



FONDATION KIBIRA

Fondation kibira

Newsletter

2025



Nature
Investment
Facility

Cartier for Nature



August 28, 2025

Dear partners and conservation advocates,

As we approach the end of the year, we are pleased to share an overview of the progress achieved through our collective work and commitment to protecting Kibira National Park.

This year, our work this year has expanded into key areas such as; biodiversity conservation, infrastructure development, ecotourism initiatives, community empowerment and strategic partnerships.

Each of these milestones reflects not only our organizational dedication but also the essential role of your collaboration in driving sustainable outcomes.



At Kibira Foundation, we believe that conservation efficiency is built on strong partnerships. Your support has enabled us to strengthen institutional capacity, innovate our approaches, and deliver tangible results for different actors who are involved in our work and for local communities.

It is in this spirit of shared responsibility and forward-looking collaboration that we present the highlights of the recent months.

Delphin Kaze
General Administrator
Kibira Foundation

In the news

GOVERNANCE – TOURISM – COMMUNITIES – PARTERSHIPS – CAPACITY BUILDING



Infrastructure Expansion across Kibira National Park

Building on the success of the Mwokora headquarters, a comprehensive diagnostic of existing infrastructures (buildings, tracks, rest areas) has been conducted across other sectors of the Kibira National Park. The assessment highlighted urgent needs, including the rehabilitation of access roads, construction of new surveillance posts, and development of water points for staff and visitors.



Priority interventions include upgrading access roads to facilitate conservation team mobility and monitoring, building surveillance posts to reinforce security and provide strategic field bases, and establishing water infrastructure to meet essential needs of staff and visitors.

This initiative represents a systematic approach to developing a network of well-equipped sector headquarters, each serving as a hub for conservation activities. Through phased implementation, the proven Mwokora model will be extended across Kibira National Park, ensuring consistent standards, stronger operations, and sustainable management.

The objective of this initiative is to ensure a permanent presence of conservation advocates in all the sectors, strengthen park coverage, and enhance the standard of hospitality towards partners and tourists. The Mwokora model of decentralized governance has already proven effectiveness in coordinating conservation activities and engaging stakeholders, and this expansion seeks to replicate that success across the park.

A person wearing a white uniform and cap is looking through binoculars. The image is overlaid with a green filter. The word "Tourism" is written in bold black text on a white rectangular background in the center of the image.

Tourism

Training Local Guides

In addition to the infrastructure development at Mwokora, strategic private partnerships and enhanced government collaboration for tourism development have resulted in the training of local guides at Kibira National Park.

Twelve young men and women from neighboring communes were trained for a more efficient coverage of the forest.



Their training covered everything from primate behavior, especially chimpanzees, to guiding techniques and hygienic measures to protect both humans and wildlife. They are now ready to lead visitors into a rich experience of the park.

All these steps bring us closer to a future where tourism at Kibira National Park benefits both visitors and local communities.

A group of men are seated together, looking towards the camera. The man on the left wears a red cap with the 'Reebok' logo and a light-colored jacket. The man in the center is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. The man on the right wears a red beanie with stars and a green and yellow striped jacket. They are all holding mobile phones. The background is a blurred, warm-toned outdoor setting. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the word 'COMMUNITIES' in bold, black, uppercase letters.

COMMUNITIES

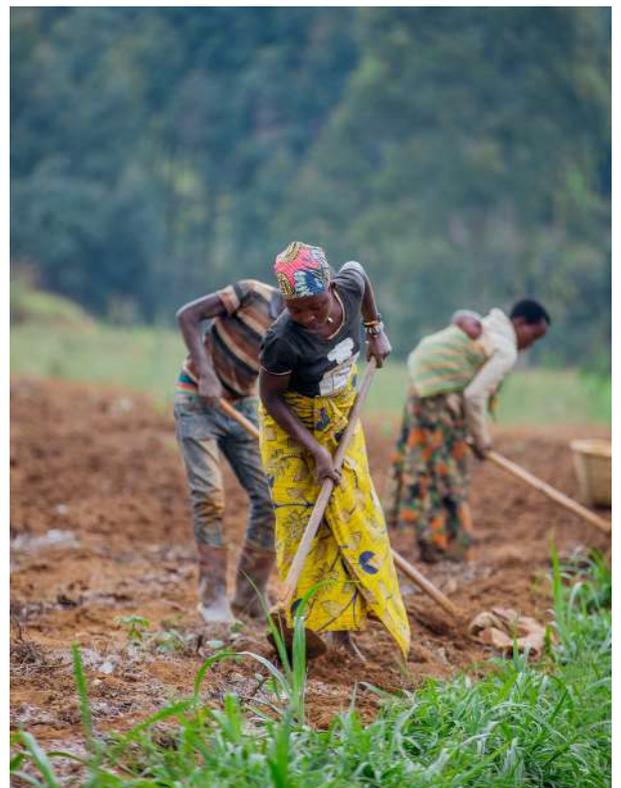
Our communities are thriving

Since the beginning of our interventions in the Kibira National Park, our focus has been on strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups, particularly the Batwa communities.



From securing land access and supporting local economic activities, to training programs and their inclusion as active conservation partners, these actions represent ongoing efforts that link community wellbeing with environmental protection.

Within this broader journey of transformation, we highlight individual stories like Régine's story which embodies resilience, progress, and the lasting impact.



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a red headwrap and a patterned top. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green rectangle. The text "Impact Story" is centered on the green area. "Impact" is in a white, thin, sans-serif font, and "Story" is in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Impact **Story**

In the hills of Muciro, Barangenza Régine faced the daily challenge familiar to many mothers: ensuring her family had enough to eat when resources were limited. Meeting her household's basic needs often felt overwhelming, but Régine maintained a quiet resilience that even poverty could not take away.

When the **Abagenzi b'ibidukikije Association** introduced her to the mushroom cultivation project, she had no idea how significantly it would transform her life. Through training and technical support from the Kibira Foundation, what began as a simple agricultural activity became a source of hope.



The first harvest exceeded her expectations, generating modest but consistent income. Working alongside her association colleagues, Régine began to explore more opportunities, including livestock farming.

Today, two goats graze in a pen she constructed herself using locally available materials. These beings represent more than livestock; they symbolize her progress toward economic stability.

"Thanks to the mushroom project, I was able to buy two goats," she explains with contentment. "I'm planning to expand the pen and develop my livestock farming so that I can provide for my family. This represents real change in my life."

Régine's journey from limited resources to improved food and economic security demonstrates how a single opportunity can create lasting transformation. For her, this is just the beginning of continued growth and development.

A sepia-toned photograph showing two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers interlocked. The background is a field of wheat stalks, slightly out of focus, extending to a horizon line under a soft, hazy sky. The overall mood is one of agreement, partnership, and agricultural success.

PARTNERSHIPS

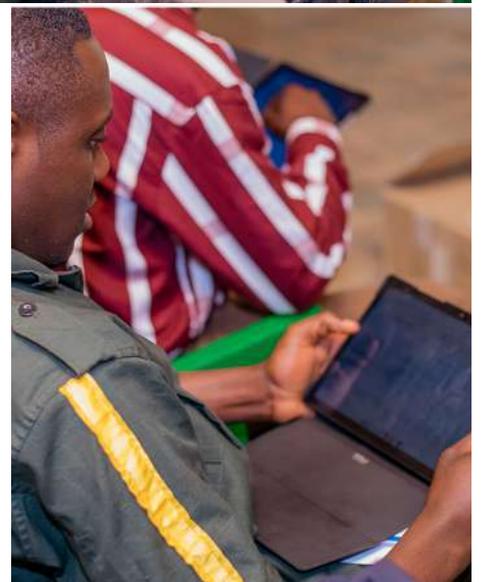
Developing New Partnerships

With Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF), technology has become a new way to experience Kibira. Through the Ideas Cube program, Eco guards were trained to use tablets and other innovative equipment that now enrich visitors experience through Rwegura Cultural Center.



These interactive resources make learning about biodiversity more engaging, offering visitors immersive access to multimedia content, educational materials, and stories that bring conservation efforts to life.

This partnership is transforming the way people connect with Kibira. Not only by observing its beauty, but also by experiencing it through technology.



TIWAI ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
A PREMIER DESTINATION FOR BIODIVERSITY
RESEARCH & ECOTOURISM



CAPACITY BUILDING



Our teams set out on discovery

At Kibira Foundation, we believe that continuous learning is essential to our mission. In September 2025, our team participated in a valuable learning experience that has significantly increased our knowledge to carry out our mission with greater impact.

Mission to Sierra Leone: Learning from Innovation



A delegation from the Kibira Foundation, accompanied by a representative from the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection, traveled to Sierra Leone to visit Gola RainForest National Park, recently inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The mission focused on co-management approaches and ecotourism development strategies. The park's methods for developing authentic tourism products and attracting private sector investment provided valuable insights for our own initiatives.

These learning experiences in other countries reflect our commitment to continuous learning and improvement. Each meeting and exchange contribute to strengthening our conservation approaches and expanding our understanding of best practices in the field, resulting in stronger partnerships with local communities and stakeholders.

Moving Forward Together

As we reflect on these achievements, we extend our deep appreciation to our partners for their unwavering commitment to Kibira's protection and to community development around the park.

Your contributions have enabled us to deliver tangible results: from the establishment of new infrastructure at Mwokora, to training new local guides, to income-generating opportunities that are transforming lives in neighboring communities.

These advances are the result of a collective effort. Together, we are shaping a future where conservation and economic development go hand in hand, creating a lasting impact for both people and nature.

With your continued partnership, we look forward to building on this momentum and pursuing even greater achievements in the years ahead.



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