

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT

**TOPIC: ASSESSMENT OF BAGUNGU COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN MURCHISON FALLS NATONAL PARK**

BY

MUGISA BOB

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 20/U/7533/PS.


STUDENT NUMBER: 2000707533

**SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
BACHELAORS OF SCIENCE IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT OF
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

JUNE 2023

DECLARATION

I, **Mugisa Bob**, hereby declare that unless otherwise indicated, this research report is my own work, it has not been submitted to a any other institution for as degree or any other award.

Signature 

Date 26th / 07 / 2023

Mugisa Bob

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted with my approval as the university supervisor.

Signature..... *Joseph Obua*
Professor Joseph Obua

Date..... *26.07.2023*

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, brothers and sisters who made it possible for me to complete this study.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank the lord Almighty for enabling me reach this far. It is by his grace that I made it up to this time because it was just so challenging but I manage to go through all that.

I also thank my parents for all the support and care from day one of my education.

My gratitude goes to my academic supervisor Prof. Joseph Obua for the guidance and support leading to completion of this report.

I finally thank my classmates who shared knowledge and ideas on how to go about this special project especially Monica. May the Almighty God bless you all abundantly.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vii
ABSTRACT	viii
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the study.....	1
1.2 Problem statement.....	3
1.3 Objectives.....	4
1.3.1 Overall objective.....	4
1.3.2 Specific objective.....	4
The specific objectives were:.....	4
1.4 Research questions.....	4
1.5 Significance of the study.....	4
CHAPTER TWO	5
LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Community participation in conservation wildlife in and around Protected Areas.....	5
2.2 Local community participation in wildlife conservation: Global, regional and national perspectives.....	7
2.3 Challenges faced by people in their conservation efforts.....	9
CHAPTER THREE	12
METHODOLOGY	12
3.1 Study area.....	12
3.4 Target population.....	13
3.5 Sample and sampling procedure.....	13
3.5.1 Sample size.....	13

3.5.2	Simple Random Sampling.....	14
3.6	Methods of Data Collection.....	14
3.6.1	Semi-Structured Questionnaire.....	14
3.6.3	Document review.....	14
3.7	Validity and reliability.....	15
3.8	Ethical Consideration.....	16
3.9	Data Analysis and Presentation.....	16
	CHAPTER FOUR.....	17
	RESULTS.....	17
4.1	Characteristics of the respondents.....	17
	Table 1.Social demographic characteristics of respondents.....	18
4.2	Processes of local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife.....	19
4.3	Local community’s perception of their participation in wildlife conservation.....	21
	Table 4: Local community’s perception of their participation in wildlife conservation.....	22
4.4	Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.....	22
	Table 5: Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.....	23
	Table 6: Solutions to the challenges faced.....	24
	DISCUSSION.....	25
5. 1	Local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife.....	25
5.2	Local community’s perception of their participation in wildlife conservation.....	26
5.3	Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.....	29
	CHAPTER SIX.....	31
	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS.....	31
6.1	Conclusions.....	31
6.2	Recommendations.....	31
6.2.1	Recommendations for improved local community participation in conservation.....	31
	Appendix: questionnaire.....	34
	References.....	39

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Social demographic characteristics of respondents.....	18
Table 2: Ways in which communities do participate in conservation planning.....	20
Table 3. Activities carried out by Local community during Conservation.....	21
Table 4: Local community's perception of their participation in wildlife conservation.....	22
Table 5: Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.....	23
Table 6: Solutions to problems challenged.....	24

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to assess the participation of Bagungu community in wildlife conservation in Murchison falls national park in Uganda. The objectives were to assess the processes of local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife, examine local community's perception of their participation in wildlife conservation, and assess the challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation. A sample size of 200 respondents was obtained and included 190 local community members and 5 leaders of Bugungu and 5 Uganda Wildlife Authority staff who were selected using of both simple random and purposive sampling techniques. Data were collected using questionnaire and focus group discussions analyzed quantitatively in SPSS and qualitatively using thematic analysis. Data analyzed revealed that local people participate in the conservation of the wildlife resources through planting of trees, cleaning and making the community roads, making souvenirs and crafts, community awareness about conservation, and formation of the local community conservation clubs. The study further established that although the local community agreed that local community positively participate in conservation-based projects around Murchison Falls National Park, and that the part of the tourism resources is shared with the local community, but some disagreed that that only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park and that Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation. Further, the finding revealed local people agreed that the local community positively participate in conservation-based projects that the part of the tourism resources is shared with the local community, local people should be consulted about wildlife conservation however it was disagreed that only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park. Challenges encountered include lack of awareness about conservation crop damages and lack of compensation to the families that lose life or crop damages through animal attack, and limited capital. It was from these results that the study recommends that; there is a need for policy issues that need to be addressed for the effective involvement of local people in the conservation of natural resources, Promotion of equitable community conservation planning and management so as to accelerate community-based development efforts from the ground up and also strengthen the community's abilities to act for them, there is a need to promote community-based conservation organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Murchison Falls National Park area for technical and financial support and lastly, there is a need to encourage the private sector to invest in conservation development planning and enterprises while engaging local communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Protected areas are very important because they form an important cornerstone of most the Conservation practices and the strategies. Protected areas cover 12.7% of the land surface outside Antarctica, 7.2% of coastal waters and small areas of the high seas, with marine and freshwater protected area systems in particular undergoing rapid expansion (Bertzky et al., 2012). The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas, agreed in 2004, aims to ‘establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network’ (CBD, 2004). At the 10th Conference of Parties to the CBD in 2010 signatory states agreed to expand the Programme of Work, setting a target of at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas to be conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2020 (CBD,2010).

Protected areas establishment such as Murchison falls National Park have provided the CBD with the conservation successes. A number of conservation biologists argue that the targets remain too low (Locke, 2013) and that uneven distribution of species makes percentage targets too simplistic (Rodrigues et al., 2004). In addition to conserving landscapes and environments, protected areas play key social and economic roles. Protected areas give many indigenous and local populations vital protection and space to continue traditional lifestyles that are now often impossible elsewhere. Protected areas provide multiple environmental services to human populations even beyond those areas, for example, watershed protection, erosion control. They provide opportunities for recreation, wildlife watching, and other nature-based tourism activities that are proliferating around the world (Svancara et al.,2005).

Other than in the PAs, wildlife conservation aims to protect the environment by sustainably delivering socioeconomic and ecosystem services to enhance the lives and well-being of local residents (owusu-ansah, 2016; muhumuza & balkwill, 2013). These pas range from those that allow settlement and multiple uses of wildlife resources to those that do not allow human habitation (lindsey et al., 2014). in the past, encroachment and hunting pressure have been

thought to be significantly predicted by the levels of protection, proximity to human settlements, and reserve boundaries in Africa in general (Brashares et al., 2004), and Tanzania in particular (Masanja, 2014). Because of the widespread habitat loss, prey depletion, and human-animal conflicts brought on by the rapid increase in human population, wildlife resources are in danger (Kideghesho et al., 2013).

As reported in some regions of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, these issues are worse in pas that either permit or tolerate human settlement (nelson et al., 2013; lindsey et al., 2014). This means that strict measures, such as stringent legislation, regulations, and the use of armed guards to keep people out, are frequently used to ensure effective protection of pas and sustainable conservation (madulu, 2001). Poaching patrols are essential for enforcing the law and preventing the unjustified and illegal exploitation of Tanzania's wildlife resources (Holmern et al., 2007).

Community participation is being looked at as the major important tool in managing the protected areas. It involves the privileges given to the local people in a community in projects to solve their own problems. People cannot be forced to 'participate' in projects which affect their lives but should be given the opportunity where possible. The involvements of the local people in planning and managing the protected areas makes them feel valued and above all minimizing the threats such as encroachment and poaching.

Key stakeholders in the management of protected areas around the world, including protected area managers and organizations/agencies with various roles, are essential (Borrini-feyerabend et al., 2004). Typically, law enforcement, which makes up a sizeable portion of the PA management budgets, directs the management of PAs (Plumptre et al., 2014). In order to ensure the sustainable use of wildlife resources, field managers from either an agency or the community are typically involved in problem-solving (Borrini-feyerabend et al., 2004). Local communities are the cornerstone of the conservation within the protected areas.

There are a number of ways in which the local communities participate in managing the protected areas for example participation by material incentives where the local community contributes material as far as managing the conserved areas is concerned, participation by function where by the local communities' form groups aimed at managing the protected areas. Although there have been criticisms of less restrictive categories (Locke & Deardon,2005),

stimulating some significant responses (Mallarach et al.,2008; Ferraro et al.,2013), all categories are now widely accepted as playing an important role within the conservation landscape and are increasingly applied within protected area systems (Bertzky et al.,2012). Some previously restricted areas are, for example, opening borders to limited use such as sustainable collection of non-timber forest products (e.g., Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda) and access to sacred sites (e.g., Nyika Plateau, Malawi), thus making greater efforts to increase benefits without prejudicing conservation needs. While less restrictive management policies are popular in places with significant human populations, this is not invariably the case: for example, strict protection is sometimes being requested by communities to protect sacred natural sites (Bhagwat & Rutte,2006).

Poaching patrols are essential for enforcing the law and preventing the unjustified and illegal exploitation of Tanzania's wildlife resources (Holmern et al., 2007). However, the advantages to the poachers outweigh the costs connected with the low likelihood of being apprehended and harsh fines by a significant margin (Gandiwa, 2011). As a result, illegal activity grows prevalent and pervasive. Due to the government's inability to fund PAs, there are increasingly serious threats of poaching and encroachment (Lindsey et al., 2014). This paradigm shift is required due to the exclusion approach's inability to manage the reserve sustainably. According to reports, local communities' exclusion from decision-making and accessibility has a negative impact on how effective these PAs are (Wicander, 2015)

1.2 Problem statement

Exclusion of local communities from decision-making and access to resources has a negative impact on effective management of the PAs (Sowman et al., 2011). In order to allow local communities to participate in the decision-making and sustainably benefit from wildlife conservation, the participatory approach is essential (Baldus, 2014). Several countries including Tanzania and Uganda have adopted this strategy and put it into practice to lessen the difficulties of *fences and fines* strategy (Wilfred, 2010). Following the paradigm shift from the use of law enforcers to the stakeholder engagement and adoption of these participatory approaches, there is little information on the outcomes of community involvement in wildlife conservation in and around Uganda's protected areas. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the processes and effect of community participation in decision-making to conserve wildlife.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 Overall objective

The overall objective was to enhance community participation in wildlife conservation, increase the benefits and reduce the costs incurred by the adjacent communities.

1.3.2 Specific objective

The specific objectives were:

- 1) To assess the processes of local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife.
- 2) To examine local community's perception of their participation in wildlife conservation.
- 3) To assess the challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.

1.4 Research questions

The following questions guided the study:

- 1) How do the Bagungu community participate in conservation of wildlife in the park?
- 2) What are the processes involved?
- 3) How do the Bagungu view their participation in wildlife conservation?
- 4) What challenges are encountered as they participate in wildlife conservation?

1.5 Significance of the study

This study is significantly based on the relevance of the community participation as far as managing the protected areas is concerned especially in Bagungu community, for example Protected areas give many indigenous and local populations vital protection and space to continue traditional lifestyles that are now often impossible elsewhere, protected areas provide multiple environmental services to human populations even beyond those areas. The study findings would be valuable to a wide range of stakeholders including policymakers, government and research organizations among others who can use the results to enhance local community participation in conservation of wildlife and other resources in and around Murchison Falls National Park. It is anticipated that the results will be used by Uganda Wildlife Authority to identify areas of support to enhance wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Community participation in conservation wildlife in and around Protected Areas.

The importance of community involvement in heritage site conservation and tourism development has been supported by numerous studies (Bello & Carr, 2017). Community involvement in park management can help resolve conflicts between the needs of the community's economic and developmental interests and the need to preserve the protected area destination as a priceless resource, as well as help community members better understand what heritage is (Mascia & Mills, 2018). The value of public involvement in sustainable conservation programs has been supported by numerous heritage management studies. Participation of the local community in heritage management promotes economic growth, a higher standard of living, and the long-term viability of conservation initiatives (Snyman, 2017). Participation in community activities can also foster a sense of pride in the neighborhood.

The decision-making process and the advantages of tourism development are the main topics of community participation in the context of tourism planning (Dawood & Farley, 2014). The local economy gains from the community's participation in decision-making, and residents' respect for their traditional way of life and values increases. Locals can gain financially by working for newly established businesses or by starting their own small businesses to bring in more revenue for their neighborhood (Soe & Yeo-Chang, 2019). Residents have a variety of opportunities thanks to local community involvement to take part in tourism development activities effectively, to mobilize their capacities as social actors rather than as passive subjects, to make decisions, and to manage the activities that have an impact on their lives (Brown & Chin, 2013).

The local community's involvement conservation is a catalyst for growth and a force for change. Local communities can offer a variety of perspectives on tourism development. Local communities can maximize the socio-economic benefits of tourism if they participate in tourism-related activities. Additionally, the local community's participation in the planning and development process is necessary to ensure the accuracy of representations of their traditional lifestyles and values. As a result, community participation is essential for the development of sustainable tourism (Serra et al., 2014). Nevertheless, this literature has uncovered various forms

of community participation and involvement that should be clarified in order to better understand this idea in the context of rural protected areas

The preferences of residents for community participation depend on a number of variables (Woodley et al., 2019). Three categories of influencing factors motivation, opportunity, and ability become apparent as a result of research into the variables influencing locals' preferences for community participation in heritage management and tourism development. Motivation is the desire and interest of residents to participate in the development and management process (Shipley, & Snyder, 2013). In the context of national parks locations, resident motivation influences perceptions, national park inscription, and ensuing impacts on tourism growth. Focusing on the community's perceptions of tourism's positive effects encourages them to engage in tourism-related activities and heritage preservation initiatives as well as support tourism development, whereas focusing on the perceptions of tourism's negative effects decreases their support for development (Keramitsoglou & Tsagarakis, 2013).

Scholarly research has shown that it is crucial to involve the local community in order to foresee the negative effects of tourism development in rural areas (Terzić, & Simeunović-Bajić, 2014). The definition of community participation in planning and development is a partnership based on cooperation among various stakeholders where the opinion of the locals is purposefully taken into consideration and valued (Gunawijaya & Pratiwi, 2018). Community participation is understood in the context of rural tourism as an active involvement of local communities in problem-solving and in controlling rural tourism development initiatives, decisions, and resources that affect their quality of life or the lives of others. As a result, community involvement is a key factor in the planning and growth of the tourism industry.

Local communities are also seen as morally and legally participating in the conservation of the tourism resources of tourism. Stakeholders are divided into two categories by Mayers (2005): those who influence decisions and those who are affected by decisions. The extent to which local communities influence or are impacted by various policy and decision-making issues determines the level of their involvement in those processes. Pongporant (2011) reported that local tourism development requires people who are affected by tourism to be involved in both the planning process and the implementation of policies and action plans.

2.2 Local community participation in wildlife conservation: Global, regional and national perspectives

One of the most significant wildlife areas, including the Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystem, is the Rungwa Game Reserve. After the Selous-Mikumi ecosystem, this ecosystem is the second-largest wildlife area in Tanzania, and its importance for conservation is extraordinary (Coppolillo, 2004). The majority of the world's wildlife and other forms of biodiversity, which are currently threatened by anthropogenic activities and other factors, are however found in protected areas (PAs), which are thought of as refuges for these species (Kiria et al., 2014). Key stakeholders in the management of PAs around the world, including PA managers and organizations/agencies with various roles, are essential (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004). Typically, law enforcement, which makes up a sizeable portion of the PA management budgets, directs the management of PAs (Plumptre et al., 2014). In order to ensure the sustainable use of wildlife resources, field managers from either an agency or the community are typically involved in problem-solving (Borrini, 2004).

Communities from primarily rural parts of Africa depend on the land, water, and animals for their food (Makindi, 2016). Since then, the majority of the areas have received protected area status (Chowdhury et al., 2014). According to Vodouhê et al. (2010), protected areas are the cornerstone of biological conservation in Africa. Through the central approach, national protected areas under the control of central governments have been essential to biodiversity conservation in recent years (Vodouhê et al., 2010). Because it limits access to natural resources, the strategy distances people from the natural world.

Additionally, this separated them from important decisions regarding the management of wildlife conservation areas (West et al., 2006). The strategy led to tensions between communities and wildlife, which made people angry about protected areas. The strategy led to tensions between communities and wildlife area management, which made people angry about wildlife conservation. Additionally, wildlife conservation costs, which include poaching, accelerated (Andrade & Rhodes, 2012). The exclusion of rural communities from protected areas, according to Makindi (2016), also led to animosity and unfavorable attitudes toward wildlife and conservation organizations.

Local communities participate in the management of conservation areas and gain access to natural resources through community conservation (Mahumuza & Balkwill, 2013; Vodouhê et al., 2010). Local communities play a significant role in the execution of management plans, development, decision-making, and conservation activities of wildlife areas (Makindi, 2016). This is due to the fact that the majority of indigenous communities have extensive knowledge and experience regarding how to manage and conserve natural resources and ensure the protection of both wildlife and people.

Wildlife Conservation Areas have been purposefully protected from exploitation. Through community participation, they are being recognized more and more as being essential to maintaining the livelihoods of nearby local communities (Vodouhê et al., 2010). Community engagement has failed, despite being thought to be suitable for enhancing biodiversity conservation and assisting local communities. Local communities may experience costs or benefits as a result of nature conservation efforts (Segage, 2015). Local communities that participate in wildlife conservation in protected areas gain socioeconomic advantages that improve their standard of living (Lepetu et al., 2008), while ensuring biodiversity conservation in PAs by reducing illegal activities (Mbaiwa, 2004). On the other hand, expenses are incurred by both parties (Vodouhê et al., 2010).

The practice of conserving nature has undergone a significant transformation from a centralized system to community-based conservation methods. The majority of African nations supported the ideas of conserving the wildlife protected areas using the local community based. They suggest it as a tactic for fostering neighborhood stewardship and participation in natural resource management while fusing conservation and development objectives (Fabricius et al., 2013). Community based conservation approach is viewed as a framework for conservation that benefits all parties involved as an emerging international model for natural resource management (Dabo, 2017). Communities are viewed in the approach as the owners and managers of natural resources, necessitating their involvement in wildlife conservation area management. In order to encourage a participatory approach in conservation, the IUCN introduced the Community based conservation approach in the 1980s and put in place guidelines for involvement and engagement in conservation of the wildlife areas.

When local communities outweigh their costs with benefits, they frequently form favorable perceptions and attitudes. Adams et al. (2004) further stated that in order to balance the anticipated demands and mutually agreed-upon compromises, CBNRM programs must provide more benefits to the community. When management fails to take into account local communities' socioeconomic and cultural needs, on the other hand, local communities form unfavorable perceptions and attitudes toward PAs (Vodouhê et al., 2010). Therefore, better management of protected areas necessitates investigation into local communities' perceptions and attitudes toward wildlife conservation areas. Because of how nearby communities' socioeconomic needs impact conservation management (Chowdhury et al., 2014).

According to the literature, local governance institutions in particular have not been able to stop the loss of natural resources (Marambanyika & Beckedahl, 2016; Mosimane & Silva, 2015). For instance, Mosimane and Silva (2015) discovered that the Uibasen Conservancy in Namibia's Mayuni Conservancy and Kunene Region's Uibasen Conservancy lack adequate benefit-sharing systems. Mosimane and Silva (2015) made the argument that local governance structures require more oversight and support from outside sources when developing and putting into practice strategies for providing benefits to community members. Few studies have examined the participation of community in wildlife conservation areas that can enhance the social and ecological outcomes in Africa, according to Brooks et al. (2012), who emphasized this point.

2.3 Challenges faced by people in their conservation efforts

It should be noted that community participation in wildlife conservation areas in developing nations necessitates a concerted effort involving various political forces, administrative setups, and wealth and power redistribution (Hobfoll & Freedy, 2017). This becomes challenging in a world where community participation is frequently used as a smokescreen for "business as usual" in order to conceal power imbalances, downplay differences, and let elites advance their own agendas (Fung, 2015). Similar to the above, this can be a sad outcome of either communities' lack of interest in participating due to a lack of a sense of ownership, their inability to create enough jobs, their lack of information, or their institutions' reluctance to allow for genuine participation. The difficulty the idea of community involvement in the development of tourism that is frequently (Whitelaw & Tolkach, 2014).

The difficulty that the idea of community participation in wildlife conservation areas faces is frequently exacerbated by the unwillingness of some stakeholders with an agenda to uphold the status quo, which restricts the community's involvement through the centralization of power, elite dominance, a lack of information sharing, and a disrespectful professional attitude toward equipping locals with the necessary skills to meaningfully participate (Manyisa Ahebwa & van der Duim, 2013). This is due to inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks designed to protect and advance the interests of local communities and ensure their active involvement in the design, development, and administration of tourism. (Bello et al, 2017)

As a result, developing nations like South Africa have been able to pass laws requiring community involvement in development with some degree of success. South Africa has become a model for how, through legislation, the community has been given the opportunity to participate in integrated development planning (especially in tourism), following planning practices that were shaped by the history of embedded inequalities that characterized pre 1994 development planning (Watkins, 2015).

The decentralization of power from the national to local levels of government, with local governments granted legal authority over the how, when, and where of the community participation process administration, is the foundation for the South African community participation project's success (Acharya, 2018). South Africa's tourism planning is exceptional because it is integrated, goal-oriented, and systematic, taking into account the country's overall economic, social, and cultural development from the very beginning (Nyikana, 2019). Through this process, communities can actively contribute to the success and expansion of the tourism industry while also having a genuine and open opportunity to influence local development. This makes it necessary for all stakeholders to work toward fostering meaningful community involvement in development initiatives, preventing one group of stakeholders from being reduced to spectators in development meant to improve their lives.

Active and significant community participation is at the heart of sustainable tourism and community development (Dahles, et al, 2020). However, this is frequently hampered by obstacles that prevent the community's intended participation in development initiatives meant to enhance their quality of life. Although using tourism as a tool for community development has the potential to enable meaningful community participation, in practice there are obstacles that prevent this from happening (Jamal & Dredge, 2014).

The lack of discussion among tourism scholars is the bigger problem facing the literature on community participation in tourism. This discussion is restricted to a study by (Setokoe & Ramukumba, 2020) that contends that developing nations face three types of barriers: operational, structural, and cultural. The barriers are intended to facilitate a theoretical understanding of community participation in tourism development (Aref & Ma'rof, 2008).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study area

The study was carried out in Murchison Falls National Park located between latitudes 1°42' N and 02°15' N and longitudes 31°24' E and 32°14' E (Figure 1). It consists of the following protected areas: BWR, Bugungu Wildlife Reserve, Karuma Wildlife Reserve, and MFNP (Murchison Falls National Park) (Ajai Wildlife Reserve). The study included the Bugungu community around the Bugungu Wildlife Reserve (501 km²). The districts of Nwoya, Nebbi, Bulisa, Kiryandongo, and Masindi all border the MFCA to the north, northwest, southwest, east, and south, respectively. The study will be carried out in the MFCA's bordering sub-counties of Pakanyi, Ngwendo, Mutunda, Pakwach, and Purongo, which have entry gates to the protected areas.

The study was carried out in Biiso Sub- County Buliisa district which was purposively selected because of two main reasons: firstly, they are adjacent to Murchison falls National Park Conservation Area and the local communities are expected to be aware of and benefits they get from wildlife conservation in Park. Secondly, some of the households in the sub-counties lived near the Park's entry gates where they are believed to be participating in tourism development and related activities.

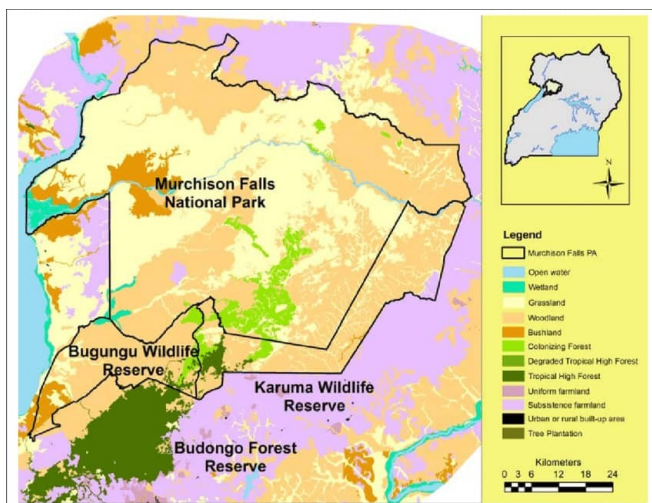


Figure 1: Map showing location of Murchison Falls Conservation Area.

3.2 Research Design

This study used cross sectional survey designing which the whole population or its subset is studied by seeking information about a study problem on what is going on at one point in time (Camm & Fox, 2018). The cross-sectional design will be used because cross sectional studies are generally fast and can be cheaply carried out because data collection does not take a long time.

3.3 Study Population

The study population included people living around Murchison falls national park in Bagungu villages in Biiso sub-county Buliisa district who are fishermen, cattle keepers and those who ran tourism related enterprises.

3.4 Target population

The target population for this study were the people from Bagungu village which is adjacent to Murchison Falls National Park. According to the National Housing and Population census of (2014), Bagungu village had a total of 1200 people and it is from this population that the sample size for this study was got.

3.5 Sample and sampling procedure

3.5.1 Sample size

A sample size of 191 was obtained from the 1,200 people krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample table (appendix11) is 191. For this study, a total of 190 respondents was sampled using the Random sampling technique. The district natural resources officers who were willing to provide information were a category of respondents sampled because they had information about the ways in which they carried out community participation processes. Another category of respondents sampled were the local authority leaders who had information on the challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation around Murchison Falls National Park.

Ninety-four (94) respondents were randomly selected from each of Bagungu community. The researcher used simple random sampling method whereby he sampled local authority leaders,

district natural resources officers and key informants that were willing to participate. from each of Bagungu community. For the qualitative approach, 7 key informants were purposively selected and included the District Natural resources officer, District Community Development Officer (DCDO), District Environment Officers (DEO) and four (4) local authority leaders. These was purposively selected considering their knowledge and administrative positions. The study concentrated on 190 respondents because of the limited time and funds which doesn't not allow the researcher to cover all the households around Murchison Falls National Park. Nevertheless, the determined sample size was a representative of the populations neighboring the park.

3.5.2 Simple Random Sampling

Simple random sampling was used to select respondents from the target population. In this process every respondent got an equal chance of being included in the sample. Here residents near Murchison Falls National Park were selected randomly. Simple random sampling is the most straightforward probability sampling strategy (Gravetter and Forzano, 2011). It is also the most popular method for choosing a sample among population for a wide range of purposes. The researcher used a random sampling technique to sample for the respondents and this is because of its ease of use and accuracy of representation.

3.6 Methods of Data Collection

3.6.1 Semi-Structured Questionnaire

The research used both structured and semi-structured questionnaires. The questionnaires as both closed and open ended in such a way that participants had freedom to express their views in response to the questions asked without any influence or clues from the interviewer. This was preferred because large amounts of information were collected within a short time and reduced on the bias between the respondents and the researcher. The research objectives and research questions were guided in the design of these questionnaires. Closed ended questions was formulated in the questionnaires because they were suitable for collecting information. Open ended questions will be used to enable the respondents add more relevant in-depth information and experiences for insight into the issues of the study.

3.6.3 Document review

Different documents were reviewed to obtain information to back up the research results. These sources included but not limited to; online journals, website, textbooks, periodicals, magazines and reports. This information was extracted related to the study specific objectives.

3.7 Validity and reliability

Reliability is the extent to which data collection tools are consistent, free from both systematic and random errors and can be used to reproduce similar results over time (Portney and Watkins, 2009). Within the context of this study, questionnaire and interview guides was the main data collection tools used and the researcher used various approaches to test as well as to improve their reliability. First, a pilot testing study was conducted using questionnaires and interview guides on 5 local community members who was selected purposively. The pilot study was done for four days helped to improve the questionnaires and interview guides by removing unnecessary questions and restructuring unclear questions. It also helped to match between conceptual categories in both questionnaires and interview guides with operational categories in the field. Further, a test- retest reliability was conducted to establish the stability and consistency of both questionnaires and interview guides. To avoid respondents' bias, another sample of 10 smaller holder farmers from other villages which was selected randomly, and subjected to both the piloted questionnaires and interviews on two separate occasions. Given the time constraints, the test-retest interval was for five days and the researcher managed to obtain almost similar results, which indicated that the instruments were reliable. To statistically gain insight into the reliability of the questionnaire was used to gather information, Cronbach's alpha was computed. The Cronbach's alpha of 0.88 was obtained. A general accepted rule is that an α of 0.6-0.7 indicates an acceptable level of reliability, and 0.8 or greater indicates a high coherence and internal consistency in the questions administered (Taber, 2018; Saiful & Yusoff, 2019). Therefore, based on the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of reliability computed above, the questionnaire was deemed suitable for the study.

Validity focuses on the extent to which an instrument measures what it is intended to measure (Portney and Watkins, 2009). It places emphasis on the objectives of a study and as such, it becomes the strength of our conclusions, inferences or propositions (Ibid). In this study, content and construct validities were performed on questionnaires and interview guides before the actual data collection. Content validity refers to the degree to which the content of a test (i.e., questionnaire) is representative of the domain it is supposed to cover, while construct validity reflects the ability of an instrument to measure an abstract concept or social construct (Portney and Watkins, 2009). To achieve content validity of the data collection instruments, various categories and questions that reflected the objectives of the study will be formulated in the

questionnaire and interview guides. To achieve construct validity of data collection tools, an ordinal scale was developed to measure abstract concepts like effectiveness among others. The study gathered valid data because the researcher was correctly interpreting and match conceptual categories in the questionnaire with operational categories in the field.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Permission to conduct research was got from Makerere university head of department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism. After obtaining a clearance, the researcher was given an introductory letter from Makerere University that will be presented to the Local council chairman of the area seeking permission to carry out the study. The identity of respondents were protected by ensuring high level of confidentiality during data collection, analysis and interpretation upon which every participant with capacity to make a decision was asked for informed choice whether to participate in the research study or not by signing an informed consent after which the researcher was able to go to the field to gather the required information for the final research report.

3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data was edited, coded for completeness, and processed using computer software called the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) was used to analyze quantitative data. To analyze data descriptive analysis was used to produce frequencies and which were used to present the results.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

4.1 Characteristics of the respondents

Respondents profile included occupation, education, and age were considered relevant for this study. Percentage distributions of the demographic variables are presented in (Table 1). A total of 190 respondents from a local community around (Murchison Falls National Park) were chosen to participate in this study. It was revealed that (50.5%) of the respondents were males and the remaining (49.5%) were females (Table 1). Regarding marital status, 91.1% of the respondents mentioned that they were married, 6.3% were single, 1.6% were widowed and only 1.1% had divorced. The majority of the respondents (62.7%) were above the age of 35 years, and 37% were below 24 years and this means that the study included respondents from all categories of age groups. Most of the respondents represented by (48.9%) had A-level education, (21.1%) had O-level education, (23.7%) had primary education and only 5% had tertiary education. This means that respondents had gone to school and could read the questionnaire and understand. Regarding occupation, most of the respondents (51.1%) were farmers (38.6%) said that they operate businesses like restaurants, and craft shops among others table 1 below. Most of the respondents (37%) earn 50000-1500000 million shillings annually and (34%) of the respondents earn between 1501, 000-2500, 000 million shillings and a few of the respondents 5% could earn above three million.

Table 1.Social demographic characteristics of respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Male	96	50.5
Female	94	49.5
Age		
18-24	13	6.8
25-34	54	28.4
35-44	73	38.4
45-54	36	18.9
55-above	14	7.4
Marital status		
Single	12	6.3
Married	173	91.1
Widowed	3	1.6
Divorced	2	1.1
Level of Education		
No education	1	.5
Primary	45	23.7
O-level	40	21.1
A-level	93	48.9
College/technical	10	5.3
University	1	.5
Occupation		
Self employed	97	51.1
Employed full time	70	36.8
Employed par time	2	1.1

Retired	0	
Unemployed	21	
Annual Income		
500,000-1,500,000	70	37
1501,000-2500,000	65	34
2501,000-3,000,000	45	24
Above 3 million	10	5

4.2 Processes of local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife.

In order to identify the community participation in planning and decisions making to conserve wildlife, respondents were asked about how they participate in conservation of the Murchison falls National Park. Results indicated that the local community participate in conservation around Murchison falls National Park in various way such as (planting of trees), cleaning and making the community roads, making souvenirs and crafts, through community awareness about conservation, formation of the local community conservation clubs among others. The major conservation projects were identified as Making crafts and Souvenir's (82%), formation of the local community conservation clubs (80%), community conservation awareness (79%), and Nursery bed preparation, tree selling and planting trees (63%). As the results of these community participation ways, it was reported by the respondents that they were all participating in nursery bed preparations and selling of trees as well as planning of tress, sensitization of the local community members about conservation, formation of the local community conservation committees and clubs for better resolution of the conservation issues affecting the local community around Murchison falls National Park as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Ways in which local communities do participate in conservation planning

<i>Projects that participated N=190</i>	<i>Percentage of respondents</i>	
Cleaning and making community roads	110	58
Making crafts and souvenirs	155	82
Nursery bed preparation, tree selling and planting trees	120	63
Bee keeping and honey selling	99	52
Community awareness	150	79
Formation of the local community conservation clubs	153	80

Furthermore, the respondents were asked about the activities that they carried out during the conservation of the Murchison falls national park. The activities are crucial to determine whether the local communities do participate in the conservation of the wildlife in the park. Results revealed that majority of the local communities participate in conservation outreach programs, attending of the monthly conservation meetings with the park authorities, embracing the conservation projects, some people participate in conservation as law enforcers and community mobilisers and information givers among others. Table 3 results indicated that (74%) of the respondents reported attending the monthly conservation meetings with UWA officials and (71%) of the respondents reported that they are community mobilisers and give information to the park Authorities regarding the illegal activity that is going on within the National Park. This means that the local people engage in different activities aimed at conserving the wildlife within the Murchison falls national park. The chairperson LC1 revealed that there is a strategic plan whereby community members of Bugungu especially those near the park are called upon for meeting with park officials and give information about the conservation of the wildlife.

Table 3. Activities carried out by Local community during Conservation.

<i>Activities carried out during conservation</i>	<i>Percentage of respondents</i>	
Conservation outreach programs	110	58
Attending monthly conservation meetings	155	74
Embracing conservation projects	120	63
Law enforcing	105	55
Community mobilisers and information givers	135	71

4.3 Local community's perception of their participation in wildlife conservation

Results in Table 4 show the community's perceptions towards their participation in wildlife around the around Lake Mburu National Park. the respondents from the local community of Bugungu around the Murchison falls National Park were given statements regarding their perception towards conservation and they are requested to either agree, strongly agree, disagree and strongly disagree. From the table, it can be seen that the majority of the respondents (92%) strongly agreed that the local community positively participate in conservation based projects around Murchison Falls National Park, this was followed by (78%) who strongly agreed that the part of the tourism resources are shared with the local community, further, (91.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that local people should be consulted about wildlife conservation which was followed by strong agreement that the community has started eco-tourism projects around Murchison Falls National Park . Further, the results indicated that (53%) of the respondents disagreed that with the statement that only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park and this was followed by a strong disagreement that Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation (Table 4). Community members are involved in Murchison Falls National Park and they make sure that they are part of the tourism resources are shared with the local community. This means that there were positive perceptions about the community conservation measures (Table 4).

Table 4: Local community’s perception of their participation in wildlife conservation

<i>Variable</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>DA</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Local people should be consulted about wildlife conservation	174(91.6)	16(8.4)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
UWA should engage local people in development of the park’s management plan	156(82.1)	10(5.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	23(12.1)
Local people lack knowledge of wildlife conservation and should not be consulted	77(40.5)	50(25.1)	23(12.1)	0(0.0)	40(21)
The Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation	66(34.7)	25(13.1)	99(50)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park	0(00)	40(24)	100(53)	50(26)	0(00)
Local community positively participate in conservation-based projects around Murchison Falls National Park	175(92)	15(8)	0(00)	0(00)	0(00)
Part of the tourism resources are shared with the local community	150(78)	11(6)	20(11)	0(00)	9(5)

4.4 Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation.

During the study at the Bugungu community, respondents were asked to identify the challenges experienced as they participate in the wildlife conservation around the Murchison Falls National Park. Majority of the respondents (97.4%) identified Lack of awareness about conservation as the major challenge faced by the local people as they participate in wildlife conservation, , and this was followed by Crop damages and lack of compensation to the families that loose life or crop damages through animal attack (94.7%), a challenge of limited capital for the people to start up small business was also identified as the challenge (61%) and lastly lack of support and cooperation from park management (41%) as represented in the table 5 below. It is important to note that these challenges have a direct bearing on the way things are done at the Bugungu

around the Murchison Falls National Park and have limited the conservation efforts of the wildlife resources and therefore they should be addressed. This implies that there is a need to manage these problems since it has been revealed that they have got several consequential effects to the communities especially those around Murchison Falls National Park.

Table 5: Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation

<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Frequency responses</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>
Lack of awareness about conservation	185	97.4
Limited capital to startup business sustains living	115	61
Causing death to human life and animals	170	89.4
Crop damages and lack of compensation	180	94.7
Increased tension between local community and park management	99	52
Lack of support and cooperation from park management	77	41

Furthermore, the respondents were asked to propose solutions to the challenges mentioned. Several solutions were suggested, for example sensitization of the local community, compensation of the (affected) people, and involvement of people into tourism conservation projects, providing more jobs to the local people among other around the park among others. Results in the table six indicated that majority of the respondents (85%) revealed that local community should be sensitized about the importance of the wildlife (72%) suggested community involvement/participation in conservation while the least (42%) suggested Offering the employment to local people around the park around the park as the solution to the challenges mentioned (Table 6).

Table 6: Solutions to the challenges faced

<i>Proposed solution to Human wildlife conflict</i>	<i>Percentage of Reponses</i>
local community awareness/Sensitization	85
Compensation	62
community involvement/participation in tourism	72
Offering the employment to local people around the park	42
Offering the financial support to the local communities	50

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

5. 1 Local community participation in planning and decision making to conserve wildlife

Field findings indicated that local community participate in conservation around Murchison falls National Park through planting of trees, cleaning and making the community roads, making souvenirs and crafts, through community awareness about conservation, formation of the local community conservation clubs among others. According to the warden in charge of conservation at Murchison Falls National Park, he revealed that through these ways have been influential in shaping the conservation of the tourism industry within the park since they kept the local people involved in tourism and appreciated the benefits of tourism. The bugungu ecotourism groups and the associated conservation activities' such as the conservation outreach programs, attending of the monthly conservation meetings with the part authorities, embracing the conservation projects are then major community conservation practices projects that have been setup around Murchison Falls National Park as contended by Li (2011). Communities living around national parks like Murchison falls National Park normally work as craft makers and are encouraged to engage in farming practices that are not affected much by the wild animals, such as beekeeping. He further revealed that it is the work of the Murchison falls National Park administration to train the local community to get knowledge of conservation of wildlife and tourism.

The findings also revealed that some of the local people have started (the nursery bed and continue to planting trees) as well as cultural activities is greatly considered a community conservation measure or practice in Bugungu around Murchison Falls National Park, as cited by Biira, Muhumuza, and Mugisha (2009), and that the activities' such the planting trees as well as cultures of different ethnic groups living around Murchison Falls National Park are being eroded in terms of their way of life and the changing nature of their environment. In Murchison Falls National Park, because of the cultural values of the Ankole cow and the conflict over the meaning of the landscape, a herd of "beautiful cows" was formed and grazed within the park. In both cases, the intention was to remove or reduce conflicts between local communities and the parks resulting from conflicting cultural values and build interest, engagement, and support for the parks by integrating key cultural values into their day-to-day management.

The findings further revealed that (resource sharing) is also greatly acknowledged in Murchison Falls National Park, as cited by Ribot (2014), who emphasized that resource sharing is a potent tool for active community involvement in natural resource management. The distribution of benefits among the members of the community has to be fair and equitable. For the distribution of benefits, the interests of the weaker, marginalized sections of society have to be taken into predominant account. The interests of women should also be guarded, as they are the ones who are primarily associated with forest ecosystems and spend a great deal of time inside the forest areas.

As a result of these conservation activities and measures of how the local people participate in (conservation) around the Murchison Falls National Park, the local community participated in various activities, and among others, the local community guides taught and educated other members about conservation, among other activities. Education and awareness, which were also recognized by environmental and community activists, Murchison falls National Park, NGO officials, formal and informal tourist groups, and tourism establishments as another community conservation practice as cited by Christianson (2010), indicate that communities often need to strengthen their organizational capacity in order to reclaim responsibilities in the management and conservation of forest resources through education and other forms of capacity building. Educational awareness and capacity building can enhance the participation process. The educational process should run parallel to the actual rollout of the project so that, in the process of drawing up plans and developing participatory tools, the stakeholders can learn from each other. Appropriate educational processes should be used to mobilize prior and new knowledge and build competence among community members.

5.2 Local community's perception of their participation in wildlife conservation

Field findings revealed that most of the local community was in agreement that local community positively participate in conservation-based projects around Murchison Falls National Park, part of the tourism resources is shared with the local community, local people should be consulted about wildlife conservation and that community has started eco-tourism projects around Murchison Falls National Park. It is important to note that community perceptions are determined by various parameters, which include the appropriateness of the conservation measures, park resource sharing, involvement in the tourism conservation program, living in harmony with the wildlife, and the setting up of community conservation tourism projects. The

results of our study support earlier observations by other studies (Snyman, 2012; Gandiwa et al., 2013). Community perceptions are affected by different parameters. (Snyman, 2012). The level of involvement in conservation has a significant positive correlation with conservation perceptions (Snyman, 2012). This finding supports the finding that local people are involved in the consultation and this was agreed upon by the majority of their respondents. Other studies (Manyama et al., 2014; Masud & Kari, 2015) also reported the awareness of conservation among the local community to foster a positive perception towards the conservation effects of the tourism resources within the park.

Better-educated people may be better able to understand the role of protected areas in conservation as well as the environmental services they provide (Allendorf et al., 2012) Further, the local community's positive participation in conservation-based project around Lake Mburu National Park has significance effect on the local community's attitudes toward conservation on. Those from villages bordering protected areas were more negative towards the protected areas than the other group from villages located further from protected areas (Mariki, 2013; Kirumira et al., 2019). The negative attitude is probably due to the costs incurred by local communities from problem animals and vermin through the destruction of crops and livestock and the loss of human life in communities adjacent to the PAs.

The perceptions of the local community towards wildlife conservation were overwhelmingly positive. The majority of the local communities acknowledged the existence of the park, its attributes, and its resources. This positive community perception could be influenced by the knowledge and awareness of the park and its attributes, mainly park management, the ignorance of the animals, their inability to participate in conservation projects, Further, local communities derive benefits from the parks in the form of mainly resource access and use, revenue sharing grants, enterprises or opportunities, employment opportunities, environmental services, appreciation of wildlife and beauty, culture-related benefits, scholarships, and, to a limited extent, wildlife use rights. These benefits create a positive perception among the local communities toward wildlife conservation. The benefits boost positive attitudes and perceptions toward conservation (Byer, 1996). Some communities perceive the parks as areas majorly for conservation of wildlife and tourism development, and they do not support community livelihood improvement initiatives. This perception is likely due to the awareness and knowledge about the park and the conservation of park resources. However, other communities perceive the

parks as not contributing to the betterment of the community, and this perception could be due to the costs local communities incur as a result of the problem of animals and vermin in the parks. This finding corroborates that of a similar study conducted in Southeastern Zimbabwe (Gandiwa et al., 2013), where communities had mixed perceptions of wildlife conservation. This perception may indicate that the communities generally understand the importance of wildlife conservation (Matema & Andersson, 2015).

The findings further revealed that majority of the local community disagreed that with the statement that only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park and this was followed by a strong disagreement that Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation. The results show that communities had mixed perceptions of wildlife conservation and concur with those of Gandiwa et al (2016) who reported mixed perceptions of conservation in Gonarezhou. This may indicate that the communities generally understand the importance of wildlife conservation regardless of previously recorded cases of human-wildlife conflict (Bello, & Carr, 2017) and limited access to natural resources, which are believed to trigger negative perceptions of conservation. By agreeing to most of the statements that measured their perception of conservation, the communities showed an appreciation of conservation. Similar findings were reported by Tessema et al (2007) in their study of four PAs in Ethiopia, and Mehta and Heinen (2017) for communities around two PAs in Nepal, contrary to other communities who were found to be less positive towards conservation, e.g., in Lake Mburu National Park, Uganda and Cross River National Park in Nigeria. While the Umfuruzi, Gonarezhou and Cawston Ranch communities may have been generally positive in their perceptions of conservation, they did not appreciate the fact that their villages bordered the PAs. The friendly attitude expressed by the majority of the community members was probably due to the conservation education and awareness, quick response by park rangers to scare away stray wild animals back into the wild, and the benefit-sharing program-especially resource access. And because of this gesture, the communities reciprocate by reporting illegalities inside the park-to-park management. However, the negative attitude was probably due to restrictions on resource access and use, poor handling of victims of illegal entry into the parks and wildlife reserves, and the costs incurred by communities regarding loss of crops and livestock and injury or even death to humans as a result of problem animals and vermin from the parks. Communities did not appreciate the fact that their villages bordered the PAs due to the costs they incurred from

living closer to PAs, e.g., loss of crops and livestock due to wildlife depredation (Gandiwa et. al, 2013). This supported our third hypothesis that there is a strong relationship between community attitudes and the conservation of parks and wildlife.

5.3 Challenges faced by local people as they participate in wildlife conservation

From the results the main challenges faced by the local people as they participate in wildlife conservation were identified as lack of awareness about conservation as the major challenge faced by the local people as they participate in wildlife conservation, and this was followed by crop damages and lack of compensation to the families that loose life or crop damages through animal attack, a challenge of limited capital for the people to start up small business was also identified as the challenge and lack of support and cooperation from park management (Table 5). To avoid human conflicts, the local political, economic, social and cultural issues should be considered by management plans (Redpath et al. 2013). Protected area management consequently needs to describe, explain and communicate conservation targets and related management implications as well as benefits to local people clearly, which also reveals whether management plans match with conservation targets (Schmidt et al. 2019). However, assessing the social impacts of protected areas is often perceived as hostile to conservation (Brockington et al. 2006). Nevertheless, facing a growing human population and conservation needs alike, conservationists must increasingly guide human interactions with nature in cultural landscapes of which humans are an integral part.

Results revealed that there's limited capital for starting up of the business for the local people and some of them had no knowledge about tourism religious tourism activities in the area that is why they have not effectively exploited the available activities especially the local travelers. It's important to note that tourism development is mainly associated with transport operations and passenger flows, including integration between different modes of transport or transfer within the same transport mode at different scales international, national, regional or local (Godfrey,2000). It's important to note that protected area planning and management are not only based on conservation effectiveness but also biased by conservation costs and the demands of stakeholders such as local people, landowners, governments, policymakers, managers, practitioners and scientists (Braunisch et al. 2012). International sustainability agendas have therefore proposed balancing global conservation targets and socio-economic development. However, a lack of

spending and information about where funding flows come from are the main factors hindering reaching these goals (Reed et al. 2020). Although global conservation spending has increased (Waldron et al. 2017), funding from (inter-)national conservation organizations and governmental agencies must still grow to meet global conservation goals (Watson et al. 2014)

In addition to limited funds, the hostility in the handling of victims illegally found in the wildlife-protected areas by park management negatively impacts local people's attitudes and perceptions towards the parks and wildlife. The local communities view the handling, including punishments, of victims as too harsh and stringent. These punishments included imprisonment, fines, and community service which deprive the victims of their provisional responsibility to their households and stiffens community-park relations. In extreme cases, the victims suffer injury and even death. However, the punishments by the parks may also foster compliance with parking laws, instill discipline amongst the local communities, and also help observe the park boundaries. The community conservation perceptions on the punishments to people who enter the parks illegally could be an indication that the victims are from within the park adjacent to local communities, and or the victims are their relatives from parishes away from the park boundaries (Faulks, 2000).

The local communities proposed to park management best practices to improve community attitudes towards the wildlife PAs, and these are mainly: empowering the local communities, supporting community livelihood and economic options, improving the handling of victims arrested in illegalities in the parks, and increasing awareness on park laws, policies, and regulations. If benefits are extended to local people and if negative impacts associated with living close to protected areas are mitigated (Lewis, 1996) then community attitudes towards the wildlife protected areas would improve.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

The study concludes the local people participate in the conservation of the wildlife resources around Murchison falls national park in Bugungu through planting of trees, cleaning and making the community roads, making souvenirs and crafts, through community awareness about conservation, and formation of the local community conservation clubs. This has been possible through conservation activities' such as conservation outreach programs, attending of the monthly conservation meetings with the part authorities, embracing the conservation projects, and doing the law enforcers and community mobilisers and information givers among others.

The study further established that although the local community agreed that local community positively participate in conservation-based projects around Murchison Falls National Park, and that the part of the tourism resources is shared with the local community, but some disagreed that that only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park and that Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation.

Despite the promising conservation efforts around the people of Bungungu around Murchison falls national park, the study concludes that people face a lot of challenges in participating ion conservation of the park including lack of awareness about conservation as the major challenge faced by the local people as they participate in wildlife conservation, crop damages and lack of compensation to the families that loose life or crop damages through animal attack , a challenge of limited capital for the people to start up small business was also identified as the challenge and lastly lack of support and cooperation from park management. Sensitization and providing financial support can help fix these challenges.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 Recommendations for improved local community participation in conservation

Using the findings, the study has established that there are policy issues that need to be addressed for the effective involvement of local people in the conservation of natural resources, in the sharing of conservation benefits, and in how conservation measures have contributed towards poverty alleviation.

Promotion of equitable community conservation planning and management so as to accelerate community-based development efforts from the ground up and also strengthen the community's abilities to act for them.

The policies established for community conservation benefits need to be reviewed and practically translated into action for effective participation, decision-making, and the general welfare of the local community, especially household income-promoting small-scale businesses, which aim at conserving the environment.

There is a need to promote community-based conservation organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Murchison Falls National Park for technical and financial support.

There is a need to encourage the private sector to invest in conservation development planning and enterprises while engaging local communities.

There is a need to institute training programs at the community level that will ultimately provide opportunities for local people to be employed in various conservation businesses.

There is a need for Uganda wildlife Authority to raise people's awareness so as to educate more of the local people living around the park since they are illiterate and most of them have only attended up to the primary level of education.

Lack of education has been identified as a barrier to local people in participating in conservation. In order to increase the contribution of conservation of resources to poverty alleviation, there is a need to institute training programs at the community level that will ultimately provide opportunities for the local people to be employed in various conservation businesses.

6.2.2 Recommendation for future research

There is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of communication and education strategies since are critical to increase community participation in wildlife conservation. Conducting research that assesses the effectiveness and education strategies in motivating local communities to participate in conservation efforts could provide valuable insights to design more effective outreach programs.

There is a need to conduct a longitudinal study, this would offer insight into changes in community participation in conservation efforts over time. This would help identify factors that

drive people to participate in conservation efforts and the effectiveness of different policies and programs.

There is a need to analyze the role of culture in conservation efforts since culture plays a significant role of in shaping attitudes and behaviors towards wildlife conservation. Conducting research that generates a better understanding of how culture influence wildlife conservation decisions could provide greater insight into how conservation programs can be tailored to local communities.

There is a need to analyze the policy and institutional framework, examining the policy and institutional framework that governs wildlife conservation would provide insights into the effectiveness of conservation policies and their impact on participation in conservation efforts. Research would assess institutional structures, legal framework and incentives that promote conservation efforts.

Appendix: questionnaire

TOPIC: LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN MURCHISON FALLS NATONAL PARK: THE CASE OF BABUNGU COMMUNITY IN BIISO SUB-COUNTY BULIISA DISTRICT

INFORMED CONSENT

Dear Respondent

I am Mugisa Bob from the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism; Makerere University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Tourism. As part of my requirements for my degree I am carrying out a study on local community participation in wildlife conservation in Murchison falls national park. The case of bagungu community in biiso sub-county buliisa district. You are kindly requested to fill in the space provided to the best of your knowledge. Be assured that this information will be for academic purposes only and your identity will not be disclosed.

SECTION 1: PROFILE OF RESONDENTS

1.1 Sex

(a) Male []

(b) Female []

1.2 Age

a) 18-27 []

(b) 28-37 []

c) 38-47 []

(d) 48- 57 []

e) 58+ []

1.3 Marital status

Single [] Married [] Divorced [] Widowed []

1.4 Education

- (a) Primary [] (b) Secondary Level []
 (c) Tertiary level [] (d) No education level []

1.5 What is your employment status?

- Employed full time [] Employed part time. []
 Self-employed [] Student []
 Retired [] Unemployed []
 Others, please specify.....

1.6 What is your yearly income?

- UGX 500,000-1,500,000 [] 1,501,000-2,500,000 []
 2,501,000-3,000,000 [] > 3million []

SECTION 2: LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

2.1 In which ways do Babungu community in biiso sub-county buliisa district participate in conservation of Murchison falls national park?

.....

2.2 What are some of the activities carried out during conservation of Murchison Falls National Park?

.....

.....

.....

2.3 What are some of the conservation projects that have been done by Bagungu community around Murchison falls national park?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

SECTION 3: LOCAL COMMUNITY’S PERCEPTION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

What are your perceptions towards the participation in wildlife conservation? The responses from this section should be ranked according to Linkert scale of 1-5 were

1=Strongly Agree **(SA)** 2=Agree **(A)** 3=Not Sure **(NS)** 4=Disagree **(DA)** 5=Strongly disagree **(SDA)** (Tick appropriately).

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. Local people should be consulted about wildlife conservation					
2. UWA should engage local people in development of the park's management plan					
3. Local people lack knowledge of wildlife conservation and should not be consulted					
4. The Bagungu have traditional knowledge of wildlife conservation					

5. Only local leaders should be involved in planning of wildlife management in the park					
6. Local community positively participate in conservation-based projects around Murchison Falls National Park					
7. Community have started eco-project around Murchison Falls National Park					
8. Part of the tourism resources are shared with the local community					

SECTION 4: CHALLENGES FACED BY THE BAGUNGU AS THEY PARTICIPATE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

4.1. Do you participate in the planning and decision-making process regarding the conservation of wildlife conservation in Murchison Falls National Park

a) Yes [] b) []

4.2 In what capacity do you participate in decision making process and the management of Murchison falls national park? Please tick.

Park management [] government agency []

Tourism business [] Member of local community []

Tourist []

Others specify

4.3 What are the challenges faced by local community in this place in wildlife conservation in Murchison falls national park? Identify the challenge and corresponding solution as guided in the table below.

Challenges faced by local community in wildlife conservation	How the challenge can be overcome
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION

References

- Acharya, K. K. (2018). Local governance restructuring in Nepal: From government to governmentality. *Dhaulagiri Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 12, 37-49.
- Aref, F., & Ma'rof, R. (2008). Barriers to community participation toward tourism development in Shiraz, Iran. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(9), 936-940.
- Bello, F. G., Lovelock, B., & Carr, N. (2017). Constraints of community participation in protected area-based tourism planning: the case of Malawi. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 16(2), 131-151.
- Bello, F. G., & Carr, N. (2017). Constraints of community participation in protected area-based tourism planning: the case of Malawi. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 16(2), 131-151.
- Brown, G., & Chin, S. Y. W. (2013). Assessing the effectiveness of public participation in neighbourhood planning. *Planning Practice and Research*, 28(5), 563-588.
- Dahles, H., Khieng, S., Verver, M., & Manders, I. (2020). Social entrepreneurship and tourism in Cambodia: Advancing community engagement. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 28(6), 816-833.
- Dawood, F. & Farley, M. (2014). Complications and associated bacterial coinfections among children hospitalized with seasonal or pandemic influenza, United States, 2003–2010. *The Journal of infectious diseases*, 209(5), 686-694.
- Fung, A. (2015). Putting the public back into governance: The challenges of citizen participation and its future. *Public administration review*, 75(4), 513-522.
- Gunawijaya, J., & Pratiwi, A. (2018). How Local Community Could Contribute to the Tourism Development in Rural Area? *KnE Social Sciences*, 826-834.
- Hobfoll, S. E., & Freedy, J. (2017). Conservation of resources: A general stress theory applied to burnout. In *Professional burnout* (pp. 115-129). Routledge.
- Icoz, O., & Icoz, O. (2019). Economic impacts of tourism. In *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism Impacts* (pp. 95-108). Routledge.
- Jamal, T., & Dredge, D. (2014). Tourism and community development issues. R. Sharpley and D. Telfer, *Tourism and Development. Concepts and Issues, Second Edition*. London: Channel View, 178-204.

- Keramitsoglou, K. M., & Tsagarakis, K. P. (2013). Public participation in designing a recycling scheme towards maximum public acceptance. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 70, 55-67.
- Lamers, M., van der Duim, R., Nthiga, R., van Wijk, J., & Waterreus, S. (2015). Implementing tourism-conservation enterprises: A comparison of three lodges in Kenya. *Institutional Arrangements for Conservation, Development and Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Dynamic Perspective*, 219-238.
- Manyisa Ahebwa, W., & van der Duim, R. (2013). Conservation, Livelihoods, and Tourism: A Case Study of the Buhoma-Mukono Community-Based Tourism Project in Uganda. *Journal of Park & Recreation Administration*, 31(3).
- Mascia, M. B., & Mills, M. (2018). When conservation goes viral: The diffusion of innovative biodiversity conservation policies and practices. *Conservation Letters*, 11(3), e12442.
- Mtapuri, O., & Giampiccoli, A. (2019). Tourism, community-based tourism and ecotourism: a definitional problematic. *South African Geographical Journal= Suid-Afrikaanse Geografiese Tydskrif*, 101(1), 22-35.
- Nyikana, S. (2019). *A Framework for the Development of Sport Tourism in Cameroon*. University of Johannesburg (South Africa).
- Park, E., & Kim, S. (2016). The potential of Cittaslow for sustainable tourism development: enhancing local community's empowerment. *Tourism Planning & Development*, 13(3), 351-369.
- Serra, J., Correia, A., & Rodrigues, P. M. (2014). A comparative analysis of tourism destination demand in Portugal. *Journal of Destination Marketing & Management*, 2(4), 221-227.
- Setokoe, T. J., & Ramukumba, T. (2020). Challenges of community participation in community-based tourism in rural areas. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment*, 248, 13-22.
- Shiple, R., & Snyder, M. (2013). The role of heritage conservation districts in achieving community economic development goals. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 19(3), 304-321.
- Snyman, S. (2017). The role of private sector ecotourism in local socio-economic development in southern Africa. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 16(3), 247-268.

- Soe, K. T., & Yeo-Chang (2019). Perceptions of forest-dependent communities toward participation in forest conservation: A case study in Bago Yoma, South-Central Myanmar. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 100, 129-141.
- Tambovceva, T., Atstaja, D., Tereshina, M., Uvarova, I., & Livina, A. (2020). Sustainability challenges and drivers of cross-border greenway tourism in rural areas. *Sustainability*, 12(15), 5927.
- Telfer, D. J., & Sharpley, R. (2015). *Tourism and development in the developing world*. Routledge.
- Terzić, A., & Simeunović-Bajić, N. (2014). Community role in heritage management and sustainable tourism development: Case study of the Danube region in Serbia. *Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences*, 183-201.
- Watkins, A., Papaioannou, T., Mugwagwa, J., & Kale, D. (2015). National innovation systems and the intermediary role of industry associations in building institutional capacities for innovation in developing countries: A critical review of the literature. *Research Policy*, 44(8), 1407-1418.
- Whitelaw, P. A., King, B. E., & Tolkach, D. (2014). Protected areas, conservation and tourism—financing the sustainable dream. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 22(4), 584-603.
- Woodley, S., Locke, H., Laffoley, D., MacKinnon, K., Sandwith, T., & Smart, J. (2019). A review of evidence for area-based conservation targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. *Parks*, 25(2), 31-46.

