

Modus Safaris UG Limited

Sustainability Report 2025

Message from Management

At Modus Safaris, we believe tourism should be a positive force for nature and communities. In 2025, we focused on strengthening our commitment to responsible tourism by deepening our relationships with local suppliers, refining our slow-travel itineraries, and improving how we communicate sustainability to our guests.

We are proud of the progress made this year and recognize that sustainability is a continuous journey. We remain committed to learning, improving, and contributing meaningfully to Uganda's tourism sector.

— Management, Modus Safaris UG Limited

About Modus Safaris

Modus Safaris UG Limited is a Ugandan-owned tour operator specializing in tailor-made safaris across Uganda. Our focus areas include:

- Gorilla and chimpanzee trekking
- Wildlife and cultural safaris
- Slow and sustainable travel itineraries
- Community-based tourism experiences
- Educational and research travel

We operate across key regions including Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, Kidepo, Kibale, Eastern Uganda, and Lake Victoria.

Our Sustainability Commitment

In 2025, our sustainability work was guided by three core principles:

- **Protect nature:** Respect wildlife, ecosystems, and protected areas
- **Empower communities:** Support local livelihoods through tourism
- **Operate ethically:** Maintain transparency, fairness, and professionalism

Our Sustainability Policy and Action Plan align with Travelife principles and inform our daily operations.

Sustainability Goals for 2025

Our key objectives for the year were:

- Reduce use of single-use plastics on trips
- Increase inclusion of community-based activities in itineraries
- Strengthen use of locally owned lodges and suppliers
- Improve client awareness of responsible travel practices
- Strengthen internal understanding of sustainability among staff

Environmental Impact & Actions

In 2025, we implemented the following actions:

- Encouraged all guests to carry reusable water bottles through pre-departure communication
- Prioritized lodges using solar power in Bwindi, Lake Bunyonyi, and Lake Mburo
- Improved route planning to reduce unnecessary driving between destinations
- Regularly serviced our safari vehicle(s) to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions

Example impact:

On several gorilla itineraries, guests used refillable bottles at lodges, reducing the need for purchasing bottled water during trips.

Social & Community Impact

Community engagement remained central to our work in 2025:

- Included community activities in approximately 70% of our itineraries
- Worked with local guides in Bwindi (Ruhija and Buhoma) and Lake Bunyonyi
- Promoted visits to women's craft groups in Kabale and Batwa-led cultural experiences near Bwindi
- Used community canoe guides on Lake Bunyonyi for non-motorized lake experiences

Guest feedback:

“Meeting the local community guides near Bwindi was one of the most meaningful parts of our journey.” – Client from Germany

Economic Contribution

Our operations contributed to the local economy in the following ways:

- Approximately 80% of accommodation partners used were locally owned Ugandan lodges
- All driver-guides engaged were Ugandan nationals

- Regular use of small local suppliers such as craft markets, community guides, and village-based tourism enterprises

While exact financial figures are not always available, we intentionally structure itineraries to ensure tourism income remains within local communities.

Client Engagement & Responsible Travel

In 2025, we strengthened communication with clients on responsible travel:

- Shared a Guest Code of Conduct with most clients before travel
- Provided guidance on wildlife etiquette before gorilla and chimpanzee tracking
- Explained cultural respect practices during community visits
- Encouraged guests to avoid giving money directly to children and instead support organized community initiatives

Many clients expressed appreciation for understanding how their travel could be more meaningful and respectful.

Staff & Internal Practices

As a small but growing company, we focused on building a culture of responsibility:

- Discussed sustainability practices during team briefings with guides and drivers
- Encouraged guides to educate guests on conservation and cultural respect
- Promoted mutual respect, fairness, and professionalism in daily operations

While training remains informal, sustainability awareness has become part of our operational culture.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

We acknowledge areas that require further improvement:

- Documentation of sustainability actions needs to be more systematic
- Not all suppliers currently provide clear sustainability information
- Time constraints sometimes make it difficult to include community activities in every itinerary

These challenges have helped us clarify our priorities for the coming year.

Progress Against Action Plan

Objective	What We Planned	What We Achieved	Status
Reduce plastic use	Encourage reusable bottles	Included in most pre-trip briefings	In progress
Community activities	Include at least one per itinerary	Implemented in most trips	Achieved
Local suppliers	Prioritize local lodges	Majority of suppliers are Ugandan-owned	Achieved
Client awareness	Share responsible travel guidance	Communicated to most clients	In progress
Staff awareness	Discuss sustainability with guides	Informal briefings conducted	Achieved

Sustainability Goals for 2026

Based on our learning, we aim to:

- Develop a simple supplier sustainability checklist
- Improve record-keeping of sustainability actions
- Share responsible travel information with 100% of clients
- Increase use of eco-certified or clearly eco-conscious lodges
- Explore partnerships with at least one conservation-focused organization

Stakeholder Feedback

Clients:

Guests consistently value cultural experiences, community interactions, and learning about conservation.

Community partners:

Local guides and craft groups expressed appreciation for continued collaboration and income opportunities.

Staff:

Guides value being part of a company that promotes respectful tourism rather than purely commercial experiences.

Conclusion

2025 was an important year of growth and reflection for Modus Safaris. We strengthened our identity as a responsible tour operator and laid stronger foundations for future sustainability improvements.

We thank our clients, community partners, guides, and suppliers for being part of this journey and look forward to deepening our positive impact in the years ahead.

Contact Information

Modus Safaris UG Limited
Email: info@modussafaris.com
Location: Kampala, Uganda