



Youth-led Conservation Initiatives in Virunga National Park: Community Participation and Ecological Restoration in DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Nyamwanga Ntagana¹, Kibet Mukasi^{1,2}, Mukanyinda Kizito^{1,3}

¹ Université Catholique du Congo

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Official University of Mbuji-Mayi

³ Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA)

Published: 23 November 2010 | **Received:** 01 August 2010 | **Accepted:** 04 November 2010

Correspondence: nntagana@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18910457](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18910457)

Author notes

Nyamwanga Ntagana is affiliated with Université Catholique du Congo and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Kibet Mukasi is affiliated with Université Catholique du Congo and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Mukanyinda Kizito is affiliated with Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Youth-led conservation initiatives in Virunga National Park have emerged as a critical component of environmental restoration efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The park's unique biodiversity and its role in local livelihoods make it an ideal site for community-driven conservation projects. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with key stakeholders (including local communities and park authorities) and quantitative data from ecological monitoring records to analyse trends over time. Data collection spans multiple years, encompassing both pre- and post-initiative phases. Community participation in youth-led conservation initiatives has notably increased by 30% within the last two years, with a significant shift towards active involvement in park management activities such as wildlife monitoring and habitat restoration projects. Youth-led environmental conservation initiatives have demonstrated substantial potential for ecological rejuvenation and community empowerment. These findings underscore the importance of integrating youth perspectives into conservation strategies to achieve sustainable outcomes. Further research should focus on scaling up successful models, incorporating youth voices in policy development, and enhancing intergenerational collaboration to ensure long-term success and sustainability. Youth-led Conservation, Virunga National Park, Community Participation, Ecological Restoration, DRC

Keywords: *Virunga, Youth Activism, Community Engagement, Participatory Research, Conservation Ecology, Geographic Information Systems, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge