



Pedals for Progress & Sewing Peace in Rwanda Update Report – August to December 2021

Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA)

RWCA is a registered non-governmental organisation in Rwanda. Founded and run by Rwandans who come from and understand local communities and their challenges, the main objective of the organisation is to provide a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to critical conservation issues in order to create sustainable solutions. This is achieved by protecting wildlife and natural habitats, engaging and educating local communities while improving livelihoods, raising awareness of conservation issues, building the capacity of young Rwandese conservationists and disseminating high quality research and evaluation. The project work has full support and endorsement from the Rwandan Government, through the Department Conservation at Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and the Ministry of Environment. Our main project is to reverse the declining trend of the endangered Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda, with a focus on stopping the illegal trade. We also have projects with other threatened species including bats, Shoebills, African Grey Parrots and Sitatunga along with a cross cutting theme of habitat protection and restoration: www.rwandawildlife.org.

Grey Crowned Crane Project

Just seven years ago in Rwanda, there were Grey Crowned Cranes in captivity everywhere in hotels and in the gardens of private houses. They were captured and sold openly in cities and towns around the country. Many people thought it was okay to keep cranes in captivity and did not know about the laws that protect cranes. There were only an estimated 300 remaining in the wild in Rwanda and with increasing threats to their habitat and being continually poached for the illegal trade, they were rapidly heading towards extinction. Through carefully designed activities that target the problem from many angles and are closely aligned with the IUCN Single Species Action Plan (Morrison, 2015), RWCA is aiming to build the nation's sense of ownership over cranes and their habitats, focusing on the long-term sustainability of our interventions.



Distribution of bikes

RWCA uses bikes to improve our response to protect and manage important wetland areas. Rugezi Marsh is a 6,735-hectare wetland protected by the Ramsar Convention. We have a team of 50 community Marsh Rangers patrolling the wetland and watching out for activities that are not allowed and will destroy the marsh habitat – such as grazing livestock, cutting down trees in the buffer zone, hunting wildlife or cutting grass. To improve the management and law enforcement of this important wetland, we also work in close partnership with local leaders around the marsh. Our team of Community Rangers already have bicycles.

On receiving the shipment, we sorted the bikes and employed a mechanic to service them all. We used parts from unusable bikes to repair others.

We recently conducted workshops with local leaders nearby Rugezi Marsh and with the bikes from Pedals for Progress we have been able to distribute bikes to all local leaders – a total of 197! They were so happy to receive these bikes and it will make a big difference to their role within the communities and increase the collaboration with the Rangers, directly impacting conservation.

Summary

The following table shows the number of bikes distributed or sold so far.

Item	Number	Purpose
Children’s bikes	235	Sold
Adult bikes	197	Distributed to local leaders
Adult bikes	2	Distributed to Community Champions
Adult bikes	2	Sold



Summary of Project Finances

Sales Income:		
	RWF	USD
Sale of bicycles	9,855,000	9,698.00
13/08/2021	550,000	9,698.00
19/08/2021	450,000	541.24
06/09/2021	350,000	442.83
14/09/2021	4,500,000	344.42
28/10/2021	4,005,000	3,941.19
Sale of sewing machines	-	-
Sale of sewing Machines	-	-
Sale of parts and accessories	-	-
Repair services	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Income (A)	9,855,000	9,698.00
Expenses:		
Purchase of additional spare parts		
Administrative Expenses		
Repair of Bicycles	1,100,000	1,082.48
Transport to the community	480,000	472.35
Transport from warehouse to Umusambi Village	150,000	147.61
Loading and off-loading expenses	80,000	78.73
Clearing service charges	461,016	453.67
Import taxes	5,530,415	5,442.31
Other taxes		
In-country freight		
Other		
Total Expenses (B)	7,801,431	7,677.14
SURPLUS/DEFICIT C = A - B	2,053,569	2,020.85

*Exchange rate used: 1.016.1894

Next Steps

We are looking forward to receiving the next shipment which is already on its way and plan to provide bikes for our Community Rangers and Champions as the ones they currently have need replacing.

We also have a social enterprise activity at Umusambi Village (nature reserve and Grey Crowned Cranes sanctuary in Kigali city). We have developed a bike trail that begins and ends at Umusambi Village and will have bikes available to rent to visitors and tourists. A number of mountain bikes from the next shipment will be kept as hire bikes for this project and provide additional income to Umusambi Village which will contribute to the running costs of the facility.

Thank you to Pedals for Progress and Sewing Peace for helping support conservation at Rugezi Marsh in Rwanda.

Grantee Name: Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

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