

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

PALLISA CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

**REPORT FOR FIELD ATTACHMENT CARRIED OUT IN MOUNTAIN ELGON
NATIONAL PARK**

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FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE IN TOURISM AND
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

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DECLARATION

I ARAYO FIONAH BU/UG/2024/5081 declare that this report is my own original work and has not been submitted by any student of any university or any Academic institution for any award.

Signature.....*Fionah*.....

Date.....*19/2/2026*.....

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this report has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor's Degree of Tourism and Travel Management (BTT).

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

Name. Wampande Josephine Ahmed

Signature. [Handwritten Signature]

Date. 19/2/26

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to the Almighty God, my beloved mother Mrs. Apio Betty, my Aunt Mrs. Arayo Kotilda, my brothers and sisters, my beloved lecturer Mr. wampande jowalie Ahmed (H.O.D) for their constant support and to everyone committed to sustainable tourism and conservation of natural resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely thank the Almighty God for the strength and determination throughout the field study period.

I extend my appreciation to my academic supervisor Mr. Wampande Jowalie Ahmed for the guidance given in the preparation of this report.

I also acknowledge the institution and my fellow students for their support during the field visit to Mountain Elgon National Park.

ABSTRACT

This recess term report covers details and activities carried out at Mountain Elgon National Park for a period of eight (8) weeks as explained below;

Chapter one, highlights information concerning introduction of internship, objectives of internship, historical background of Mt Elgon national park, organizational structure of the park, departments, accommodation like cottages, accessibility routes, maps showing the geographical location and size of the park. It also has the history, mission, vision, core values and the organizational structure of Uganda wildlife Authority (UWA).

Chapter two, this chapter covers the materials and methods used in the field to attain internship objectives.

Chapter three, presents a discussion on the results attained from my internship project, basing on the activities carried out during the internship

Chapter four, presents the skills learnt during the field attachment, how relevant to my professional and career growth. This chapter also continues to evaluate the strength and weakness of Mt Elgon national park. It also highlights other activities assigned by the field supervisor, level of accomplishment and how relevant the activities were to my professional growth.

Chapter five, covers the general conclusions and recommendations covering chapter two, three, and four.

ABBREVIATIONS

BTT- Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Travel Management

HOD- Head Of Department

MENP-Mountain Elgon National Park

Mt-Mountain

MTWA- Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities

UTB-Uganda Tourism Board

UWA-Uganda Wildlife Authority

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE RECESS TERM TRIP

1.0 Introduction.

This chapter includes background information, goals of the recess term, historical background of the park, geographical location and size, topology and climate of the park, background information about UWA and population status, socio-economic status of the park.

1.1 Background information.

Since 1970s, in developing countries universities started introducing academic departments to promote and enhance the teaching of tourism at university level. This arose from recognition that tourism was seriously taking up a position as the world's single largest industry. This scenario has not changed in any way; instead, the 21st century forecasts indicate that there is great potential for continued growth and development in the tourism sector than other sectors. This is very true; take a case study in the east African region where even Uganda lies. Tourism as a professional academic discipline is not well established in most universities and institutions in developing countries. The situation is worsened by the few fully established tourism programs in African universities. The department of geography, Makerere University due to this need it started a Bachelor's of Tourism program in 1997 as a stepping stone for the establishment of the department of tourism and hospitality management in future.

Tourism has well defined academic community and borrows some concepts and theories from other disciplines to help investigate and explain particular phenomenon and practices of tourism. In the revised tourism programme, we consider a substantial contribution from three disciplinary perspectives necessary for a bachelor of tourism that operates on the knowledge-based platform indicated below

Environmental and geographical sciences, economic sciences, (marketing is the core discipline, but economics and management sciences are relevant), social sciences (Sociology

is the core discipline, but contributions from psychology, anthropology, history, law, and political science are regarded relevant.)

The main purpose of this attachment is to help students to relate what they learn in class with real field conditions. This is meant to develop their ingenuity and skills to become well trained and groomed professionals as required by the industry. Therefore, students are advised to give training the due attention demanded.

1.2 GOALS OF RECESS TERM

The recess term trip to Mt Elgon national park had the following goals;

- a) To get acquainted with tourism and hospitality enterprises and organizations.
- b) To understand peculiarities of their operations and the role of team and carrying out their activities.
- c) To develop ability to blend into a team, understand structure and operations of the enterprise.
- d) To develop the capacity of analyzing, assessing and developing suggestions for business improvement.

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MT. ELGON NATIONAL PARK

Mt Elgon national park, is named after Mt. Elgon, majorly protecting the higher slopes of the mountain, geographically the 1145km² mountain, is believed to had it its first eruption 24 million years ago and the second one 12 million years ago. This led to the formation of many physical features liked caldera, rugged peaks which have boosted tourism in the region.

Basing on my area of attachment hence the forest exploration center on Mt elgon in Kapkwai, Kapchworwa district, the area was subjected to massive encroachment and illegal cutting down of trees to get land for settlement and agriculture between 1971 to 1986, due to political instability in the country at the time, which caused insecurity, and people in the area started distributing plots among themselves though the area was first gazetted as a forest reserve in 1938,.

This forced the European community in amidst to enforce conservation between 1988 to 1992, to launch a forest restoration programme, where by it started with sensitizing the community the usefulness of conserving the forest.

It was this non-government organization that engaged the community to replant back the forest. It started with collecting seedlings of the original species and making the nursery beds, they also employed the local community in the forest restoration process. The area of the forest which was rehabilitated was over 25000 hectares of land under the programme known as Natural high Forest restoration program. Finally, the forest was gazetted as a national park protecting the forest, higher slopes of Mt Elgon, with various features like waterfalls, valleys, peaks, and many wildlife species.

Originally the Mountain was inhabited by two tribes hence the Sabiny and the Bagisu. The two tribes are united by circumcision however, the Bagisu are famous known of the **Imbalu** culture and the **kadodi dance**, which involves the circumcision of the boys. The Bagisu are also known as the Bamasaba and they majorly live in Mbale, while the Sabiny lives in Kapchworwa.

Currently the national park can be accessed using various trails or gates such as the Sipi trail, Sasa trail, Bushiri trail due to the huge size of the national park. The national park is now a home of over 300 recorded bird species, various wildlife species like Blue Colobus monkey, Baboons and among others, which attracts hundreds of tourists every year.

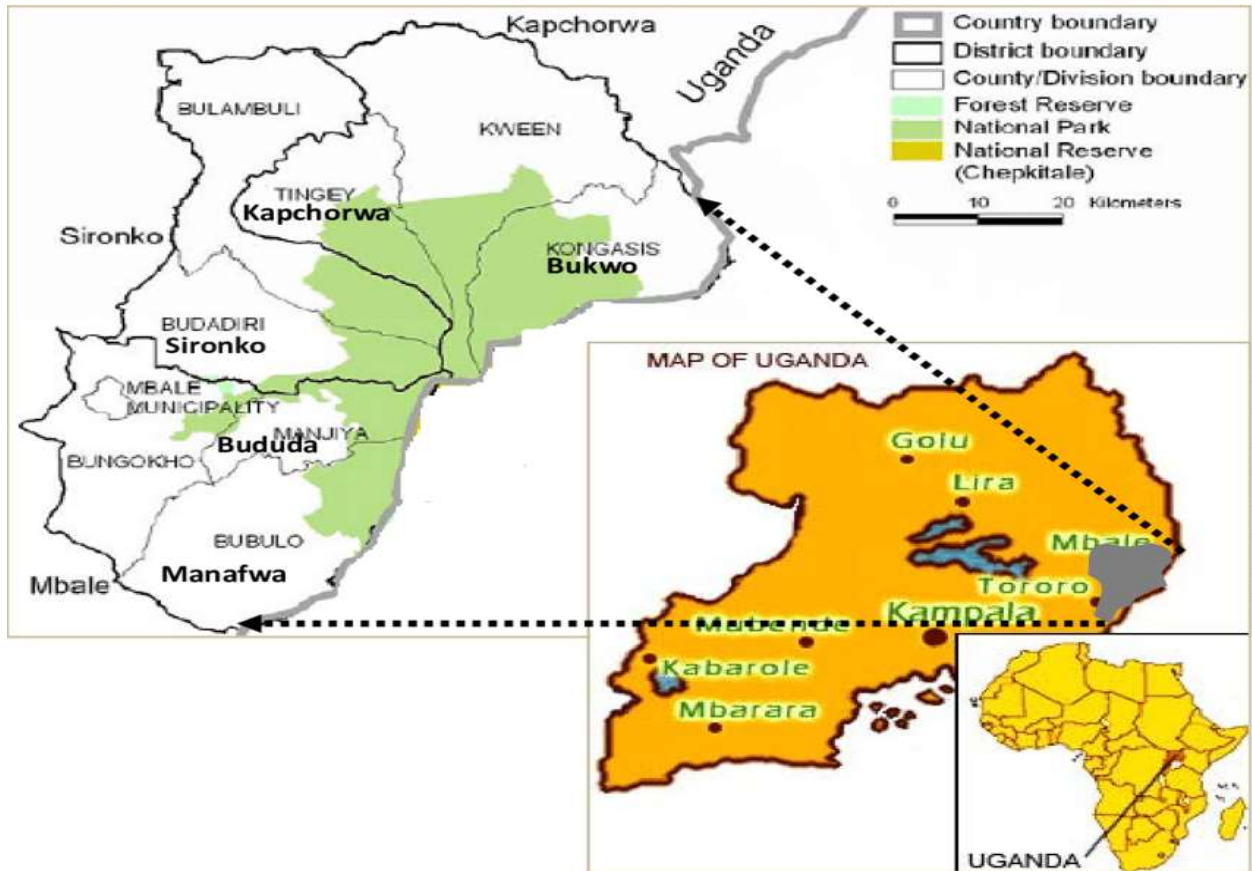
1.4.0 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND SIZE OF THE MNP

Mt. Elgon national park is geographically located in Eastern Uganda on the boarder that bisects Kenya and Uganda. The mountain covers over 1,145km² protecting the higher slopes of mountain Elgon and species. The largest part of the Mountain is found in Uganda according to Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet who was one of our field guides. The national park is wide and covers eight (8) districts such as Mbale, Bududa, Bukwo, Manafa, Sironko, Kapchworwa, Kween and Bulambuli.

The mountain has various peaks for example Wagagai peak, which is the highest peak and measures a height of 4321meters ASL, according to Mr.Kiplangat David Bomet an education assistant and a guide at the national park, Jackson peak which is 4166 meters ASL, Mubiyi peak

which is 4215 meters ASL, Lower Elgon which is 4301 meters ASL and, he said tourists to access the Wagagai peak using Sipi trail, it can take 4 to 5 days while trekking. In continuation he also said that if it hadn't been volcanic eruption which reduced the height of Mt. Elgon, it could have been one of the tallest mountains in East Africa and Africa at large. However currently, Mt. Elgon is the fourth (4th) highest Mountain in East Africa and the eighth (8th) on the African continent

1.4.1 A map of Uganda showing the location of MENP



1.5 TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE OF MENP

The national park, receives a conducive climatic condition, which is categorized by evergreen forest and rainfall amounting to 1,270mm throughout the year, due to these rains the mountain collects a lot of water hence the mountain being referred as the water “catchment zone” according to Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet, he also added that the national park supplies a lot of water to areas in Bukedea region.

The mountain has various physical features, which includes water falls, peaks, thick forests, rivers, largest caldera in the whole world with a diameter of eight (8) km² and an area of forty (40) km², valleys, caves and many others, such features attract a lot of tourists every year to come and explore what the Pearl of Africa is blessed with.

However, the mountain has basically four vegetation zones that is to say; the mountain vegetation type between 2,000meters to 2,500meters ASL, Bamboo zone between 2500meters ASL to 3000meters ASL, Heath and moorland between 3000meters ASL to 3300meters ASL, scanty shrubs and grasses between 3300meters ASL to 4321meters ASL.

The climate in the region is so favorable that it allows the community to carryout farming activities throughout the year; this is due to the heavy rainfalls and fertile soils that at times it even causes flooding of the rivers and landslides.

1.6 BACK GROUND INFORMATION ABOUT UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY (UWA).

1.6.0 Introduction

This is a semi-autonomous government agency established in1996 by an act of parliament, The Uganda Wildlife Statue 1996 (later upgraded into the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap.315 of the laws of Uganda. UWA emerged from the merger of the former Uganda National parks and the former game department and was currently again merged with Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC). UWA is mandated to protect wildlife in and around protected of Uganda. It conserves and sustainably manages wildlife and wildlife protected areas, coordinates, monitors and supervises activities related to wildlife management in Uganda. With 10 national parks and 12 wildlife reserves under it, UWA's role in managing the country's tourism industry and attracting investors to the sector has been a significant. It also manages 5 community wildlife management areas and 13 wildlife sanctuaries.

1.6.1 UWA'S motto

“Conserving for Generations”

1.6.2 UWA's Vision

“To be a global leader in wildlife conservation”

1.6.3 UWA's mission

“To conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wildlife and protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighboring communities and other stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community.”

1.6.4 Goals and Objectives

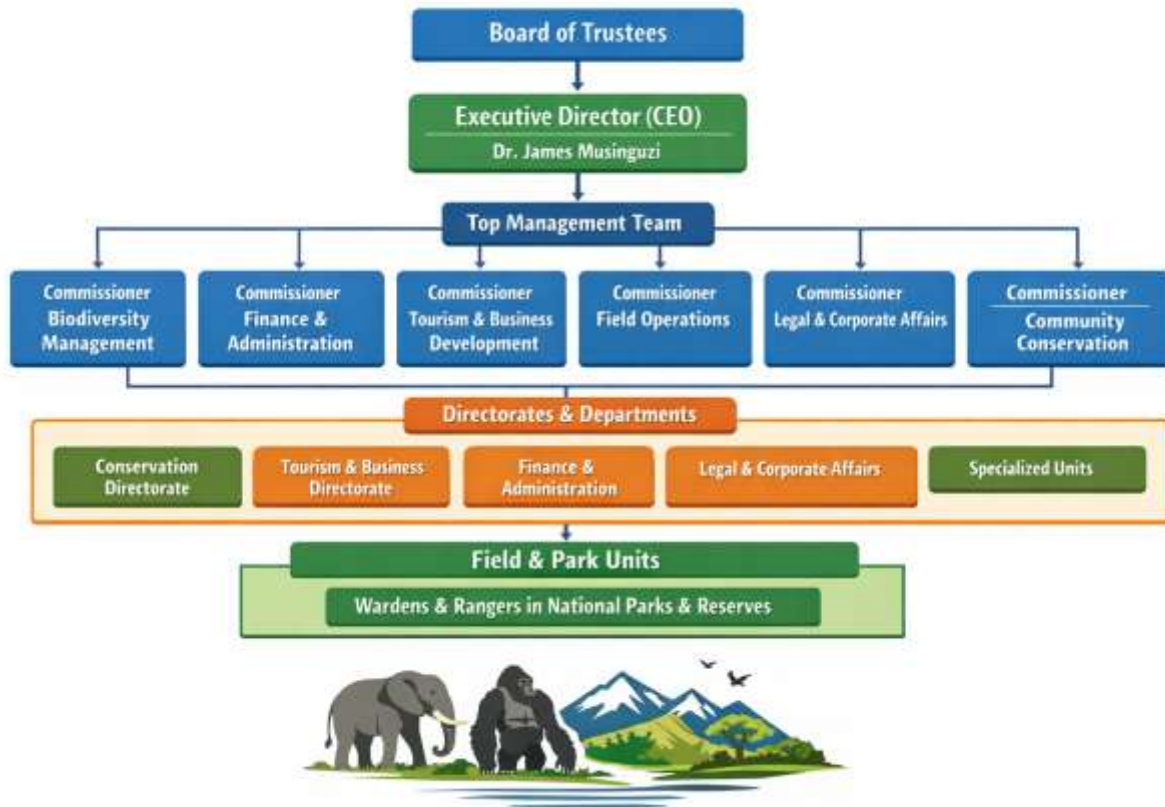
- To conserve the protected area network in order to enhance their social, economic and environment values to mankind.
- To enhance community benefits from wildlife conservation and protected area management.
- To promote a sustainable development based on social conservation practices.
- To build relationships and good will among partners and stakeholders to enhance UWA's effort to adhere its mission.
- To integrate culture and indigenous knowledge into conservation of natural resources and protected area management.
- To get the opportunity to interact with stakeholders and potential employers thus understanding field situations.

1.6.5 UWA'S core values

- **Strong commitment to conservation;** Responsible staff upholding conservation ethics and values in the sense of love for nature.
- **Excellent services;** An organization with hospitable staff offering a range of services in line with best practice to the satisfaction of customers.
- **Teamwork;** An organization whose staff take collective responsibility and own decisions taken in the best interest of the organization to achieve a common goal.
- **Professionalism;** An organization with competent staff, striving for excellence with selflessness, compassion and empathy accepting a commitment to serve with dedication and self-improvement within the profession.

- **Integrity;** An organization with accountable, honest, trustful and morally upright of one's action and adherence to moral and ethical principle.

1.6.6 UWA'S ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.



1.7 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE NATIONAL PARK

The national park is majorly shared by two tribes thus the Bagisu and the Sabiny. The Bagisu live in Mbale district while the sabiny reside in Kapchorwa district. All these are united by a culture of circumcision according to Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet, however the Bagisu are famous known for the Imbalu culture which involve the circumcision of the boy whereas the Sabiny are known for the female genital mutilation.

The two tribes living in the region majorly practice agriculture as a major economic activity; this is because the area is favoured with fertile soils and favorable climate. Apart from agriculture the region also has variety of industries and processing factories like Sino industrial park in Mbale. These have provided employment opportunities to the people, which have improved their standards of living by earning a living.

1.8 POPULATION STATUS.

The 1,145km mountain accommodates a variety of bio-diversity. These include various flora and fauna. Among the fauna that is found in the national park include elephants, antelopes, buffalos and others. It also has a wide range of tree species such as Elgon teak, Prunus Africana, Hagenia Abyssinia. The national park has over 300 recorded bird species, such as the endangered lammergeyer, sun birds, African blue fly catcher and many others.

The population of Mount Elgon is almost entirely rural and depends on subsistence agriculture, with approximately 564,000 people living in the 3 districts.

CHAPTER TWO

MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.0 Introduction

This chapter gives the details of the methods and materials used in the field, to achieve the recess objectives while in the field.

2.1 Methods

A method can be defined as a technique used to accomplish a certain activity or objective. The following were the methods I used while in the field.

2.1.2 Photographing method

This method involves the use of a camera, to collect information through capturing pictures or images of items or objectives. By the help of this method I was able to capture pictures of the vegetation zones found on the mountain such as montane vegetation, Bamboo, Health and moor land, and scanty vegetation.

I was also able to capture many tree species found in the forest, such as Prunus Africana, Elgon teak, Acacia tree and many others.

2.1.3 Observation method

It is a method of data collection that involves the use of sensory organs like eyes and ears. Though this method of collecting data is effective, it requires one to be attentive, in all circumstances.

Through the use of this method, I was able to observe and identify, physical features in the national park, which are also part of the products and services offered by Mt. Elgon national park, I was able to observe peaks like Mubiyi peak, waters like Chebonet falls, sipi falls and one of the caves found in the park like Kapkwai cave.

Using the same method of data collection, I was able to observe many tree species found at the forest exploration in Kapkwai, with the help of our guides hence Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet

and Mr. Mugalula Bashir, I observed tree species like Prunus Africana and I was able to identify that it has narrow leaves and a reddish wood.

2.1.4 Interview method

This is a method of data collection that involves facial interaction and asking verbal questions and as the respondent gives answers. It is very effective and an easy method of data collection as firsthand information is collected. Through the use of this method of data collection I and my fellow colleagues collected a lot of information while in the field.

Through the use of this method, I was able to ask about various tree species during nature walk through the forest where I was able to know more tree species like Prunus Africana, Anigeria Adolf -freiderici, flat topped acacia tree and among others from Mr. Mugalula Bashir.

2.1.5 Recording

It is a method of data collection that involves noting down every important aspect, during the process of data collection. Through this method I used tools like a pen and note book. I was able to use this method effectively to collect a lot of information as described below;

I was able to record down various products and services offered by the national park, during the class session by Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet, according to him, the national park offers products such as mountain cave viewing, water falls viewing, climbing, hiking, forest trekking, birding and many more.

I also used the method to record down different tree species found in the forest, according to Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet who was one of our field guides, he informed us about various tree species like Elgon teak, which is endemic to Mountain Elgon, Prunus Africana and many more, including their uses such as Prunus Africana which is used to treat prostate cancer.

2.2.0 MATERIALS USED;

2.2.1 Camera

A camera is an electronic gadget that captures images, processes them and stores them on the memory. The images can be shared on the computer for editing and sharing. With the help of our camera men hence Isabirye Hatim and Cherotich Dorothy, they used to take various group photos while in the field. For instance, whenever we would reach a view point, up in the mountain, we would have a group photo.

2.2.2 Smart phone

A smart phone is an electronic device that is used for exchanging data and information, with the help of my smart phone hence a tecno phone, I used to record audio files whenever one of our guides were giving a commentary about a plant, tree species, so that I can store2 information.

I also used my smart phone, to record videos, and also capture photos about various physical feature found in Mt. Elgon national park, for instance I took pictures of Chebonet falls, sipi falls, kapkwai cave and many more features found in the national park.

2.2.3 Binoculars

Binoculars are optical tools that are used to magnify distant objectives so as to give a clear view of the object. The national park, according to Mr. Kiplangat David has over 300 recorded bird species, thus during early morning, we did birding with the members of the birding club, using binoculars that Mr. Mugalula Bashir gave us, I was able to identify some bird species in the area such as sun birds, white chinned prinia and many more.

2.2.4 Pen and Book

I also used my pen and book, for recording a lot of information, especially every time I discovered anything new during the recess term trip. I used this material during the class session to record information that was being communicated by Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet who is the education assistant at the national park. I was able to record information about the cultural history of Mountain Elgon national park, whereby he said that the mountain was originally occupied by only two tribes hence the Sabiny and the Bagisu, and these2 were united by circumcision.

2.2.5 Torch

This is also an electronic gadget that produces light, when switched on. I also used the torch especially at night so as to give lighting, and they also help to scare away wild animals at night in case you flash it in the eyes.

2.2.6 Bird guide book;

This is a book which has information about different bird species and it's designed to help a reader to identify birds. I used this book to get information about birds such as their morphological features, color of the plumage, feeding and reproduction behavior for example I used the guidebook to know that the speckled mouse bird has long tail, brown plumage and it is also among the laziest birds, it also helped me to know the number of eggs it lays for example it lays 2-4 eggs and hatches them.

In addition to the above, it was also the guide book that helped me to know that African common bulbul can mate any female bird it finds.

CHAPTER THREE

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.0 Introduction

Chapter three gives clear discussion on the results attained from internship project.

According to the first objective, “To get acquainted with tourism and hospitality enterprises and organizations”, I got exposed to the tourism and hospitality industry, with the help of guided tours with the help of our field guided, I learnt about various tourism products and services found in the national park this include accommodation services offered in lodges, cottages, other tourism products included birding, primate viewing, mountain climbing and many more. I also got exposed to more tour guiding skills for example ways of making a commentary about physical features or plant species, to make the tour more exciting.

According to the second objective, “to understand peculiarities of their operations and role of team and carrying out their activities”, I was able to understand the usual and unique habits of the operations. I observed a high degree of professionalism among the staff members of Mt. Elgon national park especially the guides, hence Mr. Alex Bukose and Mr. David who were had information and knowledge about various tree species and physical attractions like Kapkwai cave. I also understood the role of team work in a group, for example during forest trek, my colleagues who were in front would wait for us, who were still behind.

According to the third objective “To develop ability to blend into a team, understand structure and operations of enterprise”. We were able to work as a team in all activities, that we were assigned to do, for instance being among the Menu team, that was responsible with organizing and preparing food, I worked closely with my fellow colleagues. I worked together with my fellow colleagues to clean the compound by picking plastic bottles, as a way of enhancing conservation efforts. I also learnt various skills and knowledge required in the tourism and hospitality industry, such as making bookings online, various products and services offered by the industry.

According to the fourth objective, “To develop the capacity of analyzing, assessing and developing suggestions for business improvements.” In relation to the above objective, I was

able to assess and analyze that national park as a tourist destination receives less number of tourists that I suggested that national park should at least embark on new marketing strategies like establishing contacts with different tour operators. I was able to assess, the need for the national park to strengthen relations with community and sensitize them about the importance of conservation and national park as large to avoid them encroaching on the forest and the national park at large, because when we were moving, I was able to analyze there is illegal cutting of trees in the forest found in Kapkwai.

In order to achieve the above objectives, various activities were carried out as analyzed below.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE RECESS TERM TRIP

3.1 Travelling and arrival at the national park

The journey started at around 12:30 pm, with prayers, we set off from the faculty of management sciences and we headed to pallisa town to fuel the vehicle at total petro station, and then we proceeded with the journey using Kamonkoli route heading to Mbale. Before setting off our academic supervisor had to confirm that everyone was in the bus, so that we don't leave any one behind.

We passed through Mbale where we had a stopover at the petro station, and at this point we went to ease ourselves, bought some eats and also had the view of the city and mountain Elgon.

We finally reached Sironko town, and we continued with our journey to Balambuli and Kapchorwa, the journey was so interesting as every destination we would reach, I would identify various unique features like water falls and valleys.

The driver managed to drive through, and we finally reached in Kapchorwa, however branching off the main road, the driver tried to manoeuvre the bus up the mountain, but due to poor transport network, full of holes, the bus failed to climb and we moved out, some boarded the other vehicle with all our food staffs and others trekked but all in vain.

We all met at cheptilyal village where landslide had occurred and we could not continue with the vehicle where we had to offload our food staffs and luggage. The food staffs were put on motorcycle to kapkwai exploration center and most of the students continued trekk up to the kapkwai exploration center.

We finally all reached in Kapkwai, at the student's center where the accommodation was, at around 9:20 pm, we were welcomed and briefed by Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet, Who is the educational assistant at the national park. He briefed us with the rules and regulations of the national park and took us to our accommodation facilities.

The menu team collaborated with the available staff members and organized and served dinner to us at around 10:30 pm, and after we went to our accommodation facilities and had some rest, so that we wake up early.

3.2.0 NATURE WALK TO KAPKWAI CAVE AND CHEBONET FALL

By around 5:0am, I was awake, with my fellow colleagues, since Mr. wampande had briefed and told us to wake up by that time. He went ahead and assigned a task to one of our students to act as our time keeper, hence Kataki Ronald moved door to door waking us up all of us, though coldness was too much in the area.

The menu committee served breakfast, and by 9: am, we were ready for the day activities, we started with the briefing from Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet, and he also showed us the map of the trails, which were going to pass through.

We started the nature walk by guide by Mr. Mugalula Bashir passing through the thick forest, identifying various tree species on the gentle slopes of Mt. Elgon like, Prunus Africana, Elgon teak, Anigeria adolf- fridericii, Hagenia Abyssinia, macrostachyus, croton megalocarpus, and many more. The following are some of the details of the tree species we got across;

3.2.1 Elgon teak

It is also referred to us **olea welwitschii**, named after a German researcher. The tree species is endemic to the forest of Mt. Elgon national park. The tree can grow up to 30meters up; it has a pale grey bark with small narrow leaves. The tree species has a lot of functions including medicinal values like curing cough and others. The tree has hard timber compared to other tree species that is used for making boats.

Below is a photo of young Elgon Teak



3.2.2 Prunus Africana

It has a wide range of distribution in the forest of Mt. Elgon national park. The tree species grows on the gentle slopes of the mountain. The bark of the tree ranges from brown to black; it can grow also to over 30 meters of height.

The tree species has a lot of medicinal values where it can treat over seventy five diseases including Prostate cancer, fever malaria, kidney and many other diseases. It is among the dominant tree species in the forest.

A Photo of Prunus Africana



3.2.4 Fiscus tree

This is a living cave like tree in Mt. Elgon national park forest or the Chebonet forest; it is among the oldest tree species in the forest.

The tree can grow and occupy a large surface area, with a lot of roots; it can also support other small plant species that grow around it through offering support.

The tree species is also referred as the Mutumba tree among the Baganda, it is also used for making Bark cloth, which is used as cultural wear among the Baganda on many occasions including burials.

A living cave- like fig tree



3.3 Chebonet falls

With the help of our field guides, we managed to trek through the thick forest, using small pathways and we reached the Chebonet falls.

The place is so cool and amazing, as I tried to move closer to the falls, I was able to see water pouring downwards making noise as if it was raining at the time.

Chebonet falls, originates from one of the flowing rivers in the mountain hence river Chebonet. The water falls are also surrounded with thick and tall altitudinal vegetation cover, with large black rocks in the area. After having a view of the falls, water massage and taking group pictures thus making a memorable and remarmakable experirnces.

Me with my friends at Chebonet falls



3.4 KAPKWAI CAVE

The journey heading to Kapkwai cave started, on the way we still identified various tree and plant species like the dragon plant, bamboo and among others.

Reaching the cave, it involves passing through muddy pathways, thick bamboo vegetation, though we managed to trek through and we reached the Kapkwai cave, the cave with a lot of historical significance.

According to Mr. Mugalula Bashir, the cave was being used to resolve conflicts by the elders, a home to the traditional people back in traditional Africa, until the evolution of mankind that led to the building of houses; hence Kapkwai cave was a home to the Sabiny.

With time, the evolution of mankind led to construction of shelters which made the cave to become a cultural place for rituals like twin initiation and burying the remains of the dead people. For instance the twin initiation rituals, according Mr. Mugalula Bashir, they would bring a pregnant lamb, and they slaughter it, then after slaughtering it, they would remove a fetus, and the woman who had given birth to the twins, they would dance with the brother in law, while stepping on the fetus, until it gets destroyed. After this they would also burn the lamb, this is acted as a sacrifice to appease and thank the gods. Then, after the woman producing the third child, following the twins, they would bring him or her to the cave and name the child “**kisa**”.

Kapkwai cave was also used for burial rituals among the Sabiny people, such as bringing, the bones of the dead people and they burn them, after this the ashes are then stored in the caves,

this was basically done for the remembrance of the dead people. This was majorly done after 20 years, after burying someone.

Personally I witnessed that the cave is also a habitat, to many species like fruit and insect bats. Bats live in this cave because they are nocturnal, and thus the cave has darkness.

A group picture while in Kapkwai cave.



3.5 BIRDING SESSION

Birding is a nature activity that involves viewing of birds for different reasons such as study purpose, research, and pleasure. The activity is interesting and in Uganda as a tourism destination it is among the trending tourism activities, however, for the activity to be successful the following materials are required hence Binoculars, bird guide book and among others.

Mt. Elgon national park is blessed with over 300 recorded bird species according to Mr. Mugalula Bashir, among these 12 bird species are endemic to the mountain and hence they haven't been recorded in any national park in Uganda. The endemic species include Weyn's weaver, Jackson's Francolin, Widow bird, Moorland Francolin, Alpine Chat, Back collared apalis and among others.

In the early morning, we did birding in the compound and other nearby areas of the center and we managed to identify some bird species like the sun birds, white chinned prinia, African Blue flycatcher, and other birds. During the nature walk in the forest, I also identified various birds' species.

White- chinned Prinia

African Blue Flycatcher

Scarlet sun bird



3.6 BAMBOO HIGH FOREST TREK

Bamboo high forest trek was successfully done covering over a distance of 7km, using various pathways located inside the thick evergreen forest.

This was so interesting; our tour guides managed to teach various tree species located on the gentle slopes of Mt. Elgon for example the acacia flat topped tree located on top of the mountain. The activity was also combined with mountain climbing.

I was also able to identify various altitudinal vegetation zones such as montane vegetation, Bamboo, health and moorland, and scanty vegetation. Each vegetation zone is located at different altitude heights. I also learnt about the succession process of the scanty vegetation type where by it starts with the growing of small grass and plants, which form soil base on the rock surface which facilitates the growth of other tree species like the flat topped acacia tree.

When we reached on top of the mountain, we had a view point, where we able to observe some of the peaks located on the mountain such as the Jackson summit or peak.

3.7 CLASS SESSION

The class session involved asking series of questions towards the field guides and making a recap of every activity we carried out. Through this session I was able to gather a lot of information concerning Mt. Elgon national park.

I was able to learn about various tree species found in the national park, according Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet who is the educational assistant; he mentioned some of the trees like Elgon teak, Prunus Africana, acacia tree and many more with their medicinal values such as Prunus Africana which treats Prostate cancer. He also listed the products and services offered in the national park

like pri-mate viewing, birding, mountain biking, mountain biking, cave viewing, accommodation services and many more.



The class session would be conducted in the evening after having some evening tea, since the area was too cold, however during the class session a lot of members would ask various questions concerning the national park. Our academic supervisor Mr. Wampande Jowalie would also respond to some of the questions in case the questions were directed to him.

Through the class session, Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet also gave us information concerning the park relations with the community where by the National park signed a memorandum of understanding with the community. This memorandum of understanding contains terms and conditions plus responsibilities of each party in effort of protecting the national park and the bio diversity. The national park also benefits the community through employing some of the local people as cleaners, guides and many others; on top of that it also improves on the road network to allow easy access to the national park, it also gives back part of the profits collected as entrance fee at the national park to the community at the sub county level.

Below is the Memorandum of understanding.



3.8 CAMP FIRE AND GOAT ROASTING

In the evening of our day four, after doing early morning birding and museum tour, we organized our camp fire and goat roasting. The goat was slaughtered by Isabirye Hatim with the assistance of some few members.

After having supper, we organized ourselves and went to the camp fire site; we started with storytelling from various members while colleagues were roasting their meat. This was combined with some music from Dj Kawerere Anthony. The camp fire went till midnight as students were enjoying music.



3.9.0 MUSEUM TOUR

In the afternoon, we had our visit to the museum. The museum is located at the forest exploration center in Kapkwai; it is stationed in the middle of the compound.

The museum consists of various art crafts and traditional items that were used by the early or traditional people. Some of the items are delicate and have been in the museum for a long period of time. The museum also has UWA's old items such as the first uniforms of game rangers and their shoes.

With the help of our dear guide hence Mr. Kiplangat David Bomet was able to identify some of the items, which include the following; the ancient hoes, grinding stones, dog bell used by the hunters, skull of the buffalo head, nest for weaver bird, ndigidi(musical instrument), antelope horns, old light lamps, bird traps, drum, spears, arrows, baskets, animal skins like that of the buffalo and leopard, ostrich eggs, one of Uganda's old currency, pot, and among others below are some of the details.

3.9.1 Some of the wild animal skins



3.9.2 The skull of the Buffalo head



The buffalo is among Africa's big five in the wild. They were referred as the big five by the Africans because they were dangerous and difficult to hunt hence being referred as the big five. The buffalo has defensive horns both on the male and female. It weighs up to 680 kilograms with a gestation period of 11.5 months. It is a cow like animal that lives in savannah areas and grass lands.

3.9.3 Musical instruments

Among the musical instruments that we found in the museum include "Adungu", drum. These were made of wood and animal skin like the cow skin. Some of items are still being used today in many cultural functions like "Imbalu" circumcision ceremony of the boys among the Bagisu of eastern Uganda. The Adungu musical instrument is also made up of strings which are pulled to produce sound.

Adungu musical instruments

Drum



3.9.4 Poacher's bell

This bell was always used by the poachers in the ancient times, as they used hunting using the dog. The bell would be tied in the neck of the dog, that they would be able to trace the sound of the bell as the dog would run while chasing the wild animal.



3.10 Field Assessment Test Session

Before having breakfast , we were given a field assessment test, which we did before going to sipi falls. The test was fair as it required the use of field knowledge which we had been exposed to while in the field. After doing the test, we had our breakfast organised by the menu team and then picked our bags, and went for briefing from our guides.

We started our journey to sipi falls while trekking, we also passed through the community, and learnt about the farming methods, and crops grown by the farmers, which includes cash crops even like the coffee.



3.11 SIPI FALLS VISIT

Sipi falls is a series of three water falls, located on the lower slopes of Mt. Elgon national park. The falls flow from river sipi. Which is among the rivers flowing in Mt.Elgon, the name sipi originates from the word “sep”, which refers to the name of a wild banana plant that grows along the banks of river sipi hence being named sipi falls.

The highest water falls, drops from an altitude of 95 meters from a cliff, this facilitates other tourism activities like abseiling, hiking the falls and photography. The water falls are also recognized as the most beautiful water falls in the country.

When we reached the water falls with the guidance of Mr.Nabai Kasibati, I took pictures and observed the beauty of sipi falls; I was able to see stones used for making necklaces, which are got from Mt. Elgon. After touring the falls, we trekked up to the destination where the bus, and we boarded, we had debriefing from our academic supervisor, and confirmed that every student was on board. He also appreciated the menu committee for its good work. After we started our journey back to faculty of management sciences in pallisa district.



3.12.0 PRESENTATION OF WELL DETAILED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

3.12.1 Road transport network

There is need to improve on the transport network, so as to allow easy transportation to the national park, especially using the Kapkwai gate. If the infrastructure is well constructed it will also help to increase on the number of tourists visiting Mt Elgon national park.

3.12.2 Recruitment of more skilled labor force

There is also need to improve on the number of skilled employees starting from the guides, and other staff members, this helps the national park to sustain the number of tourists and also ensure high quality services.

3.12.3 Language challenge

The national park should also employ more people with linguistic skills, or they conduct training sessions, this will enable them to handle various kinds and types of tourists, who will be interested in visiting the national park.

3.12.4 Establishment of more products and services

The introduction of more products and services , such as introducing more primates like baboons, chimpanzees, and many more wild animals like giraffe will encourage more numbers of tourists to visit the national park.

3.12.5 Improvement on marketing

Good marketing strategies will help to brand the national park, and also increase awareness about the available tourism products and services offered by the national park, hence there is need to advertise more through media channels like internet.

3.12.6 Improving on community relations

There is need to sensitize the community members about the importance of conservation and the national park at large, this is because when we were trekking in the forest we identified some domestic animals like cows and goats being grazed in the park. This indicated that the community does not observe the boundaries.

3.12.7 Accommodation facilities improvement

There is also need to build more accommodation facilities and proving more beddings in the facilities in the national park especially in Kapkwai. This can be lodges and luxury cottages including various restaurants. This will also enable the national park to accommodate a number of tourists.

3.13 PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED WORKPLAN AND HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED

No.	Action steps	How it will be achieved?	Estimated Time Frame
1	Marketing the National park	Creating more social media platforms like tiktok, twitter and You tube	3 months to 1 year
		Networking with various tour agencies and companies.	
		Bringing various media platforms and media houses with the aim of marketing the national park	

2	More Accommodation facilities	<p>Construction of accommodation facilities like hotels and eco- lodges in and outside the national park.</p> <p>Creating opportunities for Local investors to invest in building accommodation facilities in and outside the national park</p>	3 years
3	Induction and Training of staff members	<p>Bringing experts to train the employees so that they acquire relevant skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Assessment of the employees to see how they are performing.</p>	3 months
4	New tourism products and services(investment opportunities)	<p>Establishing new products and services like canopy walk, zip lining, primate viewing, chimp tracking and others</p>	2 year

5	Sustainable Conservation in MENP	Sensitizing the local communities about the importance of conservation.	3months
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CHAPTER FOUR

SKILLS LEARNT AND HOW THEY ARE RELEVANT TO MY PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER GROWTH.

4.0 Introduction

This chapter generally covers details about the skills learnt in the field attachment and how relevant was the experience to my professional growth. It also covers the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of the organization.

4.1 SKILLS LEARNT

4.1.1 Leadership skills.

This skills involves having the ability to make decisions, I learnt this skill when I was among the menu committee that was responsible for preparing and organizing meals for the students. I and the team, we always made sure that the students receive lunch, supper and dinner at the right time

4.1.2 Communication skills.

This refers to the ability to effectively exchange information between two or more parties and receiving feedback. I was able to learn communication skills during nature walk, for example I learnt how to deliver a commentary during a tour about various tree species and wild animals.

4.1.3 Team work skills.

I was exposed to team work skills, for example during the nature walk in the Chebonet forest, we always moved as a team, and worked together in case any member was remaining behind. We worked as a team to make sure that the environment was not littered with the plastic bottles after taking water.

4.1.4 Listening skills.

I was able to listen and understand various concepts, and aspects concerned with the national park, for example during the class session, I was able to listen and understand the products and services offered by the park, when Mr Kiplangat David Bomet was talking.

4.1.5 Time management skills.

I was always able to wake up early in the morning, to get myself ready for other activities as per the itinerary, with the help of our time keeper Kataki Ronald.

4.1.6 Recording skill.

I also learnt this skills, for instance I got knowledge on how to record information such as recording good audios and videos plus taking various photos which I was going to use in the report.

4.1.7 Observation skills.

With the help of this skill, I was able to observe and analyze various tree species like Prunus Africana and Elgon teak. I also observed various types of accommodation facilities found in the national park, such as lodges, cottages, and students' center.

4.2.0 EVALUATION OF THE STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF MT ELGON NATIONAL PARK

4.2.1 STRENGTH

Improved transport network

The main road that the traveller uses from Mbale to Kapchorwa is well developed that eases the movement of tourists to the national park.

Good accommodation facilities

The national park, has a wide range of good accommodation facilities, which include eco-lodges, cottages, student's center and many more, these are also accompanied with a number of restaurants. These help to ensure high quality service delivery.

Security of the national park

The national park, is under the management of UWA, hence it deploys rangers who ensure peace and security to the tourists and the bio diversity at large, this guarantees safety to the visitors, which encourages more people to visit Mt. Elgon national park.

Skilled labor force

The staff and management of the national park has experienced and skilled labor force, for example our game rangers, were informed about various bio diversity found in the national park like the tree species and animals like the buffalos, elephants and others.

Huge size of the national park

Mt. Elgon national park is so huge and wide covering over 8 districts, due to its size it consists a lot of biodiversity like flora and fauna plus the natural landscapes, which attracts a lot of tourists. And also visitors can access the national park using various gates or trails due to its huge size.

4.2.2 WEAKNESSES

Lack of adequate number of skilled personnel. Some of the staff employed lack the relevant skills required in the tourism and hospitality industry, thus there is need to recruit more skilled staff and training the employed staff to equip them with more skills and knowledge.

Poor communication network. The communication network in the national park especially in Kapkwai is very poor, that it is not easy to communicate, this also scares away some of the potential visitors who may be interested in visiting the national park.

Limited marketing strategies. There is also need to improve on the current marketing tools and introducing more effective means to market Mt.Elgon national park as a destination, which will boost on more tourists arrivals to the national park.

Poor access routes to the national park. The road routes that leads to the national park especially in the areas of Kapchorwa district in Kapkwai are poorly developed that even makes transportation so difficult in the area.

4.2.3 OPPORTUNITIES

New products and services

Mt. Elgon national park has a wide range of new products and services it can introduce so as to boost more tourism activities, this may include canopy walking, introducing more primate species like baboons in the national park, it will also boost on the number of tourists who will visit the national park.

Being Near to other game reserves.

Mt Elgon national park is near to game reserves such Matheniko game reserve, Bokora game reserve, Pian Upe. These game reserves have lot of wild animals like antelopes, buffalo, and among others. As tourists visit these game reserves they are able to explore Mt. Elgon national park too.

Unique and strategic location of the park.

It is the only national park located in the eastern part of Uganda, despite Kidepo national park located in the north eastern parts of Uganda thus tourists interested in visiting the national park, choose the park as their destination.

Physical features and unique attractions.

MENP is also blessed with a lot of attractions and physical features compared to other national parks such as valleys, valleys, caldera, water falls, flora and fauna. This gives it an opportunity to attract adventurous tourists.

Local community cultures of the Sabiny and Bagisu.

The mountain is shared by two tribes of the Sabiny in kapchorwa and the Bamasaba or Bagisu, these two tribes having unique cultures that also attracts tourists, for example the Bagisu have the culture of circumcising the boys commonly known as the Imbalu, this attracts lots of visitors to the region to participate in it.

4.2.4 THREATS.

Poaching.

Poaching is still a threat up today in many of Uganda's national parks including Mt. Elgon national park, most of the wild animals are located at the buffer zones especially at the border that separate Uganda and Kenya, which gives Poachers an advantage to kill them for commercial motives.

Stiff competition from other national parks.

Most of Uganda's national parks are located in western Uganda hence most of the tourists are attracted to the western part; this makes the destination to receive small number of tourists compared to other national parks.

Natural calamities in the region.

This include natural calamities like floods and landslides, these are caused by heavy rainfall in the area and changes in the climate. This causes in destruction of property and loss of lives in the region.

Epidemics.

These are a big threat to all tourism and hospitality industry, they include covid 19 and Ebola, these diseases scare visitors due to fear of being infected, which limits on the number of tourists willing to visit the national park and the country at large.

Population increase.

With the high increase in the population of the people living near Mt. Elgon national park, creates need for more land for settlement which makes the local community to encroach on the buffer zones and land belonging to the national park.

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers recommendations and conclusions basing on the area of attachment.

5.1 RECOMMENDATION

Basing on my research and observation I recommend the following, to the national park(UWA)and Busitema University.

5.1.0 To the National Park

- New marketing strategies for example use of social media platforms such as Facebook and others to enable tourists get information about the destination from social media platforms , filming of the park is also needed as most of its beautification are not known by the would be clients .
- Training of the staff members like the field guides, this will help to improve on the service delivery hence leading to satisfaction of the clients as they engage in different activities.
- Security should be improved; the park management should improve on security of the place to reduce on the cases of poaching and safety of visitors together with their properties in the park.
- Sensitization of the local community, the management of the park should engage in the sensitization of the local community to reduce on some of the illegal activities such as bush burning, charcoal burning in the park.
- Employment of skilled labor, the park management should employ more skilled labor in the field of tourism to deliver the best to students during their recess term and also deliver good services to other clients who might have visited the park.

- Allocating more funds to the tourism sector by the government, this leads to improvement of facilities and infrastructure used by tourists and these funds will be used to improve services in the park.
- Increasing the salary of the employees and all staff members to prohibit them from engaging in illegal activities such as cutting down trees for timber and poaching of the wild animals for bush meat.
- Constructions of more accommodation facilities like eco-lodges in the national park, to allow the park accommodate a number of visitors.
- Networking with various tour companies and agencies, so that they can also market MENP, to increase the number of visitors visiting the national park.
- Introduction of more tourism products and services like chimpanzee tracking, canopy walk and many others, so as to increase on the tourism products and services offered by the national park.

5.1.1 To the University

- The university should increase on the training duration to allow students get acquainted with the tourism and hospitality enterprise.
- The university should also request for more funds, from the government to enable the students visit various tourism and hospitality enterprises, for academic purpose.

5.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I thank the Almighty God, who enabled me to successfully write this report, Glory be to His name. I also appreciate my fellow students for their support during the recess term trip and at the time writing the report, may God bless you.

I also appreciate the good work, care, guidance and knowledge our field guides provided to us hence Mr.Kiplangat David Alex, Mugalula Bashir and Mr. Alex Bukose Salim

Finally I appreciate the support and guidance of our academic supervisor, Mr. Wampande Jowalie Ahmed including our driver, who drove us safely,

Mountain Elgon National Park is a great amazing destination that every adventurous tourist and cultural tourist should pay a visit. The national park has a lot of beautiful flora and fauna including physical attractions.

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