

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

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

### **Introduction**

The Trustees are pleased to present their report on the activities of The Nyungwe Conservation and Community Development Foundation ("NYUCO" and "the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **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 This deed superseded the initial deed dated 30 April 2019.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 from UK taxpayers by 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. We liaise with organisations based in Rwanda and work with them to help to preserve the Nyungwe Forest National Park and promote the "sustainable development" of the surrounding communities. "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 year 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 maintained a sound governance framework for the Charity including;

- (i) Requiring dual bank account signatures on all items of expenditure
- (ii) Maintaining our Charities Aid Foundation and People's Fundraising accounts to facilitate future donations
- (iii) Developing our links with our two current reputable partners in Rwanda for the delivery of our grant funded projects in and around in Nyungwe Forest National Park. These are BIOCOOR <https://www.biocoor.rw> with whom we have worked with from the outset of the charity and BioSolutions, a women's organisation working on conservation <https://www.biosolution.rw>. We have received the operating procedures for each of these organisations and considered their policies including those relating to safeguarding.

## **Activities**

- (i) Our second project with BioSolutions seeking to encourage behavioural changes in nutrition in selected poorer families in the community including washing techniques, developing kitchen gardens to grow produce and introducing chickens for egg production has been completed during the year ended 31 March 2023
- (ii) Our third project with BIOCOOR for an extension to the botanical gardens at the Conservation Centre was completed during the year
- (iii) We provided funding to BioSolutions for a third project with them to seek to reduce human wildlife conflicts through agro ecological practices around Nyungwe Forest National Park

We continue to receive regular reports from BIOCOOR and BioSolutions on the progress of the projects we have funded including detailed interim reports, final reports which include an assessment of the extent to which the original objectives are viewed as having been met and any issues encountered and photos of the work undertaken.

## **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 £1,614. Grants totalling £2,501 were paid during the year. There was no other expenditure.

The deficit of income over expenditure for the year was £887 which reduces our reserves.

## **Reserves**

Our total reserves at 31 March 2023 are £466. The Trustees consider the level of reserves to be adequate for a sustainable Charity going forward. As we do not currently incur any expenses, all of the monies we receive are currently used for making grants to reputable organisations working in and around Nyungwe Forest National Park and we have no need to maintain significant reserves.

## **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 Forest 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 funded projects to determine whether the intended outcomes are being achieved
- (iv) further liaison with BIOCOOR and BioSolutions to seek to identify additional opportunities for funding
- (v) establishing a linkage with a third reputable provider of conservation and community development services in and around Nyungwe Forest 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 10 October and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Evans

Chair of the Trustees

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("NYUCO")**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Year ended 31 March	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Donations received	1,614	6,717
Gift aid received	-	-
Total	<u>1,614</u>	<u>6,717</u>
Expenditure		
Grants	2,501	5,700
Net (outgoing)/incoming/ resources	<u>(887)</u>	<u>1,017</u>
Funds brought forward	1,353	336
Funds carried forward	<u>466</u>	<u>1,353</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	466	1,353
Net Assets	<u>466</u>	<u>1,353</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	<u>466</u>	<u>1,353</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Milburn

Louise Sylva

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## **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 cost.

### **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.

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Matt Heywood, FCA (ICAEW)

Matt Heywood Accounting Services

Glebe Cottage, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell RG25 2LU

2023