

A GUIDE TO THE UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY'S REVENUE SHARING PROGRAMME



1 What is the Revenue Sharing Programme?

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) shares some of the money it earns from tourism with communities neighbouring the national parks and wildlife reserves.

2 Where does the money come from?

The money comes from the Park entrance fees tourists pay. UWA shares 20% of each Park entrance fee. In addition, at Bwindi, UWA shares 10 US dollars (effective from 1st July 2015 - an increase from 5 US dollars previously) from each gorilla-tracking permit sold.



3 How much money is shared with communities?

The amount of money varies depending on the number of tourists who visit the Park and track the gorillas. The money from revenue sharing is sent by UWA to the districts who keep 5% to cover administration costs and pass the remaining 95% on to the sub counties for the agreed projects. Since the beginning of the programme, the money shared with communities around Bwindi has increased from US\$ 3,000,000/= per parish in 1995 to US\$ 15,000,000/= per parish in 2014. This big increase is due to the greater number of habituated gorilla groups and the increase in the number of tourists visiting the Park and tracking gorillas.

4 How many villages is the money shared between?

In Bwindi, the money is shared between the 96 villages that border the Park, located in 27 parishes in the districts of Kisoro, Kanungu and Kabale.



5 Why are some villages included and not others?

Only villages that share a boundary with the Park are included in the programme. This is because they bear more of the costs of conservation, such as crop damage, than other villages that are further away from the Park.

6 What can the money be spent on?

Revenue sharing money can be spent on household and community projects that meet two basic criteria: they must contribute to reducing human-wildlife conflict, or they must contribute to improving the livelihoods of households in frontline villages. Projects like goat rearing, piggyeries, tree planting, bee keeping, and Irish potato growing have been funded at household level. The construction of schools, health centres, feeder roads and water tanks have been funded at community level, as have projects to help reduce damage to crops by wild animals such as planting Mauritius thorn hedges.



7 How are projects selected?

Each village bordering the Park forms a Community Project Management Committee. The Committee writes applications for projects selected during village meetings. The Village Chairman forwards the proposals to the Parish Development Committee, which selects the most important projects and submits them to the Sub County Chief. The Sub County Chief calls a meeting at which the Parish Chiefs, the Conservation Area Manager and other government officers pick the best projects. These are integrated into district development plans after which the Chief Administrative Officer asks UWA to release the funds for them.

8 What can I do to make sure my priorities are heard in the decision-making process?

Villages set priorities at the village level and make decisions on which projects to put into the revenue sharing programme; so always attend the village meetings called to propose projects under the revenue sharing programme.



9 Who does the monitoring?

Monitoring of the implementation of projects is done at all levels of the revenue sharing programme, from the village to the District. District and sub country officials keep 5% of the revenue sharing funds to cover the costs of monitoring. Villages are able to monitor projects on the ground. UWA monitors revenue sharing projects and reports on them.

10 What can I do if I am unhappy with the projects selected for funding or worried that funds are being misused?

UWA encourages people to write about any worries they may have to the Chief Administrative Officer, copying the Conservation Area Manager. Letters should refer to minutes of decisions taken during the village meetings if possible.



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