



# EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ECO-TOURISM AROUND THE VIRUNGA MASSIVE & RED ROCKS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN RWANDA



One of the leading economic casualties of the COVID-19 outbreak is tourism. The impacts in the tourism industry have a ripple effects into rural communities and wildlife conservation in Virunga-Massive since leaders grapple with how to best protect and save people's lives without considering most difficult economic, social, and environmental burden.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, due to the travel restrictions, tourists and conservation have been tempered which used to assist small and medium enterprises in the tourism and hospitality sector



The unwarranted situation brought about by COVID-19, the frequency of patrols have decreased due to limited resources following national lockdown measures which cut some programs for protected areas like ours of Virunga Massive

So there is a need for recovery funds to cushion protected areas which are the backbone for the tourism industry and conservation, the governments and international partners must support the wildlife tourism industry to address the social and economic consequences of the outbreak



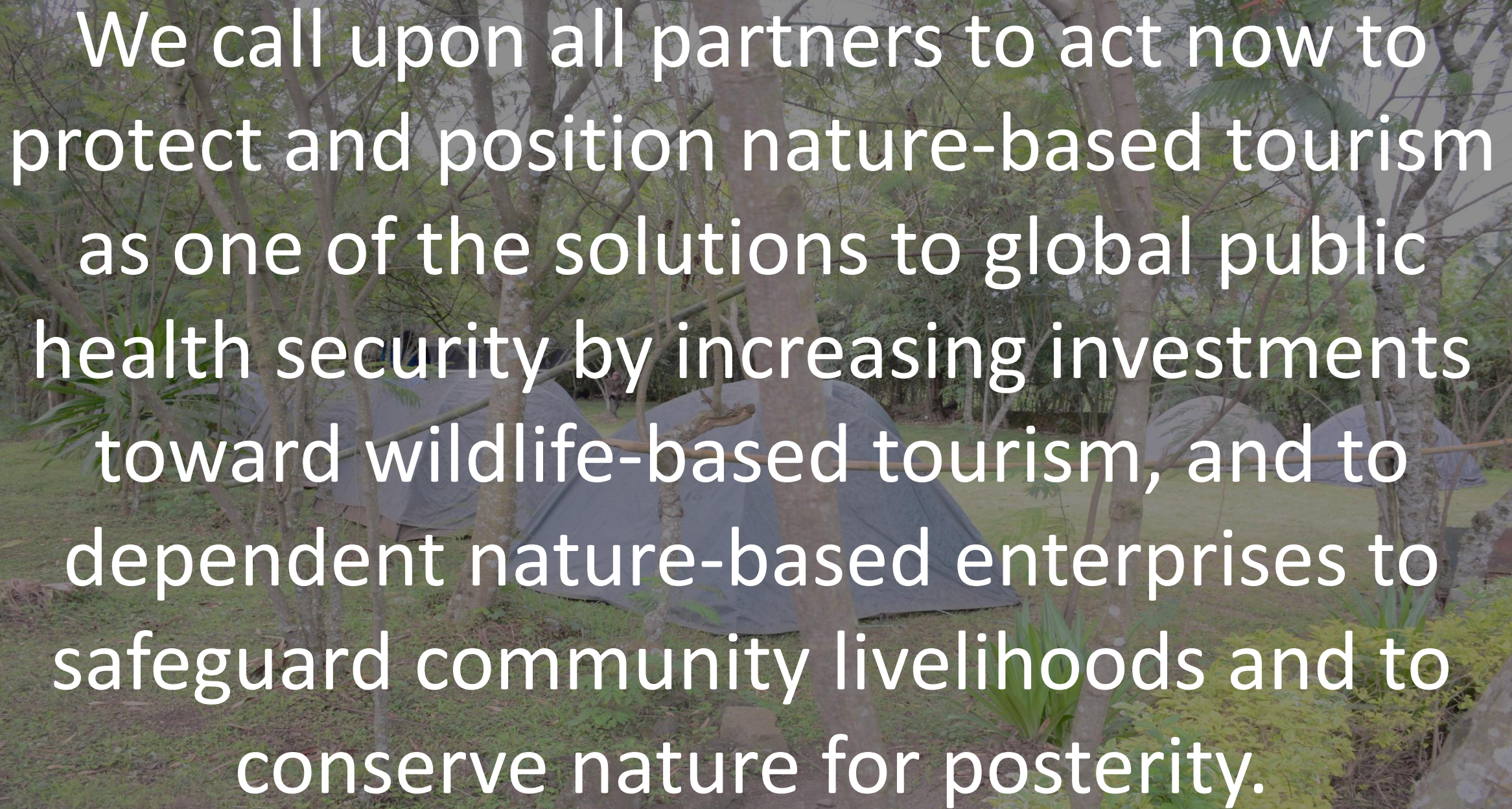
They are jobs that supported livelihoods and local economies in places where there are few other options and thereby incentivize people to protect the space needed for diverse species and healthy animal populations to thrive

So there is a need for urgent financial support for the measures that are meant to help protect jobs, sustain the self-employed, support companies' liquidity, operations and accelerate future recovery,



As Red Rocks Initiative, we are working alongside other like-minded institutions to advocate for tourism and wildlife conservation since we believe that the conversation needs to transcend beyond much-needed attention it deserves. We are committed for the better ensuring a better future for this tourism sector and the communities we support.



The background image shows a lush forest with several tents pitched on the ground, suggesting a nature-based tourism or research camp. The text is overlaid on this scene.

We call upon all partners to act now to protect and position nature-based tourism as one of the solutions to global public health security by increasing investments toward wildlife-based tourism, and to dependent nature-based enterprises to safeguard community livelihoods and to conserve nature for posterity.