Ultimate **Forests** Company

High Conservation Values Assessment Report

Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation

October 2024

FOREWORD

Ultimate Forest Company Limited (UFCL) is pleased to present this HCV assessment report for the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession, affirming our commitment to sustainable forest management and environmental stewardship in alignment with Rwanda's green growth and climate resilience vision.

UFCL manages the buffer zone, consisting of *Pinus patula, Eucalyptus maidenii,* and *Acacia melanoxylon plantations*, as a critical interface between human activity and Nyungwe National Park. Guided by sustainability principles, we prioritize responsible harvesting practices and the protection of High Conservation Values, such as biodiversity, ecosystems, and community livelihoods.

As an FSC-certified company, UFCL adheres to global standards for responsible forest management. This certification underscores our dedication to ecological integrity, fair labor practices, and community engagement. This HCV assessment reflects our proactive efforts to identify and safeguard ecological, social, and cultural values in the buffer zone. By evaluating these aspects, we aim to exceed environmental and social benchmarks while balancing economic growth with environmental preservation.

UFCL Mission: To manage forest resources sustainably, ensuring their contribution to environmental health, economic development, and community well-being, while promoting innovation and best practices in the forestry sector.
UFCL Vision: To be a leading company in sustainable forestry, recognized for our commitment to environmental stewardship, community development, and the responsible use of natural resources.

The report's findings guide our efforts to protect biodiversity, mitigate risks, and support sustainable livelihoods around Nyungwe National Park, aligning with Rwanda's Green Growth Strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

UFCL is committed to collaboration with local communities, conservation organizations, and government agencies, recognizing that sustainable forestry is a collective responsibility. We thank all contributors and invite stakeholders to join us in ensuring the Nyungwe Buffer Zone thrives as a biodiversity haven and a resource for future generations.

Jean RINDIRO
Executive Officer
Ultimate Forest Company Limited (UFCL)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The High Conservation Values (HCV) assessment of the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation, managed by Ultimate Forest Company (UFCL Ltd), aimed to evaluate the ecological, social, and cultural values within the concession area, a critical step in UFCL's compliance with FSC Forest Management Certification requirements and sustainable management practices. The assessment determined that none of the six HCV categories were present within the plantation area, which is primarily composed of exotic species namely, as *Pinus patula*, *Eucalyptus maidenii*, and *Acacia melanoxylon*, cultivated mainly for commercial timber production.

Although adjacent to the biodiverse Nyungwe National Park, the plantation itself does not exhibit significant concentrations of biodiversity or rare ecosystems; however, it plays a vital role in safeguarding the national park from encroachment and unsustainable practices. Additionally, the assessment found no fundamental community needs or cultural values associated with the plantation area.

Despite the absence of HCVs, the assessment provides recommendations for robust management practices to maintain the buffer zone's protective function for Nyungwe National Park, minimize habitat disruption, and prevent the spread of invasive species, all while promoting sustainable forestry practices that support biodiversity and ecosystem services.

While harvesting the buffer zone plantation, the emphasis will always be made for balancing economic timber production with environmental stewardship, highlighting the importance of responsible management in ensuring both the commercial viability of the plantation and its contribution to the ecological integrity of the adjacent national park.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AEWA:	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds
AZE:	Alliance for Zero Extinction
CR	Critically Endangered
EN:	Endangered
FMU:	Forest Management Unit
FSC:	Forest Stewardship Council
HCV:	High Conservation Value
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NBSAP:	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NNP:	Nyungwe National Park
PA:	Protected Area
RDB:	Rwanda Development Board
REMA:	Rwanda Environment Management Authority
RFA:	Rwanda Forestry Authority
RTE:	Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
RTE:	Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species
RWCA:	Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
UFCL:	Ultimate Forest Company Limited
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VNP:	Volcanoes National Park
VU:	Vulnerable

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession, established by the Rwandan Government in the 1980s, aims to protect the adjacent Nyungwe National Park (formerly the Nyungwe Forest Reserve). Managed by Ultimate Forest Company Limited (UFCL) under a 49-year lease, the plantation comprises fast-growing exotic species namely *Pinus patula, Eucalyptus maidenii*, and *Acacia melanoxylon*, selected for their rapid growth and commercial timber value.

The buffer zone was created to reduce pressure on Nyungwe's natural forest and now serves two key functions: providing commercial timber and acting as a protective barrier for the park. It helps prevent encroachment, illegal activities, and unsustainable agricultural practices, thereby supporting both economic and conservation goals.

UFCL Ltd is committed in ensuring balancing profitable timber production with maintaining the buffer's ecological function. To meet this, the company has pursued FSC Forest Management Certification, ensuring the plantation is managed in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically sustainable way. This includes sustainable harvesting, biodiversity conservation, and community engagement.

The key reason for the buffer zone establishment remains paramount and UFCL always takes into consideration this objective while harvesting the forest. In this regard, UFCL has undertaken assessments to clarify the status of the plantation vis a vis High Conservation Values with regard to Principle 9 of the FSC-STD-RWA-01-2017-Rwanda Interim National Standards Plantations.

1.2. Objective and Scope of the HCV assessment

1.2.1. Objective

The primary objective of the HCV assessment for the Nyungwe Buffer Zone is to identify and ensure the management and protection of High Conservation Values (HCVs) within the area. This process aims to safeguard biodiversity, ecosystem services, and socio-cultural values critical to local communities and national conservation priorities.

The assessment also supports sustainable forest management in alignment with Principle 9 of the FSC-STD-RWA-01-2017-Rwanda Interim National Standards Plantations EN, which mandates the maintenance and enhancement of HCVs in forestry operations.

1.2.2. Scope

The scope of this assessment is to identify High Conservation Values (HCVs) within the Nyungwe Plantation, which is composed primarily of exotic species (*Pinus patula, Eucalyptus maidenii, and Acacia melanoxylon*).

The scope encompasses the identification of the following High Conservation Values (HCVs) in the plantation and its neighbourhood (except within the NNP):

- **HCV 1** – *Species diversity.* Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- **HCV 2:** *Landscape - level ecosystems and mosaics.* Intact forest landscapes and large landscape - level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance
- **HCV 3**: *Ecosystems and habitats.* Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia
- **HCV 4 –** *Critical ecosystem services.* Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- **HCV 5 –** *Community needs.* Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- **HCV 6** – *Cultural values.* Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous

1.3. Methodology

The methodology used in this HCV assessment is based on Best Available Information (BAI), which combines a thorough review of existing studies, field inspections, and stakeholder consultations to form a comprehensive understanding of the plantation's ecological and social context.
This approach ensures the integration of scientific data, stakeholder input, and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to provide a comprehensive and participatory assessment.

Specifically, the assessment relied on:

Literature Review: Reviewing ecological studies, reports, and conservation documentation related to the Nyungwe area. The following documents were consulted:

- Inventory & Mapping of Threatened Remnant Terrestrial Ecosystems Outside Protected Areas Through Rwanda; REMA; Final Report; October 2011
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP (REMA, 2018)
- BirdLife International - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Rwanda
- Species protected under the Ministerial Order No 007/2008 OF 15/08/2008 establishing the list of protected animal and plant species:
- List of Species protected under Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (AEWA)
- Species protected under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
- Species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
- Nyungwe National Park Biodiversity Surveys

- Albertine Rift Biodiversity Monitoring Program
- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA) Reports
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Database
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Reports on Nyungwe

Site Inspections: field visits were conducted to observe and have an idea on the plantation's tree composition, structure, and any potential environmental concerns.

Consultations with Stakeholders: government agencies in charge of different biodiversity field management (RFA, REMA, RDB), local authorities, NGOs and community members were consulted to understand the social and economic role of the plantation and assess HCV4-6.

A step by step assessment procedure is presented in Annex 1 (page 17).

Table 1. List of stakeholders consulted during the assessment

Stakeholders/Best Available Information	Roles/ Contribution to the assessment
Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) – CBD Focal Point AEWA Focal Point CMS Focal Point CITES Focal Point	REMA provides critical environmental data, including national biodiversity inventories, ecological monitoring reports, and environmental impact assessment (EIA) findings. As the regulator, they guide the HCV assessment process by sharing legal frameworks, conservation priorities, and datasets on land use, ecosystem services, and protected area boundaries. REMA houses the coordination of the following convention: CITES, Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar convention on wetlands of international importance among others
Rwanda Development Board (RDB) – Conservation Analyst Conservation Specialist	RDB, as the institution responsible for managing Nyungwe National Park, provides critical information on conservation priorities and ongoing management practices within and outside the park (namely the concession). RDB is responsible for assessing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports related to development projects in the buffer zone. They issue relevant certificates ensuring compliance with environmental standards and conservation goals. RDB collaborates with stakeholders to integrate conservation priorities into sustainable development initiatives.
Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA) -	RFA contributes forestry inventory data, including forest cover maps, information on plantation species, and data on forest health and productivity. RFA also provides insights into forest ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration and watershed protection, which are critical for determining HCV values in the buffer zone.
Local Communities in Districts surrounding the Nyungwe Buffer Zone	Local communities offer traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) about wildlife, plant species, and ecosystem changes in the area. They also provide anecdotal evidence of historical land use, seasonal patterns, and critical areas for cultural or subsistence

	purposes, enriching the assessment with context-specific information.
Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)	ARCOS brings regional biodiversity and conservation datasets, particularly for the Albertine Rift, a recognized biodiversity hotspot. They also provide geospatial data, species distribution maps, and research on transboundary ecosystem connectivity, which are vital for a holistic HCV assessment.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	WCS provides global expertise and regional data on wildlife and ecosystem health, including species conservation priorities, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, and habitat management strategies. Their extensive experience in Nyungwe National Park equips them to supply critical insights into species behavior, ecosystem services, and conservation threats, as well as tools for landscape-level conservation planning.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE NYUNGWE BUFFER ZONE PLANTATION

2.1. The plantation

The Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation is located on government land gazetted for forestry and timber production. Planted primarily with exotic species (*Pinus patula, Eucalyptus maidenii, and Acacia melanoxylon*), the plantation serves as a buffer zone between human activities and the adjacent Nyungwe National Park, one of Africa's most biodiverse rainforests. Nyungwe National Park is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including numerous endemic species, such as rare orchids, and critically endangered species like the eastern chimpanzee and Ruwenzori colobus monkeys.

The Nyungwe Buffer Plantation, located in the districts of Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Nyamasheke, and Karongi, is dominated by fast-growing exotic species namely *Pinuspatula* (Patula pine), *Eucalyptus maidenii* (Maiden's gum), and *Acacia melanoxylon*. These species are cultivated for commercial timber production and are under harvest activities by UFCL.

Biogeographically, the concession is part of the Albertine Rift, an area with high biodiversity and significant ecological value. Although the plantation does not host populations of globally significant species, small pockets of natural vegetation, such as patches of montane forests and riverine ecosystems, remain untouched within the plantation. These areas are preserved as part of the management plan, though they do not function as biodiversity refuges.

The landscape is characterized by steep slopes and hilly terrain. The soils are generally acidic and prone to erosion, especially on steep slopes, which requires careful management to avoid land degradation.

Surrounding the concession are human settlements and agricultural areas. Local communities rely on subsistence farming and small-scale forestry for their livelihoods. The area has a history of agricultural and forestry land use, with future development trends likely to increase pressure on land resources, driven by commercial forestry and agricultural expansion.

2.2. Geophysical Characteristics of the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation area

The Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation surrounds the Nyungwe National Park, one of the most biodiverse regions in Rwanda. This plantation was established to create a protective belt between human activities and the pristine rainforest. The buffer zone comprises exotic tree species, primarily *Pinus patula, Eucalyptus maidenii,* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, which serve both ecological and economic purposes.

Geology and Soils

The Nyungwe Buffer Zone lies on the Precambrian basement complex of the Albertine Rift, characterized by ancient rocks such as granite, quartzite, and schist. The soils in the buffer zone are predominantly ferralitic and acidic, with varying fertility levels. They are rich in iron and aluminum oxides, giving them a reddish hue, but they are prone to erosion due to steep slopes and heavy rainfall. In some areas, degraded soils have necessitated soil conservation measures such as terracing and mulching to support plantation sustainability.

Vegetation
The plantation is primarily composed of exotic tree species which were introduced to provide a sustainable source of wood and reduce pressure on the natural forest. The area also supports a variety of indigenous plant species, contributing to biodiversity.

Climate
The region experiences a montane climate, with high annual rainfall averaging 1,800 to 2,500 millimeters, making it one of the wettest areas in Rwanda. Rainfall is relatively well-distributed throughout the year, although peak rainy seasons occur from March to May and September to December. The mean annual temperature ranges from 10°C to 20°C, depending on elevation, with cooler temperatures dominating higher altitudes. This climate supports the rapid growth of plantation species and the regeneration of native vegetation in adjacent areas.

Human Interaction and Land Use
The buffer zone is an interface between Nyungwe National Park and local communities. It is managed primarily for commercial forestry, with sustainable harvesting of exotic trees supporting local economies. At the same time, the buffer zone acts as a deterrent to agricultural encroachment and illegal logging in the core forest. Community initiatives, such as agroforestry and participatory forest management, are integrated into the buffer zone to balance conservation and livelihood needs.

2.3. Conservation Zones

Conservation zones in the Nyungwe Buffer Zone are designated areas aimed at protecting the biodiversity of Nyungwe National Park. Covering approximately 10,085 hectares, these zones include various management categories, such as ecologically sensitive areas and buffer zones, which help mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. These zones are vital for ecological balance with ongoing forest management activities implemented by UFCL Ltd.

The zones are scattered within the plantation, with sizes between 0.1-27.63 Ha.

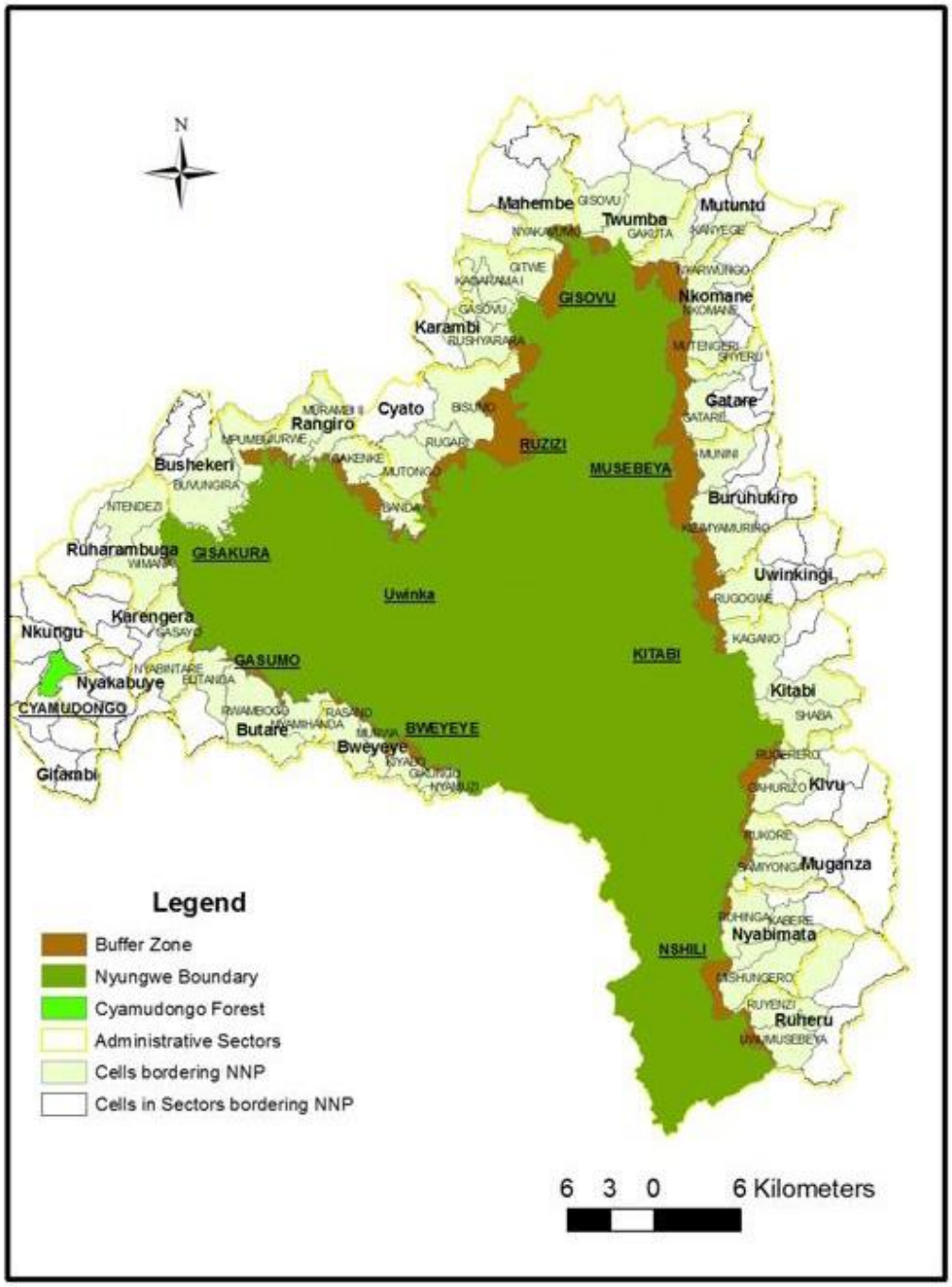


Figure 1. Nyungwe Buffer Zone (UFCL Plantation)

3. IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

3.1. Defining threshold

Based on Rwanda HCV Framework which is part of FSC-STD-RWA-01-2017-Rwanda Interim National Standards Plantations EN, and with consultations with stakeholders that are knowledgeable in the field, thresholds (assessment criteria) were decided avoiding thresholds that are too high (can result in inadequate protection for conservation values), and thresholds that are too low (these can undermine the application of the concept **(Table 2**). For the presence of single species that would qualify for HCV 1, the threshold was set to Critically Endangered (CR).

The following would automatically qualify as HCV1:

(1) A high overall species richness, diversity or uniqueness within a defined area when compared with other sites within the same biogeographic area.
(2) Populations of multiple endemics or RTE species
(3) Important populations or a great abundance of individual endemic or RTE species, representing a substantial proportion of the regional, national or global population which are needed to maintain viable populations either:
   - Year-round (e.g. key habitat for a specific species) or ,
   - Seasonally, including migratory corridors, sites for breeding, roosting or hibernation, or refuges from disturbance (www.cms.int for migration routes)

(4) Small populations of individual endemic or RTE species, in cases where the national, regional or global survival of that species is critically dependent on the area in question (such species are likely to be restricted to a few remaining areas of habitat, and to be classified as ECR on the IUCN Red List). In these cases, there is often a consensus (among many stakeholders) that every surviving individual is globally significant (e.g. flagship species such as Mountain Gorilla).
(5) Sites with significant RTE species richness, or populations (including temporary concentrations) of priority species approaching those of key protected areas or other priority sites (e.g. KBAs, IBAs) within the same biogeographic boundary (For reference: Rwanda Priority areas are listed in *Inventory and mapping of threatened remnant terrestrial ecosystems outside protected areas through Rwanda, (REMA, 2011)*

Box 1. Criteria for HCV 1 (adapted from *Common Guidance for the HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES: A good practice guide for identifying HCVs across different ecosystems and production systems)*

3.2. Addressing all six HCVs

Table 2. HCV Assessment findings

HCV Categories, definition and assessment criteria (threshold)	YES	NO	Observation, Description of Best Available Information and conclusion
HCV 1: Species Diversity *Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species that are significant at global, regional or national levels.*			
Is the FMU is within or contains a protected area (or a recognized biodiversity priority area (e.g. IUCN recognised Protected Area, Ramsar Site, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Key Biodiversity Area, etc.)		X	Protected areas that have been established to protect nationally, regionally or globally significant concentrations of biological diversity are indicators of the presence of HCV 1. National parks of Rwanda are protected ecosystems and wildlife reserves which are maintained and managed by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) with assistance from government ministries. Hence, no activities related to harvesting are allowed for Protected Areas, hence, no part of the Buffer Zone is expected to a protected area. The law establishing Nyungwe National Park has set boundaries of the park and no portion of it falls within FMU. In addition, the FMU itself was established to be the barrier between the protected area and local population activities (conflicts mitigation). **Source of data:** ▪ Law determining the Management and Utilisation of Forests in Rwanda Law 47BIS of 2013 ▪ Law establishing National Parks
A designation by national authorities, or by reputable conservation organizations, recognizing concentrations of biodiversity		X	No part of the FMU has been designated as having a concentration of biodiversity
Determine whether the FMU contains a **significant concentration** of threatened or endangered species,		X	Data provided by literature, research and REMA reports do not indicate that the plantation contains a significant concentration of threatened or endangered species, endemics or a significant temporal concentration of

endemics or a significant temporal concentration of species			species. Only *Bersama abyssinica (EN)* has been cited to occur twice in the plantation (Nyaruguru FMU) as a success of ongoing regeneration, (Gapusi, 2007). During the field survey, no RTEs could be found. Consultations with NNP management indicated that they do not have any knowledge of existence of RTE in the buffer plantation (not documented, although an isolated individual can be found anywhere). The presence of 2 specimen of *Bersama abyssinica (EN)* is not enough to be considered as HCV1. The presence of RTEs requires the designation of HCV 1 only if the species concentration is large enough to justify specific management measures. In addition, the HCV Toolkit states that "one RTE species may not be enough to confirm HCV 1 unless it is a recognized flagship species" or classified as CR on IUCN red list (extreme global conservation concern) which is not the case for *B. abbysinica*. ***Consulted Best Available Information*** ▪ List of threatened terrestrial ecosystems and species of Rwanda (REMA, 2015) ▪ List of Spcies protected under AEWA ▪ List of species protected under the CMS ▪ List of species protected under CITES ▪ National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP (REMA, 2016) ▪ Inventory and mapping of threatened remnant terrestrial ecosystems outside protected areas through Rwanda (REMA, 2011) ▪ Expert consultations ▪ Nyungwe National Park

Conclusion on HCV 1:

Based on the assessment done using the guide presented in Annex 1 (see pg 19), the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession does not exhibit High Conservation Value (HCV 1) characteristics for several reasons. HCV 1 pertains to areas with significant concentrations of biological diversity, including endemic, rare, threatened, or endangered species that are critical at global, regional, or national levels.

(1) No part of the buffer zone is categorized as a protected area within IUCN categories I-V, nor has it been proposed for such status by statutory bodies. Without this designation, the area does not automatically qualify as an HCV under this criterion.

(2) The buffer zone has not been identified as a priority site for the conservation of threatened or endangered species, endemics, or species that exhibit significant temporal concentrations. Such priority designations typically result from national or regional processes that rank areas of exceptional importance for specific taxonomic groups or habitats.

(3) There is no evidence suggesting the presence of significant concentrations of rare, endemic, or temporally concentrated species within the buffer zone. Furthermore, it does not exhibit features such as naturally isolated habitats, critical corridors, or significant breeding and/or feeding areas that would elevate its ecological value to HCV status. Three individual RTEs plant species have been opportunistically spotted in the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation (in different FMUs), which serves as a protective area for the adjacent Nyungwe National Park. However, these areas cannot be classified as High Conservation Value 1 (HCV1) because it primarily consists of exotic tree plantations rather than natural forests.

(4) The RTEs present in the FMUs (2 individuals of *B. abbysinica*) do not constitute a significant concentration[1] that are sufficiently outstanding to be considered unique or highly important in comparison with other areas within Rwanda or Albertine Rift region[2, 3]. The identified RTE are non-HCV values and are recommended to be managed under Principle 6 along with other indigenous species. Gapusi (2007) suggests that the presence of indigenous tree species in the plantation is the success of an ongoing regeneration process.

Therefore, based on these assessments, the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession does not meet the criteria for HCV 1.

[1] The Rwanda HCV Framework indicates that the significant concentration of RTE is found only in National Parks (cfr FSC-STD-RWA-01-2017-Rwanda Interim National Standards Plantations EN, pg 76)

[2] Ibid.

[3] HCV Toolkit Part 3. Identifying and managing High Conservation Values Forests: a guide for forest managers

HCV 2 – Landscape - level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape - level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.			
Intact Forest Landscapes		X	**Not Present in the FMU** The FMU does not contain an intact forest landscape that could be >50,000 ha
Large landscape-level ecosystems that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance		X	**Not present in the FMU** The FMU does not contain such large landscapes recognised at global, regional or national levels[1]. The concession does not form part of critical landscape ecosystems. Its composition of exotic species limits its ecological connectivity and role as a habitat for native wildlife.
Ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		X	**Not Present** The FMU does not have ecosystem mosaics significant at global, regional or national levels
HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.			
Naturally rare because they depend on highly localised soil types, locations, hydrology or other climatic or physical features		X	**Not present in the FMU** Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia are documented by: ▪ Inventory & Mapping of Threatened Remnant Terrestrial Ecosystems Outside Protected Areas Through Rwanda (National University of Rwanda, 2011)
Anthropogenically rare, because the extent of the ecosystem has been greatly reduced by human activities compared to their historic extent, such as natural seasonally flooded grasslands on rich soils, or		X	

[1] Reference to "Inventory & Mapping of Threatened Remnant Terrestrial Ecosystems Outside Protected Areas Through Rwanda. National University of Rwanda. Final Report, October 2011."

fragments of primary forests in regions where almost all primary forests have been eliminated.			▪ List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems and Species (REMA, 2015)
Threatened or endangered (e.g. rapidly declining) due to current or proposed operations.		X	
HCV 4 – Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services* in critical* situations, including protection* of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.			
Water catchments in critical situations within the FMU		X	**Not present in the FMU** The FMU itself is part of the Akanyaru river catchment, but it is not in critical conditions
Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical situations		X	**Not present in the FMU**
Other ecosystem services in critical situations		X	**Not present in the FMU** While the plantation provides basic ecosystem services such as timber production, biodiversity support and climate regulation, no part of the FMU is in critical conditions
Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *Indigenous peoples* (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.)		X	**Not present in the FMU** No community has been identified to be dependent on the FMU resources
HCV 5 – Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.			
Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.)		X	**Not present in the FMU** No community has been identified to be dependent on the FMU resources
Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of Indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.);		X	**Not present in the FMU** No community has been identified to be dependent on the FMU resources. No indigenous communities found in Rwanda
HCV 6 – Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.			

Sites, resources, habitat and landscape with high cultural value, recognized by national policy and legislation		X	**Not present in the FMU** No cultural, historical, or spiritual sites were identified within the plantation area, confirming the lack of recognized cultural importance
Sites, resources, habitat and landscape established legally from national government and/or international institution such as UNESCO		X	
Sites, resources, habitat and landscape with recognized important historical and cultural value, even if not protected by legislation		X	
Religious or sacred sites, resources, habitat and landscape (cemetery, or site for traditional rites, which is important to local community)		X	
Plants or animal with totemic value or used in traditional ceremonies.		X	

3.3. Conclusion

The Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation does not meet the criteria for High Conservation Value (HCV) designation. A combination of field survey and consultations with experts knowledgeable in the field has indicated that the concession lacks significant concentrations of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE) species, critical habitats, or irreplaceable ecological functions typically associated with HCVs. Additionally, field assessments and existing data indicate the absence of unique socio-economic or cultural importance, as well as significant concentration biodiversity features. Therefore, the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Plantation, while ecologically valuable, does not qualify to be categorized as containing High Conservation Values.

However, in addition to the assessment, Non-HCV values have been previously identified within the Nyungwe Buffer Zone. These Non-HCV values include indigenous species present in the concession and 359 small pockets of natural trees or grasslands, collectively covering a total area of 40.66 hectares scattered across the plantation (collectively classified as Conservation Zones). While these areas do not meet the criteria for High Conservation Value, they represent important environmental values due to their role in supporting local biodiversity and ecological stability. Conservation efforts for these values shall include regular biodiversity monitoring to ensure their preservation and enhance sustainable land management practices.

3.4. Recommendations for Responsible Management of the FMU

In addressing the management of the Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession, it is essential to recognise the critical need for responsible practises despite the absence of designated High Conservation Values (HCV) within the area. Given the plantation’s vital role in providing a protective barrier for Nyungwe National Park, implementing robust management and monitoring activities is imperative to ensure sustainable forestry practices.

This conscientious approach will not only mitigate threats such as illegal activities and encroachment but will also enhance the ecological integrity of both the buffer zone and the adjacent national park. The commitment of UFCL Ltd to attain FSC Forest Management Certification demonstrates a proactive stance towards balancing economic interests with environmental stewardship.

Given the plantation's proximity to Nyungwe National Park, a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve with High Conservation Values (HCV), UFCL is committed to implementing the buffer zone management practices. These include minimizing habitat disruption, preventing the spread of invasive species, and promoting sustainable forestry practices that protect biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, and limit environmental impacts on the adjacent park. A management in this regard shall be put in place.

REFERENCES

1. Watson, E., editor. (2020 October). *High Conservation Value (HCV) Screening: Guidance for identifying and prioritising action for HCVs in jurisdictional and landscape settings*. HCV Network Ltd.
2. Common Guidance for the HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES: A good practice guide for identifying HCVs across different ecosystems and production systems
3. FSC-GUI-60-009a V1-0 EN Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks
4. BirdLife Fact Sheet https://www.birdlife.org/
5. Inventory & Mapping of Threatened Remnant Terrestrial Ecosystems Outside Protected Areas Through Rwanda; National University of Rwanda; Final Report; October 2011)
6. REMA, 2016. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, Kigali.
7. REMA, 2015. List of threatened ecosystems and species in Rwanda. Kigali
8. LAW Nº47bis/2013 OF 28/06/2013 DETERMINING THE MANAGEMENT AND UTILISATION OF FORESTS IN RWANDA

APPENDICES

Annex 1. Step by step assessment of HCVs in Nyungwe Buffer Zone Concession

(Adapted from "HCV Toolkit. Identifying and managing High Conservation Values Forests: a guide for forest managers")

1.	***HCV 1 – Species diversity.*** **Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.**
	1.1. Protected Areas
	1.1.1. Determine whether the FMU is within or contains a protected area (a) legally protected areas equivalent to IUCN categories I-V3 (b) areas that have been proposed for protected area status by the relevant statutory body but have not yet been gazetted ***If the FMU is within or contains such a protected area, go to step 1.1.2*** ***If not, this HCV element is not present. Go to 1.2.***
	1.1.2. Determine whether this part of the FMU is an HCV: A protected area will be automatically considered as HCVF
	1.2. Threatened and endangered species, endemics and temporal concentrations
	1.2.1. Determine if all or part of the FMU has been designated a priority site for threatened or endangered species, endemics or maintaining significant temporal concentrations of species Priority schemes are those that identify individual areas of forest as being of outstanding importance for conserving threatened or endangered species, endemics or that contain significant temporal concentrations of species. Types of scheme to consider include: ▪ National-level processes for identifying sites of outstanding importance for the conservation of threatened or endangered species, endemics or temporal concentrations of species ▪ National-level processes that are limited to certain important taxonomic groups (e.g. birds, mammals, plants) ▪ Prioritisations schemes that are limited to specific regions of the country as being of outstanding importance. ***For HCV elements for which no such prioritisation is available, go to step 1.2.2*** ***Any part of the FMU that has been identified as a priority site for threatened or endangered species, endemics or for maintaining significant temporal concentrations of species will normally be considered a HCVF.***
	1.2.2. Determine whether the FMU is within a part of the country that is a priority for rare species, endemics or for maintaining significant temporal concentrations of species ***If the FMU is within a conservation priority region, go to step 1.2.4*** ***…….If not, go to step 1.2.3***
	1.2.3. Determine whether the FMU is likely to have concentrations of rare species, endemics or contains significant temporal concentrations of species The FMU will be more likely to contain one of these HCV elements if: ▪ existing information shows that several rare species, endemic species or exceptional seasonal concentrations of species are present (or likely to be present) within the FMU; or ▪ is part of a larger forest area that connects one or more protected areas; or

		▪ is in a region where protected areas are threatened by encroachment, degradation or by land-use plans that would result in use incompatible with their status; or ▪ contains examples of naturally isolated habitats, ▪ contains landscape or habitat features likely to contain critical temporal concentrations of species (e.g., if the FMU is all or part of a forest that links different altitudinal zones, extensive riparian forest areas that are used by many species of animal from the surrounding landscape). ***If any of the HCV elements are potentially present within the FMU, go to step 1.2.4.*** ***……..If none are found, this HCV is not present within the FMU.***
		1.2.4. Collect information on the presence of rare species, endemics and seasonal concentrations of species within the FMU ▪ to assess whether the FMU contains concentrations of rare species, endemics or significant temporal concentrations of species ***If the FMU contains several threatened, endangered or endemic species, at least one species of extreme global conservation concern, or temporal concentrations of species, go to step 1.2.5*** ***If the FMU does not contain of the above, then this HCV is not present within the FMU.***
		1.2.5. Determine whether the FMU contains a significant concentration of threatened or endangered species, endemics or a significant temporal concentration of species Determining whether the concentration of species found is significant. Here are potential indicators of HCV: ▪ the presence of any species of exceptional international concern (e.g. flagship species such as mountain gorillas) where the existing legislation and the current protected area network does not provide sufficiently for their protection. Consider species with the highest international conservation status (e.g. IUCN 'Critically Endangered'); ▪ the presence of any unusual ecological or taxonomic assemblages of rare or endemic species. This might include the presence of a complete assemblage of species with critical ecological functions (e.g. top predators) or evolutionary status (e.g., a suite of closely related rare species) that included a number of threatened or endangered species, or an assemblage of endemic species within a particular habitat or a suite of closely related endemic species; ▪ the population size of the rare species. For species of high conservation status, the presence of a potentially breeding pair might be sufficient to warrant HCV designation, for other species larger populations or sub-populations should be considered; ▪ the proportion of the national (or regional or global) population of the species that uses the FMU; ▪ the number of species that use the FMU seasonally, or the extent of habitat potentially suitable for them. ***If no, the HCV is not present within the FMU*** ***If yes, the HCVF is present: go to step 1.2.6***
		1.2.6. Delineate the HCVF The HCVF will be the area of forest required to maintain or increase the populations of the identified suite of rare species, using the knowledge on the ecology of the species in question, but will include: ▪ parts of the FMU that are critical habitats or resources for breeding (e.g., nesting or hibernation sites) and feeding of the species (e.g., seasonal feeding areas); ▪ areas that permit movement of individuals between these resources (e.g., corridors of closed forest that permit species unable to move through open areas to move between critical feeding sites) ▪ areas that protect these resources (e.g., mangrove forest fringing a coastal mudflat with exceptional seasonal concentrations of waterbirds).

HCV2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests		
	2.1 Determine whether the FMU has been identified as all or part of a priority landscape level forest	
		The FMU could potentially be all or part of a significant large landscape level forest if it is: ▪ all or part of an 'intact forest landscape'

		▪ all or part of a forest area that within a large, protected area (i.e., tens of thousands of hectares in size) that has been gazetted to maintain a natural landscape ▪ borders with a large protected area that has been created to maintain a natural landscape ▪ connects two or more protected areas, with the whole reaching at least tens of thousands of hectares in size ***If the FMU is in one of these situations, go to step 2.2.*** ***If not, go to step 2.3***
		2.2 Determine whether the FMU is critical to maintaining the integrity of the priority landscape *If the FMU is not a critical part of the forested landscape, this HCV is not present*
		2.3 Determine whether the FMU is part of a large landscape level forest If the FMU is all or part of a large forest area that is at least tens of thousands of hectares in size, then it is part of a large landscape level forest. This should also include landscapes where forest and non-forest vegetation forms a natural mosaic and where many species use both forest and non-forest ecosystems. ***If the FMU is part of a landscape level forest, then the next step is to decide whether the landscape is significant – go to step 2.4*** ***If the FMU is not part of a large landscape level forest, then this HCV is not present within the FMU***
		2.4 Determine whether large landscape level forest is significant The landscape is likely to be considered significant if large landscape level forests are: ▪ rare within the country; ▪ not well protected by the protected area network within the country; or if the large landscape level forest in which the FMU occurs: ▪ is one of the largest within the country; ▪ is less affected by recent human activities such as roads, forest clearance or oil and gas pipelines than most other such areas within the country; ▪ is more natural (in terms of natural disturbance patterns, species composition, stand structure, habitat composition and absence of exotic species) than most others within the country; ▪ contains populations of several species with large range requirements such as top predators or other large mammals) where these are uncommon within the country ***If the landscape in which the FMU occurs is potentially significant, go to step 2.2*** ***If it is not, the FMU does not contain this HCV***

HCV3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems		
	3.1. Decide whether priority ecosystems already identified within the FMU are HCVF	
		Have rare forest types identified within the FMU? These will normally be considered HCV if they have been identified through forestry regulations, or habitat conservation plan or have special legal status. If the FMU does not contain any areas of rare forest types identified as priorities then this HCV is not present. If such areas have not yet been identified, go to step **3.2**
	3.2 Determine whether the FMU contains any rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems that could potentially be HCVF	
		Determine whether the FMU is or part of hotspot
	3.3 Decide whether any of the forest types with in the FMU are rare, threatened or endangered	
		Consult relevant stakeholders to make an informed decision (Rwanda Forestry Authority, WCS) ▪ If the FMU contains one or more rare, threatened or endangered forest types, go to step 3.4 ▪ If none occurs, this HCV is not present.
	3.4 Determine whether any of the rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems within the FMU should be considered HCVF	
		Rare, threatened or endangered forest types within the FMU will normally be considered HCVF unless they are:

		▪ small patches of the forest type where several larger patches are known to exist locally, ▪ very degraded compared to other local examples of the forest type ▪ a type of forest that is well protected by the existing protected area network

HCV4: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations		
	4.1 Forests critical to water catchments	
		4.1.1 Identify whether any part of the FMU is identified as being vital to watershed protection by an appropriate existing process for protecting critical catchments. ▪ If all or part of the FMU falls within the highest protection category, then this will normally be considered HCV. ▪ If not, this HCV is not present within the FMU, *go to step 4.1.2*
		4.1.2 Identify whether the FMU is within a critical catchment These might include catchments with a high risk of catastrophic flooding or drought or that provide critical supplies for reservoirs, irrigation, river recharge, hydroelectric schemes, that protect fisheries or that are critical to the ecological functioning of protected areas. *Go to step 4.1.3*
		4.1.3 Assume that at least part of the FMU is HCVF unless it can be demonstrated that it is not critical to protection of the catchment Indications that an FMU may not play a critical role in protecting the catchment might include: ▪ If the catchment is still largely forested ▪ If the FMU covers a very small proportion of the catchment ▪ If there is doubt that the FMU is critical to maintaining the watershed functions of the catchment, it will be important to check this conclusion with independent experts. ***If the FMU does play a critical role in the catchment, go to 4.1.4*** ***If the FMU does not play a critical role, this HCV is not present within the FMU.***
		4.1.4 Delineate the HCV The HCV will be the area of forest that is critical to maintaining the watershed function of the critical catchment. In this case, the HCV can effectively be delineated through management proscriptions that are at least as precautionary as any existing forestry legislation
	HCV4.2 Forests critical to erosion control	
		4.2.1 Identify whether all or part of the FMU is identified as being critical to erosion control by an existing erosion protection prioritisation scheme ***If all or part of the FMU falls within the highest protection category, then this will normally be considered HCVF.*** ***If not, this HCV is not present within the FMU.***
		4.2.2 Identify whether the FMU is within a critical erosion area
		4.2.3 Assume that at least part of the FMU is HCVF unless it can be demonstrated that it is not critical. Indications that an FMU may not play a critical role in protecting against erosion and terrain instability include: ▪ if the FMU is contains only a small area of vulnerable soils or slopes ▪ if the topographic situation of the FMU protects it from potentially severe, erosion inducing rains ***If the FMU does play a critical role in the erosion protection, go to 4.2.4*** ***If not, this HCV is not present within the FMU***
		4.2.4 Delineate the HCVF The HCVF will be the area of forest that is critical to controlling severe erosion or terrain instability. The HCVF can effectively be delineated through management proscriptions that are at least as precautionary as any existing forestry legislation.
	4.3 Forests providing critical barriers to destructive fire	
		4.3.1 Determine whether all or part of the FMU is identified by an appropriate existing fire protection prioritisation scheme

		If all or part of the FMU falls within the highest protection category, then this will normally be considered HCVF. ***If not, this HCV is not present within the FMU.***
		4.3.2 Identify whether the FMU is in a region where there is a high risk of uncontrolled, destructive fire If the FMU is in a region that is prone to serious fires either historically or in recent years, then it could potentially be or contain HCV. If yes, determine if the FMU act as a barrier to the spread of uncontrolled, destructive fires. *Go to step 4.3.3*
		4.3.3 Assume that at least part of the FMU is HCVF unless it can be demonstrated that it is not critical Forests with in the high risk areas identified in step 4.3.4 will be normally assumed to contain this HCV unless: ▪ they do not contain forest types that naturally acts as a barrier to fire; ▪ the area covered by these forest types are too small to act as barriers against uncontrolled destructive fire; ▪ there are no human settlements or communities within or adjacent to the FMU; ▪ there are no places of important cultural value that (e.g. sacred places, archaeological sites) within or are adjacent to the FMU; ▪ there are no protected areas that contain threatened or endangered species or ecosystems within or are adjacent to the FMU.

HCV5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities		
	5.1 Is the FMU used by any local communities?	
		Indicators that the forest might provide important resources to local communities include: ▪ the presence, within or near the FMU, of any peoples that are typically dependent on the forest for their livelihoods; ▪ the presence of any such groups within the wider landscape who may use the FMU at times; ***If one or more such groups exist, go to step 5.2*** ***If no such group exists, this HCV is not present***
	5.2 Is the FMU likely to provide one or more 'basic needs' to these communities?	
		Potential basic needs include, but are not limited to: water for drinking and other daily uses; food, medicine, fuel, fodder, building and craft materials, unique sources of water for drinking and other daily uses, protection of agricultural plots against adverse microclimate (e.g., wind) ***If the forest could potentially provide basic needs, go to step 5.3.*** ***If not, the HCV is not present within the FMU***
	5.3 Does the FMU potentially provide irreplaceable levels of these resources?	
		If the forest could potentially be fundamental to the communities, or if the forest manager is unsure, go to step 5.4 If not, the HCV is not present within the FMU
	5.4 Plan and implement a programme of consultation with the communities in question	
		▪ What the community use the forest for ▪ Patterns of resource use (how much, when) and alternative sources ▪ What parts of the forest are particularly important for the resource ▪ Whether use of one resource conflicts with the maintenance of another HCV ▪ Whether resource use is sustainable
	5.5 Determine, in consultation with the communities, whether the basic need is fundamental and delineate the HCVF	
		Indicators that a forest is fundamental to local communities include when: ▪ A high proportion of the community's need comes from a particular forest; ▪ There are no readily available, affordable and acceptable alternatives; ▪ A community would suffer diminished health or well-being through reduced supply of a resource; ▪ A particular resource is a small proportion of a community's basic needs or is only used occasionally but is nevertheless critical (e.g. when a forest provides a modest proportion of overall food consumed but most of the protein, or when a forest provides famine food or provides a large proportion of food at particular times of year).

		If the basic need is fundamental to the community, then decide, in consultation with them, which parts of the FMU are critical to providing this resource. This will be the HCVF. ***If not, the HCV is not present within the FMU***

HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities'traditional cultural identity		
	6.1 Identify cultural groups that are likely to have a strong cultural association with forests	
		▪ The presence, within or near the FMU, of any peoples in voluntary isolation, indigenous peoples, self-governing local communities, communities that are dependent on the forest for their livelihoods as well as groups that are known to have strong cultural links with forest; ▪ the presence of any such groups within the wider landscape who may use the FMU for cultural reasons at times; *If one or more such groups exist, the HCV is potentially present, go to step 6.2* *If no such group exists, this HCV is not present*
	6.2 Plan and implement a programme of consultation with the communities in question	
		Indicators of potential cultural significance: ▪ sacred or religious sites ▪ specific areas that have historically been actively governed and regulated, ▪ specific areas with remnants from the past linked to the identity of the group (e.g., statues, megaliths etc), ▪ frequent use of forest products/materials for artistic, traditional, and social status purposes, ▪ stories about the forest, historical associations, amenity or aesthetic value; ▪ How long the community has been associated with a particular forest. ***Go step 6.3***
	6.3 Determine, in consultation with the communities, whether the forest is critical to the cultural identity of the community and delineate the HCVF	
		Possible indicators include: ▪ When change to a forest can potentially cause an irreversible change to traditional local culture (e.g., sacred burial grounds or sites linked to particular cultural or religious activities) ▪ When a particular forest provides a cultural value that is unique or irreplaceable of a forest (e.g. when a forest is used to gather materials for artistic, traditional, and social status purposes that are not present in, or available from, other local forests); ▪ When a value is 'traditional' to a community. Where a community has been associated with a particular forest for hundreds of years, then they are clearly traditional. When the community has arrived more recently, this becomes less clear.

Annex 2. List of RTE plant species (for reference)

SN	Scientific name	Kinyarwanda name	English name	Status
1	Acacia kirkii	Umunyaryera	Kirk's acacia	Endangered
2	Aframomum wuerthii			Vulnerable
3	Afrocanthium lactescens	Umukondokondo	Afrocanthium	Endangered
4	Albizia amara	Umunaniranzovu	Bitter albizia	Endangered
5	Bersama abyssinica	Umukaka	Winged bersama	Endangered
6	Blighia unijugata	Umuturamugina	Triangle tops	Critically Endangered
7	Casearia runsorica	Imbayu		Endangered
8	Chassalia subochreata	Ikibonobono		Endangered
9	Commiphora africana	Umudahwera	African myrrh	Endangered
10	Dombeya torrida	Umukore	Forest dombeya	Endangered
11	Dosternia nyungwensis			Vulnerable
12	Entandrophragma	Umuyove	African mahogany	Endangered
13	Erica johnstonii			Endangered
14	Harungana Montana	Umushayishayi		Endangered
15	Ixora burundiensis	Ikinesha, umuhotora		Endangered
16	Kigelia africana	Ikivungavungo	Sausage tree	Endangered
17	Lindackeria kiwuensis	Umunyagasozi,		Endangered
18	Lobelia mildbraedii			Critically Endangered
19	Lobelia petiolata			Vulnerable
20	Mimulopsis excellens	lgihwapfu,lmpwapfu		Endangered
21	Miscanthus violaceus			Endangered
22	Myrianthus holstii	Umwufe	Giant yellow mulberry	Vulnerable
23	Newtonia buchananii	Umukereko	Newtonia	Endangered
24	Nymphaea thermarum	Imposha	Lily plant	Critically Endangered
25	Ocotea usambarensis	Umutake, Umuganzo	Camphor	Endangered
26	Osyris lanceolata	Umusheshe	African sandalwood	Critically Endangered
27	Oxyanthus troupinii	Ingongo,		Vulnerable
28	Pentadesma reyndersii	Umwasa, urushehe		Endangered
29	Prunus africana	Umwumba	Red stinkwood	Endangered
30	Pterygota mildbraedii	Umuguruka	Mubende witch tree	Critically Endangered
31	Sterculia tragacantha	Rundi: lgikungwe	African tragacantha	Endangered
32	Strombozia scheffleri	Umushyika	Strombosia	Endangered
33	Symphonia globulifera	Umushishi	Symphonia, Boarwood	Endangered
34	Tabernaemontana odoratissima			Endangered
35	Vaccinium stanleyi			Vulnerable
36	Vernonia auriculifera	Igaragara		Critically Endangered

37	Xyris vallida			Critically Endangered
38	Zanthoxylum chalybeum	Intareyirungu	Knobwood	Endangered

Annex 3. List of RTE bird species (for reference)

	Scientific name	Kinyarwanda name	English name	IUCN Status
1	Balaemceps rex	Munwarukweto	Shoebill	Critically Endangered
2	Balearica regulorum	Umusambi	Grey Crowned Crane	Critically Endangered
3	Bucorvus leadbeateri	Ikigungumuka	Southern Ground-hombill	Critically Endangered
4	Microparra capensis		Lesser Jacana	Critically Endangered
5	Netta erythrophthalma		Southem Pochard	Critically Endangered
6	Polemaetus bellicosus		Martial Eagle	Critically Endangered
7	Psittacus enthacus	Kasuku	Grey Parrot	Critically Endangered
8	Terathopius Ecaudatus		Bateleur	Critically Endangered
9	Thalassornis leuconotus		White-backed Duck,	Critically Endangered
10	10. Torgos tracheliotus	Inkongoro	Lappet-faced Vulture	Critically Endangered
11	11. Trigonoceps occipitalis		White-headed Vulture	Critically Endangered
12	12. Ardeola idae		Madagascar Pond Heron	Endangered
13	13. Bradypterus graueri	Incenceberi	Grauer's Swamp-warbler	Endangered
14	14 Calamonastides gracilirostris		Papyrus Yellow Warbler	Endangered
15	15. Laniarius mufumbiri		Papyrus Gonoleck	Endangered
16	16. Lybius rubrifacies		Red faced Barbet	Endangered
17	17. Necrosynes monachus	Inkongoro	Hooded Vulture	Endangered
18	18. Neotjs denhami		Denham's Bustard	Endangered
19	Scleroptil levailllanti		Redwing Francolin	Endangered
20	Serinus koliensis		Papyrus Canary	Endangered
21	Cryptospiza shelleyi		Shelleys Crimsonwing	Vulnerable
22	Francolinus afer	Inkware	Red-necked Spurfowl Francolin	Vulnerable
23	Francolinus nobilis	Inkware	Handsome Francolin	Vulnerable
24	Kupeornis rufocinctus		Red-collared babbler	Vulnerable
25	Numida meleagris	Inkanga	Helmeted Guineafowl	Vulnerable
26	Pitta angolensis		African Pitta	Vulnerable

Annex 4. List of RTE Herpetofauna species (reference)

	Scientific Name	Kinyarwanda name	English		Status
1	Hyperolius castaneus		Brown reed frog		Critically Endangered
2	Leptopelis karissimbensis		Karisimbi tree frog		Critically Endangered
3	Python sebae	Uruziramire	African rock python	rock	Endangered
4	Xenopus wittei		Declawed frog	Witte's	Endangered