BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

ECONOMIC VALUE OF RECREATIONAL SERVICES AT THE EDGE OF BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK: A CASE STUDY OF BUHOMA SITE, KANUNGU DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA

BY

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A RESEARCH DISSERTATION REPORT SUBMITTED IN THE PARTIAL FULLFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF TO BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

NAMASALI CAMPUS, JUNE 2014

DECLARATION

I **MUGISHA RONALD** hereby declare that this research report is a result of my independent commitment and has never been submitted either in the same or different kind to this or any other institution for any academic qualification.

Signed..... Date.27TH JUNE, 2014

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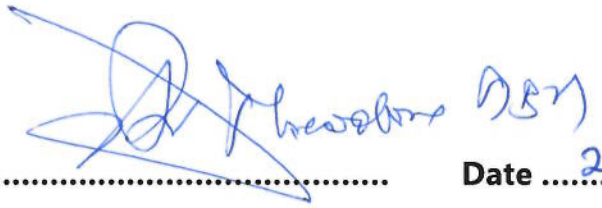
APPROVAL

This is to certify that .....MUGISHA RONALD..... did research and this report is a true representation of the findings. I am therefore recommending that this report be submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University.



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SUPERVISOR

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my guardians,Uncle NGIRA CHRISTOPHER, Aunt ZAWEDDE LANE for their help and love in my education carrier ever since I lost my parents. I also dedicate this report to my sisters Orishaba Sandra, Natukunda Gift, Kembabazi Brenda, Tusubiira Christine, Lydia, to my brothers Kisakye Deogratious, Mwebaze Gideon, Mwesigwa Patrick, Wesige Godfrey, Mugagga Meshach and to my friends, N. Mukisa Suzan, Segawa Frank, Kyomugasho Sharon, Akampumuza Aggrey, Turyahabwe Davis, Atuhaire Denis and Tumwine Gerald for the love, care and support toward this research.

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at estimating the economic value of recreational services at the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. A case study of Buhoma site in Kanungu District, Western Uganda was used to generalize this value to the entire park. The overall objective was to highlight the importance of recreational services in and around Bwindi impenetrable national park.An occasional study type was done on the site and the study employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect data, analyze and present it. The methods of data collection used were interviews, questionnaires and field observations and later analyzed with different statistical packages. The data was collected from a sample of 70 (Seventy) respondents found at the site at the time of the survey. These included both Ugandan and foreign visitors to the park. The study used a combination of the Travel Cost Method and the Contingent Valuation Method of valuation to estimate the total economic value of beach recreation in Uganda and from the findings, it was established that beach recreation activities are of a significant economic importance. The economic value of recreational services of BINP in this study was estimated at USD 79436.16 (UGX 199,384,761.6). Basing on the findings of the study it is recommended that local communities be fully involved in the management of the BINP and investment into the park be boosted especially in renovation to enhance its beauty and increase recreational value.

Key Words: *Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Travel cost method, Contingent valuation method, Beach Recreation, Total Economic value*

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

One of the main purposes of setting up a national park is to preserve biodiversity by providing shelter for wild animals and plants. While they act as a conservation of animals and plants, some national parks are also open for visitors for recreation purposes.UCN defines a national park as "place where the ecosystem is not materiality altered by human exploitation and occupation, where the park is protected by the highest competent authority of the country and where visitors are allowed for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreation purpose" (Dobson 1996).

Increasingly, Ugandans are placing great demand on wilderness areas for a variety of products including biodiversity, wildlife, habitants, and recreation opportunities. Moreover sustainable multiple use and management is increasingly recognized as an important environmental policy tool, while non-consumptive nature services output like preservation, wildlife and outdoor recreation are required to be considered in resource allocation decision making on ecosystems. With rising of outdoor recreation demand in protected areas, there has been a growing concern with methods of rationing recreation use. The method of rationing that is usually recommended by economists is pricing or valuing (Baumol & Oates 1975).

The method will highlight the dominant functions of BINP from user's point of view such that it will become a useful technique of BINP recreation service valuation. In order to assess the recreational benefit of BINP, investigations on the park user's behavior to infer economic value on travel expenses to consume recreation service is employed. The travel cost method will then be utilized to estimate the recreational benefit on economic value of Bwindi National Park visitation. The recreation demand in park based on travel cost method will also be identified through this study. Protected areas have remained

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