
**INTERNSHIP REPORT CARRIED OUT IN UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY,
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK, AND BUHOMA SECTOR.**

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**SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF A BACHELOR OF TOURISM AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT OF
BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

JUNE – AUGUST 2025

DECLARATION

I **MADVAN JOHNSON** hereby declare that my study attachment to Uganda Wildlife Authority -Bwindi impenetrable national park Buhoma sector is original and has not been published or submitted for any other degree award to any other university before.

Signature Madvan Johnson


Date 25th JULY 2025

APPROVAL

I certify that this report satisfies the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Bachelors' degree in Tourism and Travel management at Busitema University.

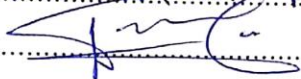
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WARDEN

Name... MUMANYE ROLAND

Sign...  Date 28/7/2025


MONITORING AND RESEARCH OFFICER

Name... ENYAHAM NELSON

Sign...  Date 26/7/2025

SENIOR TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY OFFICER TOURISM

Name... ROBINATT GANGIRIBA

Sign...  Date 26/7/2025

LAW ENFORCEMENT WARDEN

Name... DENIS KAGUMIRE

Sign... Denis K... Date 26/7/25

CHIEF WARDEN IN CHARGE OF BMCA


Name... ENYAHAM NELSON

Sign...  Date 26/7/2025



UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR

Name... TAAKA HOPE

Sign...  Date 20th 08.2025

DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this industrial training report to my dear parents MR.NZARORE RODGERS and MRS KATUSHABE TASIYANA.

I also dedicate this work to my brothers, sister and my course mates for the support rendered to me.

I lastly want to extend my appreciation to the Department of tourism and hospitality management under MR.WAMPANDE JOWALIE AHMED and my supervisor MR. EMOJONG RONALD for the support rendered academically

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the almighty God for the gift of life and blessing throughout the time of my industrial training.

A special thank goes to all my instructors most especially my supervisor and all whose pieces of advice and information given was most valuable as far as my internship was concerned.

Furthermore, a vote of thanks goes to the chief warden of Bwindi impenetrable national park for allowing me do my industrial training in the area and also the rest of UWA staff of Bwindi and mostly those of Buhoma sector for the good spirit of friendship rendered to me that has helped me achieve success in my internship period.

The work done by my dear parents can never go unnoticed for they have natured me to a more morally upright individual dedicated to what am supposed to do.

Last but not least, my course mates and friends, your support, humor, and pieces of advice are exceptional.

May the almighty giver of life, reward you abundantly.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BINP: Bwindi Impenetrable National park

BMCA: Bwindi Mgahinga conservation Area

CW: Chief Warden

CC: Community conservation

CCR: community conservation Ranger

CAO: chief Administrative Officer

CPAI: Community protected Area Institution

CTPH: Conservation through public Health

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

HuGo: Human Gorilla Conflict Resolution

IGCP: International Gorilla Conservation program

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

ITFC: institute of tropical forest conservation

MTWA: Minster of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities

MGVP: Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations

PAs: Protected areas

RS: Revenue Sharing

UWA: Uganda Wildlife Authority

UNESCO: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

WCC: Warden Community conservation

ABSTRACT

The internship was carried out for the reason of acquiring the award of a bachelor's degree in tourism and travel management at Busitema university faculty of management sciences. The objectives of the internship were to develop ability to blend into team, understand structure and operation of enterprise, develop the capacity of analyzing, assessing and developing suggestions for tourism improvement, understand peculiarities of their operations and the roles of team and carrying out their activities and to get used with tourism and hospitality industry enterprises and organizations. The methods used for collecting information from the field were observation, recording, interview and photography. This report highlights the skills obtained and activities carried out during the internship period and how relevant they were to the professional career growth to me, not only there are highlights on the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the organization, materials used like books and pens, binoculars, birding guide books. it's found out that Bwindi impenetrable national park offers professional career growth services and offer their services to clients at minimum price.

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the introduction to recess term Programme, objectives of the internship, and the introduction of the organization and their chats. Since 1970s universities in developed countries started introducing academic department to promote and enhance the teaching of tourism at university level as a result of the recognition that tourism was significantly taking up a position as world's single largest industry .Tourism as an academic discipline is not well established in most universities and institute in developing countries and situation is worse by the few established tourism program in African university and as such the department of geography in 1997 of Makerere university saw a need for academic department to enhance the teaching of tourism in Uganda and as a result started the department of tourism and hospitality management to help in future

Busitema University as well borrows from Makerere University the mother University of Uganda on the issue of academic department and attachment program. The main purpose of this attachment is to give students chance to relate to what they learnt in class to real field conditions and is meant to develop their ingenuity and skills to become well trained and groomed professionals as required by the industry. After the field practical a guided report is written by a student to reflect the different activities undertaken in the field, their relevancies to the student's professional growth, lessons learnt, skills learnt, places of practical, participants and comments of the field supervisors and a well signed logbook to be handed

OBJECTIVES OF INTERNSHIP

- Experience
- Real world network
- Real world application
- Career Discovery

UWA(UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY)

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is a semi-autonomous Ugandan government agency that aims to conserve, manage and regulate Uganda's wildlife. "UWA is mandated to ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources and supervise wildlife activities in Uganda, both within and outside the protected areas". As of April 2020, UWA manages ten national parks, twelve wildlife reserves, and fourteen wildlife sanctuaries. UWA also provides guidance for five community wildlife areas. It is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, currently Tom Butime.

National Parks; Murchison Falls National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable , Mgahinga Gorilla, Kidepo Valley, Mt, Elgon, Rwenzori, Lake Mburo, Semliki and Kibaale.

Wildlife Reserves Include; Toro Semliki, Matheniko, Katunga, Ajai, Kigezi, Bugungu, Kyambura, Pian-Upe, Kabwoya, And Karuma.

Wildlife Sanctuaries Include; Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Bigodi Wetland and others

Preceding: Uganda Game and Fisheries Department

Jurisdiction: Government of Uganda

Headquarters: Plot. 7, Kira Road, Kamokya, Kampala, Uganda

Motto: Conserving for Generations

Minister responsible: Tom Butime, Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

Deputy Ministers responsible

State Minister for Tourism, HON. Martin Mugara Bahinduka

Executive Director; Dr. James Musinguzi

Parent department: Wildlife Conservation Department

Parent agency: Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

Key document: the Uganda wildlife act 2019

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF UWA

UWA was established in August 1996 by the Uganda wildlife statute, which merged the Uganda national parks department with the Uganda games and fisheries department in 2000, a statute became an act of the parliament and the act was amended in 2019 into the Uganda wildlife act, 2019.

SLOGAN:

CONSERVING FOR GENERATIONS

UWA VISION

TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

UWA MISSION

THE MISSION OF UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY IS TO CONSERVE, ECONOMICALLY DEVELOP AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS OF UGANDA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEIGHBORING

COMMUNITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF UGANDA AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

UWA MANDATE

Uganda wildlife authority is a semi-autonomous government agency established under the 1996 wildlife act that was amended in 2000 under the CAP. Its mandated to ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources and supervise activities related to protected area management.

UWA CORE CORPORATE VALUES

The core corporate values of UWA are aimed at inspiring high employees in the pursuance of their duties and responsibilities. The values are as follows;

Customer care and quality services

Integrity

Team work

Professionalism

Commitment to conservation

FUNCTIONS OF UWA

To ensure the sustainable management of wildlife conservation areas

To propose policies on wildlife management to the ministry of wildlife and antiquities

To implement government policies on wildlife management

To identify and recommend areas for declaration as wildlife conservation areas and for the revocation of such declaration.

To develop, implement and monitor collaborative arrangements for the management of wildlife.

To establish and implement management plans for wildlife conservation areas and for wildlife populations outside conservation areas.

To monitor and control problem animals and support capacity development of local governments to control and manage vermin

To promote scientific research and knowledge of wildlife and wildlife conservation areas

THE UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, 2019

An act to provide for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife; to strengthen wildlife conservation and management; to continue the existence of the Uganda wildlife authority; to stream line the roles and responsibilities of institutions involved in the wildlife

conservation and management; to continue the existence of the wildlife fund; to repeal the Uganda wildlife act, CAP.200 and for related matters.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES OF UWA

Conservation and natural resource management, planning policies and procedures.

Business development and marketing, capacity development and management.

Financial sustainability, research and ecological monitoring.

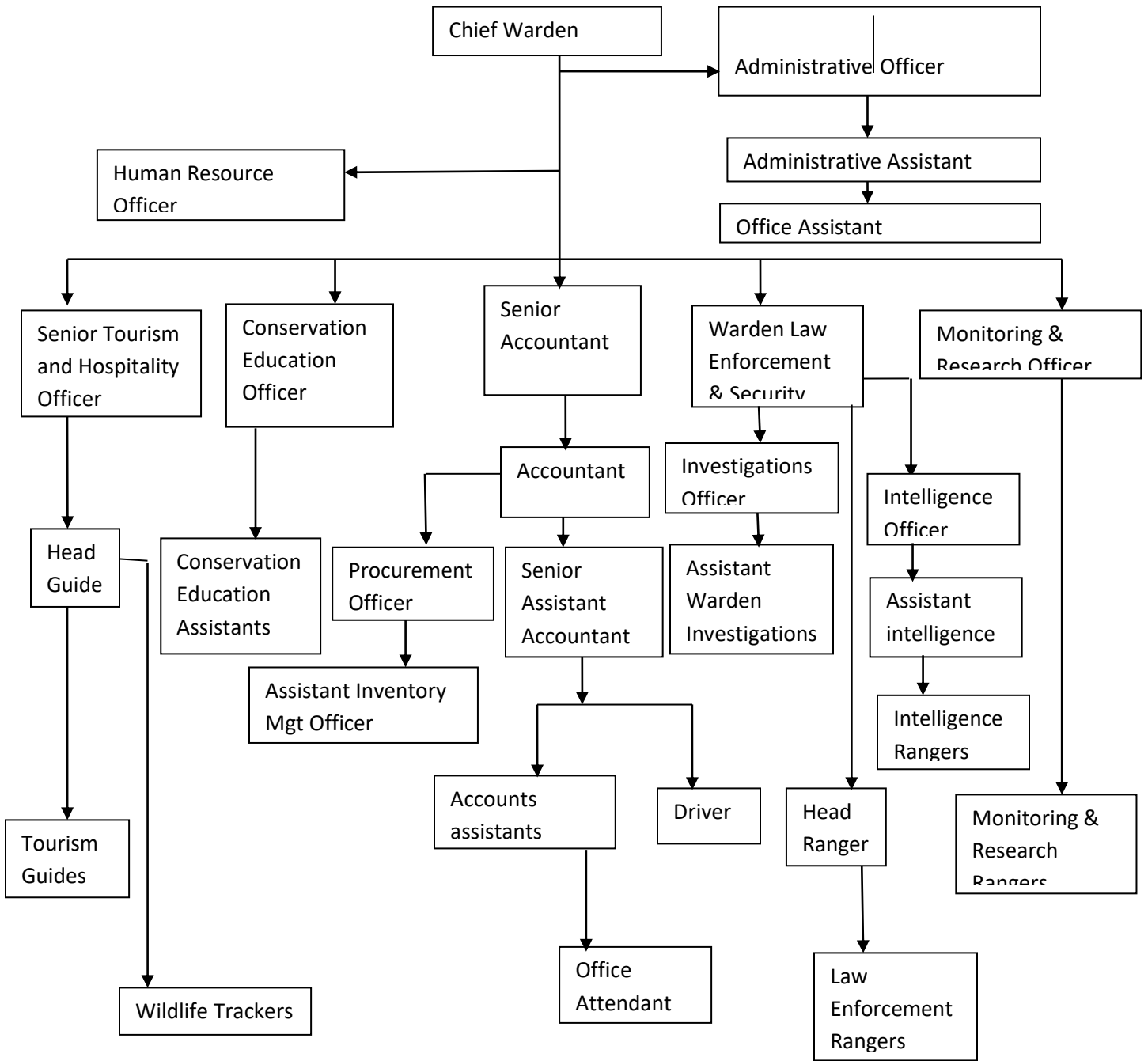
Performance monitoring , evaluation and accountability.

Coordination and collaboration with stakeholders and partners.

Governance, corporate image and public relations.

Figure 1 ;

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK.



BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND.

BRIEF NOTES AND LOCATION

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) is in southwestern Uganda. The park is part of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and is situated along the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border next to the Virunga National Park and on the edge of the Albertine Rift. Composed of 321 square kilometers (124 sq mi) of both montane and lowland forest, it is accessible only on foot. BINP is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-designated World Heritage Site. Species diversity is a feature of the park. It provides habitat for 120 species of mammals, 350 species of birds, 310 species of butterflies, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos, and many endangered species. Floristically, the park is among the most diverse forests in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, including 200 species of trees and 104 species of ferns. The northern (low elevation) sector has many species of Guineo-Congolian flora, including two endangered species, the brown mahogany and Brazzei along ipedicellata. In particular, the area shares in the high levels of endemism of the Albertine Rift.

The park is also a home for monkeys, baboons, chimpanzees, and many birds such as hornbills and turacos. It is most notable for the 459 Bwindi gorillas according to the recent census, half of the world's population of the endangered mountain gorillas. 14 habituated mountain gorilla groups are open to tourism in four different sectors of Buhoma, Ruhijja, Rushaga and the Nkuringo in the Districts of Kanungu, Rubanda and Kisoro respectively all under the management of Uganda Wildlife Authority.

Location: Kanungu District, Uganda

Coordinates: 01°01'S 29°41'E

Area: 331 km² (128 sq mi)

Established: 1991

Governing body: Uganda Wildlife Authority

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Type: Natural

Designated: 1994 (18th session)

Region: Africa

FIGURE 2 ; SHOWS THE LOCATION OF BINP



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BINP

In 1932, two blocks of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest were designated as Crown Forest Reserves. The northern block was designated as the "Kayonza Crown Forest Reserve", and the southern block designated as the "Kasatora Crown Forest Reserve". These reserves had a combined area of 207 square kilometers (80 sq mi). In 1942, the two reserves were combined and enlarged, then renamed the Impenetrable Central Crown Forest. This new protected area covered 298 square kilometers (115 sq mi) and was under the joint control of the Ugandan government's game and forest departments.

In 1964, the reserve was designated as an animal sanctuary to provide extra protection for its mountain gorillas and renamed the Impenetrable Central Forest Reserve. In 1966, two other forest reserves became part of the main reserve, increasing its area to almost 321 square kilometers (124 sq mi). The park continued to be managed as both a game sanctuary and forest reserve.

1.9.3 Biodiversity

Bwindi is an important park for both flora and fauna of the Albertine Rift endemic area that formed "Refungium" during the Pleistocene period and has since lived to supported high and exceptionally unique biological diversity some of which is endemic to the area.

The area supports

Over 358 species of birds (182 forest dependents and 24 Albertine Rift Endemics)

Over 120 species of mammals

Over 17 species of snakes

Over 27 species of reptiles (toads and frog) , over 6 species of chameleon over 14 species of Lizards (I. e Lizards, skinks and geckos over 200 recorded species of trees , over 200 recorded species of unique and colorful butterflies

1.9.4 Altitude

The park has a wide range from 1160 meters and 2607 meters above the sea level to the northern sector and Rwamunyonyi hill to the north east respectively. The land space is rugged with deep valleys running between steps sided and ridges, Barely square kilometers of the park is that the Bwindi and Ngoto swamp.

Fig 3; SHOWS THE BATWA AROUND BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK



ACCESSIBILITY TO BINP

Roads

The main trailhead at Buhoma is about 460kms from Kampala and can be reached by road from several directions. The main safari circuit approaches from the north through the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), providing a chance to search for the famous tree-climbing lions. BINP is 160kms from Mweya in central QENP and 62 kms from Ishasha. The most direct route from Kampala follows a surfaced road to Rukungiri via Mbarara and Ntungamo. A slow dirt road then winds through the highlands to Buhoma via Kihihi and Butogota.

Air

Travellers can fly from Entebbe International Airport or Kampala's Kajjansi airfield to Kisoro (for Nkuringo, Rushaga and Ruhija) and to Savanna and Ishasha airstrips (for Buhoma). Prior transport arrangements for transfer to the park are required.

CHAPTER TWO

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter involves the methods and materials used in data collection while in BMCA. It gives detailed information concerning how the data was collected as mentioned below.

Interviews

This involves a face to face conversation between one or more persons. Interviews were done through asking direct questions to the guides and getting quick responses from them, this also helped me get skills on how to answer questions in case a tourist asks.

Observation

It is where one becomes keen to see with a naked eye and understands everything taking place at a certain point. I used my eyes to identify different gorilla groups and observing their features and behaviors, also imitating the customer care practices.

Nature walks

This involves guided walks on short or long nature trails. I took several of them in Bwindi swamp in search of bird species to the bird hide point and was also lucky to move with a team for birding which was conducting bird population and monitoring counts.

Data Analysis

This was in form of documents for example the sketch map of BMCA, brochures. This helped me locate different areas in BMCA and the main features.

Recording

This method involves noting down any information acquired which is considered important for future use. I used this method using tools like pens, notebooks, pencils, papers, phone memory among others to keep information concerning flora and fauna.

FIG 4; RECORDING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARK



Focused discussions

It is concerned with being in a group of people and you through a topic for brain storming with an intention of collecting or hearing their different opinions.

I used this method several times to collect information from students about the importance of the park to them as well as in the communities. In addition, I attained information on the roles of park to the communities around

Experimental method

I directly got involved into the activities for example gorilla tracking with tracker Richard on kabukojo in Rushegura group. These activities taught me on how to handle tourists on different activities.

MATERIALS USED IN DATA COLLECTION

The following are the materials used in the trip to collect data in order to achieve the objectives of internship.

❖ UWA'S MAGAZINE

This UWA magazine was about various national parks in Uganda including BINP. By the help of this magazine I was able to attain secondary data or information about the national park which was vital hence I was able to discover that gorilla family groups can be accessed through various trails like the central circuit .

❖ Hiking tools

The Hiking tools used during nature walks and gorilla trekking. Some of the hiking tools included hiking shoes, jackets, tourist gum boots, hiking wooden sticks and among others. This helped me a lot during the internship.

❖ UWA's leaflets

These Leaflets I found them at the national park, in places like the visitor information Centre, and notice board. They benefited me a lot since they contain a lot of information like the attractions and history of BINP.

❖ Digital camera

Digital camera is a camera which produces digital images that can be stored in a computer and displayed on a screen, an example of a digital camera is one you take pictures with and then transfer directly from the camera to computer.

With the use of digital camera I was able to capture different animal species such as mountain gorillas as they were explained to me by Mr. Mbine David a gorilla trekker.

❖ Binoculars

Binoculars are two refracting telescopes mounted side by side and aligned to point in the same direction allowing the user to use the eyes when viewing distant objects.

I used these binoculars to see different bird species which could not easily be seen with the use of my naked eyes during the nature walk with the assistance of Mr.Zefania one of birders in BINP

Birds which I viewed include Ross Turaco, Snowy-crowned Robin chat, Doherty's Bush shrike, African Paradise flycatcher, Brown-capped weavers, Rwenzori batis, Grey-crowned cranes, helmeted guinea fowl, Blue-headed sunbirds, African pygmy Kingfishers, Mackinnon's shrike, and many more others.

❖ **Bird guide book**

This is a book which has information about different bird species and it is designed to help a reader to identify birds.

I used this book to get information about birds such as their morphological features, color of plumage, home range, feeding and reproductive behavior for example I also used a bird guide book to know that common bulbul can mate any female bird.

❖ **Phones:**

A phone is a wireless handheld device that allows users to make and receive calls. Phones were used in photography for example I used a phone to take pictures of gorillas and record videos about gorillas

❖ **Pens and books**

A pen is a common writing instrument that applies ink on a surface, usually a paper for writing or drawing while a book is a medium for recording information in the form of writing or images typically composed of many pages bound together and protected by a page.

These materials helped me to note down important information background of BINP and this helped me from forgetting most of the things they told me.

CHAPTER THREE

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND INTERNSHIP ISSUES

Table 1; WORK SCHEDULES, TEAMS AND DEPARTMENTS.

ACTIVITY	DEPARTMENT	HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Tour guiding	Tourism	Warden Tourism
Birding	Tourism	Warden Tourism
Nature walks	Tourism	Warden Tourism
Patrols	Law enforcement	Warden Law Enforcement
Community conservation	Community conservation	Community conservation warden
Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and research	Research and monitoring warden

Table 1: Activities and departments participated in

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

Tourism is the movement of people from place to place outside their usual environment for business, adventure, pleasure and study purposes.

Bwindi impenetrable national park is blessed with a number of attractions namely; rare mountain gorillas about 459 which is almost half of the 1063 worlds population today, a variety of beautiful bird species about 300 species and the beautiful tails of the forest. The mountain gorillas are only found in countries of Uganda, DRC, and Rwanda. All these have promoted a number of tourism activities that take place notably gorilla tacking, birding and nature walks.

The department of tourism is responsible for organizing, controlling and supervising all tourism activities in the park. The department is headed by the warden tourism that is deputized by the assistant warden tourism. Below are the head guides, and head trackers who command/supervisor the trackers and the guides respectively.

DEPARTMENT

- ❖ To sustainably generate income for conservation and livelihood improvement.

TOURISM ZONES IN BINP

Bwindi impenetrable national park has got majorly four tourism zones where the gorilla tracking, nature walks, birding activities and batwa experience can be made.

- ❖ BUHOMA TOURISM ZONE:

Buhoma has a number of nature trails and each trail offers an unforgettable experience of the unique afro montane forest including the breath taking views with the opportunities of seeing a variety of wildlife. Visitors are advised to book in advance at visitor registration/booking office/reception as walks commence at 9:00am and 2:00pm respectively. These nature walks include;

Munyaga waterfalls: The trail heads on track that was initially intended to be accessed at the road through the forest to Nteko village. After the 2km, the walk branches off to and winding the forest path that crosses the rushing river munyaga thrice before the waterfalls. The trail remains an important pathway for the locals.

IVI river walk: it is the longest tourists trail in the park, which is 13km and it is 6-7 hours walk. The walk becomes easy following the coffee smugglers trails out way from Buhoma to the Ivi river the longest and largest in the park. This park trail is also used by the local people to and from Nteko market on the southern side of the park.

Munyaga river short birding trail: this walks along the river is easy and short offering many sports to sit and soak in Bwindi forest. It takes about 35 minutes starting from the park office along the river and up to the main base trail in the park. The trail offers great birding opportunities and while on it look out for king fisher's and African black ducks.

❖ NKURINGO TOURISM ZONE:

This is a satellite tourist area. The second site developed for gorilla tracking in Bwindi and is located in the southern edge of the forest approximately 15km from Buhoma, a lovely walk connecting through the forest to Nkuringo that takes 4 hrs the Nkuringo trail head lies on the isolated Nteko ridge which offers numerous views across Bwindi forest to the north in the Virunga volcanoes in the south.

❖ RUHIJA TOURISM ZONE

Ruhija is approximately 50km from Buhoma along the road that connects Kisoro to Kabale road known as "AHARUTENGA." Located in the western part of Bwindi .Ruhija sector has six gorilla families namely; bitukura, mukiza, oruzogo. Kyaguriro A and B, Happy. The area commands one of the highest altitude in the park (2600m) above sea level that is the Rwamanyonyi hill which is the highest point in the park.

The trail begins along the road heading east to Kabale from Ruhija. It branches to a forest path that descends through beautiful area of rainforest with several view points overlooking lush valleys and virunga volcanoes. The Bwindi swamp that lies at 2070m and covers an area about 2km. elephants, chimps, gorillas, bushbucks, monkeys, duikers and bush pigs all live in the area. At least 119 species of birds have been recorded along the trail.

❖ RUSHAGA TOURISM ZONE

This is the newest area created for tourism in Bwindi. The zone is extremely unique offering a range of various upcoming tourism activities including gorilla tracking with ten gorilla families, bird watching especially while looking for the Albertine rift endemic species and nature walks.

They are the largest group of the great apes. Other members of this group are chimps and orangutans.

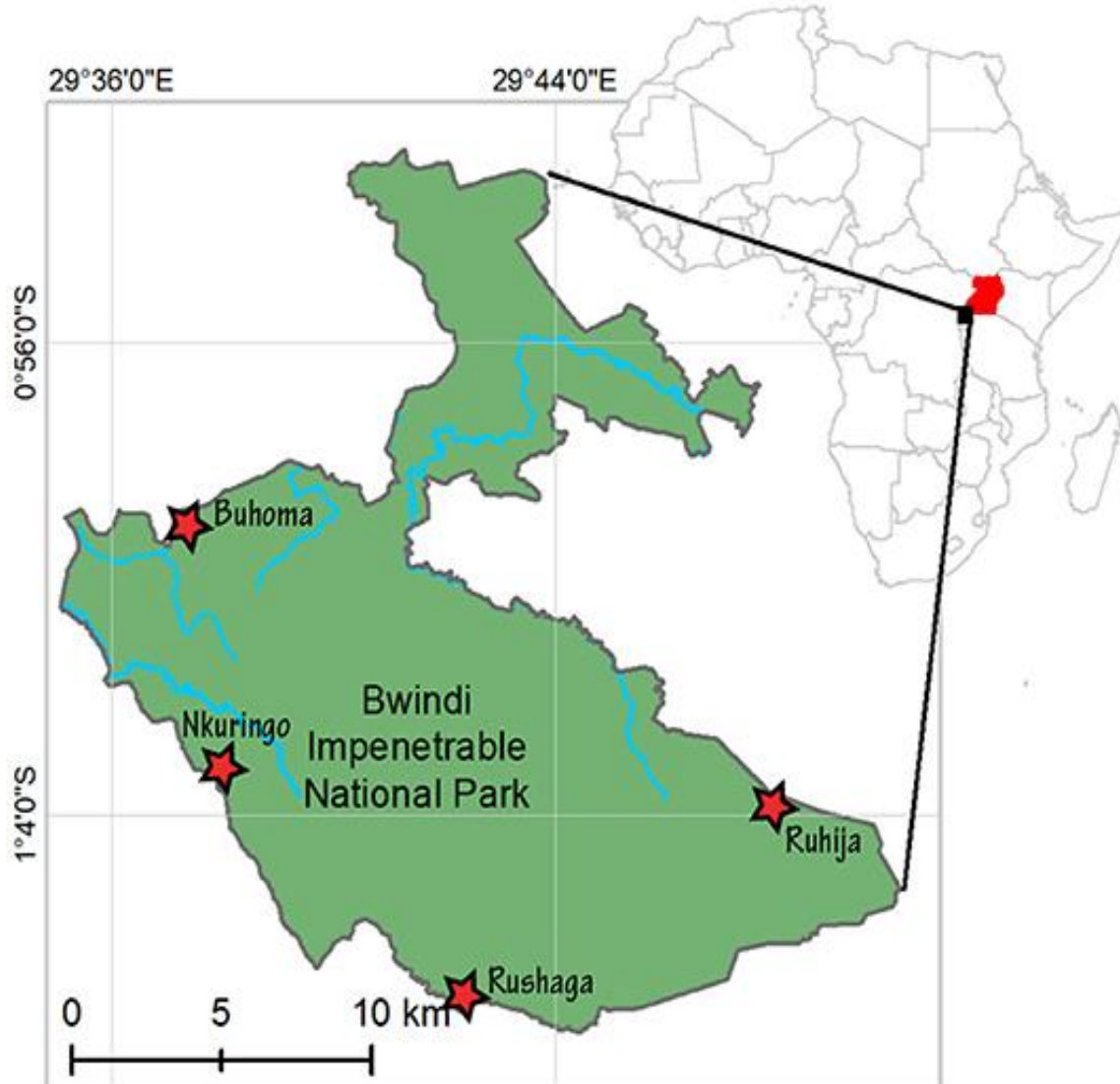
Genetically, gorillas, chimpanzees and human beings are very closely related as humans share 98.4% same genes with gorillas and 98.8% with the chimpanzees.

As their name implies, mountain gorillas live in the forest high in the mountains, at the elevations of 800-13000FT. they have thicker fur and more of it, compared to other great apes. The fur helps them to survive in the habitat where temperatures often drop below freezing. But as humans more and more have moved into the gorillas` territory, the gorillas have been pushed further up into the mountains for long periods, forcing them to endure dangerous and sometime4s deadly conditions.

They are the last of their kind around 1063 gorillas live on our planet today and Bwindi has got half of this population of about 459 mountain gorillas according to the recent census.

The gorillas of Bwindi and Mgahinga are mountain gorillas, the rarest of the three subspecies of gorilla. Mountain gorillas are only found in Bwindi, Mgahinga and virunga volcanoes in the countries of Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo respectively in the whole world.

FIG 5; A MAP SHOWING THE FOUR TOURISM ZONES IN BINP



THE GORILLA POPULATION IN BINP

The total population of mountain gorillas in the world is about 1063 individuals and BINP is believed to be having over 459 individuals which is almost a half of the mountain gorilla population in the world.

Table 2: A TABLE SHOWING HABITUATED GORILLA GROUPS AT BUHOMA SECTOR AS END OF JULY 2025

S/No	GORILLA GROUP	SB	BB	ADF	SAD	JUV	INF	TOTAL
1	MUBARE	00	00	01	00	00	01	02
2	RUSHEGURA	02	02	05	03	00	05	17
3	HABINYANJA	01	03	03	01	01	00	09
4	KATWE	02	01	01	04	00	00	08
5	MUYAMBI	01	00	03	00	00	02	06
6	BINYINDO	01	00	04	02	00	00	07
7	KANYWANI	01	00	04	00	00	01	06

KEY:SB- silverback, BB- black back, ADF- adult female, SAD- sub adult, JUV- juvenile, INF- in BINP.

NOTE: gorilla group compositions are dynamic due to immigrations and emigrations

GORILLA FAMILY LIFE

Gorillas live in groups called troops. They tend to be made of one adult male or silverback, multiple adult male or silverback, multiple adult females and their offspring.

Both males and females tend to emigrate from their natal groups. Females mature at 8-12years (earlier captivity), and males at 11-13 years.

The gestation period lasts 8.5 to 9 months. Female mountain gorillas give birth at 8 years of age and have four year afterbirth intervals. For the first few months after birth the mother holds the baby gorillas to her chest.

An adult gorilla is about 7 meters tall to their shoulders when on all four using their arms and their legs and a gorilla can live for 45 to 50 years.

GORILLA DIET AND RANGING

Gorillas are 99% vegetarians. Diets differ between and within species. Mountain gorillas mostly eat foliage, such as leaves, stems, pith and shoot while fruits make up a very small part of their diets. Gorillas rarely drink water because they consume succulent vegetation that is comprised of almost half water as well as morning dew” although both mountain and lowland gorillas have been observed drinking.

Gorillas are herbivores. They spend most of their time foraging for food and eating bamboo, leafy plants and sometimes ants. A male gorilla can feed up to 25kgs a day.

GORILLA HABITUATION

Habituation is the process of getting a wild gorilla group accustomed to humans for either tourism or research purposes. The process of gorilla habituation can take up to two and half years (2.5) to three years (3). According to trackers who participated in habituation of Bwindi national park say: habituation started in 1991 with the two groups that is Mubare and katendengyere groups.

A group of wild gorillas is assigned to trackers and they set out every day whether rain or sunshine to follow them and when they find the gorillas, they spend the day sitted in the forest, making calm vocalizations or even pretending to eat leaves to show them that they are not a threat to them

After a few months, gorillas still remain hidden in the bush, but with continuously peep through the vegetation at their trackers. For many months, all they see is a hand or the face of a curious gorilla, poking through the bush. It can be hard to determine the group size is composition. When the silver back feels more comfortable about the presence of the trackers, he leads the rest of the group to feed in the open, still keeping a distance.

Eventually they can approach as close as 7m distances (15ft) from the gorillas without them running off, then gradually, they allow tourists to see them.

GORILLA TRACKING

Mountain gorillas are the major attractions of Bwindi impenetrable national. They are very special animals, rear, gentle like us yet so different.

Tracking gorillas is a unique experience as it leads you into a strange land to meet unusual creatures on their terms. This can be humbling and thrilling at the same time.

Gorilla tracking is an intense experience that can take the whole day; the guide leads you through the gorilla world explaining the aspects of their ecology and behaviors along the way. Here they provide some basic facts about gorillas relevant to Bwindi. In this park specific groups of gorillas have been habituated. The composition of any group changes as individuals are born, die , for example the Maraya who was the dominant silver back from Mubare group died in June 2025 and brought a change in the group .Groups are named after the areas in which the usually feed , body features or key individuals that visit them after birth .

The guide will tell the visitors which group they will visitor. To find out where the gorilla have been and where they are, trackers are off out every day early in the morning and get to the sight where they left them the day before until they see them and connect to the guide usually through cell phones and then the guide leads visitors to the gorillas.

ESSENTIALS FOR GORILLA TRACKING

Gorilla tracking can be stressing, so you need to come prepared in both in mind and physical.

Wear shoes with good tractions suitable for the steep muddy slopes

Carry rain gears. Sun screen and a hat as the weather is unpredictable

When taking photos flash photography is not allowed

A walking stick is very necessary

At least two liters of water should be available with each visitor

One is advised to move with insect replants to avoid insect bites.

One should move with a strong shoes and tack in the pants to avoid ants bites.

Visitors are advised to put on their face masks to avoid disease transmission to gorillas.

GORILLA RULES AND REGULATIONS

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Do not camp or make campfires except at designated sites

Do not disturb wildlife by sounding motor horns.

Do not bring dogs or other pets into the park.

Do not litter the park by leaving empty bottles and peels.

GORILLA TRACKING RULES

BEFORE YOU SET OUT:

Do not visit the gorillas if you have a cold or other infectious illness

Minimum age for tracking is 15 years

Human waste should be buried 30 cm deep

Maximum number of visitors is eight persons per gorilla group

WHEN YOU ARE WITH THE GORILLAS:

Maintain a 10m distance from the gorilla

Smoking, eating and drinking are not permitted while with gorillas

If you must sneeze or cough cover your face and turn away from the

Gorillas, as they can catch coughs and colds from humans

Visits are limited to one hour per gorilla group per day

Do not use flash photography.

Put on face masks

2.1.13 OTHER ACTIVITIES:

BIRDING AT BUHOMA

Buhoma is the best spot for birding with both the endemic birds of the great Albertine region and localized birds. Bwindi swamp trail is a must visit with a variety of both localized and endemic birds like the African green broadbill, Caruthers cisticola, cinnamon chested bee-eater, the dwarf honey guide and more.

Look up to the dense tree canopies and sight... Ross Turaco, Snowy-crowned Robin chat, Doherty's Bush shrike, African Paradise flycatcher, Brown-capped weavers, Rwenzori batis, Grey-crowned cranes, Helmeted guinea fowl, Blue-headed sunbirds, African pygmy Kingfishers, Mackinnon's shrike, and many more others

Best birding time at Buhoma is during the wet/rainy season, this is because it's during the rainy seasons that a supply of food increases and breeding of birds.

Table 3; some of the birds in Bwindi impenetrable national park

S/no	BIRD	Scientific name
1	Mountain buzzard	<i>Buteotachaeusoreophilus</i>
2	Great blue turaco	<i>Corythaeolacrystata</i>
3	Gluer's broadbill	<i>Pseuducalyptomenagraueri</i>
4	Yellow rumped tinkerbird	<i>Pgoniulussubsulphereus</i>
5	Doherty's bushrike	<i>Telophorusdohertyi</i>
6	Chubb's cist cola	<i>Cisticolachubbi</i>
7	Bar tailed tragon	<i>Apalodermavittatum</i>
8	White eyed slaty flycatcher	<i>Melaenomisfischeri</i>
9	Yellow billed barbet	<i>Trachylaemus pupuratus</i>
10	Northern double collared sunbird	<i>Cinnyrismediocris</i>
11	Regal sunbird	<i>Cinnyrisregia</i>
12	White headed wood hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculusbollei</i>
13	Black and white hornbill	<i>Bycanistessubcylindricus</i>
14	Mountane oriole	<i>Orioluspercivali</i>

15	Black headed oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
16	Rwenzori Apalis	<i>Oreolais ruwenzori</i>
17	Waller's starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>
18	Abyssinian thrush	<i>Geokichlapiaggiae</i>
19	Dusky blue flycatcher	<i>Bradurnis comitatus</i>

MOUNTAIN BUZZARD, GREAT BLUE TURACO AND BAR TAILED TRAGON



FIG 6; ABOVE SHOWS SOME BIRD SPECIES IN BINP

NATURE WALKS and BATWA EXPERIENCE.

Buhoma sector offers a variety of activities of which like nature walks and Batwa experiences are a must to do.

The Batwa community walk gives one a chance to look at the earliest inhabitants of the forest with their cultural activities and these are the people who were last removed from the park after it was gazetted as a national park in 1991.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Overview

UWA's strategic objective 9 (a) of the wildlife policy (2014) highlights the need to 'promote wildlife protected areas as a focus of local community involvement, Pride, ownership and commitment and, where appropriate, a source of socio-economic benefits'. This important aspect is complemented by strategic object 9 (d) of the same policy that mandate government to 'define and implement clear guidelines on protected area management, Revenue sharing, Resource access and other local community protected areas relationships'.

Community conservation is abroad term to describe all work involving interaction with communities living around the park or protected areas which include human wildlife conflict resolution, education and awareness, coordination with stake holders and revenue sharing,

community conservation activities take place inside and outside the park. It is headed by warden community conservation (WCC) who works with community conservation rangers (CCRs) and a team of other rangers to achieve the objective of the department

Goal of community conservation

- ❖ To increase community support for conservation

Objectives of community conservation

To increase community attitudes towards conservation

To promote equitable revenue sharing among targeted communities

To support and monitor implementation of PAM programs

To strengthen stake holders' collaboration and co-ordination

To minimize crop damage and human wildlife conflicts

To ensure sustainable utilization of park resources by local communities

PROGRAMS UNDER CC DEPARTMENT.

▪ Conservation Education and awareness extension

This is done in communities and schools, talking about the values, threats and community participation in wildlife conservation. it done through meetings , lectures , workshops, competitions , Fliers , radio talk shows and drama to promote positive attitude, knowledge and change of behaviors of neighboring communities .

▪ Implementation of Revenue sharing programs

Over view

Section 65 (4) of the wildlife Act 2019 compels the Board to authorize the executive Director of UWA to pay twenty 20% of the park entry fees collected from a wildlife protected area to the local government (s) of the area surrounding the wildlife protected area from which fees were collected as a conditional grant.

The objectives of these terms and conditions are to ensure that the funds are equitably allocated well managed and reach the targeted beneficiaries.

The conditions are also aimed at facilitating the parties involved in the monitoring, accounting and reporting on the implementation of revenue sharing projects as means to enhance transparency and value for money.

In the long run , the purpose of revenue sharing fund is to create a strong Partnership among the protected areas' management , local communities and the local governments , leading to sustainable management in and around the protected areas by enabling people living adjacent to these areas obtain economic benefits (derived from existence of these areas)

A local governments' share of 20% entry fee and an addition of 10 dollars which is deducted from each gorilla tracking permit

The revenue is distributed according to the extent to which that local government's boundary touches a protected area boundary and by the extent to which that local government's jurisdiction contributes to the total population of all frontline parishes adjacent to the protected area perimeter.

Specific its goal is to ensure that local communities living near or around protected areas obtain the benefits of those areas, improves their welfare and ultimately improve the partnership between the protected area management, local government and local communities for sustainable management of resources in and around the protected areas. Such projects include local Community access roads, domestic animal rearing like cows, goats, and sheep and saving groups among others to improve on their livelihoods.

According to UWA guidelines for the revenue sharing programs provides requisites of revenue sharing choices

Communities come up with project proposals in their respective parishes through participatory approach the districts approves the projects based on based on development plan and are submitted to UWA requesting for release of funds to fund the selected projects.

UWA submits the funds to the districts revenue sharing account which later funds to the beneficiary sub counties.

Objectives of Revenue sharing

- ❖ To establish good relations between protected areas (PAs) and neighboring communities
- ❖ To demonstrate the economic value of protected areas and conservation in general to communities neighboring protected areas
- ❖ To strengthen and support acceptance of conservation activities from the communities living adjacent to the protected area.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Overview

HuGo programme: This program aims at controlling and managing problem animals, it's done through the use of voluntary local groups such as HuGo, PAM that are always trained and equipped with skills in handling problem animals in partnership with UWA.

Hugo-Human gorilla conflict resolution programme was conceived in 1998 aiming at reducing rampant conflicts between park management and the park edge communities as a result of problem animals that ravaged community crops and property. Consequently, members of the park edge communities were voluntarily enlisted in Hugo groups around Bwindi impenetrable nation park (BINP), over time HuGo groups were trained and equipped with various skills to manage Human wildlife conflicts in their areas of operation. As a result, HuGo groups have minimized threats to biodiversity and improved livelihoods of the people who depend on biodiversity conservation around Bwindi landscape.

However Hugo programme being a collaborative, participatory community -based initiative, one of its sustainability strategies is knowledge sharing and skills enhancement through periodic meetings, trainings for continued problem animal control, good planning, record keeping and data collection on HWC using mobile based technology.

As a result communities living adjacent to the protected areas (PA) or national parks, wild animals like vermin and problem animals like Monkeys , baboons ,forest elephants , gorillas these consistently destroy their crops and so they decide to form problem animal management groups to control the animal infiltration. However in this program , some animals are regarded as “vermin “meaning communities are allowed to kill them if well sported in the community land or outside the park and these include velvet monkeys, baboons and bush pigs. There are many methods these communities use to control vermin and problem animals for example

Planting of Mauritius thorn hedge along the park boundary as a way of minimizing crop raiding

Buffer zone management this is done through promotion of unpalatable crops like tea planting along the park boundary

Red chili and scare shooting for scaring away elephants

Setting of live traps for vermin animals only

Physical garden guarding of crop fields use of bee hives, drumming, and lighting of fire

Use of vuvuzelas among others

- **Collaborative Resource management**

Overview

UWA has over the years authorized regulated access to selected resources by protected area adjacent communities as unsigned under section 35(1) of the Uganda wildlife act (2019). Authorization to access resource is intended to provide essential requirements, highlight the value of protected areas (Pas), influence positive attitudes and attract support for conservation. In BINP, memorandum of understanding (MoUs) are signed between UWA and local communities around the park for a specific period of time. Resources allowed for sharing include weaving materials, medicinal plants etc. in specific and identified part of the park guided by the ranger from the authority.

Sustainable utilization of resources from the park was put in as a mechanism for integration and conservation of Uganda's most forest prior to the establishment of Bwindi Impenetrable national park like medicinal plants, weaving materials food stuffs (wild fruits, honey roots), building materials as well as hunting for wild meat. Resource user rights were granted to formed groups of people from communities adjacent to protected areas which allow them to access and harvest some specified resources from the park on quarterly basis.

The population of Bakiga and Batwa leaving adjacent to the national park depend on the resources from the park

▪ **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT,**

Stakeholders are individuals, groups or organizations that have an interest in and are affected by a particular project, decision or policy.

Stakeholders in a national park are essential for effective management, conservation and community relations.

Key Stake holders around BINP

Local communities (LC1)

Local governments up to district levels (Up to LC5)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust (BMCT)

International Gorilla Conservation Trust (IGCP)

Institute of tropical forest conservation (ITFC)

Mountain gorilla veterinary Project (MGVP)

Conservation through public health (CTPH),

Key activities of stake holders

Sharing of conservation activity reports, guidelines and plans

Organize and attend important organizational programs

Involve and support marginalized communities especially Batwa in selected park programs

Funding conservation programs

Achievements of community conservation program

Increased community awareness on management and park resource conservation

Reduction on human wildlife conflicts (HWC)

Improved collaboration of stake holders, NGO's local governments and researchers

Formation of HuGo groups and fully equipping them with materials, knowledge and skills in managing problem animals and data collection

Establishment of various problem animal interventions thus reducing crop raids like baboon live traps, Mauritius thorn hedge, bee hives fence among others

Compensation of human injuries and crop destruction

Challenges facing community conservation programs

Despite the achievements made by the department, it also encounters a number of challenges among which include

Crop raiding especially elephants, gorillas, monkeys and other vermin animals

Population pressure leading to increased demand for natural resources

Community attitudes towards conservation, most communities are still primitive and conservative, not willing to support conservation programs for example poachers

Poor means of transport to reach out communities

Inadequate funds to facilitate communities

CHALLENGES I FACED WHILE IN THIS DEPARTMENT

Resource constraints

Unpredictable weather conditions

Shortage of transport means

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Law enforcement refers to department in BINP which is responsible for protecting the park resources, staff, visitors and their property within and outside the park from illegal use using paramilitary and law enforcement technical approaches.

It therefore enforces the UWA Act cap 315 revised version Wildlife policy 2024 and other regulations and MOUs. Other laws where Uganda is a signatory to International conventions for example Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), Monitoring the illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE), convention for International Trade of endangered species (CITES) of flora and fauna.

Law enforcement describes the individuals and agencies responsible for enforcing wildlife laws which include; protection, intelligent/detection, prevention, investigation of crime, apprehension and detention of individuals suspected of law violations.

It is headed by Warden Law enforcement who performs the following duties;

- Prepare and implement law enforcement operational plans.

- Manage use of arms and ammunitions and ensure preparation and submission of arms and ammunition returns to the relevant authorities.

- Provide updates on security in and out of PAs to the supervisor.

- Manage PA armory and strong room for wildlife trophies to ensure their safety.

- Build law enforcement capacity among the staff under him.

- Deploy and command law enforcement rangers to carry out patrols and other operations with in their area of jurisdiction.

- Ensure collection of data on illegal activities and other wildlife conservation issues to inform management decisions.

- Coordinate with Wardens investigations, intelligence and prosecution in combating wildlife crimes and illegal activities in and out of PAs.

- Prepare and implement quarterly work plans, performance and other reports.

Security refers to protection of a person, building, organization or city against threats such as crime, terrorist attacks and others.

The department is composed of different units headed by warden and security these include operations, intelligence, investigations, prosecution, tourism police, SWIFT and each unit is headed by an officer.

These perform different roles and duties to contribute to the main goal of maintaining the integrity of the park. The roles include the following;

SWIFT -Special Wildlife Integrated Force for Tourism; these are UPDF staff seconded to UWA to beef up manpower to support in operations aiming at keeping security and combating illegal activities in the park.

Tourism Police; this force originates from the directorate of the counter terrorism in police. They support UWA in curbing crimes, keeping law and order, security and safety of tourists in lodges, and they also deal with the threats of suspected terrorist activities.

UNITS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Wild life Intelligence unit;

This force is responsible for curtailing wildlife crimes and other related cases before they happen. They detect illegal activities and inform the operations unit for operational planning and final execution.

It is headed by assistant Warden Intelligence and he/she performs the following duties;

Collect and collate intelligence and timely disseminate to the relevant offices for necessary action.

Support the development of informants handling guidelines.

Recruit and maintain a network of informers, informants and agents in accordance with the guidelines.

Establish and maintain effective surveillance and intelligence support systems.

Coordinate with other relevant security agencies and other offices to ensure wildlife crime is curtailed.

Prepare and implement work plans, performance and other reports to the supervisor.

NB: Intelligence refers to the product of processed information.

It tells us about the following;

Time when the poachers have entered the park.

Strength of the enemy

Number of troops the commander is supposed to go with.

The planning of the patrol and destination

ACTIVITIES OF INTELLIGENCE

The main activity of intelligence is information gathering to curb down poaching (anti poaching)

Security checks i.e. the border between Uganda and Congo is porous, therefore with the help of field operations ranger, they conduct border line patrols after a fortnight (14 days). to have fully protection of ecosystem.

Spot checking i.e. in market places and trading centers to check whether wildlife products are being sold.

Bio-prospecting: this includes trafficking of endangered wildlife species eg pangolins, gorillas, forest elephants etc. in the park.

Ticket inspection (revenue checking): this is done to curb down revenue leakage especially when cash or money was handled physically.

Prosecution unit;

These are lawyers employed by UWA authorized by the director public prosecution to prosecute UWA cases.

It is headed by assistant Warden Prosecution who performs the following duties;

- Prosecute wildlife offenses in liaison with ODPP.

- Prepare Court documents for purposes of prosecuting wildlife offenders.

- Follow up civil and criminal cases as appropriate.

- Supervise and appraise staff under him

- Identify, prepare and facilitate witnesses in wildlife matters

- File legal documents in courts of law

- Guide wildlife criminal investigations to ensure successful prosecution.

- Identify gaps in laws, regulations and policies relating to wildlife management and provide timely advice.

Investigation unit;

This law enforcement unit is headed by assistant Warden Crime investigation.

He/she is responsible for all wildlife crimes investigations. They work hand in hand with prosecutions unit.

- Ensure proper handling of exhibits in accordance with the law.

- Prepare case files for prosecution and follow them up with the prosecutor.

- Appear in court to provide evidence as required

- Prepare and timely submit case reports to the relevant offices

- Manage wildlife crime scenes

- To investigate all wildlife cases in and outside protected areas in liaison with the respective units.

- Develop and implement plans for effective management of wildlife crime in the conservation area.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT

- ❖ **To maintain the integrity of the park.**

ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS DEPARTMENT

Conducting patrols

A number of different types of patrols are often carried out in order to enforce law and they include;

Day patrols; these are patrols which are done within a single day, they often have a specific mission to fulfill in a particular area of the park which can be reached and checked in a single day such as checking on illegal activities in that particular area.

Overnight extended patrols; this is where a section of rangers spend a number of nights in the park; they are either intelligence led or routine patrols. They go well prepared with meals, camping equipment ready to go deep in the park

Joint border patrols; these are done along the national border (with DRC for BINP's case) to ensure that there is no disturbance to the park from across the border

Trans-boundary coordinate patrols; These are done in collaboration with rangers from neighboring countries like DRC for BINP and both DRC with the aim of patrolling areas along the international boundaries while strengthening trans boundary partnerships

Other forms of patrol include, Ambushes, cordon and search, clandestine missions spot checks and fly camps

Ensuring the safety and security of park;

Rangers provide safety and security to clients by escorting and guarding all tourist groups while going for gorilla tracking; birding, nature walks, village walks and escort tourist vehicles to Ruhija sector

Carry out information gathering;

The wildlife intelligence staffs take the leading role but it is the responsibility of every staff to gather information. The intelligence unit processes all the information gathered to be used by managers to take decisions

Apprehend suspects and participate in prosecutions in court;

Suspects involved in wildlife offences are arrested, detained and charged at police and made ready appear to court. The process involves; taking record of first information, secure and compile evidence and exhibits, recording of statements of witness, suspects and ensure a complete case file

Boundary maintenance;

The park boundary must be clear to avoid any kind of encroachment .it has to be slashed regularly to make it very clear. Live markers are planted along the park boundary in addition to concrete pillars.

Problem animal management:

A wild animal is regarded to be a problem animal when it stays out of the park into the community land. Scare shooting using AK47 fires is one of the methods used to chase animals back to the park.

Fire management:

This involves preventing and fighting fire in the park. Measures are taken to prevent the fires and if all fails then it has to be put off manually by staff and community members

like HUGO have always assisted in providing the information and participate in the fight of fire.

Collaboration with security agencies;

Such as; UPDF, police, ISO and other stake holders' attend security planning meetings, joint security operations and others.

Participate in public functions;

Like Tree sita (6th of February) and 26th January *Anniversary* parades national Independence Day, world environmental day etc. The department also conducts the on job training of the staff in various fields of law enforcement. These include; inducting and orienting new staff from training, parade drills and field navigation, Ranger based data collection (RBDC) is carried out while conducting patrols in the protected area

Lessons I learnt from the patrol

Marking of the trails to avoid getting lost in forest.

Put on good hiking shoes while in the field

How to use the GPS and SMART phones to collect data from the field.

How to identify human illegal activities that could be taking place within the forest

I also gained a skill of how to site an ambush operation for a successful arrest of wrong doers found in protected areas.

I learnt the importance of making art walk while carrying out foot patrol.

Observations made during the patrol

Black fronted duiker.

Baboons

African wagtail

Columbus monkeys

L'Hoest monkeys

Red tailed monkeys

Great blue turaco

Giant fern tree

Natural gate and a fig tree

Threats to the park

Insecurity especially along the border in DRC.

Illegal activities such as illegal trade in wildlife products, the killing of elephants for ivory by using sophisticated methods like guns, poison.

Population, the ever increasing population is a threat to the natural resources especially on national park, wildlife, wetlands and forested areas.

Human wildlife conflicts

Unfavorable weather changes

Political interference

Solutions to the above challenges

Close collaboration with security organs/agencies

Continuous community sensitization

Empowering the intelligence unit

Regulating resource access from the park, MOUs for some resources

Planting of Mauritius thorns along the park boundary to prevent animals from crossing the park to people's land and cause destruction.

Close collaboration with other stakeholders

Major illegal activities in BINP

Poaching;

This is the illegal killing of animals like duikers, bush pigs, bush bucks, Elephants and others without the permission from the park management. It can be in form of hunting, snare setting, among others.

Illegal grazing

Cutting trees for charcoal

Bamboo harvesting.

Firewood collection.

Cutting poles for construction.

Reasons why people carryout illegal activities

Famine, this causes the community to invade the Pa for extraction of the available resources.

Ignorance of some local people. Some people don't know the importance of the park to community and the country at large

Culture: the existing cultural beliefs' like need for hides which is more common in the surrounding communities and Witch craft

Poverty; this makes people carryout poaching because they lack money and for food supplements

Negative attitude, where people think that resources are for free and they should be utilized.

Some want to make revenge on the natural resources.

Food supplements like fruits, Bush meat etc

Some people think that the park is God given

For medicine and herbs.

Tools used in law enforcement and security department

GPS (Global positioning system), SMART phones tools that use satellites which enables the user to capture coordinates of an area where observations are made. They are therefore used to locate places

Compass; this is used to show the direction in the forest during navigation through the forest.

Data sheets; this is where observations made are noted down

Radio calls for communication

Gum boots

Rain gears for the unpredictable weather within the park

Guns for defense against wild animals and terrorists

Challenges I encountered in law enforcement and security department

Hiking steep slopes causing tiredness and thirsty due to heavy sunshine

Injuries caused by fallings and thorny plants deep in the forest.

Unfavorable weather changes like rainfall experience while in the field

Language barrier due to constant use of Swahili in the field thus hindering effective communication

Biting insects and stinging nettles which caused swelling and itching of the skin

Solutions to the above challenges

More GPS and SMART phone devices should be bought in order to equip trainees with skills on how to use them

Learning of Kiswahili language should be emphasized to easy communication in the field

Putting on long sleeved clothing to minimize the effect of biting insects and stinging nettles

Strong hiking shoes and walking sticks suitable for hiking steep slopes

Provision of the first aid kits to the people going for patrols

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

This department is headed by research and monitoring warden

Goal of the department

To provide relevant, accurate, scientific and timely information for resource management

ACTIVITIES DONE BY THIS DEPARTMENT

Weather monitoring through the such as the Automatic weather station which automatically collects and records weather data at programmed time intervals and subsequently downloaded routinely, the data analyzed and interpreted to provide information.

Collecting, analyzing and interpretation of data about flora and fauna to create a database of information.

Carry out gorilla census and fauna inventory in the famous BINP which helps the management to know the population of endangered mountain gorillas which helps them in planning.

Spearhead gorilla identification and demography (identifying every habituated gorilla classes and ascertaining age, classes and group dynamics).

Weather monitoring in and around the park. This is done through the use of weather

To work hand in hand with other researchers that is other institute such as university, ITFC, CTPs and monitor researchers' activities.

Carryout the testing of water quality outside and inside the PA. Water quality in PA are tested to a stain any pollution.

Spearhead gorilla habituation and undertake any necessary habituation impact assessments age and class.

Carryout environmental impact studies before the implementation of any new development in PA and advice management on the likely effects which aids environmental audits to ensure that operating projects do not stray from the EIA guidelines.

Tools used in ecological monitoring and research

GPS and SMART phones that are used to mark positions/locations of various findings;

Automatic weather station with an assemblage of equipment like; rain gauge, wind vane, thermometer, solar radiator and anemometer among others.

Cameras and drones for photographing objects of interest.

Compass - used to show direction especially while undertaking navigation through the forest where they can easily go astray.

Binoculars and telescopes - an instrument that is used in observation of distant objects. These may be birds and dangerous mammals like elephants among others.

Data sheets - these are forms that are filled during every activity to record field observations. The data filled in the data sheet is subsequently fed into the computers and analyzed thereafter.

Computers - for processing and analyzing collected data.

Why does the department monitor?

To establish the kind of changes which take place in the protected area ecosystems.

To determine whether the changes are negative or positive.

To measure the intensity/extent of the changes.

To suggest measures for enhancing any positive changes as well as mitigation of any negative changes.

NB all these are done in order to inform and guide decision making by management for appropriate action.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION IN THIS DEPARTMENT

Observation method. It is the commonly used method which is usually employed during different field operations such as ranger patrols, gorilla tracking, social surveys and field surveys.

Vegetation sampling. Sample plots of vegetation are established and periodic measurements done to such as DBH and fruiting patterns in order to establish vegetation characteristics.

Collection of animal and plant samples. This is done for laboratory examination for disease surveillance such as faecal, hair and organs of dead animals among others.

Camera trappings. This is where stealth cameras that capture images of all objects sensed in motion (animals and people) are used to record observations in different localities to monitor illegal activities and shy animals.

Equisetic sensors for recording sounds.

Photography.

Types of Data Collected under Ecological Monitoring and Research

Ranger based monitoring (RBM) data - This a systematic collection of data on flora and fauna by the rangers on patrols.

Weather data - Automatic and manual methods are used to collect data where by some instruments are used like rain gauge for measuring rain fall, wind vane, sunshine recorder, etc. Other forms of weather data are wind rate and speed records, temperature, atmospheric pressure and humidity.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected is usually processed, analyzed and interpreted to guide decision-making. Resultant reports may include monthly summaries of illegal activities observed, patrol coverage maps, fauna home range maps, and age distribution of gorillas among others.

METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

Different methods are used to analyze data and they include MS Excel, GIS Applications and SMART. The choice of an appropriate method to use depends on the type of data to be analyzed as well as the expected output from the analysis. Below are the most commonly used methods in BINP:

GIS for mapping locations of specific observations and zoning fauna ranging areas, producing navigational maps of the forest, among others.

Report Generation

Reports are made at periodic intervals such as monthly, and annually. The reports are generated using the analysis methods mentioned above and compiled using MS Word usually in form of descriptive words, images (maps and pictures), and histograms among others.

Achievements of ecological monitoring and research

Promoting proper waste management strategies by providing eco-bins where wastes can be disposed off

Gorilla diseases have been administered in collaboration with veterinary stake holders.

Various mitigation measures have been developed to guide project development with least negative impacts on the environment.

Activities I participated in while in the department

Advance tracking whereby we used to go very early into the forest at 6:30am in the morning to look for the gorillas in their respective gorilla groups in the forest through following the bent vegetation, gorilla droppings, fresh plant peel offs and left overs and the nests.

Table 5:**CORRELATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY TAUGHT COURSES**

S/NO	COURSES TAUGHT	RELATED ACTIVITY
1	Wildlife Tourism	Gorilla monitoring, habituations, the nature of food they feed and the birding activity.
2	Environmental management for Tourism	Zoning, proper waste management inside and outside the protected area
3	Tourism marketing and destination promotion	Park's marketing strategies like giving gorilla certificates to tourists after gorilla tracking
4	Communication Skills	Having accurate information of gorilla groups , being audible and polite when communicating to clients
5	Cultural tourism	Batwa cultural experiences before the tourist general briefing
6	Research methods	Methods of data collection that include the literature review, interviews, observation and many more
7	Human Resource management	Having skilled and adequate staff to handle work easily like porters, trackers and guides.
8	Fundamentals of Accounting	Making of accountability and reception of payments
9	Tour guiding techniques	Guiding clients and briefing them on the different activities taking place.
10	Tourism and hospitality law	Procedures followed during compensation process and laws against poaching

PRESENTATION OF WELL DETAILED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Community sensitization. There is need to add more efforts in creating awareness for example, about the importance of conservation and dangers of poaching in order to increase their support towards the park activities

Poaching of wildlife animals for either need to should be monitored or the criminals arrested as this can reduce on the number of animals in the park hence low number of visitors visiting the park.

There is need to Invest in more advanced surveillance and monitoring technologies to detect and deter poaching activities.

There is need to improve cross-border coordination and intelligence-sharing with neighboring countries to increase cross border relations.

Accessibility. The roads in the park need to be worked on as most of them are poor most especially during the rainy season to enable easy accessibility by the tourists.

Inadequate man power. There is need for improvement in recruiting employees in different departments for example in the law enforcement department in order to increase the efficiency of monitoring patrols in the park. .

Signage: There is need to increase the sign posts around the park to remind the tourists about the rules and regulations of the park

There is need to develop and implement sustainable land-use plans in collaboration with local communities to ensure the long-term integrity of the park's ecosystems.

Misunderstanding with the locals; There is need to enhance meaningful dialogue and collaboration with local communities to address their concerns and incorporate their traditional ecological knowledge.

There is need to develop more equitable and transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that local communities receive a fair share of the park's tourism and conservation-related revenue.

Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening: There is need to Invest in the training and professional development of park staff, including rangers, guides, and administrators, to enhance their skills and knowledge in conservation management

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED WORKPLAN AND HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

A work plan is a written document for a streamlined project. The purpose is to create a visual reference for the goal, objectives, tasks, and team members who are responsible in each area. There are also various types of work plans which include the following, employee work plan, manager work plan, Business work plan and so many others.

This proposed work plan is aimed at achieving different goals in BINP as analyzed below;

- ☒ To increase knowledge and expertise of the guides and the park administrators.
- ☒ To promote safety and security in the park
- ☒ To increase the economic value of the parks to the neighboring people.
- ☒ To promote eco- tourism for the sustainable development of the national park.
- ☒ To strengthen ties with the community
- ☒ To ensure high quality service delivery in the park
- ☒ To widen the market base of the national park and as well as Uganda as an international destination

TABLE 5 .BELOW IS THE WORK PLAN AND HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED

NO.	PLAN	HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED
1	Safety and security in the park	Deploying of more UPDF soldiers to work hand in hand with park rangers
		Increasing monitoring and supervision in the park
2	Marketing of BINP as tourism destinations	Engaging the locals to market the park using collective efforts.
		Providing the best commentaries to tourists to encourage word of mouth advertising.
		Use of social media platforms to acquire a very big market For example YouTube, face book, Instagram and the creation of the site website.
		Use of the political leaders like the chairperson local council five in the area to act as tourism ambassadors for the site.
3	Establishment of tourism facilities such as hotels, restaurants	Calling upon the investors to invest their money in establishing hotels and restaurants in the area for tourists.
		Look for help from Uganda Tourism Board, MTWA and in outside countries.
4	Social services such as roads, electricity, hospitals	Engaging the ministry of works to construct roads in the area to ease transportation.
		Engaging the area leaders such as the MPs, district chairperson to lobe funds so as to develop the area.
		Request the government and NGOs to construct the social centers such as hospitals around BINP
5	Capacity building	Sponsoring guides for more studies
		Teaching guides new languages like Kiswahili, French
		Engaging with the guides to determine their needs

CHAPTER FOUR:

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF A STUDENT

Introduction

This chapter entails how the internship contributed to my professional growth as a student and the SWOT of BMCA

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED BY THE INTERN

Overview

This chapter basically gives 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.

A skill refers to the expertise or talent needed in order to do a particular job or task.

A professional refers to an activity that a person engages in having the right expertise and knowledge required, so as to earn a living

Career refers to a particular occupation or a job that a person does for a long time or the rest of his life to achieve his or her desire goals.

Skills Learnt and How Relevant they were to my Professional and Career Growth

Team Work

Tourism being not a one-man business, it calls for many departments to fully satisfy a client, it's at this point that team work is really vital and important while caring out my internship training in BINP it was a best definition of team work as all departments and sectors straight from the tourism department, community conservation, law enforcement among others do work together for a fabulous client satisfaction. .Standing in for others and taking group responsibility is very vital in tourism industry.

Record Keeping

In this modern world, any person who lacks the record keeping skills is not close to success. BINP being a very big establishment, record keeping is key almost in all departments for example in the finance department which deals with money every single penny should be recorded for accountability, It is this skill that I used to record all the important information about flora and fauna in BINP.

Listening skills

Listening skills refers, refers to the ability to use ones senses and understand the information that is being communicated effectively. Good listeners always try to understand what is being communicated. I was able to listen to Mr. Joshua ,one of our field guides when she was explaining about the importance of collars put in the lion's necks whereby she told that they are used for monitoring how lions move ,produce ,feed as well as controlling any illegal wild life activity.

Time management skills

Time management refers to skills that involve organizing and planning how to divide time different activities effectively. for example I used to wake up early morning, so that i organize for morning activities like gorilla tracking which started at 06;30 am . According to how gorilla trackers us managed their time during the tour, I learnt that time management is key to success.

Observation skills

This refers to the skills where one uses his or her five senses to understand and analyze and make conclusion about different circumstances and items. I used this skill to observe the different biodiversity in the park like gorillas. I also observed eco lodges like Buhoma lodge, Gorilla Forest lodge which they built using natural materials like wood.

Tour guiding and nature interpretation

Having a dream of being the best guide ever, during my internship training at BINP.

I learnt guiding and nature interpretation as it's a major factor for proper client satisfaction, the guide must have enough knowledge and information about mammal, plants, geological processes, birds, vegetation among others. After having a first-class hand on in BINP both on the flora and fauna, I believe that I now have the skills and can fulfill my dream profession and career.

Planning skills

This refers to skills that enable a person to organize, prepare and arrange for particular activities using the available resources effectively. My planning started before going to the national park, through preparatory reading about BINP

Planning also involves arranging for items which were needed such as hiking shoes, heavy jackets, back bag , face towel, log book and among others. Planning skills enabled me to achieve the internship objectives

I learnt that BINP represents a vital refuge of some rare and unique flora and fauna

I gained knowledge on community sensitization and awareness extension

As a student I gained knowledge on Bwindi impenetrable national park and the purpose of wildlife conservation

I gained knowledge on communication, feedback and community mobilization

I learnt more knowledge on the habituation process

Knowledge in animal behavior, identification and how to handle them outside in the community land

I acquired skills in project planning and management

I learnt that communities benefit direct from wildlife conservation inform of revenue sharing, medicinal access, weaving materials among others

I learnt how to use and operate various equipment like global positioning system while patrolling and tracking gorillas

I furthermore attained skills in birding through listening to their sounds, color and songs.

EVALUATION OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF BINP

STRENGTH

.Bwindi is an important park for both flora and fauna of the Albertine Rift endemic this ranges from over 358 species of birds (182 forest dependents and 24 Albertine Rift Endemics), over 120 species of mammals, over 17 species of snakes over 27 species of reptiles (toads and frog) , over 6 species of chameleon, over 14 species of Lizards (I. e Lizards, skinks and geckos over 200 recorded species of trees , over 200 recorded species of unique and colorful butterflies and the star attraction ‘the mountain Gorillas’

A well-established leadership has also made BINP a strong organization which has made proper management of the park

The tight security at BINP that provides a calm environment in line of safety both property and personal to tourists also makes BINP a very strong organization

WEAKNESS

There is a shortage of trained and experienced tour guides, park rangers, and conservation specialists to manage the park effectively

OPPORTUNITIES

BINP is the one of most visited park because of its unique gorillas. This therefore puts it at an advantage compared to other parks thus being able to generate high revenue for the government.

BINP has an opportunity of the compensations program in case of any accidents and other issues arising which reduces on unwanted behavior like poaching. This therefore enables conservation and also promotes tourism in the park.

BINP involves stakeholders and partners for example the community, local council leaders and other partners who aid in funding it and also provide Labor. This reduces on shortage of Labor and funds.

BINP has an opportunity of government policy on revenue share of 20%, this revenue is collected and given back to the community to help develop it. This therefore plays a very big role of reducing resistance from the community

THREATS

Negative attitude

some of the community members around the park is also a threat to the smooth growth of the park for example when the community a conservation department go and carry out sensitization to the community informing them about the importance of conserving the park or when they go and solve the issue of the problem animal the community members tend to be resistant hence leading to slow development of the park.

Poaching

This is referred to as the illegal hunting and killing of animals in protected areas, poaching stands out to be among the threats in BINP

Pollution

Big threat to control pollution levels in the country as most of the people are ignorant about the detrimental effects caused by wastes. A common practice is the locals crossing through the park on foot dumping their wastes mainly empty plastic soda bottles

Diseases

This is a remarkable threat to the park as it has severely contributed to the decline of wildlife in the park. Examples include gastrointestinal diseases caused by parasites, human induced diseases, respiratory infections caused by human viruses and bacteria and external parasites like nematodes and cestodes and protozoa.

Problems experienced during industrial training

The terrain of land and poor roads in rural communities that hindered our movement.

High cost of living like rent, water access and food, Bwindi being an area of tourism

Unfavorable weather condition such as coldness of the area

How I handled the above problems

The challenge of land terrain and poor road network was solved by effectively coordinating with UWA staff like trackers and use of UWA vehicles and motorcycles in hard to reach communities

The challenge of high costs of living was solved by using my previous savings i had made before the internship

The challenge of unfavorable weather conditions was solved by understanding dynamics and endurance.

LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT OF INTERNSHIP DUTIES

During my industrial training, I was signed so many roles and duties to perform ranging from the gorilla tracking, phenology, community engagements and day patrols which at times needed waking up very early and make sure it's done in its situated period. In case of challenges, I always consulted all my guides and finally my university supervisor

I managed to also fill the log book successfully, with the assistance from my supervisor; it contained various activities that I was assigned to engage in.

I also managed to successfully, participate in the tourism products and services found in the national park, such as gorilla tracking, birding, nature walks , tour guiding and so many others.

CHAPTER FIVE

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO UWA, GOVERNMENT , UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY AND CONCLUSION.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO UWA

UWA should increase revenue sharing from 20% to at least 25% to improve on the livelihood of the people around the conserved areas and to make them feel important to the park.

The organization should deploy more enforcement officers to make the patrol work more easy and efficient.

The organization should always make a follow up on the released funds revenue sharing to ensure the money is used for the project meant to for.

UWA should put much emphasis on research activities in order to identify the causes of the problems that may affect the flora and fauna of the BINP.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

The government needs to develop a new tourism investment policy which ensures sound and direct investment in areas to meet national social and economic goals.

Allocating more funding for national park operations, maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

Providing resources for visitor centers, educational programs, and sustainable tourism initiatives

Investing in public transportation and accessibility to parks

Promoting Incentive eco-tourism businesses and sustainable hospitality option near parks

Developing guidelines and certification programs for low impact, nature based tourism activities

Providing tax credits or other financial incentives for tourism enterprises adopting green practices

Encourage cooperation of all stake holders in the making of planning and making decisions aimed at using tourism development to improve livelihoods.

Establishing public private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise

Launching national and international marketing campaigns to raise awareness.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY

Firstly, I humbly appreciate and recognize the tremendous efforts of the faculty and university at large, for facilitating and enabling us to achieve such great milestones during our field attachment.

The university should have a thought in logbook improvements; our logbooks had little space for information coverage

I recommend the following, the university should also work upon increasing on the number of our days in the field, so that we continue to get exposed and learn a lot while in the field, various strategies can be implemented with collaboration with other stake holders to achieve it.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Avoiding cases of illegal hunting as this minimizes the number of biodiversity.

Collaborating with the protected area managers to promote sustainability of parks resources.

Respecting the boundaries of the protected areas.

CONCLUSION

As part of my study program, I managed to apply the theory and practical work studied in two years which helped me to conduct my industrial training successfully thereby leading to this report.

I acquired knowledge and experience from well trained, knowledgeable staff. Everyone was skilled, approachable and hospitable to me.

The knowledge received here in correlation with the one in class, will help me become a better guide and a best tourism professional.

It was really a golden opportunity for me to carry out my internship training BINP

Indeed BINP provides the ULTIMATE GORILLA EXPERIENCE.

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APPENDENCES.

Table 6; ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING MY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

DURATION	DUTIES	DEPARTMENT	SUPERVISOR	LESSONS AND SKILLS
ACTIVITY 2 ND JUNE To 10 TH JULY	General Orientation and Introduction to community conservation department	Community conservation department	CCR	Acquired experience and skills about revenue sharing , conservation education , and compensation programs
10 TH TO 29 TH JUNE	Ecological monitoring and research lecture	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	Getting more knowledge about the gorilla feeding.
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	More knowledge on gorilla family life.
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research m	Ecological monitoring Ranger	Learnt how to communicate with the gorillas
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	Identified the different communication skills with the gorilla trackers
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	Gorillas make different sounds such as pig grant, traingrant,whimper.
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	How to handle gorillas with young ones.
	Gorilla monitoring	Ecological monitoring and Research	Ecological monitoring Ranger	Ways of dealing with aggressive gorillas.
30 TH TO 17 TH JULY	Introduction to tourism and marketing	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	
	Tour guiding	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Knowledge on how to introduce one’s self to tourists
	Tour guiding	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Getting self-confidence to speak to the clients
	Tour guiding	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Getting better at briefing clients for gorilla tracking.

	Nature walk	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Acquiring skills about nature interpretation.
	Bird watching	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Knowledge about endemic birds o BINP
	Bird watching	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	Different bird calls
	Nature walk	Tourism and marketing	Head guide	More knowledge about the flora and fauna in Bwindi
ACTIVITY 18 th JULY TO 24 th JULY	Law enforcement lecture	Law enforcement	Head ranger	Getting knowledge and skills on how patrols are conducted.
	Day patrol	Law enforcement	Head ranger	Acquiring knowledge on the use of GPS and how to patrol.
	Day patrol	Law enforcement		Knowledge on how to demarcate park boundaries

FIG 7; A MAP SHOWING ACCESSIBILITY TO BINP



FIG 8; A PHOTO DURING GORILLA TREKKING



FIG 9; A PHOTO TAKEN AFTER A DAY PATROL



FIG 10; A PHOTO AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



FIG 11; A PHOTO AFTER SUCCESSFUL GORILLA TREKKING



A LIST OF FIGURES

FIG 1; ADMINISTRATIVE HIERARCHY OF BINP

FIG 2; SHOWS THE LOCATION OF BINP

FIG 3; SHOWS THE BATWA AROUND BINP

FIG 4 ; RECORDING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARK

FIG 5; A MAP SHOWING THE FOUR TOURISM ZONES IN BINP

FIG 6; SHOWS SOME BIRD SPECIES IN BINP

FIG 7; A MAP SHOWING ACCESSIBILITY TO BINP

FIG 8; A PHOTO DURING GORILLA TRACKING

FIG 9; A PHOTO TAKEN AFTER A DAY PATROL

FIG 10; A PHOTO AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

FIG 11; A PHOTO AFTER SUCCESSFUL GORILLA TREKKING