The Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC)
• A treaty between DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda
• Conservation of GVL as a single landscape
• Four pillars of collaboration
  – Landscape management
  – Law enforcement
  – Tourism development
  – Community Conservation
GVTC: How it came about

Early 1990:
Rangers from 3 countries agree to coordinate Gorilla monitoring across borders

9th Jan 2004
ICCN, UWA, ORTPN MoU

18th Oct 2005
Ministerial Tripartite declaration

15th July 2008
Inter-ministerial declaration

Informal birth of GVTC
Ranger efforts formerly recognized by PAAs
Birth of GVTC Executive Secretariat
Birth GVTC Formal engagement

GVTV Process was:
- a demand driven
- Bottom up
- Participatory and involving
- Rooted on best practices and lessons learned

- Dec 2014 Headquarter
- Oct. 2015 Treaty

About 25 years
Lessons Learned -
10 years

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Article 8: The organs of the collaboration framework

- The Summit
  - Council of Ministers
  - The Board
  - GVTC Executive Secretariat / GVTC-ES

Regional Forums on Transboundary Collaboration
Summary of How GVTC Functions

GVTC well being Philosophy

GVTC- The body

GVTC Circulation system - Mandate

Improved conservation of the GVL natural resources and Inclusive Growth

State actors
- Rwanda
- DRC
- Uganda

Private Sector
- NGOs
- CSOs
- None state actors
- Others

GVTC Executive Secretariat

Clearing House

Coordinate

Brokering/Mediation

M & E

Annual Conservation Status report

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GVTC and GVL

- Transboundary collaboration framework:
  - wildlife conservation
  - tourism development
- Treaty (DRC, Rwanda, Uganda), 2015
- 8 Protected Areas, 12000 km²
  - Virunga, Volcanoes, Bwindi, Mgahinga, Queen Elizabeth, Rwenzori, Semuliki, Sarambwe
- Diverse habitats, wildlife, people.
- Landscape management approach
GVTC Legal Mandate at a Glance

Guiding Principles for GVTC

• Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of partner states
• Equal status and treatment of partner states
• Poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood improvement
• Sustainable Development
• Community Participation

Objectives

1. To promote and coordinate conservation of biodiversity and other socio-cultural values within the Greater Virunga wildlife protected area network;
2. To develop strategies for Transboundary management of biodiversity
3. To promote and ensure coordinated planning, monitoring and evaluation of implementation of transboundary conservation and development projects;
4. To promote and coordinate tourism development in GVL
5. To secure sustainable funding for Conservation of GVL
6. To enhance and harmonise the generation and sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices for evidence based decision making
7. To Promote and support safety and security of wildlife resources and tourists within GVL
8. Engage in any other activity for attainment of treaty objectives

Considering State obligations

• Each Country has the mandate over its own resources as a Sovereign state

On the other hand, if the actions of each country has transboundary effects on conservation

• Fall under GVTC mandate
• GVTC required to make policies, programmes and plans to ensure Principles 1 to 4 realized
why? : GVL Value Chain

GVL Richness:
• Variety of Landscapes / Scenic Views
• Variety of ecosystems
• Richness in Biodiversity
• Under ground resource richness
• Fertile Soils
• Water Tower

GVL Opportunities:
• Tourism
• Agriculture
• Energy
• Ecosystem services for livelihood

Actors:
• Improved Livelihoods
• Reduced Poverty
• Peace and security
• Strong National/regional Economies

Legend:
- Alpine
- Giant Heather
- Bamboo
- Herbaceous
- Montane Forest
- Forest
- Woodland
- Wooded Grassland
- Bush/scrub
- Grassland
- Pastoralists Grassland
- Agriculture
- Palm cultivation
- Lava
- Water
- Swamp
- Settlement
Why?: GVL Threatened

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Chain</th>
<th>Actors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poaching</td>
<td>Species Decline</td>
<td>Lost Livelihoods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trafficking</td>
<td>Habitat degradation</td>
<td>(Poverty)</td>
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<td>Encroachment</td>
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<td>Insecurity</td>
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<td>Deforestation</td>
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<td>Weak National/regional Economies</td>
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<td>Extractive Industries</td>
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<td>Climate Change</td>
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<td>Vicious/re-occuring conflicts</td>
<td>Habitat degradation</td>
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<td>and insecurity</td>
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Collaboration

- Confidence Building among state parties, non-state actors and Local Communities – Leading towards Cooperation on Joint Natural Resources Management
- Bringing the state parties on the same table to discuss and dialogue on contagious issues across all sectors with Transboundary Natural resources management as the common ground
- Developing participatory natural resource management tools to increase buy in, ownership and participation
Achievements

Brokering & mediation

- Coordinated patrols between the three countries
- INES, OVG, ITFC – leading to W4V
- DRC/Uganda on Sarambwe border is at climax with JTC on board
- Lake Edward management conflict between (Agriculture, Water and Environment – Uganda and ICCN in Goma, Ishasha and Mbarara
- Musanze Tripartite meeting between DRC, Uganda and Rwanda for security, development and conservation with a signed communiqué of cooperation
- Bilateral dialogue meeting between in Kisoro and Buleera for security, illegal trafficking
- Bilateral between Uganda, Rwanda and DRC over the M23 incursions where GVTC handled the mediations thus stopping open conflict
- Gorilla Census activities in 2007, 2010, 2011, 2018
- Transboundary water project – water from Bugeshi (Rwanda) to Kibumba (DRC)
- Transboundary HWC with a conference in Rubavu in March 2019 – action plan
- Themed Bi-annual regional meetings between Uganda, Rwanda, DRC

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How?

Centre of Conservation information, Monitoring & Evaluation

- A Centre of Excellence has been established to share information (good practices, reports, research) across the GVL
- Open Access network (on-line forum for communication and networking)
- The status of the GVL communicated regularly through the Annual Conservation Report
The current

• The government contributions delayed due to the re-allocation processes as the requests happened out of the budgeting period

• Contributions expected between now and July 1 from all the three governments

• GVTC restructured to put most emphasis on the technical side

• Work plan restructures to emphasize transboundary collaboration
The future plans

- Fast Track treaty ratification
- Strengthening the GVTC as the main platform for transboundary efforts
- Develop and implement GVL tourism master plan including the promotion of GVL as a single tourism destination
- Facilitation for the implantation of the Zero Poaching strategy across the GVL
- Develop and implement GVL human wildlife conflict strategy
- Facilitate uniform area based rules for tourism management, revenue sharing and facilitate Livelihood programmes for communities around the GVL
- Fundraising capacity building for transboundary work
Sarambwe/Ishasha border marking