

**RECESS TERM REPORT CARRIED OUT AT UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY IN
MOUNTAIN ELGON NATIONAL PARK.**

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BU/UG/2024/ 5066




**FIELD ATTACHMENT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE OF TOURISM AND TRAVEL
MANAGEMENT OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

JANUARY, 2026

DECLARATION

I TUKAMUHEBWAJULIET, BU/UG/2024/ 5066 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..........

DATE.....19th / January 2026.....

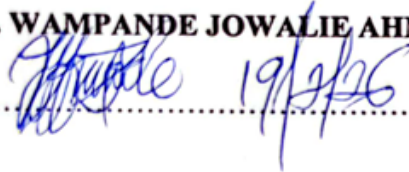
APPROVAL

This is to certify that this report has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of bachelor of tourism and travel management.

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

Name: **Mr. WAMPANDE JOWALIE AHMED**

Signature.....

 19/2/26

DEDICATION

Every challenging work needs self-efforts as well as guidance of elders especially those who were very close to our heart.

My humble effort I dedicate to my sweet and loving mother and father.

Mr.And Mrs.TWESIGYE CLEOFAS whose affection, love, encouragement and prayers of day and night make me able to get such success and honor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Completing this report was marked by timely appearance and sustained encouragement and support of several people I wish to thank Almighty God provided the strength and wisdom to finish this recess

. My beloved parents for their financial support and encouragement, Busitema University and Uganda Wildlife Authority and particularly mountain Elgon national park management for their support during the recess term period.

I also thank all my fellow students that gave in their time to assist me during the whole recess term program

I also thank Mr. Wejuli

Further thanks go to **Mr. Wampande Jowalie Ahmed** for providing valuable throughout this report. His dynamism, vision, sincerity and motivation have deeply inspired me.

ABSTRACT.

The recess term covers duration of two Months activities carried out at UWA in mountain Elgon national park. Chapter one talks about the introduction of internship program, historical background of MENP, management of UWA and its organizational structures, departments, uniqueness, accommodation facilities, maps showing size and location of the park as well as the activities carried out in MENP. Chapter two covers materials and methods used in the field to achieve my internship objectives while at MENP, presentation of results and discussion of internship (tours and travel/hospitality) issues and presentation of a proposed tourism issue at the internship place. Chapter three presents a clear description of materials and methods used at the work place, a clear presentation of results and discussion of findings basing on the internship objectives, activities carried out during my recess term, presentation of well detailed areas of improvement and a proposed work plan and how it can be achieved. Chapter four summarizes the skills learnt and how they are relevant with my professional and career growth, evaluation of strengths and weakness, opportunities and threats of organization, and finally, level of accomplishment of other activities assigned to student by the field supervisor and how relevant the activities were to my professional growth. Chapter five covers the overall conclusions and recommendations, and the references.

ABBREVIATIONS.

MENP..... Mountain Elgon National Park. **UWA**.....

Uganda wildlife Authority

EEC..... European Economic Community.

FACE..... Forest Absorbing Carbon dioxide Emissions.

MAB..... Man, And Biosphere

MOU..... Memorandum of Understanding

IUCN..... International Union for Conservation of Nature.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Recess term trip is profession learning experience that offers a meaningful, practical work related to a student's field of study. Recess helps a student start to build a professional network that can be a resource for the student. It also gives student a chance to learn new skills. This chapter explains the introduction to recess term program, objectives of the internship, and the introduction of the organization and their chats.

1.1 BACKGROUND 1 TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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 universities 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.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRIP.

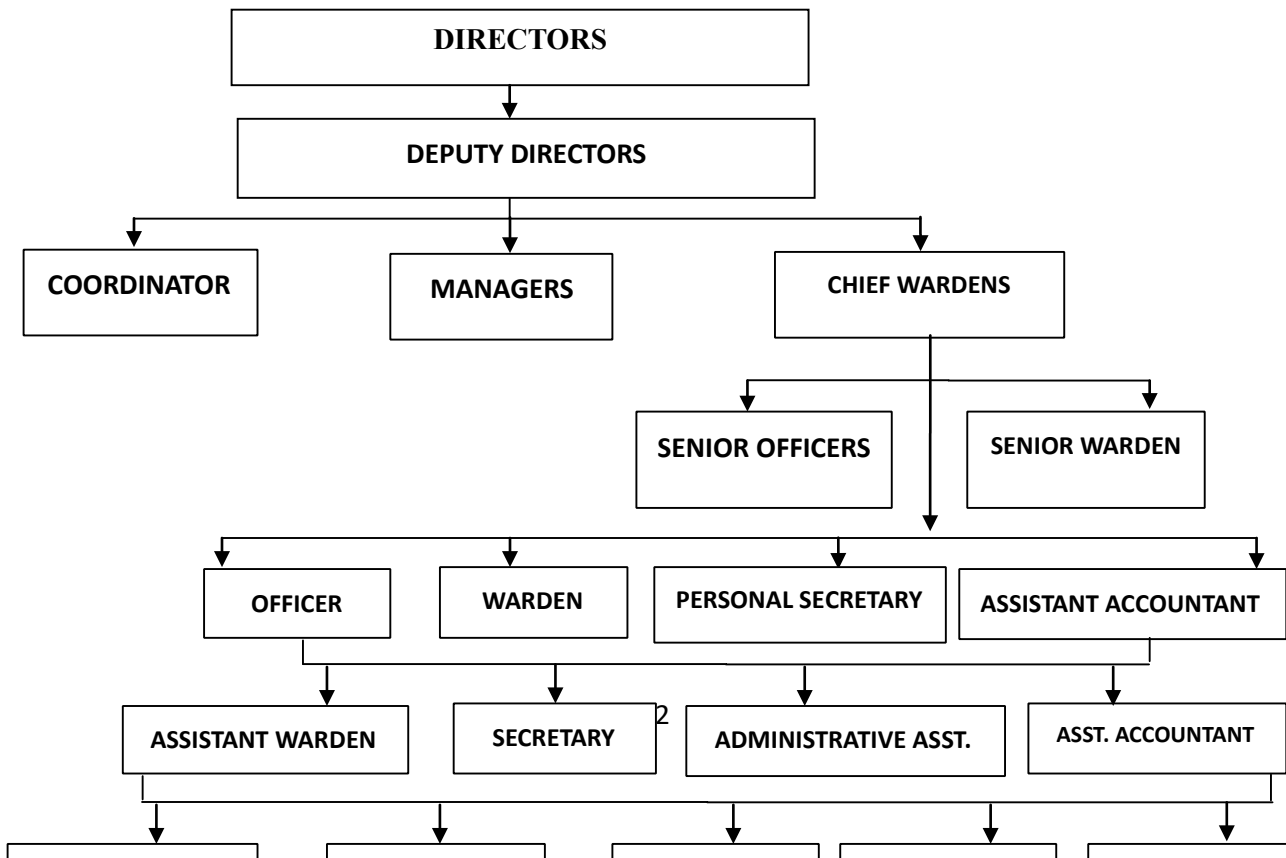
- ✓ To get acquainted with tourism and hospitality enterprise and organization
- ✓ To understand peculiarities of their operations and the role of team and carrying out their activities
- ✓ To develop ability to blend into team, understand structure and operation
- ✓ To develop the capacity of analyzing, assessing and developing suggestions for business improvement.

1.3.0 MANAGEMENT OF UWA;

1.3.1 Background describing the organization

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is a semi-government agency that conserves and manages Uganda’s wildlife for the people of Uganda and the whole world. This agency was established in 1996 after the merger of the Uganda National Parks and game department of the Uganda wildlife Statute. UWA was mandated in 2000 to ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources and supervise wildlife activities in Uganda both within and outside the protected area.

UWA’S ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.



1.3.2 UWA's Vision

To be the leading, self-sustaining wildlife conservation agency that transforms Uganda into one of the best ecotourism destinations in Africa.

1.3.3 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

1.3.4 Goals and Objectives

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

1.3.5 CORE VALUES

Commitment to conservation; Responsible staff upholding conservation ethics and values in the sense of love for nature

Teamwork; An organization whose staff take collective responsibility and own decisions taken in the best interest of the organization to achieve a common goal.

Customer care and quality service; an organization with hospitable staff offering a range of services in line with best practice to the satisfaction of customers

Professionalism; An organization with competent staff, striving for excellence with

selflessness, compassion and empathy accepting a commitment to serve with dedication and selfimprovement within the profession

Integrity; An organization with staff that is accountable, honest, trustful and morally upright of one's action and adherence to moral and ethical principle

1.4 BACKGROUND OF MOUNTAIN ELGON NATIONAL PARK.

MENP is a national park located in the eastern part of Uganda and covers almost **4000sq km²**. It's a national park that is shared by two countries i.e., Kenya and Uganda. Mountain elgon national park derives its name from mountain elgon which is a volcanic mountain and it's believed to have erupted 24 million years ago. This mountain was named by the British explorer, **Joseph Thomson**, the first European to its lower slopes, who approached it from the direction of Maasai land in 1883 and named it Elgon, an Anglicization of the Maasai name **ol doinyo lagoon** (literally, Breast Mountain). The mountain is also believed to be the oldest mountain in the region and it was also once the tallest mountain in the region but due to repeated eruption of lava, the mountain kept on reducing in size where by it is currently the 4th in position of the biggest mountains in the east African region. It is also known to be one of the biggest calderas in the world being in the 1stposition (**wagagai caldera**). MENP was first gazetted in 1938. It remained under the management of the forest department, with several relatively minor changes in designation until 1993 when its status was upgraded to national park. During the period **19381993**, the reserve was managed primarily for the protection of its water catchment values. To further increase its conservation status, MENP was designated as a man and biosphere (**MAB**) reserve in JUNE 2005 in Paris, France. In addition to the above, the change of status from a forest reserve to a national park was in recognition of its water catchment, biological, cultural, historical and other values.

MENP has become an island in a densely populated area. Its management and conservation is therefore a challenge to UWA and the nation as a whole.

Due to increase in population of people and demand of resources such as land, a portion of it has been given to the communities surrounding and thus declining from **4000km²** to **1145km²** and **1121km²** according to the assumptions made.

In 1970s-1986, the national parks in Uganda were facing a lot of challenges due to political unrests that were there by then. Some of them were; encroachment, and thus MENP became a victim. However, in 1990s, conservation rose up and some of the parks that were encroached, rehabilitation came in for example, planting trees which led to the introduction of the secondary vegetation. For example, various organizations both on the international and the national level came in to conserve the biodiversity which was almost near threatened. In MENP, organizations like FACE, EEC practiced reforestation in the Kapkwai forest exploration Centre and this led to the rise of secondary vegetation which even returned some of the lost flora and fauna in the park.

Mountain elgon is harbored by different tribes and some of these are; gisu and sabiny people.

It also covers the districts of Mbale, sironko, bulambuli, kapchorwa, Kween, bududa, namisindwa, manafwa and bukwa.

NB: Besides wagagai peak, mt. Elgon also features other outstanding peaks including, sudek4302m, koitobos-4222m, mubiyi-4211m, and Jackson's summit-4161 m.

1.5 UNIQUENESS OF THE PARK.

MENP is made up of various resources that attract tourists and these are, tree species, birds, mammals, falls, rivers and many others.

1.5.1 Trees species

For example; aningerea Adolf- friedr, elgon teak, prunus africanus, Allophylus abbsyinica, hageria abbsyinica, neubonia macro calyx, wild banana and many others.

According to **David bometi kiplangat** a tour guide in MENP, told us that some of these tree species, act medicine for various diseases.

Below is the picture showing tree species in the MNEP;



1.5.2 Birds;

MENP has almost 300 bird species and some of these are lammergeyers endemic to the elgon. The heaviest flying bird that can even kill a goat, common bulbul and many

1.5.3 Mammals;

It also has mammals such as the buffaloes, African elephants, antelopes and among others but most of these are majorly found in the low land areas.

In addition to the above, it also harbors some of the primates such as the monkeys, olive baboons and others.

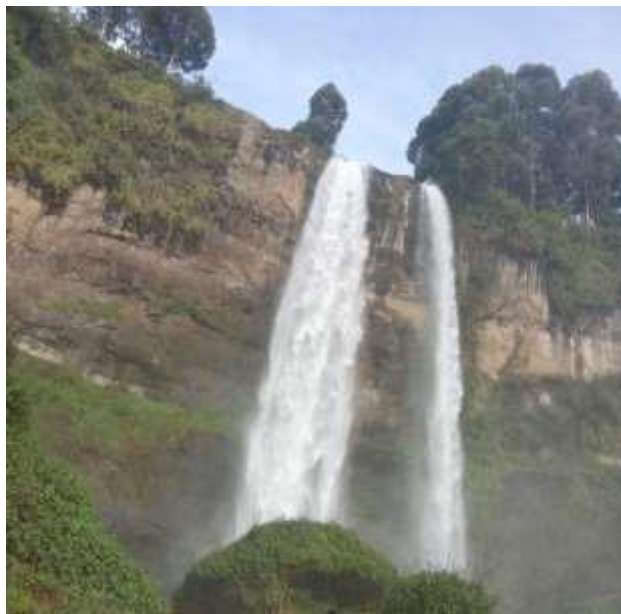
Below is the photo of a blue monkey spotted in MNEP, Kapkwai forest exploration center;



1.5.4 Falls

This is also one of the unique features which attract tourists in the MENP. It has various amazing falls like the cheboneti waterfalls, sipi and others.

Below is the picture of the sipi falls;



1.5.5 Culture;

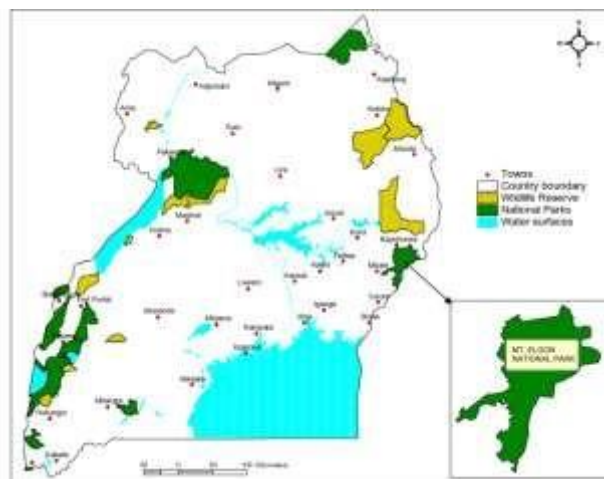
For the local culture, especially the bagisu people, mountain Elgon is the embodiment of their founding father/ ancestor Masaba and refers to the mountain by the name. They assert that Masaba emerged from one of the elgon caves 500years ago. The amazing fact about the gisu is the male circumcision (imbalu) which is practiced in the even years from august to December.

MENP is made up of various trails which can help the tourists to access it and these are; piswa, sasa, swam, busihi, and sipi.

Below is the sketch map of the sipi trail that was used by us (tourism students) in order to access the park;



THE MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING THE LOCATION OF MENP



SKETCH MAP SHOWING MENP



1.6 TOURISM ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN MENP;

There are various tourism activities that can be practiced around mountain Elgon national park and they include nature walk, game drives, bird watching, camping around various camping sites like the Kapkwai forest exploration center, visiting the museum, hiking and caving as discussed below;

Nature walks; this is the best amazing activity that brings out hidden features of the park which can be explored on foot while in the park. The successful nature walk safari starts in the morning where you meet up with the ranger escort. The ranger gets to share amazing wilderness experience and also ensures that the visitor is safe. While in MENP, our nature walk was guided by David kipLangat and Salim Alex Bukose who helped us to get some information about the park.

Below is my photo during nature walk.



Birding;

Bird watching, this can be best done in the morning hours Such that birds can be easily spotted. While in MENP we carried out birding as an activity and we were able to see various bird species such as the African pied wag tail, African common bulbul and other species.

Hiking;

It refers to a combination of walking on a mountain and sport climbing. It consists of the action of climbing mountains or rock walls without the use of technical equipment or ropes. In MENP, people usually go and have the hiking experience on mountain elgon and some rocks like the wills summit view and this is all done with the help of the guide for example when we were in MENP, we carried out hiking at the rocks of wills summit view and this helped us to fully explore the park.

Below is the picture showing our hiking secession while in MENP;



After reaching at the wills summit view;

Caving; this is also one of the trending tourism activities in Uganda and MENP has the best caves. While in the park, we carried out caving as an activity in the Kapkwai cave and it's where we also gathered some historical information about the indigenous people in that area (sabiny).

Chebonet Waterfalls; At cheboneti, our guide Mr Bashir told us history of that fall, it's believed that it's water is a source of blessing and some students were allowed to immerse themselves in the falls. Some students took some drinking water from the falls since it's water was cold. We took pictures at cheboneti falls together with our guide.

The picture of me at cheboneti waterfalls



Visiting the museum; this is all about getting the information that is historical about a certain community. While in MENP, we visited the park and we were able to see the traditional tools and other things that were done by the indigenous people in the region. While in the museum, we saw the rudimentary tools that were used by the ancient people in the community; we also saw the remains of some wild animals in the park like the leopard skin, buffalo head and the ostrich egg shell

Picture showing some of the animal remains in the museum;

Buffalo head.



CHAPTER TWO

MATERIALS AND METHODS USED TO COLLECT DATA.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring information in targeted variables in an established system which then enables one to answer relevant questions and evaluate outcomes. This chapter talks about the methods and materials used to achieve the recess term activities.

2.1 MATERIALS USED TO COLLECT DATA

The following are the materials used in the trip to collect data in order to achieve the objective of the trip;

The smart phone

With the help of our smart phone and camera man and woman **Mr. Isabirye Hatim** and **Miss Chirolich Dorothy** we were able to take pictures of different species such as the elgon teak, fascinating caves like the Kapkwai cave and the cheboneti waterfalls and sipi falls as they were explained by our tour guides. (KipLangat and Bukose

Some of the pictures that were taken during the trip



Binoculars;

These 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. During birding secession, we 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 the ranger guide

Mr.Mugarura Bashir. Birds which we viewed were the African Pied wag tail, golden winged sunbird, white chinned prinnia, African common bulbul and many others.

Below is the picture of some of my fellow students and the ranger guide carrying out birding;



.Some of the pictures that were taken by my smart phone



Pausing for a photo on the school bus;



Itinerary;

This involves a set of activities that are supposed to be carried out while in the field. We used the itinerary to prepare equipment for the activities that we had to participate in like hiking shoes which were used to hike the rocks in the park as well as Mount Elgon. It also helped us to be time conscious so that every activity is done at the allocated time to avoid missing out anything.

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 of writing or images typically composed of many pages bound together and protected by a page.

These materials helped me to note down important from the tour guides like Mr. David kipLangat and this helped us from not forgetting what they taught us.

Student logbooks,

We used the logbook for recording the weekly activities undertaken while in the field and they were after signed on by both the academic Supervisor Mr. Wampande Ahmed Jowalie and field supervisor Mr. David kipLangat after the different activities to show prove of the task undertaken.

2.3 METHODS USED IN DATA COLLECTION TO ACHIEVE THE RECESS OBJECTIVES;

The following are the methods used in the field while collecting data;

Interviewing;

This is a face-to-face conversation between two or more individuals where one participant asks questions and the other provides answers with the purpose of collecting relevant information.

This method was used in my recess term since it was simple and cheap and commonly used in collecting data.

This method also allows for clarification because interviews gave me very clear and clarified information through guides at the park and these were the best people to provide first-hand information.

Recording;

This method involves noting down any information which is considered to be important for the future use.

I used this method using tools like pens, note books and phoneso record information about the flora and fauna as well as the history of MENP.

For example, I was able to note down different vegetation types like scrubs, shrubs, bamboo, montane and others.

I was also able to note down the history of MENP.

Photographing;

This is the method of collection which involves taking of photos with the use of smart pdrlllles. With this method, I was able to take photos of different features like tree species in the jungle, waterfalls and many others.

Observation;

This is the method of collecting data which involves the act of seeing or taking notice of something. With this method, the researcher uses naked eyes to see the phenomenon without asking questions.

Observation involves the use of our sensory organs like the eyes and with this method, judgment is based on one's perceptions and in the same event occurring in the environment will be perceived differently by different people

This method is more subjective as it requires the researcher or the observer to add their judgment to the data

Survey;

This involved the movement in the national park seeing different features like vegetation, animals and bird species, water body, and the general topograp

Below, is the MOU between MENP and Kapkwai parish in kapchorwa district for collaborative resource management



2.4 PRESENTATIONS OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF INTERNSHIP (TOURS AND TRAVEL/HOSPITALITY) ISSUES.

Basing on objective one which says **to get acquainted with tourism and hospitality industry enterprise and organizations**, I was able to know how UWA carries out its activities for

example, on the issues concerning the entrance fee, one of the tour guides in MENP, Mr. David kipLangat told us that the foreign nonresident tourist pays 15USD, Foreign resident pays 30USD, the East African community member, pays UGX20000. Each category gets to pay various amounts of money and each tourism activity has its own price.

The accommodation facilities also have their own ratings depending on the capacity and the services within the rooms.

Basing on objective two which says **to understand peculiarities of their operations and the role of team and carrying out their activities**, I was able to learn that Uganda wild life authority has various teams and each team has their particular roles that they carryout in order to see that work flows on smoothly for example the teams include the team that consist of wardens like the chief warden, warden monitoring and research and tourism warden ,warden engineering ,warden community and conservation warden accounts ,warden intelligence and then warden wild life corridors among others who help to monitor and supervise other activities that are carried out in the park , the team cleaning the room is a team that is concerned of ensuring that the rooms are in order before they are given to clients to occupy and garbage team is the team that is in charge of collecting garbage around the park to avoid littering in the park.

Basing on objective three which says **to develop ability to blend into a team, understand structure and operations of enterprise**, I was able to know that in MENP, people have various teams which are supervised by the top heads and when people are allocated with work, they get to perform it diligently and willingly without close supervision.

Basing on objective four which says **to develop the capacity of analyzing assessing and developing suggestions for business improvement**, I was able to understand that MENP gives back to the community in a way that when the tax is collected, twenty percent of the revenue collected is given back to the community and this majorly done to support small business in the community to ensure that the people around the park get to benefit directly from the park and this is done by opening projects that also support conservation for example when this money is given back to the community they get to use it for opening up projects like bee keeping ,planting trees hence improving on the standards of living of the community ,members and also benefiting the environment.

2.5 PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED TOURISM ISSUES AT THE INTERNSHIP PLACE

Poaching is the illegal trafficking and killing of wildlife for example in MENP, people use various methods of capturing these animals for example use of snares, which may end up cutting off the foot of the animals hence becoming an issue to the park. In addition, they have led to extinct of some species especially the colobus monkeys because of the increased demand of their tails for the cultural issues especially the bagisu during the imbalu festival.

Invasive species which eradicate the habitat of animals is also challenge at the park

Lack of adequate cleaning materials in the rooms

Lack of sockets in rooms for clients to able to charge in their gadgets especially in the students' centers.

Challenge of maintenance of the toilet handles, bathroom doors are broken hence making the rooms unready for use by the clients.

Lack of Signage's which show direction to the rooms especially the new accommodation facilities.

Gears like binoculars need to be maintained because some are not able to view animals and birds from a distance

Lack of manpower for example some of the outposts lack deployment.

Illegal harvesting (lumbering) is also another challenge that causes some of the tree species to be threatened in the park.

Lack of the menu that can be presented to clients while at the restaurant, mode of payment and lack of proper supply of raw materials to the restaurant.

Harsh climatic conditions such as floods that can even lead to the falling down of some tree species in the park are also another issue.

CHAPTER THREE

TOURS AND TRAVEL/HOSPITALITY PLAN;

3.0 INTRODUCTION;

This chapter gives details of the methods and materials used in the field to achieve recess term objectives, results and discussions of internship (tours and travel/hospitality) issues and presentation of proposed tourism issues at the internship place.

3.1 CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND METHODS USED AT A WORK PLACE;

Materials at front desk, Receipt books for example the general tax, the entry receipt room service and laundry, green pad used for washing the wall and mirrors, harvic, moppers, dryers, and Vim.

Materials in the accommodation facilities were; bed sheets, towels, and blankets.

3.2 PRESENTATIONS OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS;

This chapter presents results and discussions analyzed as per the objectives of the internship and these were reached at through interviews, observation among others as discussed below;

MENP is considered as one of the true African wildernesses. It is located in the Eastern corner of Uganda. MENP is rich in a number of bird species, mammals, tropical forests, acacia trees, reptiles, the community around the park, the unique climate; the park also has unique mountain and amazing caldera (**wagagai**) which is also considered as the largest caldera in the whole world.

Bird species; The park is a home of about 300 bird species, some of the Africa's rarest bird species occur in MENP and they include the endemic lammergeyers that was first sighted in Elgon region the other bird species in MENP include; secretary bird, silver birds, crimson ramped waxbill, lesser striped swallows, Abyssinian ground hornbill, Jackson hornbill, go away bird, among others.

Mountains and hills; the park is blessed with beautiful scenery which is surrounded by the mountains and hills which makes the terrain unique for example volcanic hills which varies in altitude from **1200m** in the valleys up to **4321m** at wagagai in the middle of the mountain which is also within the MENP.

Unique culture; the park is surrounded with communities that have exciting and unique way of dancing, marriage ceremonies, initiation ceremonies especially the Imbalu among the Gishu and the female genital mutilation among the sabiny.

3.3 PRESENTATIONS OF WELL DETAILED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS;

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 for example our journey to the park was hectic due to poor roads and some students got tired since we had to foot for a long distance.

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

Language barrier. There is a need to train employees more languages to interpret and interact with different tourists since we witnessed that problem to different tourists

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 especially in the neighboring districts of the park like Mbale, Kween, bulambuli among others.

Signage. There is need to increase the sign posts around the park to remind the tourists about the rules and regulations of the park for example, the acceptable speed limit, directions in the park to reduce on the accidents and other cases.

There is need to work on the porous borders to reduce on the issue of trafficking animal products since the park is owned by two countries I.e., Kenya and Uganda and this may also reduce on the issues concerning poaching.

Deforestation Illegal lumbering and harvesting of some forest products especially the elgon teak, aningerea and many others for timber and medicine should also be solved in order to curb down such issues which may lead to deforestation.

3:4 PRESENTATIONS OF PROPOSED WORKPLAN AND HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED;

WORK PLAN			
NO.	ACTION	HOW IT CAN BE ACHIEVED	ESTIMATED TIME
1	Training of the guides	Practical lessons at the site by a professional guide.	immediately
		Teaching them other languages like French, Spanish and Kiswahili.	
		Taking some of employees back to school especially technical schools to acquire tourism knowledge	
2	Marketing of MENP as a tourism destination	Treating the visitors well so as to do a mouth-to-mouth advertisement.	
		Use of the local radios and TV stations to advertise.	

		Use of the social media platforms to acquire a very big market. For example, YouTube, face book, Instagram and the	Immediately, though some need some time to be achieved
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		creation of the site website.	
		Use of the political leaders 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 especially in Mbale, kapchorwa and other areas bordering the district.	4 months to 1 year
		Engaging responsible parties such as the politicians and other rich business people in the area to contribute funds.	
		Look for help from outside countries and the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB)	

4	Social services such as roads, electricity, hospitals	Engaging the ministry of works and the government to construct roads in the area to ease transportation especially in chemangag parish in kapchorwa district.	3 months to a year
		Engaging the area leaders such as the MPs, district chairperson to lobby funds so as to develop	
		the area.	
		Request the government and NGOs to construct the social centers such as hospitals around MENP.	
5	Conservation of the environment.	Putting a halt at the ongoing cutting down of trees for timber and charcoal.	With immediate Effect (WEF)
		Planting of trees in large numbers in the area so as to close the gap.	
		Putting an end to the stone quarrying at the rock which can lead to its destruction	
		Engaging the relevant authorities to help safeguard the area lawfully.	

CHAPTER FOUR

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF STUDENT:

4.0 INTRODUCTION;

This chapter talks about skills learnt and how relevant to the students' professional and career growth, evaluation of the strength and weakness, opportunities, and threats of the organization, and level of accomplishment of other activities assigned to the student by the field supervisor.

4.1 SKILLS LEARNT;

A skill refers to the ability to use one's knowledge effectively and readily in execution or performance.

The following are the skills learnt and their relevance to my professional and career growth;

Active listening;

This is the ability to focus completely on a speaker, understand his/her message, comprehend the information and respond thoughtfully.

I was able to learn the skill of active listening especially when the tour guides were giving commentary.

In my professional development and carrier growth, this skill will help me to build strong relationships, resolve conflicts because it encourages us to see issues from different viewpoints, recognize other people's feelings and generally appreciate them.

Active listening skill will also prevent me from missing important information, it will enable me to identify or anticipate problems, build more knowledge because leaders should always embrace

learning and active listening is a powerful skill that supports learning as well as empowering me as a leader;

Time management skills;

Time management skill means organizing your time intelligently so that you can use it more intelligently.

I was also able to learn a skill of time management especially during the nature walk and meals time.

This skill will help me to complete work on time, stay engaged during important meetings and give me space to be creative and proactive in my tasks.

Time management skill will also help me to prioritize my task so that I can ensure that I have enough time available to complete every project.

observation skill;

This refers to the ability of using all your five senses to recognize, analyze and recall your surroundings.

While in the field, I used my eyes to see various tree species and this helped me to differentiate them easily.

Observation skill will improve my overall efficiency, productivity and positive output. This is because more keenly you observe your surroundings, the more you understand where gaps exist and how those gaps need to be filled.

Communication skill;

This refers to the act of sharing information from one person to another person or group of people and this can be verbal, written, non-verbal and visual forms of communication.

While in the field, I learnt communication skills especially speaking in large groups of people.

Communication skills enable individuals to understand others and to be understood themselves. In my career growth therefore, good communication skills will allow me and others to understand information more accurately and quickly.

Recording skill;

The skill of recording data involves the documenting of data and observation in a variety of forms in order to preserve it for later use.

This promotes the development of a wide range of written, oral, visual and digital literacy skills involved in documenting and organizing information sketching, labeling, note-taking, journaling, photographing, videotaping.

Recording helped me to develop skills involved in gathering and organizing of qualitative and quantitative observation and data to make it useful for analysis and interpret

Teamwork;

Teamwork skills consist of interrelated abilities that let one work effectively in an organized group, team work skills are vital to employers as teams are a basic organizational unit within many companies. An example of team work skill is working with a group of people to achieve a shared goal or outcome in an effective way for example we elected the menu team that was headed by Madam Akello Eunice together with other colleagues like the photographer **Mr. Isabirye Hatim.**

I learnt that team work skill will enable me together with my team to share ideas and responsibilities, which will help to reduce stress on everyone allowing us to be meticulous and thorough when completing tasks, this will enable us to meet sales goals quickly.

4.2 EVALUATIONS OF STRENGTH, WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF MENP;

4.2.1 Strength of the organization attached

The organization attached to was called MENP and managed by Uganda wild life authority which is government Branch to help in conservation and the following were some of the strengths of MENP;

The size of the national park is an advantage over others as it measures approximately **1121** square kilometers making it the 4th largest national park in Uganda. The size of the national park gives advantage of having many activities, and ability to contain many lives in the ecosystem as they relate to each other. The national park stretches in a large area bordering more than seven districts in the country and has access to both Eastern Uganda and western parts of Kenya.

Security of the national park is strength of the place. The place has very tight security under UWA as the rangers are employed to patrol the national park on ground as well as aerial using the dr to get rid of any illegal activities in the national park. The game rangers patrol both the park and some parts of the mountain and any person got in the national park doing illegal activities like poaching, bush burning; charcoal burning and others are taken into courts of law to decide on what to do with them.

Rules and regulations of the park, the park has rule and guidelines which have to be followed for example not dumping plastic materials anywhere in the park in order to conserve environment.

Strategic location, MENP is located in the area which is accessible and tourists can visit the park from all corners of the country. The area is ever peaceful which gives travelers assurance of security and safety as they travel to destination.

Qualified staff, this has established a strong relationship between the clients and organization due to better interactions and warm welcome through the trip for example, when we arrived, we were welcomed by the tour guides who were hospitable and had good experience as far as tour guiding is concerned for example, Mr. Bukose Salim Alex gave us a good commentary on the Kapkwai caves and it was amazing.

MENP has a variety of activities such as nature walk caving (Kapkwai cave), hiking, and birding in which a tourist is able to see different wild animals such as the elephants, buffalos, Antelopes like the Elands, Primates such as baboons, monkeys, beautiful bird species like the s and such amazing species usually make tourists to be delighted.

Below is the signage in MENP that directs to Kapkwai cave and cheboneti waterfalls;



4.2.2 Weakness of the organization;

Failure to address human wildlife conflict with the neighboring area is the biggest weakness of the area due to unclear policy of the management of the place. The conflicts are as a result of wild animals attacking the neighboring places due to unclear boundary hence leading to loss of lives on both parts by animals and humans.

Unsupportive sensitization of the local community about the value and contribution of the national park is another weakness of the place. The locals look at national park to be an abandon

land and as such ends up encroaching the place leading to challenge like conflicts and poaching and illegal lumbering in the national park

Poor communication network, the network in the park is poor making it difficult for staff members to communicate with each other in case of any emergency as well as the clients especially in the parts of Kapkwai forest exploration center.

Weak promotional marketing tactics, MENP has a variety of activities such as nature walks, birding and hiking visit to the falls of cheboneti and sipi and others but these activities are not marketed well to the public and that's why the number of tourists visiting the park are still very few.

4.2.3 Opportunities of the organization;

Ability to attract large number of trainees from different colleges and training institutes is a great opportunity that the organization can convert into a useful resource as they stand chance to get the best worker out of the many people being trained.

The location of the park near mountain Elgon is also an opportunity to the park. This is because the mountain attracts many tourists to come and see the largest caldera in the whole world hence attracting the inflow of the foreign exchange in the country.

Unique culture of the people around the park is also another opportunity for the park to attract more tourists. For example, the male circumcision among the Gishu (imbalu) accompanied by kadodi dance and female genital mutilation among the sabiny which are fascinating and amazing.

4.2.4 Threats facing the organization;

Unfavorable weather for example the extreme coldness and the 24-hour rainfall especially in the parts of Kapkwai is a threat especially to tourists who are not used to such conditions as well as some animal species and this is caused by the tropical forests as well as rivers and the flowing waterfalls for example the cheboneti and sipi falls.

Under developed infrastructures. Roads in the park are not well developed and this makes it very difficult for tourists to access some parts of the park especially during rainy season. For example, the Kapkwai route which has potholes that hinder the movement of vehicles.

Inadequate government support. A lot of revenue is collected from the park however little is given back to the park in order to develop its infrastructure that's why the park has a low number of tourists who access it because of its poor roads.

Pressure from population increase on the natural resources especially land is also another challenge. For example, at first MENP was covering **1145km²** but due to increase in population especially in the neighboring districts of kapchorwa, Mbale and others, it was reduced to **1121 km²** in order to cater for the exploding population.

High competition from neighboring countries, for example Kenya which shares the same park is also another threat since both countries market the same products.

4.3 LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OTHER ACTIVITIES ASSIGNED TO STUDENT BY THE FIELD SUPERVISOR;

I was given a recess test together with my colleagues at the end of our recess by the supervisor Mr Wampande Ahmed Jowalie

During a field test with my colleagues;



secondly, i was also given a log book to fill in the activities that took place while in the national park it was successfully accomplished. Lastly but not the least I was assigned to write a report

within a period of eight weeks and it was successfully written and handed over to the field supervisor.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION;

This chapter talks about the summary of chapter two, three and Chapter four, recommendations to MENP, Busitema university and conclusion of the whole recess training at the organization

5.1 CONCLUSION;

In conclusion, let me first take this opportunity to thank the almighty God who took me to the MENP and helped me to accomplish all my activities I was meant to participate in during the trip.

I also thank my beloved parents for the love they have showed me as far as my academics is concerned without forgetting my passionate lecturer, Mr. Wampande Jowalie Ahmed. The trip to MENP was very interesting because it aided us to learn more practical work and relate them to the theories taught to us by our beloved lecturers in class, we achieved all our objectives due to experienced guides such as Mr. David KipLangat and others we found in the park.

MENP has its purpose which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and wildlife in the park.

The park has different tourist attractions and variety of activities such as nature walk, birding, hiking, caving, and visit to the falls of cheboneti and sipi and others for the tourists to enjoy during their trip.

It's the best place to view the largest caldera (wagagai) in the whole world and the unique culture of the community surrounding the park (bagisu and sabinu)

The park is known for the endemic elgon teak as one the tree species and lammergeyer as the endemic bird in the park

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS;

To MENP;

For the duration of visit to the park for data collection and practical activities in the area I observed many aspects and as such I recommend the following to be done;

The management should engage in sensitization of the local community to reduce on some of the illegal activities in the national park like poaching, illegal lumbering and other unlawful activities which may negatively affect the park.

The management should also employ more skilled labor in the field of tourism to help deliver the best to the students while on training session and to any clients that may go to the park. The Park management should also improve on the transport so that accessibility can be easy and may be done by improving some roads such as the Kapkwai road that directs you to the park via the sipi trail.

To the university;

Sign memorandum of understandings with some tourism enterprise to allow students easily get training places and ease supervision.

Organize more than one trips for students to allow them get much experience of different destinations and skills from different people.

Get a means of transport for the faculty to ease on the arrangement of trips both by the university and students to any destination of choice.

Increase on the training duration to allow students get acquainted with the different tourism enterprise.

To UWA;

Should employ more labor in the park to fight against illegal activities such as poaching especially in the Kapkwai forest exploration center as one of the parts of the park.

Should also ensure collaboration with the community by signing MOUs with the neighboring areas for resource sharing and other requirements.

Improvement in the communication networks should also be done with an immediate effect especially the road that connects to mountain Elgon via Kapkwai.

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