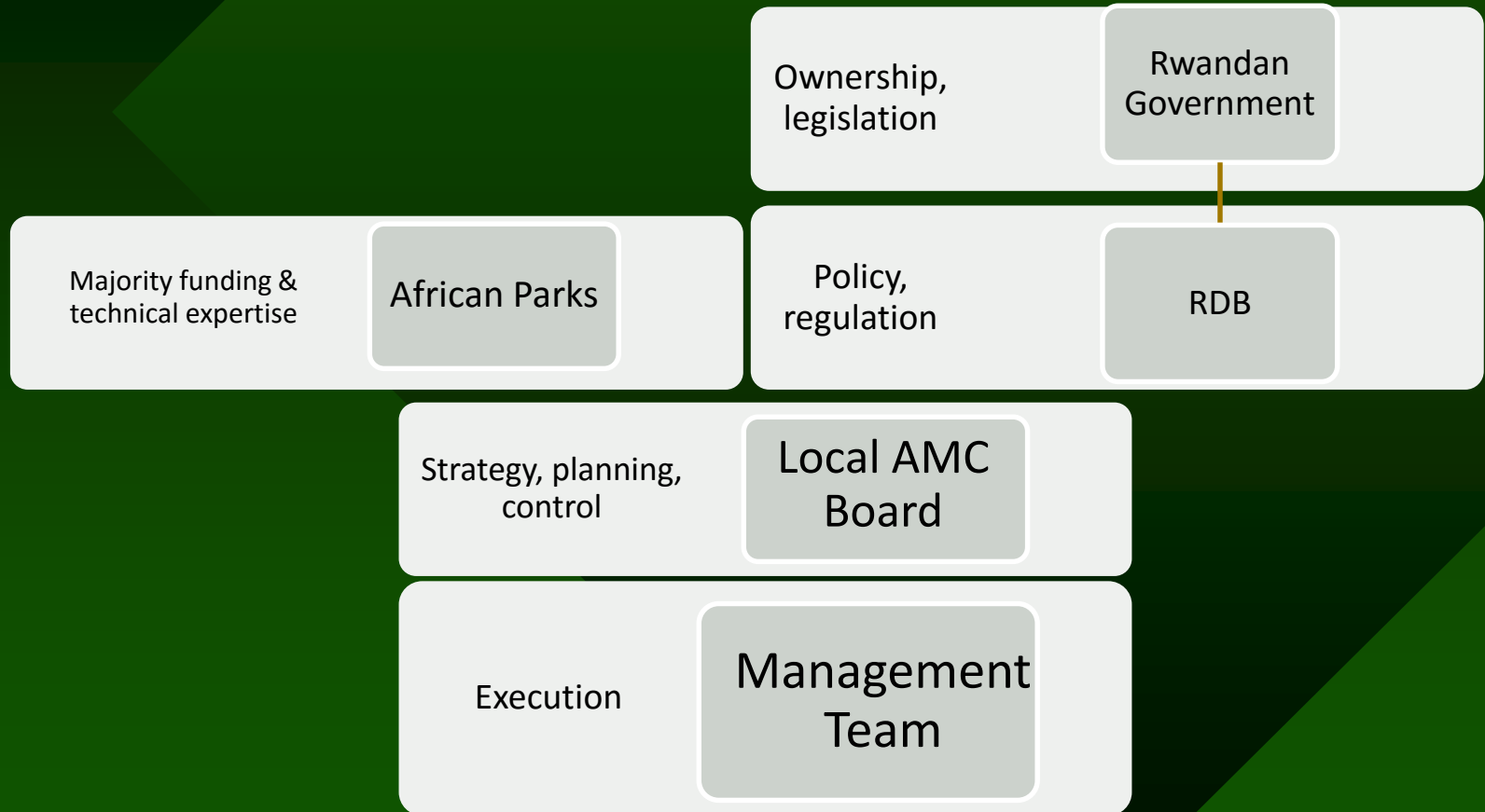
Potential

- Unique wetland
- Biodiversity
- Viable populations of wildlife
- Tourism potential

African Parks Network

- Not-for-profit conservation organisation
- PPP agreements experience
- Total responsibility
- Long-term responsibility
- Fundraising capacity
- Conservation expertise

Management structure



Specificity

- APN holds majority of shares
 - Has majority of 4/7 Directors on the Board
 - Appoints CEO and Finance controller
- Government chairs the Board and has veto right on sensitive issues
- AMC hires and manages all staff
 - Law enforcement staff managed under Government contract
- 5 year external review - accountability

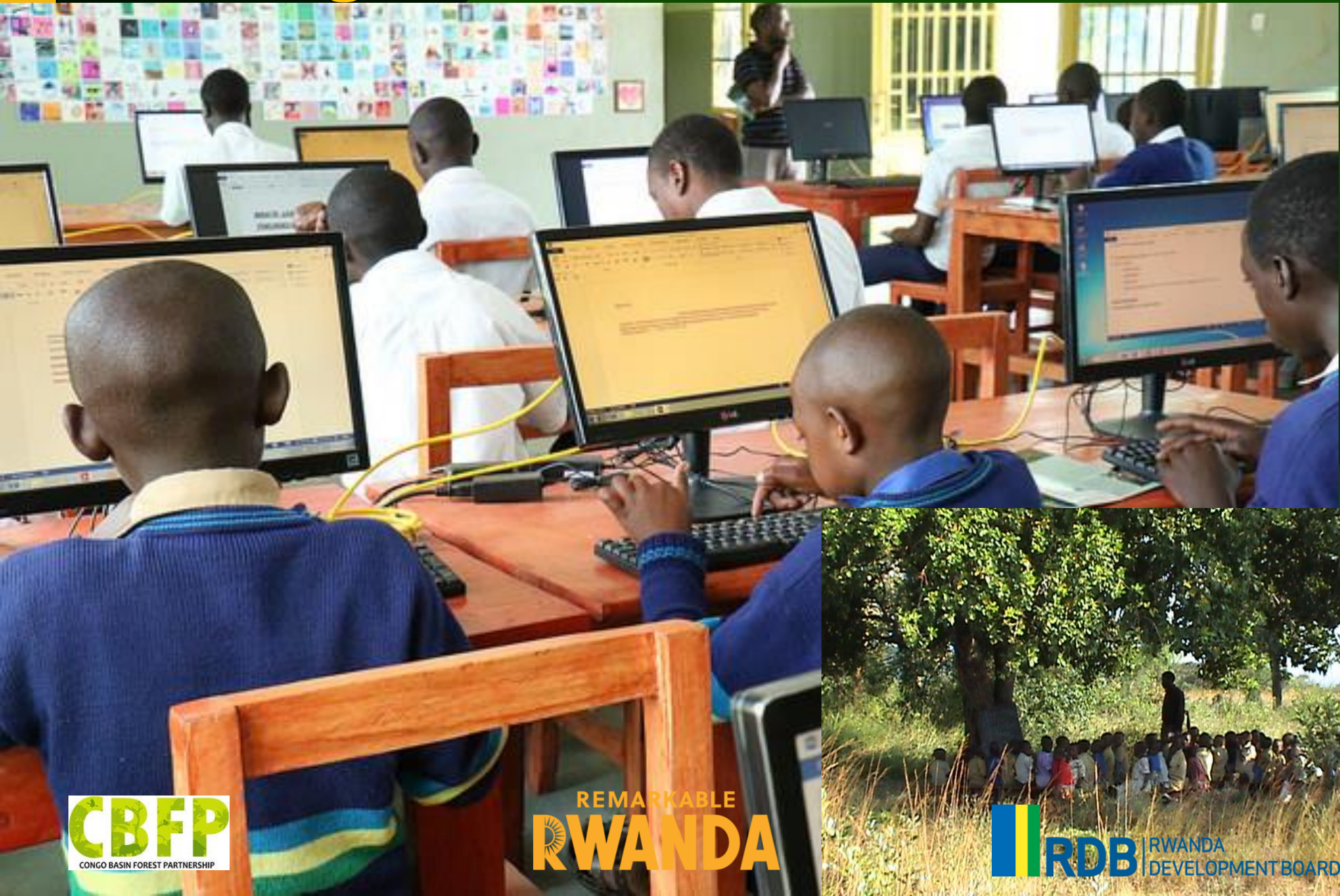
Financials

- African Parks Network responsible for raising funds for park operations
- Government contributes 250,000 USD/year until the Company breaks even
- In case the company makes profit, it will be shared equally between both shareholders
- The Government of Rwanda has fenced the park to reduce incidence of HWC and ease reintroduction of lions (done) and black rhinos (expected early next year) by APN

Achievement

- A new tourism development plan produced and is being implemented
- Park infrastructure improved (road network maintenance, housing)
- Maintenance of the 120 km electrical fence
- Park visitation increased significantly (higher level marketing)

Working with the communities



Tourism Revenue Sharing

- Communities around National Parks
 - Bring the 1st support to Parks (intervention, Collaboration-Planning...)
 - Undergo problems from National Parks (crop raiding, erosion, social transformation)
- They should get direct benefits from NParks providing an enabling environment for good relationships with NParks
 - Integration in NP management
 - Integration in conflict management
- Revenue sharing as an incentive to solicit their active role in conservation

Objectives

- Improve socio economic livelihoods
- Increase community responsibility for sustainable conservation

MECHANISMS

- 5% total tourism revenues allocated to Community projects around parks
 - 40% to PNV
 - 30% to PNA
 - 30% to PNN
- Principle
 - RS not a substitute to traditional financial structures
 - RS as a source for development irradiation

Project selection criteria

- Proximity (Park bordering Sector)
- Feasibility
- Sustainability
- Positive impact on
 - NPark conservation
 - Communities' livelihoods
- Local participation/ Co-funding
- Project importance
 - Distribution, equity, impact
- Integration of RDB& District plans

Main achievements

- Gradual increase of contribution (42, 71, 76, 121, 181, 220, 232 to 376 million FRW/ Yr)
 - 1 US\$=820 FRW
- Support to infrastructure development
 - Schools
 - Health facilities
 - Water supply, especially rain water collection
 - Roads/Bridges
- Support to local entrepreneurship
 - Bee keeping, Handicrafts, Culture promotion, Mushroom growing, Community-Based Tourism

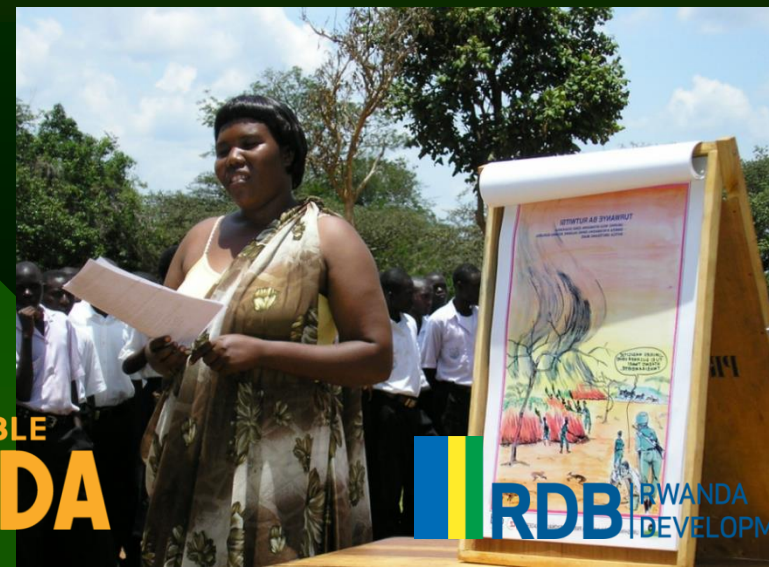
Community support 2005-2016

Park	Projects	Amounts (US\$)	Sectors	Districts
Akagera	149	985 436	6/6	3/3
Nyungwe	121	924 864	24/24	5/5
Volcanoes	210	1 301 542	12/12	4/4
Total	480	3 211 841	42/42	12/12

Positive...

- Attitude towards the parks
 - Not just source of problems
 - Real contributor to development
- Active participation fo park conservation
 - Joint patrols (Snare detection and collection); Informers
 - Cases of stray animals returned to parks
- Spark to further community support initiatives
 - Support from conservation partners
 - Programme now applied to other natural resources (Mining)

Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts



Transboundary collaboration



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Transboundary collaboration

Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration



Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration

- Transboundary collaboration initiated by Wardens in Virunga Massif, early 1991
- Grown through EDs of Conservation/ Wildlife Agencies in Rwanda, DRC and Uganda to Ministers
- Treaty signed in 2015
- Area covered extends to 8 Protected area in the Central Albertine Rift
- Executive Secretariat in Kigali with a HQs agreement by Government of Rwanda
- 10 Years Transboundary Strategic Plan, revised in 2015

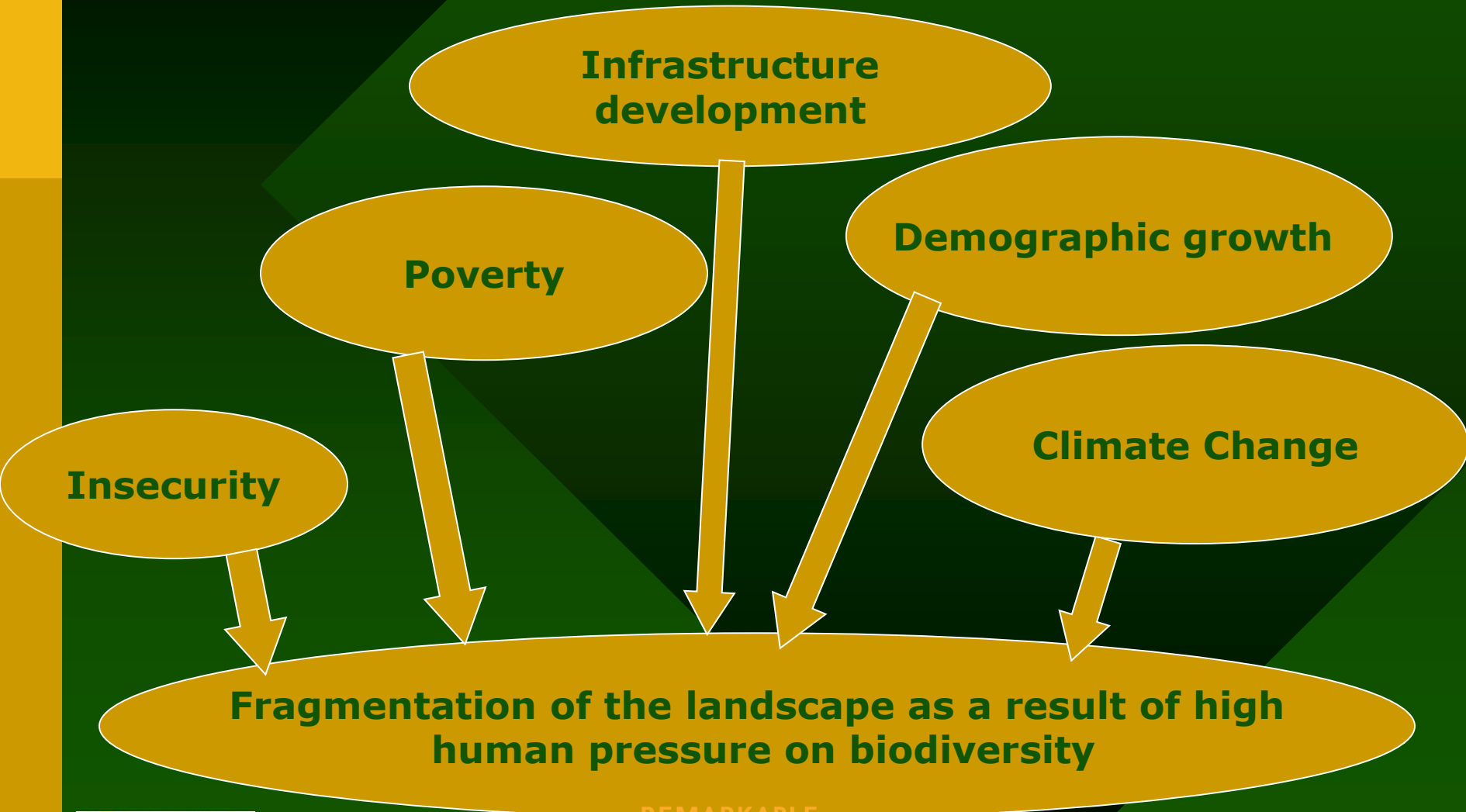
Guiding Principles

- Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of partner states
- Equal status and treatment of partner states
- Poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood improvement
- Sustainable Development
- Community Participation

Objectives

- 1: To promote and coordinate conservation of biodiversity and other socio-cultural values within the Greater Virunga wildlife protected area network;
- 2: To develop strategies for Transboundary management of biodiversity
- 3: To promote and ensure coordinated planning, monitoring and evaluation of implementation of transboundary conservation and development projects;
- 4: To promote and coordinate tourism development in GVL
- 5: To secure sustainable funding for Conservation of GVL
- 6: To enhance and harmonise the generation and sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices for evidence based decision making

Critical issues within GVL



Regional Collaboration achievements

- **At Government level**

- brought all the partners efforts to be recognised (legal status of GVTC- Executive secretariat based in Kigali)

- **At regional level**

- GVTC is an institution that conserves natural resource for peace building and development (MoU CEPGL, ICGLR)
- Joint activities at regional level: Gorilla Census, joint planning and transboundary studies/research

- **Ecological Integrity**

- Pop of Mt gorillas increased at a rate of 3 % per annum in 2 decades of insecurity and other threats.
- Human foot print under control

- **At Community level**

- Provide livelihood alternative to community
- Building trust among communities by joint activities

Basic Studies

- Situation analysis on illegal trade and crime on natural resources within the GVL
- Assessment of regional REDD+ in GVL
- Hydrological studies within GVL
- Assessment of impacts for oil and gas exploitation within GVL
- Assessment of gender integration in conservation
- Assessment of partnership between public sector and communities
- Fire Management Plan
- Climate Change Strategy

Management Tools

- Participatory Transboundary Strategic Plan: 2013 -2018
 - TSP Operationalization – Success Plan 2013 -2018
- Participatory Success Plan
- Based on Theory of change to tell a story of success in Improved Conservation in GVL
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frame work
- Finance and Accounting Manual
- Human Resource Manual

Key challenges

- Concilling Conservation and community livelihoods
- Harmonisation of legislation in the 3 partner States
- Mobilisation of financial and human capital
- Insecurity in the Region



Kwita Izina

Conservation is life

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