



**THE IMPACT OF TOURISM REVENUE SHARING ON COMMUNITIES
SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARKS, CASE STUDY BWINDI IMPENETRABLE
NATIONAL PARK.**

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UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I **KIIZA LEONARD** registration number **BU/UG/2022/1613** do hereby declare that this research report is my own original work and it has not been submitted to any other University/Institution by anybody else for any other degree award.

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APPROVAL

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted for examination with the approval of my supervisor and is for the award of a bachelor's degree in tourism and travel management of Busitema University.

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DEDICATION

This research report is heartily dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Mubangizi Leonidas and my brothers and sisters for their emotional and financial support towards my academic journey. May God bless them.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DV.....	dependent variable
IV.....	independent variable
GDP.....	gross domestic product
ANOVA.....	analysis of variance
SPSS.....	statistical package for social sciences
BINP.....	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
NP.....	National Park
NPRS.....	National Park Revenue Sharing
BINP.....	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of tourism revenue sharing on communities surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, with a focus on Mushorero and Nyamishamba villages in Uganda. The objectives of the study were; To assess NP Revenue sharing and local communities' attitude towards communities of Mushorero and Nyamishamba, To evaluate the implementation of NP revenue sharing and its impact on community development at Mushorero and Nyamishamba and To find out the relationship between NP Revenue sharing and community development around Bwindi impenetrable National Park.

The researcher applied both qualitative and quantitative techniques in designing the research 36 respondents participated in the study and were selected using random sampling method. The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews and presented using tables, graphs and pie charts for easy analysis.

The study further found that the implementation of revenue-sharing projects had contributed significantly to community development, though challenges such as limited participation, delays in fund disbursement, and poor monitoring remained. A strong relationship was also observed between effective revenue-sharing practices and the socio-economic development of local communities. However, the effectiveness of the program depended heavily on inclusivity, transparency, and consistency in project execution.

The study concludes that while the NPRS program has had a positive impact on local development and conservation support, improvements are needed in governance, community engagement, and sustainability measures. Recommendations include enhancing transparency, involving marginalized groups, improving monitoring systems, and expanding the scope of revenue sharing to include more sustainable livelihood initiatives. The findings contribute valuable insights for policymakers, conservation practitioners, and development planners aiming to balance conservation goals with community development in protected areas.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the study; it covers the background to the study, problem statement, purpose and specific objectives of the study, the research questions, and scope of the study, the significance of the study, and conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of the study

According to Section 65(4) of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) allocates 20% of its yearly park entrance revenue to neighbouring communities as a conditional grant, as part of its revenue sharing program (Tourism & Trend, 2024). The revenue-sharing program aims to enhance cooperation between local communities, local governments, and wildlife area management, fostering the sustainable management of wildlife resources within protected areas. Funds allocated to districts through the revenue-sharing scheme are utilized to support conservation and development initiatives, including community income-generating projects that are identified by the communities themselves. This chapter gives an overview of the study. It presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the research questions that guided the study. It also gives the definition of key terms, justification and significance of the study, and scope of the study.

1.1 Study Background

National parks globally are acknowledged for their critical roles in supporting larger ecosystems, including wildlife (Leaver, 2024) corridors, protecting ecological diversity, preserving landscapes, and bolstering economic development through tourism and other resources (Marjah, 2017). In the U.S., national parks have contributed significantly to the economy. In the state of Utah, Visitors spent a record \$11.98 billion in 2022, which led to \$23.38 billion in total output for Utah's economy when combined with indirect and induced effects. The industry generated 98,600 direct travel and tourism-related jobs and indirectly supported an additional 53,200 jobs, comprising about 9.0% of Utah's total employment. Visitor spending resulted in an estimated \$2.12 billion in state and local tax revenue. (Leaver, 2024)

In Africa, national parks also play a vital economic role. For instance, in Egypt, revenue from national parks accounted for 7.7% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023, generated through tourism activities such as recreation, sports, eco-tourism, and festivals

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