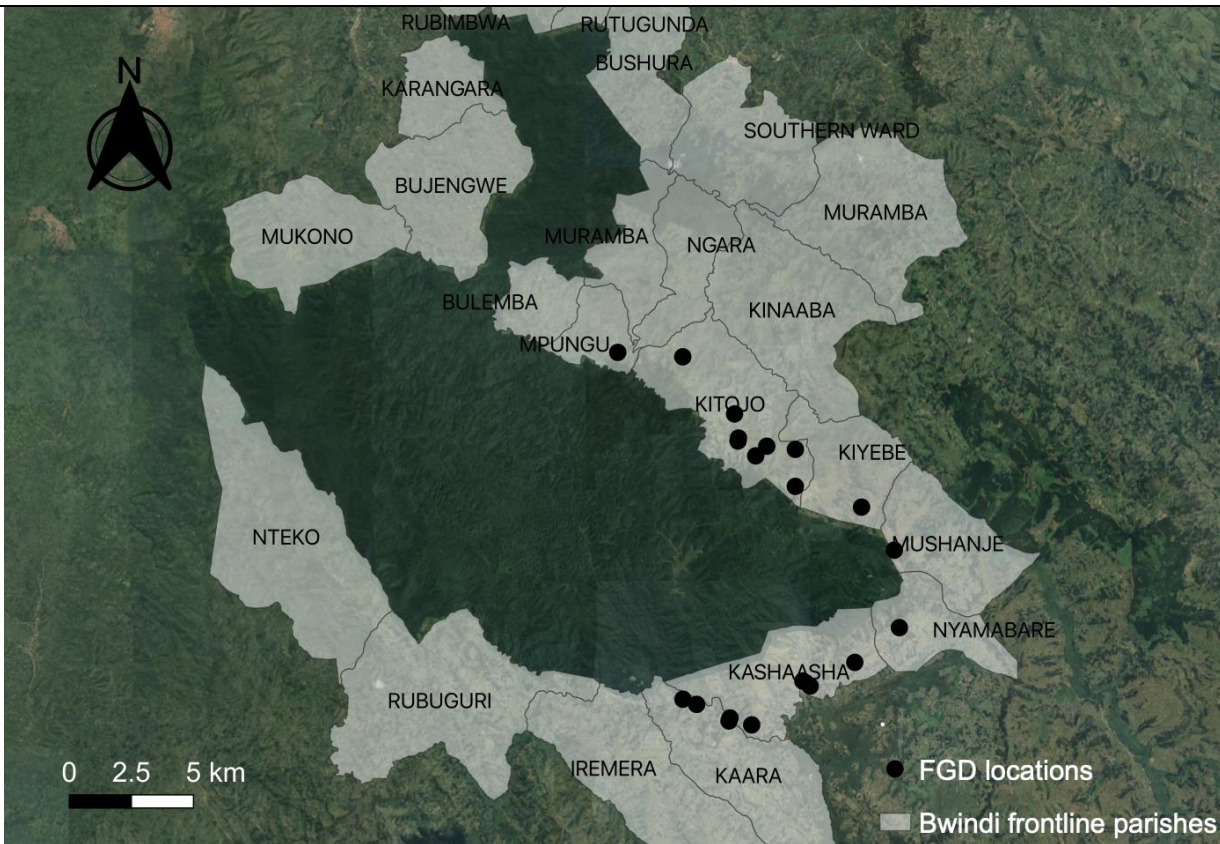


Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Badru Mugerwa
Project Title	Pigs and SACCOs: local community tools against poaching and its impacts on African golden cats at Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Application ID	39557-2
Date of this Report	06.05.2024

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Create voluntary community based anti-poaching watch groups by engaging local families living in poaching hotspot communities in livelihood improving anti-poaching initiatives through community mobilization (village meetings).			X	We conducted 20 Focus Group Discussion (FGDs, "village meetings") in 15 villages: Kyogo, Buzaniro, Bishayu, Katooma, Mushasha, Rugandu, Kabere, Rugandu, Nyamabare, Kitahurira, Ndego, Ihunga, Kagogo, Nshanjare, and Mashoho representing six poaching hotspot parishes; Mpungu, Kitojo, Kiyebe, Mushanje, Nyamabare, Kashaasha and Kaara. We had uneven number of FGDs in parishes dictated by the size of the parishes and level of reported poaching. In total, we had 274 households in our FGDs. These village meetings are pivotal activity for Embaka's Poachers to Protectors (P2P) programme and overall project success. The aim was to inspire dialogue about African golden cat (and wildlife) conservation while inspiring for local community support for our voluntary community based anti-poaching watch groups. The households we have mobilised through this activity brought the number of Embaka members from 1,370 to 1,644 and increased the number of voluntary community-led anti-poaching watch groups from 37 to 47. We used separate funding to deliver free dental and oral healthcare and treatment to 356 local people, increasing the number of Embaka members from 1,644 to 2,000. This is unrelated to the objectives of this project but shows the significance of this grant to attract further support the mobilisation of local communities against bushmeat hunting.

				 <p>Figure 1. Locations for the Group Focus Discussions in the poaching hotspot frontline parishes at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park</p>
Introduce an alternative locally acceptable		X		<p>I established 15 new pig seed banks by donating 14 pigs and two goats to 15 households, bringing the total number of Embaka pig seed banks from 39 to 54. The number of animals in the seed bank also increased from 89 to 104 animals. Because some households have religious beliefs that bar them from keeping pigs, we are</p>

source of animal protein to bushmeat through pig farming.

changing the name of this programme from Pigs for Bushmeat to Livestock for Bushmeat, so as not to offend and be respectful of religious beliefs.




Figure 2. Beneficiary households of Embaka's Piglets for Bushmeat (P4B), now Livestock for Bushmeat program at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. One of the 15 households preferred goat to pigs as an alignment to their religious beliefs.

Provide an alternative source of income to bushmeat trade through Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCO).			X	As part of Embaka's Conservation Pesa (CPesa) programme, I established five new Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCO) groups, with 20 member households each. The number of CPesa groups increased from 5 to 10, with 352 member households.
--	--	--	---	--



				Figure 3. Embaka's Conservation Pesa (CPesa) Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) groups.
Strengthen existing collaborations among wildlife managers, local government and Embaka for more efficient and effective mitigation of poaching and its impacts on the AGC and other wildlife through community-based conservation initiatives.			X	<p>Our community-led conservation work was recognised by the Uganda Wildlife Authority through a Memorandum of Understanding. This was during a high level meeting between Embaka team and the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area top management team at the BMCA headquarters at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The meeting was an inspiration of collaboration and a convergence of passion and purpose. Tales of Embaka's dedicated conservation efforts, which have not only improved the way of life for local families but have directly mitigated the human threats to the African golden cat, were shared. The Embaka Founder and Director reiterated the importance of intertwining conservation efforts with community livelihoods and shared Embaka's ambitious vision to increase the Embaka local family membership from 2,000 families today to 5,000 by 2026.</p> <p>The BMCA Chief Warden and his team listened intently, recognizing the merit and achievements of Embaka's 12-year community-led conservation program. The BMCA Chief Warden thanked and congratulated Embaka for a well-done job. The UWA was particularly impressed with Embaka's scientific evidence-based conservation approach stemming from Badru's (the PI to this project) ecological and socio-economic research. The UWA pledged their support, promising to adopt and champion several of the Embaka's conservation initiatives into their own community conservation programme. Embaka's iconic and novel mobile dental clinics, aptly named Smile for Conservation (or S4C for short), attracted particular interest and appreciation because of its novelty and immediate livelihood benefits and conservation awareness creation. In fact, the UWA requested that the frequency of mobile dental clinics be increased from once (currently) to thrice a year, a wish Embaka can only fulfil with support from organisations like RSG.</p>

				<p>The icing on the cake of this meeting was the pledge by the UWA to include the African golden cat on the priority list of species for BMCA, standing side by side with the mountain gorilla, BMCA's current flagship species. This is such a powerful symbol of UWA's commitment to conserving the African golden cat. As the meeting ended, a sense of hope and excitement filled the room. The UWA pledged full support to Embaka's community-led conservation initiatives because they work. A formal partnership between the UWA and Embaka through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is already underway as the natural next step. An MoU draft document is currently being reviewed by UWA's legal teams. With UWA's commitment and Embaka's dedication, the future for the African golden cat and the local communities who reside adjacent to its habitat can only get brighter.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				 <p>Figure 4. In the picture above (left to right) is the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (BMCA) Chief Warden (Nelson Guma), Embaka Founder and Director (Mwezi “Badru” Mugerwa) and other Embaka and UWA representatives.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) The number of voluntary community-led anti-poaching watch groups increased from 37 to 47, and Embaka membership increased from 1,370 to 1,644.
- b) The total number of Embaka pig seed banks (now livestock seed banks) increased from 39 to 54, while the number of animals increased from 89 to 104.
- c) An increase in the number of CPesa groups from five to 10, with 352 member households.
- d) A Memorandum of Understanding formalizing Embaka's partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority in appreciation of Embaka's community-led conservation efforts is underway.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

- 1) Many households are interested in joining the CPesa (SACCO) groups, yet we have limited funds, and making huge groups reduces the efficiency of the SACCOs. We tackled this challenge by promising local households that they would be recruited as we establish new CPesa groups, funding allowing.
- 2) One family did not accept pigs but goats due to religious beliefs. Guided by Embaka's DEIJ policy, we respect everyone's religious beliefs, so we substituted pigs for goats for that specific family. We have also changed the name of this programme from *Pigs for Bushmeat* to *Livestock for Bushmeat* with respect to local religious beliefs.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

All the conservation activities for this project were community-led, proposed, and designed by the people who were called to implement them. This can be well exemplified by our project objective 2, where local communities have the safe space to suggest what livestock they prefer (based on their cultural, religious, etc beliefs) rather than us imposing on them. We involved the local communities in the focus group discussions (village meetings) for objective 1. We also involved the local communities in activities leading to the establishment of the CPesa groups (objective 3). We also involved the local communities in the Embaka General Assembly, where all the local leadership committee members convened to deliberate on the operations of Embaka.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the work is continuing. This project's activities are part of the ongoing activities of the Embaka CBO. Embaka has an ambitious vision to increase the Embaka local family membership from 2,000 families today to 5,000 by 2026. So, there is a lot more work ahead.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We presented these findings to UWA at our recent meeting. These activities, combined with what we have achieved for the past 14 years, are the foundation for our Memorandum of Understanding with UWA. We also shared these results in our annual report and intend to publish them in the IUCN Cat Specialist Group Cat News for the August Issue. The same results were reported at the National Geographic Society Annual Festival as a part of the Wayfinder Award Spotlight 3 minute, 3 slide and 3 picture presentation.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

For this project, we have shown the enthusiasm of local communities to take the lead on conservation initiatives. The next important step should be to continue and extend these initiatives to other local communities around Bwindi.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation Logo in our annual report. No, we have not received any publicity during the course of the project.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Badru Mugerwa
Christopher Byaruhanga

10. Any other comments?

We are grateful to The Rufford Foundation for funding support, without which this work would have been impossible. This work has contributed to the continuation of Embaka's community-led conservation initiatives around Bwindi. I wish to thank Jane Raymond and the whole Rufford team who reviewed and gave constructive feedback on our project.