



**MGAHINGA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

**Compiled by MCDO Management**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Mgahinga Community Development Organisation is a no-profit non-governmental organisation and works as an umbrella group comprising of several groups, associations and educational facilities, united by a common goal of improving the lives of the people of Mgahinga area, Kisoro district, south western Uganda. MCDO supports the development of sustainable projects that result in a harmonious and positive coexistence between the Mgahinga community and the surrounding environments, that benefit the community economically and that preserve local environments and species.

The initiative to create MCDO came in 2003 from a few dedicated members of already existing community based organisation AICG. At that time there were several community initiatives, focusing on specific development issues, working independently of each other within Gisozi parish. The existing disorganization created a need for coordinating entity amongst the different development programs was dire. These dedicated members presented their position and introduced an umbrella organisation MCDO. The organisation purpose being to educate, facilitate and coordinate the member projects.

The greater Mgahinga community supports a rural population. Kisoro, the principle town in the community is a popular destination for travelers taking a rest from tracking the elusive mountain gorilla. While the community offers a superb respite for travelers and tourists, the residents of Mgahinga do not benefit from the same high standard of living. Local community groups are now striving to provide a sustainable, environmentally and economically viable future for their families.

The construction of an ecology community centre at Lake Mutanda, initiatives in sustainable agriculture, building development and provision of safe drinking water to schools and nurseries and the formation of an eco-tourism venture are just a few of the projects currently in progress. With the development of these and other projects, MCDO strives to: significantly improve literacy rates and educational standards throughout the community; equip school and nursery children with clothing, school supplies and safe drinking water; ensure sustainable and environmentally sound agricultural practices are employed; provide a focus and meeting point for community groups and the opportunity to participate in safe activities in and around Lake Mutanda; ensure the conservation of both the community and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and realise revenue through eco-tourism.

MCDO is a Ugandan based organisation, dependant on private donations, corporate sponsorship and volunteer involvement. MCDO is supported by a Swedish organisation, MbirimBiri Foundation (MMF), UK volunteer group and individuals from Australia, all working together to help the communities of Mgahinga become self sustaining. Other organisations that have helped MCDO in this development work include UNDP, AWF, BMCT, USAID, IGCP and UWA among others.

## 2.0 Executive Summary

This report was written to give an analysis of the performance in MCDO for the year 2008. During this period MCDO management team has done everything possible to see that all work projects be implemented accordingly. MCDO has managed to perform its duties with help from the member organisations, volunteers and partner organisations like MbiriMbiri Association (MMA) in Sweden. The report also provides information on the activities of MCDO member groups.

In 2008, many activities have been undertaken according to the MCDO year planner. Among the important activities under taken is sensitizing the MCDO member groups about the support they get from the umbrella organisation.

Since MCDO's founding, government and NGO initiatives have strengthened the people of the Mgahinga area. The standard of education and ease of access to clean water and health care has improved. MCDO has played a very big role in improving the living conditions of the local people living in this area of jurisdiction through the support to its member organisations.

MCDO has improved its member organisations skills in many fields through its educating, supporting and coordinating role. Since its founding, women groups have made a living through AICG, agricultural strategies have spread through GDFA, MCSS has supported more than 120 students education, profits from MCH have benefited community health initiatives through stretcher groups and formerly impoverished people have been strengthened through MPCs' micro credit loans. On a more abstract level, many opportunities for meaningful and fruitful occupation have initiated. Additionally, MCDO explores the opportunities involved by adopting a tourism development strategy.

The lake Mutanda ecological community center is also under construction and there is much progress. Currently, some activities can be carried out at the site such as canoeing, bird watching, snake visit, swimming lessons, medicinal plants and other biodiversity identification. Facilities to be provided include limited accommodation, ground for do it yourself tents, meals with order. One may inquire for any other activity. MCDO together with its partner organisation MbiriMbiri Foundation together within other volunteers are trying to do everything possible to develop MECC as international conservation education center.

The projects supported by MCDO are:

- Amajyamber'Iwacyu Community Camp (AICC)
- Mgahinga Community Heritage (MCHO)
- Mgahinga Community Sponsorship Scheme (MCSS)
- Mgahinga Parkview Credit & Savings (MPCS)
- Mutanda Eco Community Centre (M.E.C.C)
- Gisozi Duterimbere Farmers' Association (GDFA)

## **2.1 MCDO Mission**

To up bring the livelihood of the native people living in the Mgahinga conservation area by supporting the MCDO departments in promoting quality community based tourism and benefiting the communities, through sustainable development.

## **2.2 MCDO Vision**

To improve the quality of life of the communities around Mgahinga conservation area and its neighborhood so as to achieve sustainable development.

## **2.3 Objectives:**

- To educate, facilitate and coordinate the MCDO member groups.
- To promote community based tourism and environment conservation.
- To undertake any viable income generating activity as long as it is environmentally friendly and socially acceptable.
- To sensitize communities through information exchange on development and conservation issues.
- To lobby government to formulate fair policies for the rural communities especially those living around Lake Mutanda and protected areas.

### **3.0 Background Information**

Uganda is a relatively small country, about size of United Kingdom. It has a population of about 31.9 million people (UN, 2008). Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world. Infant mortality rate is 81 per 1000 live births and the life expectancy is 51 years (men), 52 years (women) (UN 2008) and child mortality index of 10%. The lack of sanitation and resulting spread of infectious disease are the main reasons for low life expectancy and high child mortality rates. Today, only 60% of Uganda's population has access to safe drinking water. The adult literacy rate varies from region to region but the national rate is approximately 67%.

As for the immediate location of MCDO, Kisoro is a rural district in the southwestern part of Uganda. The district borders Kanungu district to the north, Kabale district to the east, Republic of Rwanda to the south and Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. The district lies over 500 km from Kampala in rough mountainous terrain with numerous chains of hills and ridges. The average fertility rate, stated by UBOS, in the south western Uganda is 6.2 children per woman and this makes Kisoro one of the most densely populated districts with more than 350 persons per square kilometer. The sustainability of the districts principal occupation, agriculture, has began to become a problem as land for cultivation is not enough.

The average temperature for Kisoro district is 24 degrees Celsius. The district receives rainfall twice a year, the first rains are heavy in intensity and stretch from April to June in which over 2000 mm of rainfall is received. The second season begins in August to October and amounts to 1,200 mm. The mean annual rainfall received in Kisoro district is 1600mm. This supports a variety of subsistence, maize, Irish potatoes, beans and livestock (cattle, goats and chickens) which is the main source of income to the rural poor.

Kisoro district is also a famous tourist destination in Uganda. The district has three volcanic mountains; Muhavura, Sabyinyo and Gahinga and they are part of the Virunga ranges that stretch from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Rwanda and then Uganda. This is a home for more than 300 mountain gorillas. The Ugandan part of the Virungas was gazetted into a national park in 1991 in order to secure a habitat for the endangered mountain gorillas. The Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) which is about 33.7 square kms is one of the Ugandan top tourist destinations.

At the time of the gazetting, many people who lived in the then game reserve were forced to live their land and go to look for other areas of settlement. The high cost of land in Kisoro district led many to migrate further away, and many others into poverty. Some families who managed to get land close to the park settled near the boundary and others went to some far places in the country. The indigenous people the Batwa who could survive on hunting were left with no land or housing. The Batwa are part of MCDO target group and are one of the marginalized communities in Uganda and most of their challenges in life include poor housing, lack of access to education and medical care among others.

## **4.0 MCDO member organisations: An overview**

### **4.1 Amajyamber'Iwacyu Community Camp (AICC)**

AICC was established in 1994 by 33 families who were displaced at the gazetting of MGNP. AICG runs an *eco community* camp for tourists just outside the main gate of MGNP. Apart from providing accommodation for tourists, AICG also directly supports community based initiatives such as a handcrafts group for women. AICG currently has 31 house holds. There are 4 employees staffing the camp.

### **4.2 Mgahinga Community Heritage (MCH)**

The Mgahinga Community Heritage (MCH) is one of the MCDO's Departments. The very first idea to create this community heritage group started in the year 1996 and officially started on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2003, due to realization of the benefits from community tourism in the area. The main objective of this group is to help the community by using the revenue got from community tourism sites/ activities like village walks, King's hill hike, cave exploration, black smith visits, story telling, cultural entertainment and others. The beneficiaries are stretcher groups that take sick people to the near by hospitals and tourism site owners as well as guides. This group is a member based with a total of 12 members (3 females and 9 males).

### **4.3 Mgahinga Community Sponsorship Scheme (MCSS)**

MCSS is another department that lies under the umbrella organisation MCDO that deals with education by sponsoring needy students from the Mgahinga community to accomplish their professional perspectives. The scheme gives scholarships to pupils/students irrespective of their religious, tribal and or political affairs. It however promotes equality among male and female children which is a true foundation for future development. The sponsorship scheme is now 9 years old. The scheme started in the year 2000 with about 25 pupils/students and up to date, more than 120 pupils/students have been and are benefiting from the scheme.

Historically, these communities used to reside in the land which later became National Park. It was until the year 1991 when the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (MGNP) was gazetted and displaced about 350 households. Before these people were relocated from the forest, they used to depend on hunting and small-scale agricultural farming. These communities received compensation from the government but still many people were left impoverished with no sources of income because the people from this area had no education. The program was initiated to atleast help the needy children from these communities to access basic education so that children would acquire technical skills and become self dependant in the future.

Well wishers and conservation partners were later contacted for assistance. In particular, the MbirimBiri Foundation from Sweden, USA & UK volunteer groups and other individuals from Australia such as Debby Cox from Jane goodle institute Uganda.

All these development partners contributed time and money for the children to go to school, and mobilized friends from all over the world for help. So far more than 120 children/youth have benefited from this program. Some of these students have attained diplomas and bachelors degrees in Economics, Accountancy, Business Administration, Secretarial studies and other professional careers. Others are now in secondary schools and others tertiary institutions. Some of the project beneficiaries are now working together with MCDO management in applying their technical expertise to help the project operate more competently in order to achieve the desired goals.

The Uganda government is providing help for all children in the country through “Universal Primary and Secondary Education (UPE and USE)” however the children/youths we are talking about are those who cannot manage to study in day schools such as Batwa and orphans for the case of primary school. The same applies to those in secondary schools as well as those who are beyond USE program and/or studying from schools which do not benefit from USE and also those in institutions of higher learning.

Should any one consider helping a child in low grades, the child is sent to a private school. Our priority goes for secondary school children but any one willing to sponsor a young child like the Batwa (Pygmies), please feel very welcome to contact the program administrators on the issue. We can pass your generous assistance according to your wish. We wish to provide balanced education to both boys and girls, which was never before, so as to improve on social development and gender balance in the society. We shall be grateful for any ones help.

The table below shows the details and the number of students that have benefited and are still benefiting from the program.

**A. Current situation (2008):**

File name	Taking degree courses		Diploma courses		Certificate courses		Secondary/high school		Primary		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sweden	2	2	4	5	0	2	8	6	4	2	18	17
UK	2	0	0	2	0	0	13	9	0	0	15	11
USA	0	1	0	1	0	0	9	4	0	0	9	6
Aus +	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Grand total for the current enrollment</b>											<b>77</b>	

**B. No. of students who finished their courses up to date:**

File name	With Bch degree courses		Diploma courses		Certificate courses		Secondary/high school		Primary		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sweden	1	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1
UK	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aus +	0	0	0	3	2	1					2	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Grand total for those who has succeed with their courses</b>											<b>17</b>	

**C. No. of those who failed due to poor academic performance, getting other sponsors, misbehavior, sickness, early marriages and or sponsors just stopped**

File name	Taking degree courses		Diploma courses		Certificate courses		Secondary/high school		Primary		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	3
UK	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	9	1
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	1
Aus +	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	4	3
<b>G. Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Grand total for those who were dropped out. Some of them continued school by other means.</b>											<b>27</b>	

The grand total of the students benefited from the sponsorship scheme up to date are:

**A, 77 + B, 17 + C, 27 = 121**

**Challenges:**

- Limited sources of funding
- Poor performance to some students
- High expectations among some students and parents/guardians

**Recommendations**

- Students and parents/guardians participation to the project sustainability
- Students' workshops and seminars to be arranged during holidays
- General meetings with parents/guardians to be arranged in order to share experiences and knowledge
- For more information, visit also the sponsorship criteria 2009

#### **4.4 Mgahinga Park view Credit & Savings (MPCS)**

Mgahinga Park view Credit & Savings Association (MPCS) is a Micro finance Community Based Organization (CBO) located in Gisozi Parish, Muramba Sub County. Its office is located at Koranya Trading centre in Gishondori village about 1km from the MGNP main entrance. The association was formed in the year 1999 by the people who at first lived in the land which had later gazetted in MGNP, after realizing the major problems which were being faced by the community such as lack of fire wood, water, financial services among others. The association is a member based with a total of 16 members (4 females and 12 males).

The main objective is to provide small scale loans to the local people at an affordable interest rate. Since MPCS establishment, many people have managed to uplift their livelihood through acquiring loans which has helped many to meet their basic standards of living through improved crop and live stock farming. Gender equality has also been exercised.

However, most of times, there is a challenge of limited funds in the association so as to fulfill the customers' demands. The demand for the loans is higher than the capacity of the association.

The association has the plans to establish a village bank for the community people because banking facilities can only be accessed from the immediate town of Kisoro which is 14 kilometers away. This would help the people access loans at a low interest so people can invest much in income earning enterprises as well as in agriculture, a sector that employs more than 80% of the Uganda Population.

#### **4.5 Mutanda Eco Community Centre (M.E.C.C)**

Mutanda Eco Community Centre (M.E.C.C) is one of the Mgahinga Community Development Organization (MCDO)'s projects. The very first idea of developing this sustainable environmental centre focused on education, benefiting local communities, emerged in 1998. The idea was initiated by Amajambere Iwacu Community Group (AICG) in partnership with a Swedish organisation, MbiriMbiri Foundation (MMF). The project site is located on the south shore of Lake Mutanda, in Kisoro District

The main idea of the M.E.C.C project is to use tourism as a tool to enhance educational opportunities for the local population as well as students interested in the specific environment of the area. The revenues generated through tourism will serve as an economic source to finance, and develop the education centre, enabling for example MCDO to run workshops and provide access to lecture halls.

The Lake Mutanda Project will provide alternatives to various visitors who want to carry out community based activities that generate income to the local communities. The main attractions for visitors in Kisoro District are the famous Mountain Gorillas. However, the communities want to provide more alternatives for tourists such as birding, canoeing, snake visits, swimming, handcrafts, and entertainment among others. The proposed activities on Lake Mutanda will provide visitors with great experience and add value for conservation of natural resources in and around Lake Mutanda.

Currently, some activities can be carried out at the site such as canoeing, bird watching, snake visit, swimming lessons, medicinal plants and other biodiversity identification. Facilities to be provided include limited accommodation, ground for do it yourself tents, meals with order. One may inquire for any other activity.

### **Achievements at MECC**

- **Women crafts group**

In order for MECC to fulfill its objective to help the communities in its neighborhood, the project is supporting two hand craft groups from Nyakinama sub-county. The two groups are Mutanda Kwifatanya and Kaboko group. Mutanda Kwifatanya operates from the Mutanda site and Kaboko group operates from Kaboko Primary School. The M.E.C.C group was started in 2006. The main objective of this small project was to provide these women with handcrafts skills so that they can be able to get alternative source of income by selling their produce to the tourists who visit the site. The handcraft groups are however not meant for women though they are the majority. So far few men have joined the groups. Marketing is also being done by some MCDO volunteers so that some of these products can access other foreign markets. Arrangements are also being made for some of the crafts to access market in other tourist destinations in Kisoro district, Kabale district and other tourist destination areas in Uganda. The MECC group has more than 30 members and all of them come from Chihe parish. The organisation is doing everything possible to contribute towards income generation in these communities.

- **Swimming school.**

In 2006, the Mutanda project in partnership with Swedish volunteers, established a swimming school to be a center for swimming classes for those people from the community who would need to acquire swimming skills. The main aim of the swimming school is to provide those swimmers with life saving skills when they are using lake facilities like canoeing, swimming and many others. More than 30 children have benefited from this project since 2006 and the service is provided free of charge to the community people. We have one trained person at the site who conducts the swimming classes. Those who feel they are still interested they are still welcome and the service is not only for children.

- **Canoeing.**

The Mutanda project is also supporting the local people who own canoes. When visitors come to the site the project hires those local people with canoes for various activities around the lake hence providing revenues to the people.

- **Conservation Education**

Mutanda project has also managed to provide conservation Education to primary school pupils and teachers from various schools in Kisoro. The project is doing this with the help from a UK volunteer who is a specialist in conservation. The pupils have been provided information on how to conserve the swamp around Lake Mutanda, its benefits and biodiversity conservation education.

- **Employment**

M.E.C.C has also provided part time jobs to some of the local people when it comes to construction work. Much of the buildings that will make the site are not yet in place. However even the few structures that do exist now, some of the labour is provided by the local people and this has earned them some income. According to the plans, when the project is fully operational, many local people will still get jobs from the project. There are now two people staffing the camp.

**(a) Some of the facilities already in place at M.E.C.C**

**(i) Accommodation and food**

The Education center can now offer a variety of dishes to the guests. The food stuffs are bought from the local neighborhood so that they also share on this revenue.

**(ii) Suite Camp**

The suite camp consists of a structure of a platform on pillars and a roof. The platform is lifted from the ground and provides a floor for a number of tents. The tents are provided by the centre, and work like a simple version of lodging, or an advanced way of tenting where you will not have to bring your own tent. Here one is protected from the ground and from the rain, while keeping the feeling of camping. In future the roof will be covered with solar panels, gathering energy from the sun. The roof will also protect the suite camp from different weather conditions. The roof can also provide smaller windmills to compensate for days with less sun. The suit camp is already in place and it has three tents which can accommodate six people.

**(iii) Cottage/ Banda**

We have managed to put in place one cabin Banda which can accommodate two people

**(iv) Camping site**

The centre also offers ample camping place for those guests who do come with their own tents. The prices for such facilities are affordable and can be accessed on M.E.C.C information board at the centre or one can ask the staff members at the centre.

**Challenges at MECC**

- **Road infrastructure**

There is still a lack of proper accessibility from Chihe primary school to the site for the guests who would wish to come with vehicles. This causes other challenges of parking near the school compound hence interrupting pupils' attention to studies and putting guests' vehicles on risk as they may be damaged by pupils.

#### ▪ **Local Community Behaviors**

When it comes to the community members especially children towards foreign guests, it becomes worse when they shout “Mzungu... Give me...” They follow the guests for long distances, others abuse them and throwing stones at them and unfortunately even some few adult people do the same! This shows bad image of Kisoro and Uganda at large as it seems to be discrimination though may be it is not what the doers mean.

#### ▪ **Natural Animal kingdom Violation:**

One of the reasons why M.E.C.C was initiated is to conserve the natural environment hence benefiting the local community in the area. It is therefore sad news if the same people remain to be environmental threat especially by destroying the swamp which would lead to deduction of the water in the lake and destroy wildlife therein.

#### **Recommendations**

- We hope, if the local government decides to help in sensitizing the community about the project, they will allow the road accessibility to the site hence solve all challenges as mentioned above on that issue.
- The local government should help in sensitizing community members and schools about the importance of hosting the foreign guests such that they respect them more by avoiding do the same as mentioned above. They should see them as NOT strangers because in doing so, our community will loose much of cultural and behavioral benefits.
- The local government should help in sensitizing the local community in utilizing the lakes, swamps and other natural resources in sustainable way so as to save them for future generation keeping in mind that our grand parents did the same for us. We should also make sure that we keep different wildlife species not to loose them as it happened with hippos.

#### **4.6 Gisozi Duterimbere Farmers Association**

The Gisozi Duterimbere Farmers Association (GDFA) is a community based organization (CBO) which is one of the “Mgahinga Community Development Organization” (MCDO)’s departments. It was started in the year 2002, by a group of women and few men that were under the “Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)” class, where by adult people who did not get chance to go to school would learn how to read, write, sanitation issues, basic counting and other different knowledge of how to carry out activities in daily life. The main goal of GDFA is to ensure food security in the community through modern and commercial farming especially Irish potato growing. Other activities that are carried out by GDFA are tree planting and currently they have established a community nursery school for children below six years. GDFA is member based organisation with 76 members (58 females and 18 males).

## **5.0 Achievements/activities implemented by MCDO**

- The organization has started operating from the new office at the AICC in Mgahinga and this has made it easier for the community members to access.
- Analyzing possible funding opportunities and organised various proposals to some of the organisations. Many proposals and inquiries for funding have been sent to various organisations like the French Embassy in Kampala, The Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, the Rockefeller foundation.
- Several seminars have been conducted to empower youths with more knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention.
- MCDO has held various workshops to train member organisations in the areas of project and financial management. This has been done with help from some volunteers.
- Organised annual general meeting with parents/ guardians of the sponsored students under MCSS department to formulate ways of the project sustainability and to share experiences about achievements and challenges encountered in the education field.
- A two weeks computer literacy workshop where by ten participants benefited from getting introduction to information technology (IT) was conducted.
- Hosted international students from Europe, some for short studies and others for 2-6 months internship. From hosting such students, the organisation and community members at large benefited a lot as the students helped the organisation to voluntarily implement some of activities and openly shared their knowledge with community members and MCDO staff.
- Adult literacy classes were reorganized. 73 participants mainly women participated in basic informal studies e.g. reading and writing, basic mathematics, English, etc.

## **6.0 Challenges within MCDO as an umbrella organisation**

- Limited access to computers for IT literacy
- Power at the MCDO office
- Tools for handcraft making especially for those who wish to deal with carving
- Limited funds for awareness rising for disease prevention especially HIV/AIDS
- Limited awareness on environment conservation
- Animal disturbances on community farms
- Lack of enough land especially to the Batwa community

## 7.0 Recommendations for the future

- Capacity building for MCDO management, MCDO member groups and the community at large in development programs.
- MCDO office power supply. The office being in a rural area is not in reach with hydro electricity. The power shortage has affected the organisation work and if this problem can be minimized by using solar power. We shall be grateful if the organisation can get people, volunteers, organisations and corporate bodies who can support us.
- Equipments e.g. computers, furniture, communication equipments and stationery in office. If the office would acquire these equipments, there would be efficiency and much output at work.
- Extended skills for Adult literacy in vocational activities so as to have diversification of income other than agriculture.
- Awareness of disease prevention especially HIV/AIDS. This is the world's most escalating challenges and for the Mgahinga community, much has not been done especially in sensitizing people on how they can control themselves from contracting the disease. We hope as MCDO, if happens to get more funds, much will be done in the fight against AIDS.
- Awareness on environment conservation. If much sensitization on how to conserve our beautiful environment is carried out, then sustainable development will be achieved. This area is very sensitive because it is adjacent to MGNP which is a home for the mountain gorillas. If work hand in hand with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), other development and conservation partners, then many achievements will be realised in the part of the Virunga ecosystem.
- MCDO is appealing to UWA's intervention and every body concerned in the escalating problem of crop raiding by animals from MGNP especially buffalos which do raid community farms especially those with Irish potatoes and maize.
- Means of transport e.g. for staff, volunteers and for sick people from the community in case of emergency.
- Maximizing financial sources for the organisation sustainability

## **8.0 List of acronyms**

<b>MCDO:</b>	Mgahinga Community Development Organisation
<b>AICG:</b>	Amajambere Iwacu Community Group
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UCOTA:</b>	Uganda Community Tourism Association
<b>NGO:</b>	Non- Governmental Organisation
<b>MECC:</b>	Mutanda Eco Community Centre
<b>MPCS:</b>	Mgahinga Parkview Credit and Savings
<b>G DFA:</b>	Gisozi Duterimbere Farmers Association
<b>MGNP:</b>	Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
<b>MCH:</b>	Mgahinga Community Heritage
<b>UWA:</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority
<b>MMF:</b>	MbiriMbiri Foundation
<b>UK:</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UBOS:</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>DRC:</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>CBOs:</b>	Community Based Organisations
<b>IGCP:</b>	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
<b>AWF:</b>	African Wildlife Foundation
<b>BMCT:</b>	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
<b>USAID:</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>IT:</b>	Information technology
<b>UN:</b>	United Nations
<b>FAL:</b>	Functional Adult Literacy