

	(methodology for tagging under development)			
	Reduction of inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	☒	☐	☐
	COVID-19	☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020241 Total estimated cost: EUR 3 262 595.22 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 3 262 595.22			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through grants (Virunga Foundation)			

1.2 Summary of the action

The action will support the European Green Deal¹, in particular the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030² and the Farm to Fork Strategy³. It contributes to SDG goals 15, 13, 12, 8 and 16 and the Planet, Peace and Prosperity components of the new European Consensus on Development. Sectors for intervention include general environment protection (DAC Code 410) and agriculture (DAC Code 311). The action also contributes to implementing the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking⁴.

This action is a special measure not linked to a programming document. A nation-wide Declaration of Crisis has been granted in the DRC between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. In North Kivu province, where the proposed action is situated, a triple crisis is affecting the local population: a sanitary crisis (Ebola and COVID), a security crisis (increase in massacres by militias), and a long-lasting humanitarian crisis further deteriorated by the 22 May volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo. These have also affected the Virunga National Park, which plays a significant role in upholding the rule of law locally, sustaining green jobs and providing basic services to the neighbouring populations (e.g. emergency restoration of electrical connections and water supply to the city of Goma).

The overall objective of this action is to support the recovery of Virunga National Park and North Kivu province, fostering a sustainable green and transformative economy in the region. The specific objectives of the action are: i) to strengthen law enforcement and stability in and around the park; ii) to reduce pressure on forest resources and mountain gorilla habitats; and iii) to accelerate green economic development through entrepreneurship and agricultural value chains.

The expected results are:

- strengthened capacity of Virunga rangers;
- strengthened community resilience, including through reducing their dependence on charcoal and encouraging agricultural production and transformation.

The action will be implemented in and around Virunga National Park, in North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Key stakeholders include public institutions in charge of natural resource management, conservation and humanitarian non-profit organisations, the private sector and the EU. The final beneficiaries are the local communities living from forest and biodiversity resources.

A contribution of EUR 3 262 595.22 will be made to the Virunga Foundation through a direct grant.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/WAP_EN_WEB.PDF