

**UGANDA BATWA COMMUNITY
MAPPING FOR CUSTOMARY
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

BY

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Introduction

Historically, Batwa are hunter-gatherers whose livelihoods purely depended on the forest. They cherished the forest as their ancestral home where they used to collect fruits, wild honey, medicinal herbs, meat, mushrooms, and wild yams and at the same time they used to pay tribute to their ancestors from the forest. In 1991, the Batwa were officially evicted from their ancestral land for the creation of conservation areas, specifically Bwindi and Mgahinga national parks. As a result, the Batwa became landless and have since then continued to live in object poverty.

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

□ Community Mapping

- Document land claims of the Batwa people of Uganda
- Use of Traditional Knowledge
- Using the 3D model of mapping

Process

- Participatory mapping by the Batwa themselves
- Involvement of both elderly men and women, youths and Children
- Borrowing of knowledge from other communities with similar activity e.g The Ogiek of Kenya
- Actual documentation

Batwa actively working on 3D Map,



Applying the TK





Mgahinga national Park



Cont.

- Validation by the Batwa Community members
- Launching involving stakeholders(Community members, Government officials, conservationist, park managers and Media

Gains

- Recognition of the TK of the Batwa by the government representatives and conservation managers
- An advocacy tool to assist the Batwa to regain the lost Ancestral land as well as document their territorial land
- The TK will be useful in the long run in utilizing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- It will guide the community in Development of BCP and Customary Sustainable use
- It became a unifying factor for the community

Transfer of TK

- ❑ The process will help the Batwa community in transfer of knowledge to young generation
- ❑ History is already written for the Batwa people

Challenges

- Implementation of the TK
- Acceptance of the developed 3D Map by the government through restitution and compensation
- The amount of resources were minimal hence we are unable to publish the work done

- Thank you for your attention.