

Sustainability Guidelines: Uganda

You are about to embark on a wonderful trip to African country of Uganda, known for its stunning natural beauty and wildlife. Your trip will show you all that Uganda has to offer, leaving you with a great appreciation for this country.

Environmental Issues:

Uganda's natural beauty is, however, threatened by environmental issues. The main environmental challenges that Uganda faces are:

- Uncontrolled expansion of agricultural land
- Erosion of soils and decline in soil quality and fertility
- Decreasing quality and availability of water
- Degradation of wetlands
- Deforestation

Over 80% of the Ugandan workforce is involved in agriculture; these environmental factors are significantly impacting the ability of the poor to meet nutritional needs.

Environmental Initiatives:

While it seems as though environmental issues might be overwhelming the country, many steps have been taken to mitigate these strains and work towards a more sustainable Uganda.

The *Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund* is dedicated to the conservation and protection of the highly endangered Mountain Gorillas in Africa and their habitat and working with local people around National Parks. *MGCF* is building a new facility to further the education of local people, protect the Mountain Gorilla, and expand protection of other wildlife in Uganda. Another *MGCF* project connects area schools with schools throughout the world. International students write letters and create posters about their local communities and ecosystems and share them with the students in Uganda. The *MGCF* is working to establish a fund that can be channeled to African schools; these monetary amounts would be used to purchase school supplies from local stores and to underwrite the cost of field trips to national parks.

As a visitor with Elevate Destinations you are privileged to stay in eco-lodges that are committed to the gorillas that roam the mountain tops of Uganda. Take the time to educate yourself on the initiatives that your eco-lodges have developed for gorilla conservation as well as sustainable tourism. When hiking through the National Parks respect the natural flora and fauna and be sure to stay on the trail. Dispose of your waste in the proper manner, as instructed by your trail guide.

Guide to Eco-Lodges in Uganda



Primate Lodge is a luxury-tented safari adventure in the Kibale Forest. The Lodge provides chimp tracking, educational walks, bird watching, nocturnal walks, community walks, and many other activities exploring all the forest has to offer. The Lodge is committed to the preservation of the Kibale forest and all the species that call it home.

Ndali Lodge is located in Western Uganda. Each guest room is furnished using local materials. At night time, the grounds and rooms are lit with candles; the lodge has no electricity or generators to destroy the tranquility and atmosphere. All of the water at the Lodge comes directly from Lake Nyinambuga, pumped up hydraulic ram based on technology invented in the 1770s. The staff at Ndali is from local farms and villages trained by the lodge. In addition to hiring the local people, Ndali Lodge is actively involved with the local community providing support and educational facilities for the children.

Mweya Safari Lodge is located on a peninsula within the heart of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This is an ideal location for those who want to be in the midst of thousands of species. There are over 604 different species of birds as Queen Elizabeth National Park is the largest of any protected area in Africa.

Gorilla Forest Camp is located in the Bwindi Forest, home to the Northern Bwindi Gorilla family. The tented lodgings blend seamlessly into the misty mountains and deep forest. The camp provides gorilla tracking, bird watching activities, and cultural interaction at the local markets, villages and tribal communities.

Lake Mburo Mihingo Lodge is an environmentally friendly accommodation with buildings constructed in such a way as to melt into the rocky outcrops and savannah landscapes around them. Electricity, hot water, and water pumps are powered by solar energy and there is a natural water catchment system to take advantage of and store rain water. The lodge is also concerned with conservation, developing the Mihingo Conservation and Community Development Foundation (Mihingo CCDF). It aims to improve the living conditions of the surrounding communities and improve conservation efforts on the eastern side of Lake Mburo National Park. The Mihingo Leopard Project, sponsored by Mihingo CCDF, protects all predators in and around Lake Mburo National Park through education and compensation to farmers whose livestock gets killed by leopards. The Mihingo Honey Project supports bee keeping in Ruranbira, educating farmers about bee keeping, improving their hives, and buying honey from the local farmers. The aim is to make sure the farmers will benefit directly through the sale of honey. The Mihingo Lodge-Green Living Project blends high-end safari lodge style and service with environmentally smart design, optimizing the site's natural attributes for both aesthetic beauty and ease of harnessing solar power. The Lodge staffs and supports primary school conservation education and adult literacy programs in the local area.