



Rwanda Business and Biodiversity Initiative and the motivation of Forest of Hope Association (FHA) for advocacy

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Background

The idea of creating a Business and Biodiversity Initiative in Rwanda was initiated in the Kigali seminar of June 27th, 2011 that was organized on Business and Biodiversity by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Rwanda Environment Management Authority. Forest of Hope Association (FHA) took the lead to encourage businesses, conservation organizations and the government of Rwanda to start this Initiative.



Rwanda Business and Biodiversity Initiative

Work done so far

- A concept note completed;
- Different consultation meetings with REMA were done and this Authority accepted to facilitate and financially support the workshop to create the Initiative;
- The meeting to prepare the workshop will be held in late of October 2012;
- The Initiative will be officially created in December 2012.

Challenge

- Limited awareness of the businesses to engage in conservation

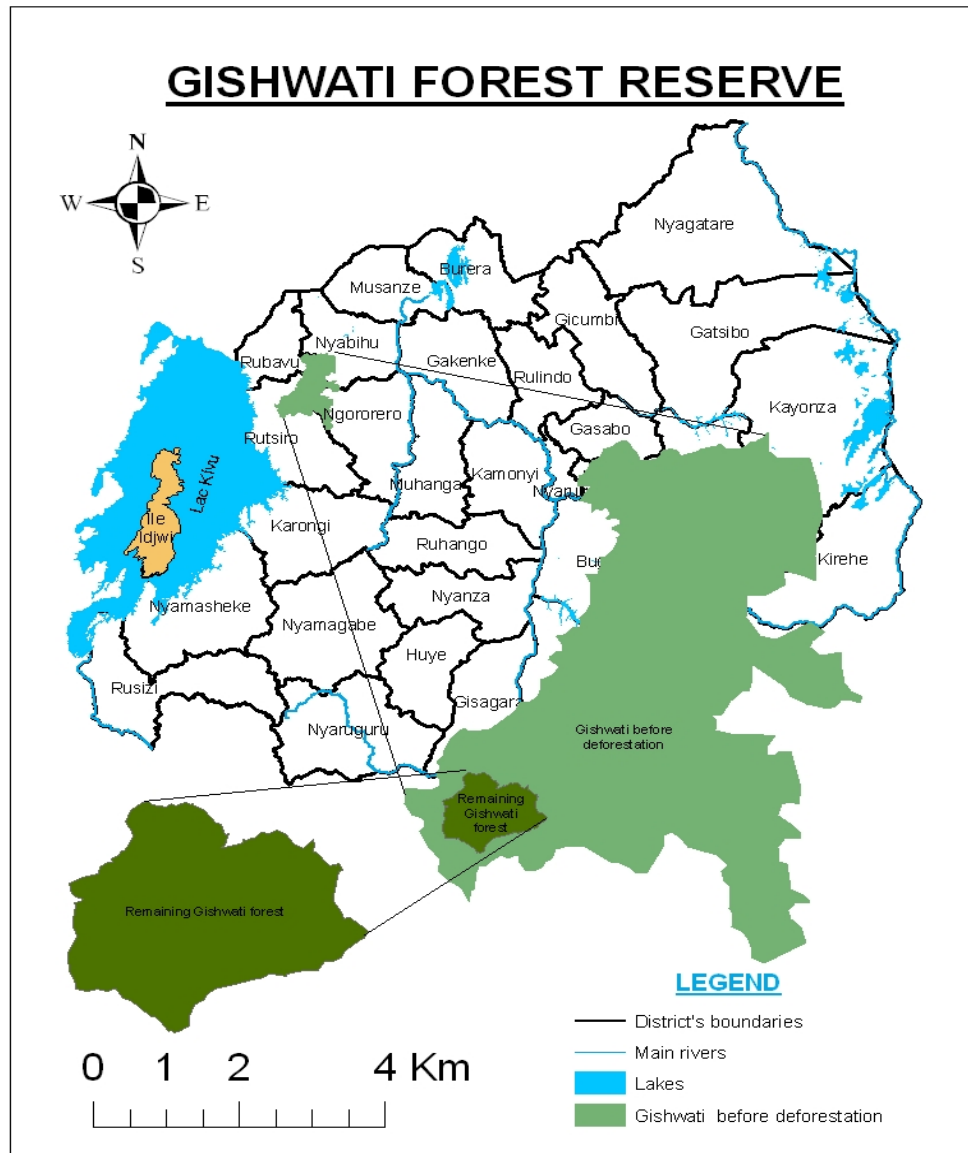
Opportunity

- Government will to support the Initiative



**What motivated Forest of Hope
Association to advocate for the
initiative?**

Reversing the history of deforestation

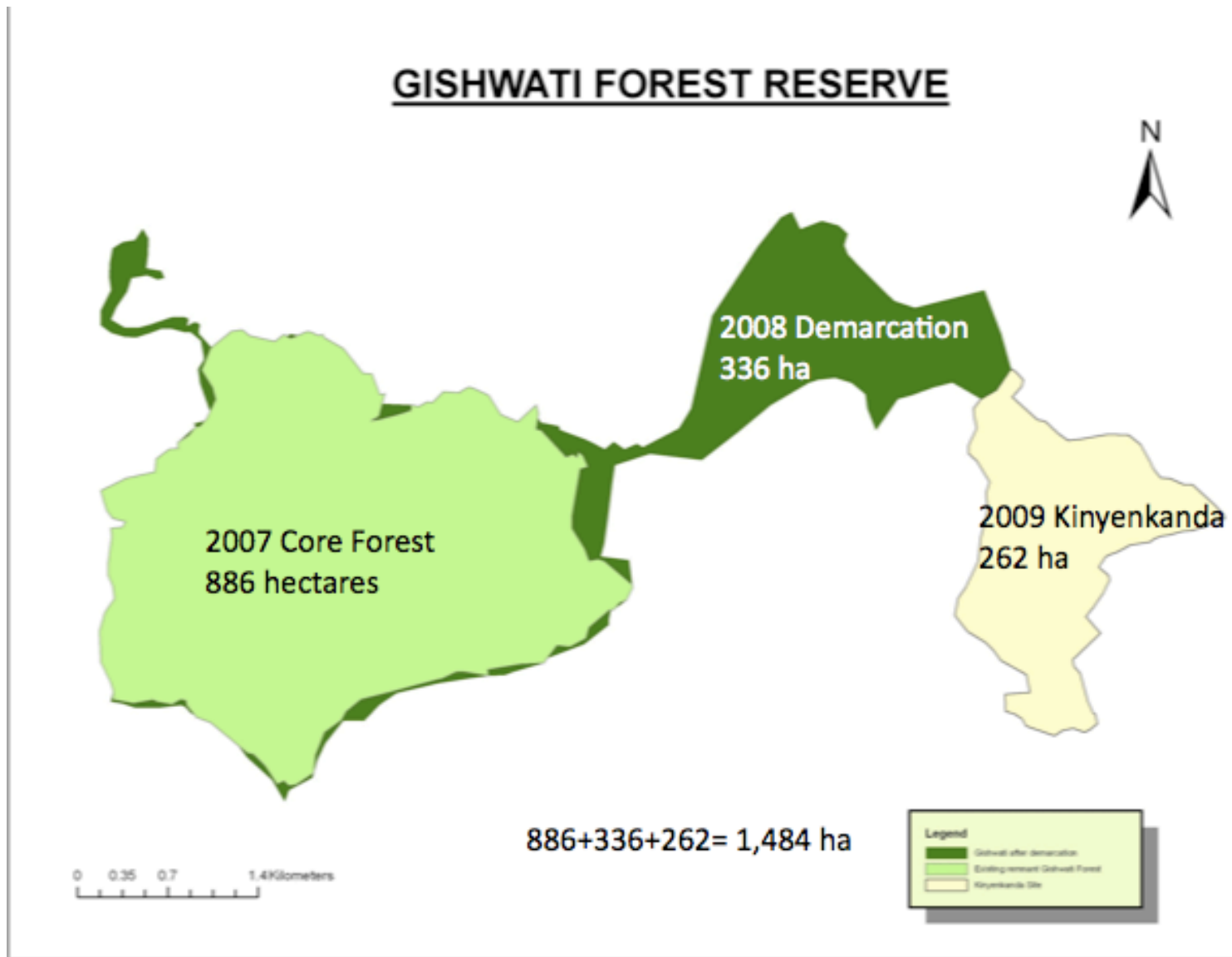


In 1970s Gishwati Forest Reserve was estimated to 28,000 ha
1994 : 10,000ha
2002 :600ha (PAFOR,2008)

Only 2% of what the forest was in 1970s was remaining in 2002 (only after 32 years).

This map shows Gishwati Forest Reserve in 2007 compared to Gishwati Forest Reserve in 1970s.

Forest expansion

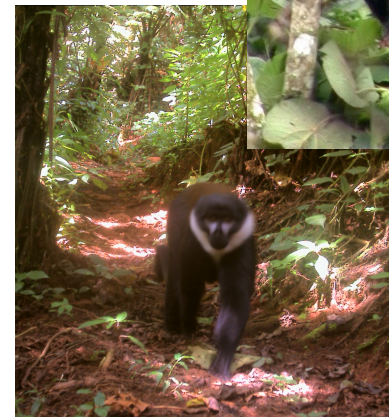
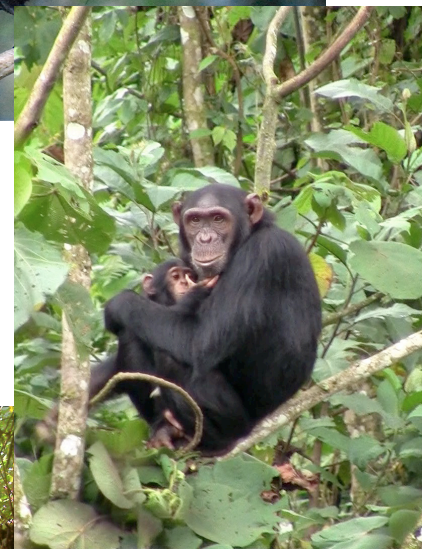


2005 :600ha
2007 : 886ha
2008: 1,222ha
2009:1,484ha

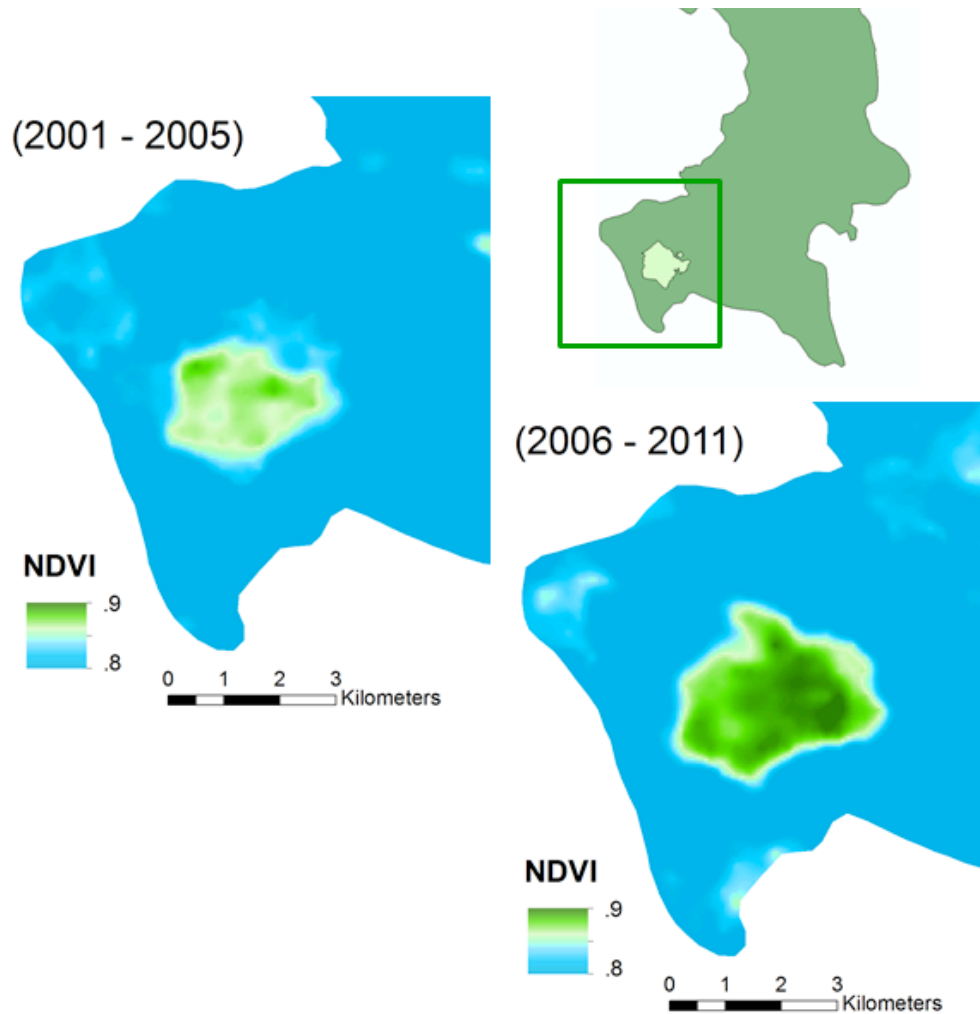
Increase of
40% of what
the forest was
in 2005 was
reached in
2009.

Biodiversity of the Gishwati Forest Reserve

- Eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*, listed as Threatened on the IUCN Red List);
- Golden monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis kandti*, listed as Endangered);
- Mountain monkeys (*Cercopithecus l'hoesti*, listed as Vulnerable);
- More than 130 species of birds including 14 that are endemic to the Albertine Rift and two IUCN Vulnerable species: Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) and Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*).



Gishwati Forest restoration



Map produced by NASA Develop in partnership with FHA

Main current activities

- Sensitize local people about the values and importance of Gishwati Forest Reserve and of biodiversity it shelters.
- Reduce conflicts between local people and the forest
- Reduce local dependence on forest resources
- Facilitate biodiversity research
- Forest patrols