



ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE (EGI) UGANDA
CONSERVING FOR GENERATIONS

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
(TOR)**

**TO CONDUCT A SURVEY ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES' ATTITUDES AND
PERCEPTIONS, TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN GORILLA IN
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK IN
WESTERN UGANDA**

November 2023

1. Introduction

The Environment Governance Institute (EGI) is a not-for-profit non-governmental environmental organization dedicated to promoting the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources in Uganda through lobbying, research and community education.

EGI works with government, communities and local leaders to ensure that natural resources are utilized in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation, and respect for human rights.

In November 2023, Environment Governance Institute received funding from IUCN Save Our Species to implement a project “*Empowering communities for sustainable conservation of mountain gorillas in Bwindi impenetrable National Park*”.

The project will be implemented in two sub-counties adjacent to the Bwindi impenetrable park Ecosystem namely, Ruhija and Kayonga sub-counties, situated in Kabale and Kanungu Districts respectively.

The main objective of the project is to build the resilient capacity of tourism host communities to adopt and apply alternative livelihoods and protect the conservation of mountain gorillas within the green belt of Bwindi impenetrable national park Ecosystem.

2. Background

Uganda is home to over 459 mountain gorillas, making up to nearly half of the world's total estimated population of 1,063 gorillas. It is also a home to the indigenous Batwa people who for decades ago had been evicted after the forest was declared a park. These communities, who had traditionally relied on the forest for various livelihoods and subsistence resources such as firewood, timber, forest honey, edible plants, medicinal herbs and cultural interests, were for nearly a decade ago, restricted from entry into the protected zones in efforts to safeguard the critically endangered mountain gorillas.

Consequently, as a means of survival, they have also been pushed to engage in illegal poaching of bush meat that led to gorillas frequently getting caught in traps intended for antelopes, squirrels, and other edible animal species, resulting in severe injuries such as limb loss and even death. Additionally, instances of deliberate actions like setting forest fires have been observed and seen as retaliation by local communities that perceive wild life as being prioritized over their needs.

However, while the gorilla population has played a significant role in the tourism sector emerging as a crucial economic asset for the country, the host communities adjacent to the park still harbor mixed perceptions, attitudes and feeling towards the conservation of mountain gorillas that the cost of living close to these wild life species seemingly outweighs the tangible benefits. In addition, the communities still perceive that mountain gorillas in the area are given more benefits as compared to them and the extent on how these perceptions exist are still lacking.

Therefore, limited knowledge, community perception and attitudes towards conservation, could have silent destructive effects on these slowly recovering mountain gorilla species.

It's on the above background that Environment Governance institute, through the support of IUCN Save our Species project, seeks to hire a consultant to undertake a **Rapid Attitude Survey amongst the selected host communities of Bwindi impenetrable national park, to understand their perception, attitudes and levels of knowledge regarding the conservation of the critically endangered mountain gorillas.**

The survey is intended to inform drastic approaches and measure that will trigger a critical balance between conservation efforts and the well-being of host communities in order secure a long-term conservation of the Gorilla species.

3. Research objectives

The main research objective is to understand the attitudes, perceptions and level of knowledge amongst Bwindi host communities towards the conservation of mountain gorillas.

The Specific objectives are;

- To determine the existing social and cultural perception of communities regarding the conservation efforts of Gorillas in Bwindi, including their perceived benefits and challenges
- Evaluate the attitude of communities towards the existing livelihoods and conservation efforts regarding gorilla conservation
- Assess community willingness to support existing and future gorilla conservation initiative
- Document barriers that hinder community involvement in gorilla conservation and suggest appropriate approaches to address them
- Propose measures to address the attitudes towards the conservation of gorillas

4. Scope of work

The consultant will be responsible to carry out the assignment within the study area which will cover purposively sampled Bwindi adjacent communities in the project selected sub counties of Ruhija and Kayunga in Kabale and Kanungu districts respectively. The consultant should be able to explore in-depth approaches to capture existing silent community perception and attitudes on the worth of conservation of gorilla species, on revenue share benefits, cultural

perspectives, willingness to participate in gorilla conservation, assess the knowledge of existing UWA policy on Gorilla conservation and understand their attitudes in adhering to the gorilla conservation Policy.

5. Methodology

The researcher will use a cross sectional research design with a good mix of qualitative approaches to enhance a quick assessment of attitudes and perceptions towards Gorilla conservations. However, to gain a deeper understanding of the context, reasons and barriers behind the attitudes and perceptions, the consultant should explore using focus group discussions/ interviews and further carry out document reviews. The consultant will also design a short and concise questionnaire with open and closed ended questions that address the above objectives. The consultant is expected to propose any methodology he deems vital to achieve the above objectives and should adhere to the ethical research best practices which maintains participants anonymity, confidentiality and minimizes bias.

6. Key Deliverables

The consultant will have to meet the following deliverables;

1. Design and submit the Rapid attitude survey questionnaires and research tools to EGI for review and approval prior to research.
2. Draft Rapid attitude survey report for comments
3. A final comprehensive report that gives detailed analysis of key findings of the survey
4. Remain available for a period of 60 working days from the date of final report

7. Time frame

The exercise is expected to start on 27th November 2023 and it will take utmost 18 days including presentation of draft report.

8. Skills and qualifications required for the consultant:

EGI seeks to recruit a competent and experienced researcher who meets the following requirements;

- a) Experience in undertaking Rapid assessment surveys especially in regards to wildlife conservation

- b) Strong knowledge and understanding of socio-economic and cultural dynamics of communities adjacent Bwindi national park
- c) Demonstrated expertise in conducting community-based surveys particularly in Biodiversity conservation and community engagement
- d) Proven evidence of previous research publications related to wildlife conservation
- e) Conversant with research ethical considerations and willing to reduce foot print during work
- f) Should adhere to Environment standards while at work
- g) Should be flexible and demonstrate ability to work in different backgrounds/areas
- h) Should Have excellent academic research background with a sound conceptual and analytical skills
- i) Good experience in facilitation and data collection skills

9. Technical and financial reporting requirements

The consultant will be required to submit the following necessary, separate technical and financial documents to competitively meet the selection process and evaluation of the consultant

i. The technical proposal should contain:

- a) Description of the understanding of the tasks, including comments on the TORs;
- b) A clear description of the methodology to be followed, to achieve the desired objectives;
- c) A work plan and time scheduling of information gathering and other activities; and
- d) CVs of the consultants/firms;

ii. The Financial proposal should contain:

- a) A budget proposal, including consultant fees, direct expenses, reimbursable expenses;
- b) All Consultation fees should be quoted in Ugandan Shillings

10. Application Process

The interested consultant or firm should submit their application letter, updated CVs, Technical and financial proposal and references for the similar work conducted previously to

the chief Executive Officer; Environment Governance Institute (EGI), email:

info@egiuganda.org Cc: sokulony@egiuganda.org and patukunda@egiuganda.org , P.O.

Box151116, , Kampala-Uganda, Plot 35 Seeta Bukerere Road off Jinja-Kampala Highway not later than 17th November , 2023 at 5:00pm.

