

History of Kumbya Convention Centre

Situated on Lake Kivu, in the south west of Rwanda, Kumbya is a stunning 10-hectare peninsula of tropical lake habitat. For over 60 years, Kumbya has been a centre for retreat and spiritual refreshment in a setting that celebrates God's amazing creation, and as a result has been protected from the deforestation and erosion that have affected the surrounding hillsides. It is very tranquil environment, unique in East Africa, containing at least 114 different species of birds, mammals such as lake otters and vervet monkeys, and hundreds of varieties of indigenous trees and flora.



The Kumbya Convention Centre and its 6 simple brick-built cabins are used for an annual conference for around 200 missionaries and Christian workers from the Great Lakes Area. The cabins are also used by the Kumbya Convention members and friends at other times of the year for holidays and short breaks.

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Business Plan

A full business plan including budgets is being finalised. We anticipate that this will be available for potential investors in August 2009. The start up budget for Phase 1 is anticipated to be in the order of \$250,000. We will be seeking investments in multiples of \$1,000.

Our Proposal

As a development that will incorporate the preservation and enhancement of this unique ecosystem, with sustainable long-term community development and education projects, we do not promise our investors a quick return on their capital. However, they will have the satisfaction of knowing they are part of a remarkable and worthwhile project.

If you would like to keep track of our progress, and be informed about the investment opportunity when we're ready, please contact us via our blog on

www.kumbyaedenretreat.blogspot.com




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Vision for Kumbya Eden Retreat

In 2009, Kumbya will develop a tourist destination open to the public - Kumbya Eden Retreat. With the extraordinary variety of indigenous wildlife and vegetation, it will be an environmental haven for nature-lovers and families. Travelers too will have an opportunity to experience the breathtaking scenery from one of the three types of accommodation – family cabins, safari style tents suitable for couples or small families, and a small number of camping sites. As well as relaxing in this beautiful and tranquil environment, guests will be able to enjoy birdwatching tours on foot or in dugout canoe, swimming, sailing, kayaking, and mountain biking.

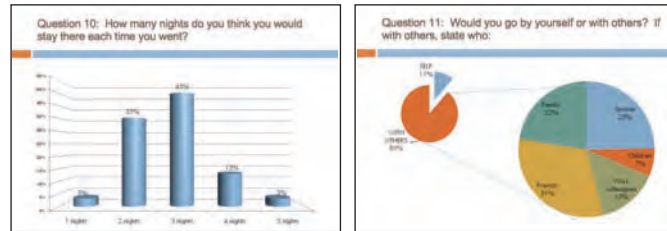
To maintain the pristine condition of Kumbya, we will strive to uphold high environmental standards at Kumbya Eden Retreat. These will include eco-friendly toilets, rainwater catchment systems and solar energy usage. As far as possible, materials, labour and food will be sourced locally, and profits from the retreat will be invested into enhancing the natural habitat and local community development.



In the future we hope to reforest Gako Island, a small island under our ownership, and establish it as a natural reserve - potentially for a rehabilitation centre for injured or endangered animals.

Market Research

Currently, there are no resorts or hotels in the immediate area – the closest comparable hotels are at Kibuye, a 2 ½ hour drive to the north. Extensive market research amongst tour operators as well as Rwandans, expatriate residents and tourists has showed significant demand for this type of accommodation in this area. We anticipate catering to mid-budget travelers, expatriates and Rwandans looking for a getaway. We will have a tiered pricing structure which will make the retreat affordable for missionaries, volunteers and others on tight budgets.



We plan to offer simple menus of fresh, locally sourced food, as well as packed picnics for those travelling or visiting Nyungwe Forest National Park. These will also be available to those using the existing cabins which form part of the Convention Centre.

Management Structure

Kumbya Eden Retreat is wholly owned by the Kumbya Convention Centre, and managed by a board drawn from its members and associates. A well-trained and remunerated Rwandan manager and staff team will be recruited to run the hotel when the construction of Phase 1 is nearing completion.

Current Phase of Kumbya Eden Retreat

Having decided to develop the retreat, planning work started in earnest in early 2009, with the arrival of a team of architects, engineers and designers from Engineering Ministries International East Africa. Phase 1 of the master plan included surveying the area, building designs for a reception area, main dining area, and the 4 cabin/tent accommodations, and plans to remodel an existing family cabin on the Convention Centre site.

Currently, the work is continues to remove non-native trees and plants, and replant indigenous vegetation. We are collaborating with conservationists based in nearby Nyungwe Forest National Park to replant missing indigenous species and thus enhance the biodiversity of the peninsula.

The long term plan for the Retreat includes four to six more luxury tent sites and a second family cabin, together with staff accommodation. Others of the existing cabins in the Convention Centre may also be improved to provide alternative simple accommodation options for families and groups.

However, we are determined to maintain the tranquility of the peninsula, and not over-stress the fragile ecosystems, so will consider carefully the impact of any further development before proceeding.

