

# THE NYUNGWE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION ("NYUCO")

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present their report on the activities of the charity for the period from the commencement of the charity on 30 April 2019 to the charity's first period end date of 31 March 2020.

### Constitution

NYUCO is a charity operating as an unincorporated association under a Declaration of Trust dated 16 October 2019. This deed superseded the initial deed dated 30 April 2019.

The charity has registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1186281 and is also registered with HMRC for Gift Aid donations from individuals who pay tax in the UK, allowing the charity to increase the value of donations by around 25%.

### Objectives

The objectives of the charity (its objects) are:

- (i) to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity;
- (ii) to advance the education of the public in conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment; and
- (iii) to promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
  - (a) The preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources
  - (b) Reducing poverty and focus on the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities
  - (c) The promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration

The Charity has a geographical focus for its work in the region in and around Nyungwe Forest National Park, in South and West provinces in Rwanda and to date has carried out its activities primarily by supporting the work of BIOCOOP [www.biocoop.rw](http://www.biocoop.rw), which is based in Rwanda and works to preserve the Nyungwe Forest National Park and promote the "sustainable development" of the surrounding communities. Going forward we envisage working with BIOCOOP and other local entities focused on conservation in Nyungwe Forest National Park. "Sustainable development" means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

### Trustees

The Trustees who served at any time during the period and to the date of this report were:

Andrew Evans (Chair)  
Richard Milburn  
Louise Sylva

The appointment of the Chair is reviewed annually in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Applications for new Trustees are invited as and when required. Appointments are made having regard to the skills on the Trust body and its future needs.

## **Governance**

During the year, the Trustees took a number of actions to develop a sound governance framework for the charity;

- (i) we set up a bank account in the name of the charity requiring two signatures on all items of expenditure
- (ii) we registered with, and received approval from, the Charity Commission
- (iii) we registered with Charities Aid Foundation and Golden Giving to facilitate future donations
- (iv) we established links with a reputable partner in Rwanda for the delivery of our first grant funded project
- (v) we set up procedures for monitoring grants to assess their effectiveness and short and long term benefits
- (vi) we established a website to publicise our activities and achievements

## **Other activities**

(i) we made our first grant for a project entitled Children in Nature. This project was undertaken to connect children to nature for sustainable development in Rwanda. The effective environmental education program was relevant to the everyday lives of children and youth, and what is in their 'own backyard'. The project's aim was to develop the children's understanding of nature conservation through visits to tourist areas, nature and conservation related activities. A further aim was to promote behaviour change in children on biodiversity conservation and to develop the capacity for future generations with a focus on sustainable conservation. Childhood development on conservation was achieved through education and training on the concepts of conservation and environmental protection with many activities done to achieve these objectives.

(ii) we received regular reports from BIOCOOP on the Children in Nature project and photos of the work undertaken. The interim and final reports were encouraging in demonstrating how the objectives of the project at inception had been met.

(iii) we met virtually with BIOCOOP to discuss the financial procedures they follow and their approach to safeguarding.

## **Diversity statement**

The Trustees recognises the value of diversity in all its forms in helping run the Charity, benefiting from a variety of different perspectives, experiences and skills in its Trustees.

At this stage in our Charity's development, we believe that knowledge of running a charity is an essential requirement of Trustees. Within the constraints of available candidates to become Trustees and having regard to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, we seek ways of broadening the diversity of the Board, and especially as regards geography, age, gender and ethnicity.

In assessing grant applications, we will ensure that there are no explicit or implicit limitations as to the diversity of beneficiaries of the project being supported except as regards age or gender where that is a key element of the project (eg under-18s, or to

increase the participation rate of an underrepresented group such as women or disabled people).

## **Financial review of the year**

Total income was £6,490.

Grants totalling £3,020 were paid during the year. There was no other expenditure.

The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £3,470 which has been added to reserves.

## **Reserves**

Our total reserves at 31 March 2020 are £3,470. The Trustees consider the level of reserves to be adequate for a sustainable charity going forward. We aim to be making grants or commissioning projects for the foreseeable future at least equal to the amount of donations received, less expenses incurred, in the preceding year.

## **How our activities deliver Public Benefit**

All of our charitable activities focus on the provision of grant funding for the furtherance of conservation or community development activities in and around Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

## **Future developments**

The Trustees intend to concentrate on the following activities;

- (i) raising awareness of the charity to secure new donations
- (ii) establishing a link with a corporate sponsor
- (iii) monitoring of our second funded project, Assisted Natural Ecosystem Regeneration (ANER), a pilot programme for the extraction of invasive species in the National Park operated by BIOCOOP in conjunction with the Rwanda Development Board
- (iv) further liaison with BIOCOOP to seek to identify additional opportunities for funding
- (v) establishing a linkage with at least one other reputable provider of conservation and community development services in and around Nyungwe National Park

## **Contact us**

The Trustees can be contacted through the Administrator:

Andrew Evans  
Flat 18 Palmerston House  
126 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7UW

or via <https://nyucorwanda.wixsite.com/nyuco> where there is a contact form

Approved by the Trustees on 26 August 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Evans

Chair

**THE NYUNGWE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
("NYUCO")**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

11 months to  
31 March 2020  
£

Income

Donations received	5,238
Gift aid received	1,252
Total	<u>6,490</u>

Expenditure

Grants	3,020
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Net incoming resources	<u>3,470</u>
Funds b/f 30 April 2019	0
Funds c/f 31 March 2020	<u>3,470</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**

Current Assets

Debtors	0
Cash at bank	3,470

Net Assets	<u>3,470</u>
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Represented by:

Unrestricted funds	<u>3,470</u>
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The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26 August 2020  
and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Evans      Trustee

## **1 Accounting policies**

### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and applicable accounting standards. A receipts and payments basis has been adopted, as permitted by legislation for a charity of this size.

### **Legacies and Donations**

Income from donations is accounted for when received.

### **Gift Aid**

Income from Gift Aid is accounted for when received.

### **Investment income**

Income from investments is accounted for when received.

### **Expenses**

Expenses are accounted for on a cash basis.

### **Grants awarded**

Grants awarded are accounted for on a cash basis.

### **Investments**

Investments are bank current accounts and are stated at market value.

### **Unrestricted funds**

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for any other purpose.

### **Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are funds held on specific trusts under charity law which have been declared by the donor when making the gift. The specific trusts establish the purpose for which the charity can lawfully use the restricted funds. There are no restricted funds.