

VOLCANOES SAFARIS
PARTNERSHIP TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT

2025

VS
Partnership
Trust

The **Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT)** was established in 2009 to connect **Volcanoes Safaris** lodges in Uganda with neighbouring communities and conservation initiatives. In Rwanda, the **Virunga Lodge Community Projects** support local communities surrounding the lodge. **VSPT** and the **Virunga Lodge Community Projects** receive funding through **Volcanoes Safaris**, which contributes US\$50 per night from each guest stay, together with grants from conservation organisations, private donations from guests and other supporters. **VSPT** aims to create long-term, self-sustaining projects that improve livelihoods, promote great ape conservation, restore natural habitats and work with communities and institutions to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

As part of their stay at **Volcanoes Safaris** lodges, guests have the opportunity to participate in community and conservation projects and understand human-wildlife challenges.



Note from Praveen Moman – Founder

In 2025, we celebrated a year of many achievements and progress at all lodges.

With the generous support of our **donors, conservation partners and guests**, we reached meaningful milestones this year in community wellbeing, livelihoods, animal welfare and conservation.

Programmes such as **One Sheep Per Family** continue to strengthen household incomes in the villages surrounding **Virunga Lodge**. Donations of water tanks have brought clean water closer to home, while solar panels have enabled children to read, study and flourish in school.

At the **Batwa Village of Mgahinga**, land generously purchased through guest support has helped the community thrive. Additional homes have been built, access to medical care and counselling has expanded, and school participation has grown, with more than 62 children now attending school who did not have this opportunity before. New vocational training partnerships are also creating pathways to skills, confidence and livelihoods.

In 2025, the **Volcanoes Safaris** in-house design and build team completed construction of the **Gorilla Conservation Centre**, which will officially open in 2026. Custom-built by **VSPT** at **Bwindi Lodge**, it will serve as a shared home and interpretation space for **Gorilla Doctors**, **VSPT** and **Conservation Through Public Health**, showcasing the work of the three organisations around **Bwindi Forest**.

At Kyambura, the **Lion Monitoring Project**, in partnership with the **Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)**, completed the 2025 census in **Queen Elizabeth National Park**. Approval was also granted to begin the first long-term chimpanzee monitoring project in 2026 in partnership with **UWA**.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the **generosity and trust of our guests, donors and partners**. Every contribution, large or small, has made a lasting difference in helping **VSPT** advance its vision and deepen its impact.

With deepest gratitude,

Praveen Moman

2025 Highlights

The women's coffee cooperative at Kyambura Gorge Lodge continued to grow and develop. There were two successful harvests in 2025. The beekeeping cooperative also had two honey harvests, allowing Kyambura Gorge Lodge to serve local honey to guests at the lodge.

Another noteworthy mention was the meeting of the **Albertine Ape Alliance**, hosted by **Volcanoes Safaris** in November 2025 in honour of **Dr Jane Goodall**, who was a supporter of the **Kyambura Gorge Eco-Tourism Project** and sadly passed away. The meeting brought together about 50 participants from key stakeholder organisations for a dialogue on great ape ecotourism and conservation, including the **Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)**, **Uganda Tourism Association**, **Uganda Tourism Board**, **Jane Goodall Institute**, **Conservation Through Public Health**, the **International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)**, **Uganda Safari Company**, **Gorilla Doctors** and other members of the **Albertine Ape Alliance**.



During 2025, **VSPT** further strengthened its partnerships with the **Dian Fossey Fund**, **Denver Zoo**, **Lion Recovery Fund**, **Adventure Travel Conservation Fund**, **Fight for the Forgotten** and the **Kellermann Foundation** to support the conservation of great apes and other wildlife, protect fragile habitats and improve the lives of local communities living alongside protected areas.

In 2025, **VSPT** provided US\$10,000 in support to the **Uganda Carnivore Program** as a contribution to its livestock compensation fund, helping communities mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the **Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area**.

REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Kyambura Gorge Lodge Projects



Kyambura Gorge Eco-Tourism Project

The **Kyambura Gorge Eco-Tourism Project**, in partnership with the **Jane Goodall Institute**, links local communities surrounding **Queen Elizabeth National Park** to conservation. The aim of the initiative is to promote sustainable ecotourism and conserve the Greater Kyambura landscape, one of the most important areas for bird, primate and wildlife biodiversity in Africa. It consists of a series of projects managed by the **VSPT Project Coordinator**, based at **Kyambura Gorge Lodge**.

Kyambura Wetland

Since 2010, **VSPT** has been securing the wetlands surrounding **Kyambura Gorge**, which were previously used for illegal brick-making. The wetlands have since been successfully restored and regenerated to their natural state, attracting more than 100 species of birds.

In 2025, the trails were extended, and indigenous trees and plants were planted to further restore the wetland. Guests from **Kyambura Gorge Lodge** enjoyed birding and nature walks led by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable **VSPT** guides. These walks resulted in sightings of a number of rare bird species, including the White-winged Warbler, Zebra Waxbill, Ross's Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo, Green-headed Sunbird and Scaly-throated Honeyguide.



Kyambura Coffee Cooperative

The Kyambura Coffee Cooperative is a community-based initiative designed to provide vocational training for women and an alternative, sustainable source of income. Twenty local women and their families are actively involved in the Cooperative.

The Cooperative processes coffee harvested by its members. Guests can learn about the journey from bean to cup through coffee demonstrations led by VSPT staff, creating an opportunity to support locally produced coffee and the women behind the Cooperative.

In 2025, 642 kg of Robusta red beans and 7,237 kg of Arabica coffee were harvested, resulting in almost 2,000 kg of clean beans. The remaining beans were used by the Cooperative to produce coffee soap and coffee scrub. These products were purchased by **Volcanoes Safaris** and presented to guests as gifts. Proceeds from all sales directly benefit the women of the Kyambura Coffee Cooperative.



Kyambura Gorge Buffer Zone

The **Kyambura Gorge Buffer Zone** serves as a wildlife buffer, helping to separate local communities from the chimpanzee population and other wildlife living in the gorge.

Guests at **Kyambura Gorge Lodge** participate in this project by planting indigenous tree seedlings to expand the buffer zone. A variety of local species are planted to support indigenous forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, agroforestry systems and wildlife habitat corridors. Over the last few years, **VSPT** has purchased close to 110 acres of land to enhance and expand the buffer zone. Together with ongoing indigenous tree planting, this creates a lasting conservation landscape that benefits both wildlife and neighbouring communities.



Kyambura Discovery Centre

In 2025, the **Kyambura Discovery Centre** was completed and officially opened. The Centre showcases the ecotourism activities of **VSPT** and its partners, providing a place where **VSPT** researchers, **Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)** staff, park rangers, schoolchildren, volunteers and members of the local community come together to learn and exchange practical ideas on conservation.



Left to right: James Byamukama, Director, Jane Goodall Institute Uganda, and Simon Kaweesi, Uganda Head of Volcanoes Safaris and Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT).



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Kyambura Gorge Lodge Projects

Kyambura Lion Monitoring Project

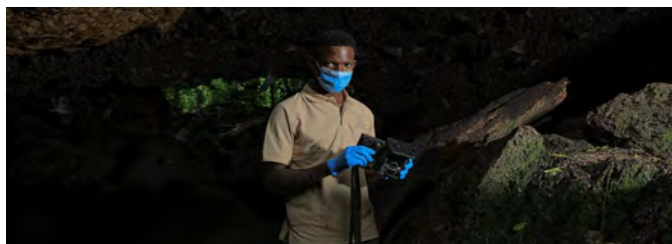


In 2025, **VSPT**, together with its partners **Denver Zoo**, **Lion Recovery Fund** and **Adventure Travel Conservation Fund**, and with support from our guests, provided more than US\$30,000 for a census survey of large carnivores in the **Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA)**, particularly African lion, leopard and spotted hyena. The survey collected data over a 12-month period using remote camera traps and a network of field teams from the **Lion Monitoring Team** that visit **Queen Elizabeth National Park** daily. The results of this scientific census survey will be published during 2026.

VSPT, through the **Kyambura Lion Monitoring Project**, held a training workshop for park rangers, **VSPT** field staff and local stakeholders at the **Community and Conservation Centre at Kyambura Gorge Lodge**. Led by **Dr Alexander Braczowski**, the workshop focused on carnivore monitoring techniques.



Training of UWA Park Rangers at VSPT Research Center Volcanoes Safaris and Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT).



Camera traps, set up both in the field and around **Kyambura Gorge Lodge**, are an important tool for monitoring wildlife activity around the lodge, the buffer zone, neighbouring community areas and **Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP)**. They play a vital role in supporting wildlife research and helping to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Through images captured by these camera traps, **Bosco Atukwatse**, **VSPT Senior Researcher**, made a remarkable discovery by documenting dozens of animals hunting bats in **Python Cave** in **Maramagambo Forest**. His research was subsequently featured in **The New York Times**, highlighting the importance of this work in advancing our understanding of how viruses can be transmitted from bats to people. Read the article: [Bat Cave Footage Offers Clues to How Viruses Leap Between Species](#).

Partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute

VSPT and the **Jane Goodall Institute** have been working together since 2021 to support the threatened chimpanzee population at **Kyambura Gorge**, reinforce community-led conservation and restore the natural habitats surrounding the Gorge.

In 2025, **VSPT** worked with the **Roots & Shoots** programme in eight schools near **Kyambura Gorge Lodge**, enabling more than 300 students to participate in:

- Nature walks in **Kyambura Gorge**, the Wetland Area, the Buffer Zone and the **Kyambura Discovery Centre**, learning about chimpanzees and their ecosystems.
- Educational visits to **Queen Elizabeth National Park** to learn about ecotourism and view wildlife.
- Planting indigenous tree seedlings in the **Kyambura Buffer Zone**.

In 2025, **VSPT** sponsored **Roots & Shoots** school club members to discuss the challenges facing the chimpanzees of **Kyambura Gorge**, enjoy a nature walk and plant trees in celebration of **World Chimpanzee Day**.



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Bwindi Lodge Projects

Bwindi Bar

Bwindi Bar provides training for disadvantaged young people living near **Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**. The programme offers practical experience and training in the tourism industry and creates employment opportunities in the region. On graduation, trainees are equipped with the skills needed to gain successful employment in hospitality at **Volcanoes Safaris** lodges and other hotels and lodges in the region.

In 2025, the trainees served many guests from **Volcanoes Safaris** and visitors to **Bwindi Bar**. During the year, 14 trainees graduated from the hospitality training programme and are now employed in the region.



Guests are encouraged to learn basket-weaving techniques while visiting **Bwindi Bar**, and all proceeds from items sold directly benefit the **Bwindi Women's Weaving Cooperative**, led by **Jusinta**, an inspiring local artisan who generously shares her expertise with other women in the community.



Guests visiting **Bwindi Bar** have the opportunity to participate in the **Rolex** cooking class, learning how to make local street fare.



Tea Processing

VSPT has a tea processing project at **Bwindi Lodge**. Local community members are employed to harvest the tea and earn an alternative and sustainable source of income. Guests are invited to experience a tea tour around the gardens at the lodge and learn about the organic tea-making process of black and green tea.

Over the course of the year, almost 2,000 kg of tea was harvested by the community and packaged as gifts or sold to the local tea factory.



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Mount Gahinga Lodge Projects

Gahinga Batwa Village

The Batwa are thought to be one of the oldest surviving indigenous peoples in the Central African region. Known for their unique forest culture, the Batwa of the Virunga Mountains survived by hunting small game, gathering plants and fruits, living in caves and constructing simple huts of leaves and branches. When **Mgahinga National Park** was created in 1991, they were forced to abandon their traditional way of life and subsequently had difficulty earning a living.

VSPT has built a permanent village for the Batwa community and their families. Since 2018, 21 acres have been purchased for building homes, a community centre has been constructed, and land has been made available for agricultural and recreational use. An additional 3.75 acres of land were purchased in 2025 thanks to generous donations from former guests. This has allowed the **Gahinga Batwa Village** to meet the needs of its growing population of 148 members. There were also two successful seasonal yields of potatoes and wheat planted by the Batwa, improving the self-sufficiency of the community through enhanced farming skills.

In 2025, **VSPT** partnered with **Fight for the Forgotten** and constructed a 50,000-litre water tank for the **Gahinga Batwa Village**.



Batwa Cultural Heritage Experience



The **Batwa Cultural Heritage Experience** began in 2013 and involves members of the **Gahinga Batwa community** who share stories of their culture and traditions with **Volcanoes Safaris** guests.

The performance involves the re-enactment of traditional forest life, including hunting and gathering, as well as the use of medicinal plants and daily domestic life. Visiting the Batwa is one of the highlights of staying at **Mount Gahinga Lodge**.

REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Mount Gahinga Lodge Projects

Batwa Vocational Centre and Community Development



The Batwa make gifts that are sold to generate income for food, medicine and other necessary items in the community. The products are supplied to both **Mount Gahinga Lodge** and the local market. The community receives all proceeds from craft sales at the **Batwa Vocational Centre**.

VSPT continues to support self-reliance and skills development in the Batwa community through training in agriculture and farming. In April, the community planted Irish potatoes and beans. These crops were successfully harvested in June, and a second planting of Irish potatoes and beans took place in August.

Every two months, the Batwa receive medical and community care in the village, including minor emergency treatment, medicines, hygiene education, family planning and marital counselling.

Currently, 62 out of 91 Batwa children attend **Nyagakenke Primary School**, which is a major development for the community, and are thriving at the school.

The original **Batwa Vocational Centre** will be replaced with an expanded vocational building in 2026, linking the Centre with the **Batwa Cultural Heritage Experience**.

The Batwa participated in training in sewing, crafts and carpentry and visited the **Rwenzori Sculpture Foundation** to learn pottery-making and enhance their artisanal skills. In addition, 15 members of the **Mgahinga Batwa Village** participated in a six-month training programme with the **Batwa Development Program (BDP)**, supported by the **Kellermann Foundation**, covering carpentry, driving, hairdressing and tailoring.



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Kibale Lodge Projects

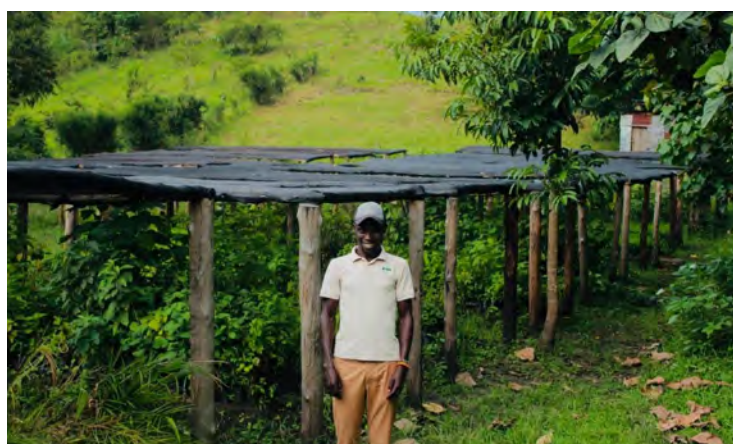
Kibale Youth VSPT Training

At **Kibale Lodge**, our newest lodge, **VSPT** launched a **Youth Training Programme** providing local young people with practical training in two areas: hospitality and service, and wildlife guiding.

In 2025, **Kibale Lodge** celebrated the graduation of eight hospitality trainees.



Through our tree nursery on the edge of **Lake Lugembe**, guests are encouraged to plant an indigenous tree seedling and contribute to the rewilding of the 150-acre Kibale site.



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Virunga Lodge Projects

Intore Dance Troupe

The dance troupe performs the traditional Rwandan ballet known as the **Intore**, based on the courtly victory dance of the Rwandan mwami (king), for guests at **Virunga Lodge**. In the past, being selected as an Intore was a great honour. Dancers received a privileged education, intensive combat training and held a high status within the royal court.

Today, the dancers use traditional weapons and wear brightly coloured costumes and long, flowing white hairpieces as they perform. Guests can also learn to play the **Intore** drumbeat or the first steps of the **Intore** dance while dressed in traditional warrior attire, overlooking the spectacular **Virunga Volcanoes**.



Virunga One Sheep Project

In June 2014, **Virunga Lodge** launched the **One Sheep Per Family** project, providing one sheep to families in the neighbouring communities of Sunzu, Nyagatoki, Kigina, Birwa, Bugeyo, Kigugu, Kabeza and Nyagafunzo surrounding the lodge. Sheep manure provides a natural and effective fertiliser for growing crops, while the sale of lambs provides an additional source of income for each family.

During 2025, 188 sheep were donated by **Virunga Lodge** guests.



REVIEW OF VSPT PROJECTS

Virunga Lodge Projects

Virunga Lodge Water Tank

During the dry season, many of the villages surrounding **Virunga Lodge** face an acute shortage of water, and villagers walk long distances to fetch and carry water for home use. By providing water tanks, families are able to collect and store rainwater at home. In 2025, 120 water tanks were given to families living around the lodge by **Virunga Lodge** guests. For every water tank donated, **VSPT** matched the gift with an additional tank.



The Solar Power Project

This project aims to provide access to electricity for local communities around **Virunga Lodge**. Electricity is an important step in improving household welfare, allowing schoolchildren to study in the evenings and families to access information. In 2025, 21 solar panels were donated by **Virunga Lodge** guests.

Virunga Community and Conservation Centre

The **Virunga Community and Conservation Centre** provides practical training and apprenticeships in weaving and tailoring for young people living in the communities neighbouring **Virunga Lodge**. The Centre helps participants develop practical skills, create sustainable livelihood opportunities and preserve traditional craftsmanship.



2025 Financial Summary

The generous support of our guests, donors and conservation partners enabled VSPT to continue investing in community conservation, education and sustainable livelihoods throughout Uganda and Rwanda.

2025 AT A GLANCE

2025 Highlights	US\$
Total Project Funding	576,290
Investment in Projects	319,805
Operating Surplus	256,485
Surplus After Tax	231,547
Capital Investment	103,004

SOURCES OF PROJECT FUNDING

Project	US\$
Virunga	61,479
Kyambura	47,219
Lion Project	65,161
Bwindi	150,293
Gahinga	201,947
Kibale	28,632
Other Donations (UK)	21,559
Total Project Funding	576,290

INVESTMENT BY PROJECT

Project	US\$
Virunga	31,217
Kyambura	126,114
Lion Project	98,089
Bwindi	28,199
Gahinga	28,823
Kibale	7,363
Total Project Investment	319,805

INVESTMENT BY PROJECT

	US\$ / %
Gross Surplus	256,485
Gross Margin	45%
Total Overheads	24,938
EBITDA	231,547
EBITDA Margin	40%
Surplus After Tax	231,547

Capital Investment

During 2025, VSPT invested US\$100,003 in capital projects, supporting the continued development of community and conservation infrastructure across its project sites.

Every contribution made by our guests, donors and partners directly supports conservation, community development and sustainable livelihoods across all VSPT projects.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Trustees of the **Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT)**, we wish to thank our guests, donors and international partners for their support and guidance during the past year. It is through this generous support that meaningful success is achieved by improving livelihoods and enriching the communities surrounding the five **Volcanoes Safaris** lodges.

If you have not yet had the chance to stay at a **Volcanoes Safaris** lodge, we warmly invite you to visit. Witnessing first-hand the beauty of these landscapes and the positive impact of our community and conservation projects serves as a powerful reminder of the meaningful difference your support makes.

We invite you to learn more about the projects at **Volcanoes Safaris** and become a **Friend of VSPT** by scanning the QR code below. Your impact is immense, and our gratitude for your support is endless.

Kind regards

VSPT Trustees



Thank you for your partnership and support



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In Memoriam: Dr. Jane Goodall

