

# Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust



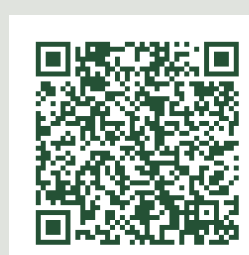
Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT) was established in 2009 to connect Volcanoes' lodges to neighbouring communities and conservation activities.

VSPT's objectives are:

- **create long-term, self-sustaining projects that enrich the livelihoods of local communities**
- **promote the conservation of the great apes and other endangered species**
- **restore natural habitats**
- **work with communities and institutions to reduce human-wildlife conflict.**

## How to support:

- **Make a donation to the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust**
- **We request your support for these vital projects. You can donate via PayPal or for tax-deductible donations from US residents via Empowers Africa.**



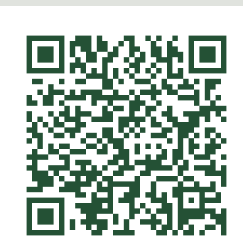
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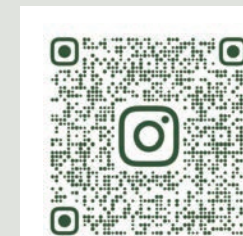
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Connecting Volcanoes Lodges to  
Communities and Great Ape Ecotourism



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# Kyambura Gorge Ecotourism Project





# Kyambura Gorge



Kyambura Gorge, on the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park, is a tiny habitat - 11 km long and about 50m wide. The Kyambura River, at the bottom of the 100m-deep chasm, flows through the cavernous gorge towards the Kazinga Channel.

The gorge is home to a small and isolated group of chimpanzees, cut off from the nearby Maramagambo and Kashoya-Kitomi forests.

Chimp trekking from Kyambura Gorge Lodge starts with a beautiful walk along the Fig Tree Trail before descending the steep side of the gorge to search for the 'Lost Chimps of Kyambura'.

Seven diurnal primates live in the Gorge including L'Hoest, red tailed, vervet and blue monkey, baboon, black and white colobus monkey and chimpanzee. Honey badger and giant pangolin have also been recorded.

Over 200 bird species have been recorded in the gorge, including Blue-breasted Kingfisher, African Emerald Cuckoo, Speckled Tinkerbird and Grey Woodpecker.



*The Kyambura Fig Tree Trail*



# Kyambura Gorge Ecotourism Project



In 2019, Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust formalised 10 years of community and conservation activities around Kyambura with the launch of the Kyambura Gorge Ecotourism Project, a series of connected projects which aim to safeguard the Kyambura Gorge ecosystem.

The projects include conserving the Kyambura Wetlands; creating a 3km long buffer zone along the gorge’s northern edge; reforestation in the area; building an elephant trench; setting up a Women’s Coffee Cooperative, setting up a Community football pitch.



In 2021 VSPT announced a long-term partnership with the **Jane Goodall Institute** and the **Uganda Wildlife Authority** for supporting the threatened chimpanzee population at Kyambura Gorge.

In 2023 VSPT launched the **Kyambura Lion Monitoring Project**, building on the carnivore surveys in Uganda led by Dr Alexander Brackowski since 2018.

## Partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute



VSPT works in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute and the Uganda Wildlife Authority to support the threatened chimpanzee population at Kyambura Gorge.

Objectives:

- Expanding community outreach programs through JGI Roots & Shoots program
- Enlarge Kyambura wildlife buffer
- Support local livelihoods
- Evaluate possible chimpanzee corridor between Kyambura gorge and a neighbouring forest.



Message of support from Jane Goodall



# Kyambura Buffer Zone

The southern side of Kyambura Gorge is protected by Queen Elizabeth National Park. On the northern side there is increasing development.

In 2009 VSPT began purchasing land neighbouring the gorge to create the Kyambura Gorge Buffer Zone. By 2025, VSPT had created a contiguous buffer zone 3km long and up to 100m wide, 100 acres in total.

Objectives:

- Wildlife buffer zone between communities and the gorge to reduce human-wildlife conflict
- Replanting with indigenous trees and shrubs
- Mixed use crops such as coffee to provide income for local women
- Tree nursery created for reforestation project

The buffer zone has continued to grow thanks to generous donations by guests.

## How to support:

- **\$1,000 will provide 1,000 tree seedlings for the nursery**
- **\$10,000 will purchase land for the Kyambura Buffer Zone, contributing to the protection of wildlife and communities**

# The Kyambura Women’s Coffee Cooperative



The Kyambura Women’s Coffee Cooperative is a community-based initiative providing vocational training to a group of local women. The cooperative members tend to over 2,500 Arabica and Robusta coffee plants in 100 acres of land within then Kyambura Buffer Zone and around the Kyambura Wetlands. The coffee is grown organically using natural fertilisers, hand harvested and roasted on site.

Objectives:

- Proceeds from coffee sales provide an alternative and sustainable income
- Vocational training
- The coffee plants act as a natural ‘buffer crop’ between the gorge and the local communities.

## How to support:

- **\$500 will provide 500 additional coffee seedlings**
- **\$1,000 will provide materials and financial support to the cooperative members for three months**



Kyambura Women's Coffee Cooperative



# The Kyambura Wetland

In 2009 VSPT secured 45-acres of wetland south of Kyambura Gorge Lodge, previously used as an illegal brick works.

The land has regenerated back to its natural state and now attracts over 200 species of birds, including the Black Bee-eater, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Gray-Olive Greenbul and Martial Eagle as well as mammals and primates.



Illegal brickworks in the wetland, 2009



Birding in the wetland, 2019

Young people from the local community are trained in birding and wildlife guiding in the wetlands. A bird hide allows guests to observe birds in this unique ecosystem.



**How to support:**

- \$500 will sponsor one birding and wildlife trainee guide for three months
- \$2,500 will contribute to the purchase of additional land to protect the wetland



Kyambura Wetland



# Kyambura Lion Monitoring Project



Studies show the lion population in Queen Elizabeth National Park has declined by 90% since the 1980s.

In 2023 VSPT launched the **Kyambura Lion Monitoring Project**, building on the carnivore surveys in Uganda led by Dr Alexander Brackowski since 2018, to support Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) large carnivore conservation.

Objectives:


- **Conduct annual census and daily monitoring of lion, leopard and hyena**
- **Training local people and building capacity within UWA for scientific lion monitoring**
- **Respond to human-wildlife conflict and injured wildlife.**

The team collect data to identify individuals using photographs of lions’ whisker spot patterns. Leopard and hyena are recorded using remote camera traps.


The Kyambura Lion Monitoring Team are supported by The Lion Recovery Fund, Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance, Adventure Travel Conservation Fund as well as generous donations from Volcanoes Safaris guests.

**How to support:**

- **\$500 will buy and install a camera trap for the annual carnivore census. Receive photos over the course of the survey**
- **\$3,000 will support two local field staff to join the Kyambura Lion Monitoring Team for one year**



Kyambura Lion Monitoring Team



2023 Large Carnivore Survey



# Training local communities to monitor lions



The Kyambura Lion Monitoring Team aims to establish a science-based conservation program which offers local people near Queen education, training and employment opportunities in wildlife conservation.



The team collaborate with Dr Ludwig Siefert and the Uganda Carnivore Project, Uganda Wildlife Authority and other conservation stakeholders to support a healthy lion population in Queen Elizabeth living in greater harmony with local communities in and around the park.

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# Jacob and Tibu

Jacob is one of the most famous lions in Africa! Alex and the Kyambura team recorded some of the most challenging moments of his life.

In 2018 Jacob came over DRC border from Virunga National Park into Uganda with a badly wounded hind leg from a snare. An amputation was needed to save his life.

In 2021, five members of Jacob's pride were poisoned. Jacob and his brother Tibu were chased from their homelands in Ishasha by a new coalition of male lions.

In 2024, the team captured on film Jacob and Tibu swimming over one mile across the crocodile infested Kazinga Channel, in search of females.

**This is the longest distance lions have been recorded swimming.**



# The Kaine Brothers



The Kasenyi plains in the northern sector of the park are ruled by five charismatic male lions: the Kaine Brothers.

This coalition dominate this area and have successfully sired the next generation of lions.



*Jacob and Tibu cross the Kazinga Channel*