

Project Update: June 2016

As per the project implementation plan, we are now done with environmental education and awareness in the community. The piggery management on the site and in the community is ongoing and project running equipment purchased. I am grateful for our team and our partners; every inch of our success comes from our joint efforts.

In our efforts to save gorillas through conservation awareness activities, we covered Kayonza sub county project coverage area. Villages in the parishes of Mukono, Bujengwe and Karangara attached to the park were visited. Together with Uganda Wildlife Authority Community Conservation officer, Parish Chief of respective parishes and villages leaders helped. A total number of 634 people were reached and out of these 136 testified that they have been poachers but they have reformed.

In the field, people gave their reasons for poaching and these are some of them. Their children do not go to school and stay on park boundary guarding crops against problem animals when they grow they become poachers, also the park used to be the source of livelihood and up to day they have never benefited from the park conservation efforts. Also sometimes they do it on risk as they find no immediate alternative especially women looking for stakes, handcraft materials, mushrooms, water and medicinal plants. Revenue sharing is not reaching them and on job opportunities they are left out even on simple jobs of less educated class. Efforts are needed now to make sure that we work with our conservation partners to solve these issues

In the next project updates you will know about how our previous beneficiaries are catching up and the true life of the new list of the reformed poachers who are yet to benefit from this project.



Left: In the meeting women give their views about alternative livelihood projects. Right: UWA our conservation partner representative addressing the audience.