



**ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES ON THE LOCAL
COMMUNITIES, A CASE STUDY OF BUSINGIRO COMMUNITY NEAR BUDONGO
FOREST RESERVE IN WESTERN UGANDA.**

BY

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UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

I Kemigisa Shalotte registration number BU/UP/2022/2244 do hereby declare that this research proposal 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

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 my beloved mother Kyomuhimbo Midred who instilled in me the spirit of hard work and my siblings who have been my constant source of inspiration and joy.

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First, I give thanks to God for protection and ability to do this research report. I would like to acknowledge with gratitude, the support and love of my beloved mother Kyomuhimbo Midred for her unwavering support financially and emotionally, through my research journey. May the Almighty God bless you.

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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

COVID.....corona virus disease of 2019.

ABSTRACT

This study examined the economic impact of tourism activities on local communities, focusing on Busingiro near Budongo Forest Reserve. Key objectives included evaluating tourism's economic contributions, assessing employment opportunities, and identifying challenges faced by the community. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, data were collected from 52 randomly selected respondents through questionnaires and interviews.

Findings revealed that tourism significantly benefits the Busingiro community by creating employment, generating income through wildlife and primate-based activities, and supporting small-scale businesses through nature and cultural tourism. However, challenges such as limited skills, poor infrastructure, unequal benefit distribution, and seasonal tourism hinder full potential. The study concludes that while tourism supports economic growth, more needs to be done. It recommends infrastructure development, skills training, inclusive participation, and better marketing to maximize tourism's role in sustainable rural development.

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

Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon, which entails the movement of people to countries or Places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes according to UNWTO. Tourism is a global phenomenon, which involves more and more people and is considered to be one of the largest industries all over the world(Tovmasyan, 2016).

Tourism is generally considered to be the largest industry in the world. It is the third largest export sector and one of the most promising in terms of future growth potential. As people's income and education rises, demand for travel will steadily increase both domestically and internationally(Ahebwa, 2018).The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which represents the global private sector of travel and tourism, estimates that travel and tourism in 2018 contributed \$8.8 trillion to the global economy. The industry grew faster than did the global economy for the eighth successive year (3.9% for travel and tourism versus 3.2% for the global GDP). It also generated 10.4% of all global economic activity and contributed 10.0% that is 319 million jobs globally (WTTC, 2019).

Tourism is widely recognized as a major driver of socio-economic development, especially in rural and nature-rich regions across the globe. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC, 2023), the tourism sector contributed \$9.5 trillion to global GDP in 2022, accounting for 9.2% of the world's total economic output and creating over 300 million jobs. As one of the fastest-growing economic sectors, tourism offers immense opportunities for poverty alleviation, job creation, infrastructure development, and empowerment of local communities, especially when nature-based and community-inclusive approaches are adopted (UNWTO, 2022).

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