



**MAKERERE**

**UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF FORESTRY, GEOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, BIODIVERSITY AND TOURISM**

**THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FARM TOURISM IN UGANDA: A CASE  
STUDY OF BUWAMA CROCODILE FARM IN MPIGI DISTRICT**

**BACHELOR OF TOURISM**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY,  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF TOURISM AT MAKERERE  
UNIVERSITY**

**JUNE, 2018**

## DECLARATION

I, **Mbabazi Specioza**, declare to the best of my knowledge that this special project is original and based on the personal findings and has never been presented before to any university or institution for a degree or any other award.

Signature.....Specioza.....

Date.....31/07/2018.....

**APPROVAL**

The special project report has been submitted with my approval as academic supervisor

Signature: .....  .....

date .....  .....

**Dr. Daniel Waiswa**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this piece of work to my parent Ms Mukundane Jane for having been a blessing in my life. I would not have reached this far if it wasn't because of their care.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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 a humble beginning but he made a way for me amidst all the challenges.

I also appreciate my parents for the too much attention and care they have rendered towards my success since I begun school.

My sincere thanks go to the staff of School of Forestry, Geographical and Environmental Sciences Makerere University and in particular my supervisor Dr. Waiswa Daniel

Finally, I also thank my friends Felix, Gorret and all whose advice saw this dissertation get completed a reality

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study was carried out analyze the tourism potentials of Buwama crocodile farm in Mpigi district. It was guided by objectives; to identify tourism resources at Buwama crocodile farm, to examine the tourism opportunities that can be developed at Buwama crocodile farm and to establish the challenges associated with at Buwama crocodile farm.

A semi structured questionnaire was administered to 60 randomly selected respondents and structured interviews were held with farm managers and local leaders who were selected purposively. Findings were later analyzed with the aid of a computer package for social sciences to attach the meaning.

The study established that Buwama crocodile farm has various tourism attractions such as crocodile, Lake Victoria, Kitebo pier, accommodation facilities like bandas among others. The study too revealed the various tourism opportunities available at Buwama crocodile farm that have not yet developed and identified are; boat cruise at the lake, bird watching, picnic viewing and rapidly expanding infrastructures most especially accommodation. Lastly the study established challenges associated with the farms which among others include still competition, limited markets, lack of knowledge about crocodile farming and diseases which affect the health of the crocodiles.

Based on these findings , the study recommends the need to develop more tourism products in and around Buwama crocodile farm to increase on the number of tourists visiting the farm , Improving the management of crocodile farming aiming at producing good quality products from the farm, and establishing pattern ships with other countries, are considered essential in providing crocodile market and a call for farm management to partner with the association of Uganda Tourism Board and tour companies in increasing visibility.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

Travel has existed since the beginning of time when primitive man set out to make adventure in what seemed to be unknown to him and the urge to discover new things; they travelled long distances, in search of food and clothing necessary for his survival (UNWTO, 2012). Throughout the course of history, people have travelled for different purposes of trade, religious conviction, economic gain, war, migration and other equally compelling motivations. However today, travel and tourism are looked at as drivers to economic development both at micro and macro level.

Globally tourism generates 5.2 trillion dollars a year. The secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Mr. Taleb Rifai on his maiden visit to Uganda, It is the world's largest industry with a total international tourism and international tourism fare receipts together estimate to be \$532 billion (WTO 2001). It is ranked second to oil as the world's most important sectors of economic development.

Tourism farms are becoming attractive tourist destinations also because more visitors are nostalgic for a "simpler" time. They want to escape the hustle of city life and connect with natural and cultural heritage and enjoy a richer and authentic leisure experience. They want to learn, connect with meaning, and meet genuine people engaged in a rural/agricultural lifestyle (Campbell, 2001).

Tourism is seen as a means of enhancing economic growth and development on African continent (Kester, 2003). According to Christine (2001), the contribution of tourism industry in the gross domestic products (GDP) and exports in many African countries has been improving overtime. As identified by WTO (2004) report, there has been significant growth in the level of international tourist arrivals in Africa. The world travel and tourism council (WTTC) also put the value of us\$39.6billion as the amounted that was generated in 2003 from economic activities in the travel and tourism industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

The report also shows that about 2.5% of the GDP in the region is accounted for by tourism industry that has generated about 5.5% of all employment in the region. Tourism in Uganda is focused on Uganda's landscape and wildlife. It is a major driver of employment, investment and foreign exchange, contributing 4.9 trillion Ugandan shillings (US\$1.88 billion or €1.4 billion as of August 2013) to Uganda's GDP in the financial year 2012-2013).

Crocodile farming has become a popular venture around the world. In recent times, governments of several countries like Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia have taken initiatives to improve their export earnings by patronizing wildlife farming as a potential industry and this has been utilized by venturing in crocodile farms that are believed that can be known can increase tourist inflows and thus Business people and conservationists take crocodile farming ventures seriously, as it has the potential of becoming very profitable and improving the livelihood of the communities (Taylor, 2008)

In Uganda, various tourism related enterprises have been set up to respond to the government's call of wealth creation. Enterprises like Buwama crocodile farm were established though not much is known of its potential as a tourism destination.

The tourist potentials in Buwama crocodile farm are still in a poor state given the low levels development around the area, the infrastructure in the district is still poor, roads are in a very bad condition, lodging facilities are too poor, there are also very few tourist attractions. Despite this revelation Buwama is worth developing for tourism purposes.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Globally, tourism has been viewed as a tool for economic development particularly in developing countries. Uganda as a developing country adopted and prioritized tourism as one of its drivers to wealth creation in her bid to attain a middle income status. Buwama crocodile farm as one of the farm tourism destination has been in operation since 1991, however information on its potentials for tourism development and how possibly it can contribute to tourism development is not fully documented and thus this research was aimed at addressing that knowledge gap by identifying its tourists potentials including tourism resources and how it can be fully developed as tourist destination.

### **1.3 Study Objectives**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

To assess the tourism potential of Buwama crocodile farm

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives of the study**

- 1) To identify tourism resources found at Buwama crocodile farm
- 2) To examine the tourism opportunities that can be harnessed at Buwama Crocodile Farm
- 3) To establish the challenges facing Buwama Crocodile Farm as a tourist destination

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

- 1) What are the different tourism resources at Buwama crocodile farm?
- 2) Which tourism opportunities can be developed at Buwama crocodile farm?
- 3) What are the challenges associated with Buwama crocodile farm as a tourist destination?

#### **1.5 Scope of the study**

The research was limited and conducted in Buwama, Mpigi district focusing on the different tourism resources, tourism opportunities that can be developed and challenges associated with at Buwama crocodile farm as a tourist destination between 2012-2017.

#### **1.6 Significance of the study**

The research findings will help in revealing the tourism potentials around Buwama Crocodile Farm that local community can exploit for their livelihoods

The research findings will benefit the local government in a way that they are informed of the of tourism Opportunities there by facilitating the improvement and construction of other tourism facilities in the area thus tourism development.

To the local community, the study expected to bring about awareness of the tourism resources both existing, potential and tourism development which will help enable them to engage themselves in more tourism activities around their area hence enable them to maximize the benefits from tourism.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Tourism resources and potentials

Tourism resources and activities is the interrelated phenomena which need a link of interaction of tourists, governments, organizations and local communities in the process of attracting and hosting tourists and other visitors to the particular destination. But it is believed that tourism is a hidden industry because its processes of tourism development is often left to private developers and leisure service providers in terms of provisions of transportation, packing and entertainment services (Harrill& Potts, 2006).

Additionally, tourism is also invisible to some planners, so tourism research has also recently come to be a favorite research subject in community development researches. Tourism activities can have no qualm to local, national, and international levels if it provides the benefit to local community. Also it should not form the core element of a community's economy, but is better suited to play a supplementary role to help diversify community economic activities like being employed to tourism activities, improving their community services including superstructure and increasing their level of living standards ( Kulindwa and Sosovele,2010 ).

Pearce (1991) argues that many different attractions may induce tourists to visit particular areas or spend their holiday in specific regions. These have been classified in a variety of ways. A first distinction is usually made between natural features such as land forms, flora and fauna and manmade objects, historic or modern, in form of cathedrals, casinos, monuments or amusement parks. He further notes that a third and general category embraces man and culture as expressed through languages, music and folklore dances.

To make a destination area more appealing and diversified in the comparative tourism market; the industry often creates support facilities and artificial attractions. The objective is to create a more enjoyable and comfortable visit and there by earn more revenue by inducing visitors to stay longer. Hotels and motels should blend with the local architecture and landscape. Attractions are helpful in keeping the natural resources and customs of the area, providing complimentary, educational and entertainment themes (Murphy 1991).

Studies by Richard and David (2009) revealed that the evaluation of the tourist potential of an area is a complex task and one where methodologies could be further developed and refined. A key problem is the comparison and weight of a wide range of parameters for any attempts to apply mathematical techniques to these multifactor evaluations without a sound basis for factor weighting is bound to fail in principle. It should, however, be noted that it is the relative importance of one location to another, rather than the absolute values, which are initially important. Namasoga (1999) noted that most of the tourist attractions in Uganda are almost exclusively ecologically based and that this has made tourism in Uganda basically ecotourism. The problem of alarming poverty in many rural areas around the world could perhaps be alleviated if the right formulae were reached for involving local communities in the tourism process since they control the ecosystem and can destroy or conserve it.

(Inskeep 2001). Tourism growth hinges on a number of delicate parameters which are mostly qualitative in nature, the social professional structures of the local population, their level of education and knowledge, standard of living, opinions and attitudes regarding the tourist phenomenon and its cultural and institutional effects. The attitude of the local people towards ecotourism is an important factor to consider before carrying out such development

Gunn (2004) notes that an area's tourism attraction potential includes nearby rural areas as well as the cities, within a destination zone. It is likely that the majority of cultural resources will be found within communities, whereas most natural resources are located in the surrounding areas. It is, therefore, essential that the developers of tourism communicate with the concerned local communities if tourism is to develop.

## **2.2 Farm tourism opportunities**

Tourism is associated with a number of opportunities as written below.

Employment, One of the easiest advantages to identify is the jobs tourism brings. This ranges from directly influenced positions like tour guides, hotel staff, coach services, and restaurants. What's great about all these businesses is that they not only pay wages to

their staff, but source goods and products locally, giving a boost to local industry. What's great about tourism is that the supporting industries like retail and food production also benefit, although it is not as obvious to the untrained eye as this is mostly occurring behind the scenes (Daniel & Cynthia 2004).

Increased Spending in the Local Community, since tourism encourages purchase on items, like food, clothing, hairdressing, medical services, and transportation needs, it results into increased spending which may be of benefit to the local community. In its own way, tourism supports local and international trade hence bringing additional income to the local community like in Buwama where the local population is able to sale art pieces to tourists from other countries. In addition to what is spent by tourists, the tourism money that is earned, by both businesses and individuals is often re-injected into their other businesses. So it enables the local population to get more money being earned locally which is then spent in the local economy as well. This is why tourism revenues are often referred to as having a multiplier effect, because a large percentage of every tourist dollar earned is reintroduced back into the economy, again and again (Hede, Anne-Marie 2006).

Diversification, lucrative tourism fosters an atmosphere which allows the development of a new form of income. This acts as a shock absorber in case of hard times, because the additional cash coming in can help support the owner in running other activities in case they come under financial pressure. This is especially important for communities that rely on a single source of income or where there is a concentration of industry that is environmentally damaging such as mining or manufacturing. It's also important for rural communities, where there is significant risk based on the farming conditions and global commodity prices. Tourism allows a community to diversify their sources of income, and rely less on a single industry (Robert & Goeldner 2010)

Infrastructure, the additional revenue that comes into a community also benefits the local council or governments. It means more tax which allows public projects to be launched or developed. This means the infrastructure improves, with new roads being built, parks developed and public spaces improved. The better facilities brings in more visitors, but is a fantastic benefit to local residents, especially when there is enough revenue to build new schools, lodges, hotels and hospitals which all support the economic development even further. Without good infrastructure, the flow of goods and services is impossible, and tourism revenues allow this to be supported (Burns & Andrew Holden 2014).

Opportunities, bringing tourists into a community gives it new life, and creates opportunities for entrepreneurs to establish new services and products, or facilities that would not be sustainable based on the local population of residents alone. Tourists are all potential customers, and with the right approach can be targeted in a business strategy that allows for fantastic success. There's no doubt tourism is fantastic for a local community (Hede, Anne-Marie 2006).

#### **2.4 Challenges associated with crocodile farms**

Crocodile welfare on the farm is at risk because of exclusive diseases such as caimox pox, adenoviral hepatitis and many others which affect the health of these creatures. Studies have shown that between 2001 and 2003, west Nile virus infections and related deaths were stated to be in American crocodile's mississippiensis in Georgia, Louisiana and Idaho Environmental impact is a key concern with animal farming. In Louisiana and Florida, mosquitos that carry the west Nile form of malaria have been found as a result of the crocodile **farms (Webb, 2013).**

The other concern is damaging future generations of crocodile systems outside of the farms. As of late the ecosystem outside the farms have been strong but studies have shown that there is a possibility of decline in the coming years (Arturo and Gonzalez,2003). Another challenge facing farm tourism industry is the little benefits of tourism industry to the local population, especially those people surrounding tourist sites. Sandbrook (2008) found that more than 75 percent of the tourism revenue accrued from the local area of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park of Uganda goes out of the area as leakage. Kulindwa et al. (2001) also give an account of the same problem in the areas surrounding Tanzanian National Parks.

The other challenge facing the tourism industry is cultural in nature. The coming of tourists has brought in some cultures viewed as destructive. The growth in tourism has led to the construction of refreshment centers such as casinos (Kulindwa et al., 2009) and beach hotels where prostitution is greatly encouraged by the owners of these investments. The study by Mgani (2007) shows how Arusha has succumbed to prostitution due to its being the core town of tourist activities in the Northern circuit. Poor infrastructural development, lack of, quality accommodation, good tarmac roads, and quality tour operators and guides have affected different crocodile farms all over the world (MNRT,



2012). The poor quality of these factors has a negative effect both on attracting more arrivals and on their per capita spending.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study area**

The research was carried out in Mpigi District is bordered by Wakiso District to the north and east, Kalangala District to the south, Kalungu District to the southwest, Butambala District to the west and Mityana District to the northwest. The town of Mpigi, where the district headquarters are located, lies approximately 37 kilometers (23 mi), by road, west of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city. The coordinates of the district are 00 14N, 32 20E.

#### **3.1.1 Climate**

The climate of Mpigi District is marked by wet and dry seasons modified by the large swamp area surrounding it. The mean annual rainfall normally ranges from 1,000mm to 1,500mm spread over two rainy seasons; March – July and September – November. The rainy seasons have a marked minimum in June, and marked peaks in April - May and August - October.

#### **3.1.2 Economic activities**

Agriculture is the main economic activity carried out in the area. Agriculture is still under subsistence farming using traditional technologies such as intercropping and bush fallowing. The tools which are being used are mainly rudimentary tools such as hand hoes, axes, pangas and sickle are used in the farming practices carried out in the area. The main cash crops being coffee and vanilla which are grown in the flat land and the main food crop being matooke, maize and potatoes and beans

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study applied qualitatively focuses on the facts the way they appear using the general knowledge in the interpretation of some features and discussing of the findings from the

field while quantitatively was involved getting the number of facilities available for tourism activities practiced by tourists in the farm among others related to tourism development.

### **3.3 Sample size**

The target population involved 5 farm administrators, 5 local area leaders, 5 government administrators and 35 community members.

Farm administrators and local leaders were chosen because they know much about the crocodile farm, the tourist resources there and how can it be developed for tourism development

Community members were purposively sampled because tourists and the local community will be selected randomly since they know why they usually visit the place therefore know resources there and how best the place can be developed and the questionnaire was applied because of its simplicity and high degree of responsiveness.

### **3.3 Data collection method**

#### **3.3.1 Questionnaires**

A Questionnaire is form of inquiry document, which contains a systematically compiled and well organized series of questions intended to elicit the information which provided insight into the nature of the problem under study (Annum, 2015). In this study, a set of questionnaires was designed to solicit information from selected respondents. They contained both open-ended and closed questions to ensure that respondents give in-depth responses. The data collected was about tourism resources, tourism opportunities that can be developed as well as associated challenges at Buwama Crocodile Farm.

#### **3.3.2 Interview**

Interview is the method of data collection that involves face to face interactions between the researcher and the respondent in which the researcher asks questions and the respondent answers immediately hence quick feedback. This method was used by the researcher to support the questioners and to the respondents with no time to fill the questioners'. By the use of this research method the researcher obtained information that won't be able to get by use of the questionnaire approach.

### **3.4 Sources of data**

Secondary data sources was used by getting the information from the library in the text books, magazines, reports, newsletters, newspapers and the brochures from relevant places to obtain data. These were reviewed to enrich the literature on farm tourism

### **3.6 Data analysis and presentation**

The collected data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively basing on the research objectives. The data collected was analyzed using the computer based program known as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The data was then be analysed basing on the various themes of the research questions as stated in chapter one. The analyzed data then was presented in tables giving frequencies and percentages

## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

#### 4.1 Profile of the respondents

Profiling of the respondents was undertaken to understand their demographic variations. Variables such as sex, education, and age were considered relevant for this study. Percentage distributions of the demographic variables are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Demographic characteristics of respondents**

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Percentage of respondents</i>
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	40
Male	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>AGE</b>	
18-25	48
26-30	32
31 and above	20
<b>Marital status</b>	
Single	63
Married	37
Divorced	0
Total	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of education</b>	
Primary	20
Secondary	28
Tertiary	52
Non	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Field findings indicate that 60% of the respondents were male while 40% of the respondents were females (Table.1). This is attributed to the awareness of the men about

Buwama crocodile farm compared to the female counterpart. Additionally the female were busier with house work and hence difficult to get for interview than the male sex.

As a whole, 20% of respondents had a primary school education, 28% had a secondary school education, 52% had college education and none of them had any education. It is, however, clear that a large majority of respondents have had education in a formal sense, which could impact on their level of understanding of tourism potentials and how Buwama crocodile farm can be a potential tourism destination.

Of all the respondents, majority of them (48%) were below the age of 45. while a small percentage of them (20%) were above 31 years as indicated in (Table.1).

#### **4.2 Identification of tourism resources at Buwama crocodile farm**

To examine the potential of tourism development, the study thought to establish the tourism resources in Buwama crocodile farm. Thus in this study tourism resources at Buwama were identified water based resources such as Lake Victoria 56%, crocodiles in their cages (26%), katebo pier (23.7%), accommodation facilities attractions (13.3%) and the least attraction rated by respondents were local culture at (6.7%) see (Table.2). This indicates that Lake Victoria, crocodiles and accommodation facilities were the major tourism resources found at Buwama crocodile Farm

**Table 2. Tourism resources at Buwama crocodile farm**

<i>Tourism resources</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>
Lakes such as lake victoria	17	56.3%
Accommodation bandas and restaurants	7	13.3%
Crocodiles in their cages	12	26.7%
Local culture	2	6.7%
Katebo pier	10	23.7%

**Source : Primary data**

One of the farm supervisors was quoted saying that Buwama crocodile farms receive few tourism but a big number of these few tourists come purposely for crocodile viewing especially when sun basking.



**Figure 1: Crocodiles at Buwama Crocodile farm**

In this study 13.3% of the respondents pointed out tourism accommodation especially self contained cottages and Banda lodges as one of the tourist attractions that influence visitors to visit Buwama crocodile farm (Table 4.2). These were found to provide a most pleasant ambiance during day and night for relaxing and have atmosphere and thus enhances their repeat visits to the farm.. An example of an accommodation facility identified around buwama crocodile farm is present in Figure 4.2.





**Figure 2. Accommodation bandas**

According to 23% of the respondents, many piers are built for the purpose of providing boat less angler's access to fishing grounds that are otherwise inaccessible. Respondents further noted that even some bird species especially hermakops, cattle egrets are noted at the prior which has further encouraged tourists to visit the area.





Figure 3. Unutilized Kitebo pier

#### **4.3 Tourism opportunities that can be developed at Buwama crocodile farm**

Respondents were asked their views on the opportunities that can be developed at buwama crocodile farm. Responses indicated that there are various tourist opportunities that can be developed at buwama crocodile farm and they were identified as educational services (90%), market opportunities (77.5%), and infrastructure development (47%) among others as indicated (see table.3 below). This indicates that there are a lot of tourism opportunities that can developed at the farm once fully utilized.

**Table 3. Tourism opportunities that can be developed at Buwama Crocodile farm**

<i>Tourism opportunities</i>	<i>Frequency responses</i>	<i>of Percentage of responses</i>
Birding opportunities	36	90.0%
market services	31	77.5%
Boat cruise	25	62.5%

birding	28	70.0%
Expanding infrastructure	19	47.5%

In interview with the farm manager, the presence of Buwama crocodile farm is on the shores of lake Victoria offers an opportunity for various tourism activities most importantly boar crusing , birding opportunities , marketing opportunities and rapid expanding infrastructure .currently the tourists use small canoes to move through on water but the development of about cruise would accelerate more tourist to come and visit the region and enjoy the movement on waters. It is important to note that destinations with boor launches have seen their arrivals increased and tourism experience enhanced.



**Figure 5: One of the treasured bird species by tourist at Katebo pier at Buwama Crocodile Farm**

#### **4.4 Challenges associated with Buwama crocodile farm as a tourist destination.**

During the study at Buwama crocodile farm, respondents were asked to identify the challenges experienced at the farm and a number of challenges are experienced at the farm according to the responses. Majority of the respondents (85%) identified limited

capital as the major limitation experienced at the farm, and this was followed by high feeding costs (77.5%), limited markets (62.5%) and lastly diseases (42%) as represented in the table 4 below. It is important to note that these challenges have a direct bearing on the way things are done at the farm and have limited the fully development of the farm.

**Table 4.Challenges faced at Buwama crocodile farm**

<i>challenge</i>	<i>Frequency of responses</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>
High feed costs	31	77.5
Limited capitals	34	85
Limited markets	25	62.5
Diseases	17	42
Lack of knowledge about the15 crocodile benefits		35
Limited tourism products	17	42

**Source: Primary Data**

## **CHAPTER FIVE:**

### **DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Tourism resources at Buwama crocodile farm**

The study findings revealed that there a lot of tourists resources at Buwama crocodile farm taking place, From local communities results, Major tourism resources found at Buwama crocodile farm were identified as crocodiles easily seen in their cages , water resources majorly lake victoria , well known Katebo pier, local culture and attractive accommodation bandas. It is believed that the local people have ever and will always embrace tourism activities resulting from the tourism resources like boating, spot fishing, scenic viewing and traditional performances with the respect of practicing cultural rituals. These results are in line with earlier studies of ( Buhalis, 2010 ), who said that important tourism resources like lakes , acquatic animals and local people with historical and ritual values will always poses activities and resources can have less harm to travelers and thus attract them to experience them.

It was revealed by the respondents that Lake Victoria is one of the tourism attractions at Buwama crocodile firm where bird watchers will be thrilled by the many bird species found at the basin. The manager Buwama crocodile farm noted that tourist's liase with local tourist companies to hire a guide to take them around Lake Victoria and benefit from seeing one of the wildlife in the area after a stunning crocodile experience at the farm and its important to note that Lake Victoria offers many opportunities for both the tourists and local villages around Buwama crocodile farm. It has a great wetland surface that offers bird watchers and lovers a wonderful expedition where they can watch the islands fish eagle running a spectacular scene diving away from the above the sky into the water to catch their prey (Arturo,2003).

Accommodation is a key integral part of the tourism industry that deals with provision of hospitality services to the tourists. It is imperative to note that accommodation is far

more significant in influencing tourists to choose a destination. The study indicated that tourism accommodation especially self-contained cottages and Banda lodges as one of the tourist attractions that influence visitors to visit Buwama. Youell (1998) noted that Tourism is a resource industry, dependent on nature and heritage attractions ranging from mountains; lakes accommodation facilities and thus visitors are attracted to areas of outstanding beauty and this beauty can take many forms.

## **5.2 Tourism opportunities**

The findings revealed that there are different tourism opportunities that can be developed as result of the identified tourism attraction. the opportunities that can be developed at buwama crocodile farm included as birding opportunities facilities ,market opportunities , boat facilities and infrastructure development among others as indicated (see table.3 below) .In interview with the farm manager, the presence of Buwama crocodile farm is on the shores of lake Victoria offers an opportunity for various tourism activities most importantly boat cursing. Currently the tourists use small canoes to move through on water but the development of about cruise would accelerate more tourist to come and visit the region and enjoy the movement on waters. It is important to note that destinations with boor launches have seen their arrivals increased and tourism experience enhanced.

Also the farm according to the respondents is occupied fulltime with tourists and these tourists can buy various commodities produced by the community around the farm especially souvenirs, local food and beverages hence providing market opportunities for these products. During tourist visits the limited products existing are sold highly with in the buwama crocodile farm because the markets are usually high. Crafts products are liked much compared to other commodities. This is supported by earlier studies of (Dust, 2013) who said that tourism farms provide market opportunities for local community produce hence encouraging economic growth within the communities around these farms.

Infrastructure development plays a key role in determining the level of tourism development. It level and quality will determine the level of tourist's satisfaction and

influences the choice of a destination. (Stronza, 2007). Among the tourism infrastructures opportunities suggested were transport most especially roads and water that are expanding at a high rate to facilitate the development of Buwama Island as a tourist destination. The water infrastructure is not fully developed for tourism purposes but boating and sport fishing is the predominant activities that have exploited the water resource. The findings further revealed that medium accommodation are expanding rapidly and other private service providers shop operators and baking facilities offering services necessary to tourists exist in various banks in place and all these have created tourism opportunities at Buwama farm .

### **5.3 Challenges associated with Buwama crocodile farm as a tourist destination**

The main challenge facing buwama crocodile farm were identified , high feeding costs, limited capital, lack of local community awareness of functions of crocodile firm , limited tourism products , diseases among others (Myer, 2008). Study finding revealed that feeding crocodiles is very expensive that if the farmers are not financially sound, the business may not break even these were confirmed by crocodile farm manager who said that a mature crocodile feeds once in a week. High cost of labor is another serious challenge that is faced at the farm. Given the fact that crocodiles can easily terminate someone's life, this scares away people from seeking employment on the farm for the fear of their lives. Even the few that risk being employed demand for higher pay inform of salaries and wages yet the revenues are not that much to offset some of the operating expenses.

For the public to benefit from the existing tourism resource, especially crocodiles they should first understand its existence and then value. In this study, the crocodile farm management expressed ignorance about how to benefit from the crocodile farm as the major challenge. According to the respondents not much is known about the opportunities that are brought by farm activities in the area that is why they have not effectively exploited the available tourism opportunities. The ignorance about the existing opportunities could be partly explained by the existing low levels of education or negative attitude towards tourism. (Henderson, 2006) In an interview with the manager

Buwama crocodile farm, he noted that quite a number of sensitization meetings about the benefits of the farm have been organized in various communities. These meetings' main objective is to equip community members with tourism skills and knowledge to be able to exploit the existing tourism opportunities developed as the result of the crocodile farm. Further to the poor attitude towards tourism in the area, the existing fishing economic activity seems to be given much attention compared to the crocodile farm. One of the local resident argued that with fishing you are assured to income when you come back from fishing and moreover the crocodile farm existed before

Crocodile welfare on the farm threatened by crocodile exclusive diseases which include caimox pox, adenoviral hepatitis and many others do affect the health of these creatures. Studies have shown that between 2001 and 2003, west Nile virus infections and related deaths were stated to be in American croc.(UWA, 2004) In an interview with the Buwama farm management argue that crocodile farms are having a challenge of water in that they need a lot of water which should be clean enough for them to swim and to cool their body temperature and this is serious challenge to always ensure that the water is clean Environmental impact is a key concern with animal farming. This does not only affect their health but may result into their death causing a serious financial loss to the farm since they really take a very long time to mature.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Conclusions**

The tourism potential of Buwama crocodile farm is great if the available tourism opportunities and resources are fully utilized and exploited. The study established that Buwama crocodile farm as tourism destination is endowed with various tourism attractions, such as crocodiles both young and the old, accommodation facilities that include cottages and band as like Banda lodge that offers facilities to clients, unutilized Kitebo pier, and a well-known lake Victoria that offers facilities like cannoing, sport fishing and scenic viewing to the tourists. . It was further established that as result of tourism resources, various opportunities are available for tourism development at Buwama crocodile farm but not fully developed such opportunities include; bird watching, development of local markets, expanding infrastructure, boat cruise especially at lake Victoria and ecotourism developments. These once developed are to increase visitors to the farm and as the result increased revenue from these visitors would contribute to sustainable development. However the study also found out that the Farm with associated with the challenges such as high feeding costs, stiff competences coupled with limited marker, lack of knowledge about crocodile faming by most farmers and diseases that affect the heath of crocodiles.

#### **5.2 Study Recommendations**

- There is a need to develop more tourism products in around Buwama crocodile farm to increase on the number of tourists visiting the farm in order to have more tourism developments that will eventually attract more establishments of small businesses. The findings found that the farm is affected by limited tourism activities and thus diversifying more tourism activities would increase businesses because of more tourism that would visit the area for such services.



- An awareness campaign on the benefits of crocodile farm should be intensified to target local people to help stimulate local visitation and involvement in development of the farm. This will increase the local community participation in tourism activities around buwama crocodile farm leading to increased local revenues within the community.
- Improving the management of crocodile farming aiming at producing good quality products from the farm, and establishing partnerships with other countries, are considered essential prerequisites to in creating the crocodile market for Buwama crocodile farm Uganda. Mandatory reporting for the farm, verification of data reported by all the farm and implementation of a registration system for all establishments holding crocodiles are considered a priority to make sure that all crocodiles are of good quality.
- There is a need to for the farm management to partner with the association of Uganda Tourism Board such the Buwama crocodile farm can be marketed as single destination with the rest of the tourism attraction in the country by UTB, tour operators should also be alerted of the farm such that they can always take tourists to the farm and this would increase the visitation.
- If the existing tourism opportunities are to be fully developed, there is a need for the government to give a startup capital for the cooperatives aimed at tourism development and also the farm itself needs to be funded to expand and improve on their business. This funding can be attained by giving out a tourism loan scheme as a revolving fund which can be extended to other community and the farm as this would reduce on the farms capital urgency.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Dear respondent,**

My name is **Mbabazi specioza** a final year student at Makerere University carrying out a research on the topic: *Tourism Potential Development on Buwama Crocodile farm*. You have been selected to participate in the study due to high level of knowledge and information you possess about the study topic. May you respond as honestly as possible for all what you will give will be treated with at most confidentiality so take little time to think and respond by circling the right letter of your choice.

#### **Section 1 Background characteristics**

1. Where do you live?

(a) katebo (b) Buwama (c) with in the farm

2. For how long have you worked here?

(a) 06-12 months (b) 13months-above

3. What is your marital status?

(a) Single (b) Married (c) Widowed (d) Cohabiting (e) divorced

4. What is your gender?

(a) Male (b) Female

5. What is your age?

(a) 18-25 years (b) 26-30 years (c)31-40 years (d) 41 and above

6. What is your level of education?

- (a) Never went to school
- (b) Primary
- (c) Secondary
- (d) Certificate
- (e) Diploma
- (f) Degree
- (h) Masters

**Section II Tourism attraction related questions**

1. Do you think Buwama crocodile farm has other tourism resources?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

2. If yes what tourism resources are found in Buwama crocodile farm?

(a) .....

(b).....

(c).....

(d).....

3. In your own opinion what do you think are the tourism attractions and resources that have not been exploited here at Buwama crocodile farm

a) .....

b) .....

c) .....

d) .....

4. According to you which of the following tourism opportunities can be developed at Buwama crocodile firm

a) Tourism employment opportunities

b) Creation of new markets

- c) Development of new tourism products like birding
- d) Creation of hotel and accommodation facilities
- e) Any other specify.....

5. In your own opinion what can be done to ensure the above opportunities are fulfilled

.....

.....

6. What category of tourists do you think visit Buwama crocodile farm?

- (a) Local residents (b) Foreigners

7. What contributions does tourism have in the development to this area?

- (a) .....
- (b).....
- (c).....
- (d).....

8. What do you think are the reasons for the low levels of tourism exploitation in Buwama?

- (a) .....
- (b).....
- (c).....
- (d).....

9. What do you think can be done to develop tourism in this area?

(a) .....

(b).....

(c).....

(d).....

10. Are there challenges that encounter the running of Buwama crocodile farm?

.....

11. If yes what do you think are the challenges encountered at Buwama crocodile farm

a) .....

b).....

c.....

**Thank you for your participation**

**APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE INTERVIEW GUIDE**

**Interview schedule for key informants**

Name .....

Position.....

Contact.....

1. How important do you think tourism is?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Do you think Buwama crocodile farm has other tourism resources apart from the crocs?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. If yes what other tourism resources are found at Buwama crocodile farm?

.....  
.....



.....4. According to you what do you think are the tourism attractions and resources that have not been exploited here at Buwama crocodile farm

.....  
...  
.....

5. What category of tourists do you think visit Buwama crocodile farm?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. What contributions does tourism have in the development to this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

7. What do you think are the reasons for the low levels of tourism exploitation in Buwama?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. In your own opinion what do you think are the tourism opportunities that can be developed at Buwama crocodile farm?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. What do you think can be done to develop tourism in this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

10. What are the challenges does the farm experience?

.....  
.....  
.....

11. In your opinion how can such challenges be solved?

.....  
.....

13. Has any local authority showed concern for some of those challenges?

.....  
.....  
.....

14. In what ways do you think the government can help solve your challenges?

.....  
.....  
.....

***THE END***

