

## WHV – Heritage in the Digital Age for Youth and Sustainability

### Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

#### PROJECT DATES

Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1994)

01 July - 15 December 2025

**THE SITE** - Located in south-western Uganda, at the junction of the plain and mountain forests, Bwindi Park covers 32,000 ha and is known for its exceptional biodiversity, with more than 160 species of trees and over 100 species of ferns. Many types of birds and butterflies can also be found there, as well as many endangered species, including the mountain gorilla. As a key site for biodiversity on the continent, the species richness occurring in this site can be considered as a superlative natural phenomenon.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims to promote the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park as a key platform for environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and heritage preservation. The project will utilize digital tools to raise awareness about the significance of the park and its biodiversity, focusing on its role as a UNESCO World Heritage site. By engaging youth volunteers, the project will conduct tree planting campaigns, community outreach activities, and offer training on environmentally sustainable green jobs. These hands-on actions will directly contribute to the conservation of Bwindi and enhance its promotion as a national and global treasure. The project will create educational resources, enabling local communities to better understand and protect their natural heritage while fostering a new generation of eco-conscious leaders.

**ACTIVITIES** - The volunteers will actively contribute to the organization and implementation of digital awareness campaigns for Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. They will be involved in using digital platforms and social media to raise awareness about the park's significance as a World Heritage site and its role in preserving biodiversity. Volunteers will also participate in hands-on environmental activities such as tree planting campaigns, which will be conducted within and around the park to help restore ecosystems. Additionally, the project will offer a series of training workshops on environmentally sustainable green jobs, where some volunteers will be trainees, gaining valuable skills for employment in green industries. These workshops will be organized and facilitated by other volunteers, who will help deliver content on topics like sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and conservation-based livelihoods. As part of their community engagement, the volunteers will collaborate with local leaders and community members to promote eco-friendly practices and share knowledge on how to balance conservation efforts with sustainable livelihoods. Volunteers will also participate in World Tourism Day activities, contributing to the celebration and promoting sustainable tourism as a means of preserving the park and supporting local economies. These activities will empower youth, foster a sense of responsibility for heritage preservation, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the park.

**PARTNERS** - Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM), Uganda Wildlife Authority.

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