MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

POTENTIAL OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS IN KAKUMIRO DISTRICT

BY

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF FORESTRY, GEOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION

I, Nyakato Elizabeth, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled **"The Potential of Tourism Development and Its Contribution to Community Livelihoods in Kakumiro District"** is my original work and has not been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any academic award.

All sources of information used in this study have been duly acknowledged and referenced. I affirm that this work has been carried out in accordance with academic standards and ethical research practices.

Signature: .....

Date: ....02/09/2026.....

APPROVAL

This is to satisfy that this work has been done under supervision and is now ready for submission.

Dr. Francis Mugizi

Signature ..... Date 02.09.2026

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my beloved parents for their unconditional love, prayers, encouragement, and financial support throughout my education. Their sacrifices, guidance, and belief in me have been a constant source of motivation and have enabled me to pursue my academic goals. I also dedicate this work to my family, friends, and classmates who have supported and encouraged me throughout my academic journey. Their presence, kindness, and encouragement have made the challenges of this journey easier to overcome. Above all, I dedicate this work to the Almighty God, whose grace, strength, and guidance have enabled me to come this far.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBT	Community-Based Tourism
CDTPs	Community-Driven Tourism Projects
EAC	East African Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
NDP	National Development Plan
NDP II	Second National Development Plan
NDP III	Third National Development Plan
NDP IV	Fourth National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Planning Authority
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TLG	Tourism-Led Growth
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
UTB	Uganda Tourism Board

ABSTRACT

Tourism has considerable potential to promote local economic development and diversify rural livelihoods; however, many tourism resources in emerging destinations remain inadequately documented and developed. This study assessed tourism development and its contribution to community livelihoods in Kakumiro District, Uganda. Specifically, the study documented existing tourism resources, evaluated their potential for tourism development, examined their contribution to community livelihoods, and analyzed challenges affecting tourism development. A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative data were collected using questionnaires from 133 respondents, while qualitative information was obtained from 20 purposively selected key informants, including district officials, cultural leaders, local council leaders and other stakeholders. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square tests, while qualitative findings were analyzed thematically. The study identified diverse tourism resources, including religious pilgrimage centers, cultural and historical sites, natural and scenic resources, agritourism resources, community-based attractions, and memorials and monuments. Respondents rated cultural and historical uniqueness ($M = 3.98$, $SD = 0.99$) and domestic tourism potential ($M = 3.95$, $SD = 0.97$) highly, while marketing and promotion received a low rating ($M = 2.42$, $SD = 1.18$). The main livelihood contribution was the sale of goods and services and livelihood contributions differed significantly across categories ($\chi^2 = 54.98$, $p < .001$). Lack of tourism awareness and poor infrastructure were the leading development challenges, with significant variation among reported challenges ($\chi^2 = 67.16$, $p < .001$). The study concluded that Kakumiro possesses substantial but underdeveloped tourism potential capable of complementing existing rural livelihoods. It recommends improved tourism awareness and marketing, infrastructure development, tourism product packaging, investment, conservation and stronger community participation.

Keywords: Community livelihoods, Kakumiro District, rural tourism, tourism development, tourism resources, Uganda.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Tourism development refers to the planned expansion and improvement of tourism infrastructure, services, attractions and related facilities in order to increase tourist arrivals, enhance visitor experiences and generate economic, social and environmental benefits. It involves investment in accommodation, transport, marketing, human capital and destination management, with the aim of stimulating economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction (Khan et al., 2020). Tourism potential involves the existing and latent natural, cultural, historical and socioeconomic resources within a given area that can be developed into attractive tourism products. It includes biodiversity, landscapes, cultural heritage, community traditions and infrastructure that can be harnessed sustainably to attract visitors and stimulate regional development (Šteti & Br, 2024). Community livelihoods refer to the capabilities and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from shocks, maintain or enhance its assets and contribute to improved well-being without degrading natural resources (Matiku et al., 2020). In tourism contexts, livelihoods are enhanced through employment, small enterprises, income generation and improved access to infrastructure and services (Luc et al., 2026). Community-Driven Tourism Projects are tourism initiatives where local communities take control of tourism resources, participate in decision-making and directly benefit economically and socially from tourism activities. Such projects promote empowerment, poverty reduction and sustainable development when communities have ownership and management authority (Matiku et al., 2020).

These possibilities are influenced by societal needs, the evolving tourist market and the socioeconomic and political context. Potential tourism opportunities encompass a wide range of elements that can attract visitors and contribute to development. These opportunities are broadly categorized into tourist resources, tourist attractions and infrastructure of tourist interest (Mardiyevna, 2024). Tourism remains one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the global economy, contributing significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment creation, foreign exchange earnings and poverty reduction(Khan et al., 2020; Muhammadmurod & Ugli, 2025). Globally, tourism is widely recognized as a catalyst for economic growth due to its strong multiplier effects and its linkages with other sectors such as agriculture, capital investment and energy development (Nguyen et al., 2025). Empirical studies suggest that tourism stimulates foreign direct investment (FDI), promotes infrastructure

development, increases demand for agricultural products through backward linkages and enhances energy development due to growing service sector requirements (Khan et al., 2020). Through these inter-sector connections, tourism plays a critical role in reducing poverty and improving livelihoods in developing nations.

Tourism presents numerous and varied opportunities, driven by changing traveler tastes and technological progress. In recent decades, the tourism sector has expanded and diversified to become one of the largest foreign exchange earners next to oil (Fatema et al., 2025). A key area of growth is domestic tourism, which rebounded more quickly than international travel after the pandemic and is anticipated to make up 70% of all tourism spending by 2030 (Seyfi et al., 2024). At the global level, tourism is recognized as one of the largest and most resilient industries, making a significant contribution to economic growth, employment creation and international trade. In 2024, tourism accounted for 10 percent of the global economy, contributing US$10.9 trillion to global GDP (Erol, 2026). The sector supported 357 million jobs worldwide, approximately one in every ten jobs, highlighting its central role in the labor market. International visitor spending also surged, reaching US$1.9 trillion. In Uganda, tourism earning grew strongly in 2024, rising by 26% to UGX 4,805.84 billion (US$1.28 billion) which was 4.9% higher than in 2019 (MTWA, 2025). This growth is attributed to many factors including attractions, activities and accommodation that have facilitated the long stay of tourists (8.7 nights).

In Sub-Saharan Africa, tourism has emerged as a strategic sector for regional development, particularly in rural and nature-based destinations. Tourism contributes to rural development through job creation, infrastructure expansion, cultural preservation and income diversification (Otundo, 2021). However, scholars have raised concerns regarding the extent to which tourism benefits are equitably distributed among local communities and whether tourism development effectively transforms household livelihood assets over time (Rastegar, 2026).

In Uganda, tourism is recognized as a fundamental pillar of economic transformation. According to sector reports, tourism has been one of the leading foreign exchange earners and contributes substantially to GDP and employment (Karatunga, 2022). The country is endowed with abundant natural and cultural resources including diverse wildlife, landscapes, water bodies and rich cultural heritage which form the backbone of its tourism sector. Despite being a relatively small country in terms of land surface, Uganda possesses a remarkable share of global biodiversity, including a significant proportion of the world's mountain gorillas and bird

species (Karatunga, 2022). These resources position Uganda as a competitive Eco-tourism destination within East Africa. The tourism sector of Uganda continues to play a critical role for economic development and a positive outlook for international tourism. International organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have increasingly regarded tourism as a strategic tool for economic diversification, poverty reduction, post-conflict recovery and sustainable development particularly in developing countries (Trukhachev, 2015). Effective tourism development is the understanding that tourism performance is not accidental but is influenced by identifiable factors such as resource endowment, market suitability, infrastructure, governance and sustainability which must be carefully analyzed to inform policy and planning (Achmad et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, tourism development in Uganda has largely concentrated around major protected areas and established destinations, leaving several districts with untapped tourism potential (Ssebaggala, 2025). Emerging rural districts such as Kakumiro District possess natural landscapes, forest reserves water bodies, cultural heritage and agricultural resources that could be developed into sustainable tourism products. Given that Kakumiro is predominantly agriculture-based, tourism development could create backward linkages with the agricultural sector, stimulate small and micro enterprises, create employment opportunities and diversify household income sources (MWE, 2025). Despite the acknowledged importance of tourism for economic growth and poverty alleviation, limited empirical attention has been given to assessing the tourism potential of emerging districts and examining how tourism development can transform community livelihoods at the local level.

Kakumiro District, located in the Western Region of Uganda is characterized by rolling hills, fertile plains and proximity to significant water bodies offers a good case study for understanding the untapped potential of emerging tourism destinations (Lwanyaga, 2022). It is a mixed culture of traditions of the Banyoro and Bakiga who were resettled in the areas provides a rich narrative for cultural tourism, offering authentic experiences that resonate with travelers seeking genuine engagement with local communities. Its agricultural backbone also presents avenues for agritourism, allowing visitors to connect with the source of their food and appreciate the rural way of life. However, its often overshadowed by more established tourist hubs like Queen Elizabeth National Park or Bwindi Impenetrable National Park yet Kakumiro possesses a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage and agricultural richness that if strategically developed could transform its socio-economic landscape. The current global

tourism landscape is increasingly shifting towards experiential and sustainable travel, with tourists actively seeking destinations that offer authentic cultural immersion, pristine natural environments and opportunities for responsible engagement (Jing & Loang, 2024). This trend bodes well for districts like Kakumiro, which, despite its relative absence on the international tourism map, possesses many of these sought-after attributes. Beyond nature, Kakumiro's historical significance, though perhaps less documented than other regions, offers a compelling narrative. The district's vibrant local markets, traditional crafts and community events further enhance its cultural appeal, providing opportunities for visitors to engage directly with local life and support local economies. The challenge, however, lies in effectively identifying, packaging and promoting these diverse attractions to a wider audience, both domestic and international. This research therefore aimed to highlight the diverse facets of Kakumiro's tourism appeal, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive examination of its opportunities and challenges.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Tourism is recognized globally and nationally as a key driver of economic growth, employment creation and sustainable development. In Uganda, the sector contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign exchange earnings and job creation. It’s prioritized under the National Development Plans (NDP III and NDP 1V) as a catalyst for economic transformation, regional development and poverty reduction. These national frameworks emphasize tourism product diversification, promotion of domestic tourism and development of emerging destinations as strategies for achieving inclusive and balanced growth across the country. Despite this strategic importance, tourism development in Uganda remains highly concentrated in a few established destinations such as Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park. As a result, many districts with considerable natural, cultural and agricultural resources have remained marginalized from tourism-led development and Kakumiro District is one such area.

Although the district possesses diverse landscapes, cultural heritage, agricultural systems and community traditions that align with contemporary tourism trends such as Eco-tourism, cultural tourism, agritourism and community-based tourism, these resources remain largely under-developed, under-promoted and inadequately integrated into national and regional tourism frameworks. Examining these tourism resources is essential for informing evidence-based interventions that can enhance tourism development, support local economic

diversification and contribute to the achievement of Uganda's National Development Plan objectives.

1.3. Objectives

The overall objective is to examine the potential of tourism development in Kakumiro District and its contribution to the livelihoods of the communities.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

i. To document the existing tourism resources in Kakumiro District
ii. To evaluate the tourism resources Kakumiro District for tourism development.
iii. To examine the contribution of the tourism resources to community livelihoods.
iv. To analyze the challenges affecting the development of tourism in Kakumiro District.

1.4 Research questions

i. What are the tourism resources found in Kakumiro District?
ii. What is the level of their development for tourism?
iii. How do they contribute to community livelihoods in the district?
iv. What challenges affect the development of tourism in Kakumiro District?

1.5 Scope of the Study

1.5.1 Content Scope

The study documented and evaluated the existing tourism resources in Kakumiro District, focusing on their potential for tourism development and their contribution to the livelihoods of local communities. The study was conceptually grounded in tourism development theory, sustainable development principles and the livelihoods framework. It examined tourism resources in terms of their identification, evaluation, utilization and socio-economic contribution. Specifically, the study covered natural tourism resources such as landscapes, rivers and forests; cultural and heritage resources including traditions, cultural practices and historical sites; and agricultural resources with potential for agritourism. The study also assessed the tourism development potential of these resources based on their attractiveness, accessibility, supporting infrastructure, marketability and sustainability. In relation to community livelihoods, the study examined the contribution of tourism resources to income

generation, employment creation, livelihood diversification and the overall socio-economic wellbeing of local communities.

1.5.2 Geographical Scope

Geographically, the study was confined to Kakumiro District, located in the Bunyoro sub-region of western Uganda. The study focused on selected sub-counties and communities, including Kakindo, Nyarweyo, Kisiita, Nkooko, Mpasana, Kasambya and Birembo, where tourism-related resources existed or demonstrated potential for tourism development. These areas were considered because of the presence of natural landscapes, cultural and heritage resources, agricultural systems and community-based resources relevant to tourism development. The study did not cover neighbouring districts within the Bunyoro sub-region or established national tourism destinations such as Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park, except where reference to such destinations was necessary for contextual or comparative purposes.

1.5.3 Time Scope

The study was conducted over a period of three months in 2026. During this period, the researcher documented the existing tourism resources, evaluated their potential for tourism development, examined their contribution to community livelihoods and identified the major challenges affecting tourism development in Kakumiro District. The three-month period provided sufficient time for field data collection, stakeholder consultations, verification of identified tourism resources and analysis of the collected information. Consequently, the findings reflected the tourism conditions that prevailed in Kakumiro District during the study period.

1.6 Significance of the Study

1.6.1 Significance to Policymakers and Local Government

The study provided empirical information on the existing tourism resources in Kakumiro District, their development potential and their contribution to community livelihoods. The findings provided evidence that could support national and local government authorities in tourism planning, resource allocation and investment decision-making. The study also identified opportunities that could be incorporated into district and national tourism

development strategies to support tourism product diversification, domestic tourism promotion and more balanced regional development.

1.6.2 Significance to Local Communities

The study demonstrated the ways through which tourism resources contributed to local livelihoods and identified opportunities through which tourism could complement agriculture and other existing livelihood activities in Kakumiro District. The findings provided information relevant to the promotion of income-generating opportunities, employment creation and livelihood diversification among local communities. The study was particularly relevant to communities seeking alternative economic opportunities from natural, cultural and agricultural resources within the district.

1.6.3 Significance to the Private Sector

The study provided tourism investors, entrepreneurs and other private-sector stakeholders with information on the tourism resources available in Kakumiro District and their potential for development. It also identified some of the infrastructure, awareness, financing and service-related challenges affecting tourism development. Such information provided a basis for identifying potential areas for tourism investment and product development within the district.

1.6.4 Significance to Researchers and Academic Institutions

The study contributed to the existing body of knowledge on tourism development in emerging destinations, particularly at the district level in Uganda. It documented tourism resources and livelihood contributions in Kakumiro District, an area that had received comparatively limited attention in tourism research. The findings therefore provided useful information that could serve as a reference for students, researchers and academic institutions undertaking further studies on tourism development, rural tourism, community-based tourism, agritourism and sustainable destination development.

1.7 Justification of the study

1.7.1 Underutilization of tourism resources

The study was justified by the underutilization of tourism resources in Kakumiro District despite the presence of natural landscapes, cultural heritage, agricultural systems and community traditions with potential to support tourism development. Although tourism had been recognized as an important contributor to economic transformation, employment creation and poverty reduction in Uganda, tourism activities and benefits had remained concentrated in

relatively well-established destinations. Kakumiro District represented an emerging destination whose tourism resources had remained comparatively under-documented and underdeveloped. The study was therefore necessary to systematically document these resources and assess their potential for tourism development.

1.7.2 Need for evidence to support tourism planning and investment

The study was also justified by the need for empirical information to support tourism planning, investment and decision-making in Kakumiro District. Limited information on the nature, location and development potential of tourism resources could constrain effective planning and investment. The study therefore generated information on available tourism resources, their development potential, contribution to community livelihoods and the challenges affecting their utilization. This information provided a basis for understanding areas that required attention in tourism planning, infrastructure development, product development and stakeholder involvement.

1.7.3 Knowledge gap on emerging tourism destinations

The study addressed a knowledge gap concerning tourism development in emerging districts such as Kakumiro. Much of the existing attention on tourism in Uganda had focused on established tourism destinations, while relatively less empirical information was available on the tourism resources and development opportunities of less-established districts. The study therefore documented and analysed tourism resources within the specific context of Kakumiro District and generated evidence that could contribute to academic knowledge and provide a foundation for future tourism research in the district and other emerging destinations.

1.7.4 Need for sustainable and inclusive tourism development

The study was further justified by the need to promote tourism development that supported community livelihoods while safeguarding the natural and cultural resources on which tourism depended. By examining nature-based, cultural, agricultural and community-related tourism resources, the study generated information that could support responsible resource utilization and locally beneficial tourism development. The research therefore provided evidence relevant to tourism approaches that could contribute to livelihood diversification, local participation and sustainable use of Kakumiro District's natural and cultural resources.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Tourism Development and Economic Growth

Tourism is widely recognized as one of the fastest-growing sectors globally and a significant contributor to economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction (Verhun & Bondarchuk, 2022). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global travel and tourism industry contributed approximately 3.3% of global GDP directly and generated about USD 8.9 trillion in 2019 (Wu et al., 2023). In developing countries, tourism is increasingly viewed as a strategic mechanism for stimulating economic expansion, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), strengthening sectoral linkages, and diversifying rural economies.

Empirical evidence from Pakistan demonstrates that tourism development has significant relationships with economic growth, capital investment, agriculture, energy development and poverty reduction (Sultanova & Babakhanova, 2023). The study confirmed the Tourism-Led Growth (TLG) hypothesis, establishing bidirectional causality between tourism and capital investment and unidirectional causality between tourism and energy development. Tourism stimulates growth by attracting FDI, promoting infrastructure development such as hotels, transport networks, and energy facilities, and generating multiplier effects across supply chains (Zhuang et al., 2023).

However, later studies have demonstrated that tourism can significantly promote economic growth by diversifying exports, increasing foreign exchange earnings, stimulating investment and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in low-income economies. In Africa, tourism has been identified as an “industry without smokestacks” capable of driving labor-intensive growth, poverty reduction and structural transformation (Solarin et al., 2024).

Empirical evidence from sub-Saharan Africa indicates that tourism contributes to employment creation, regional development and women’s economic participation, although its impact varies significantly across countries due to differences in infrastructure, governance capacity, political stability and investment levels (Orji et al., 2025). Governments in developing nations promote tourism because of its high multiplier effects in employment generation, foreign exchange earnings, balance of payments improvement and poverty alleviation. Through backward and forward linkages, tourism supports agriculture by creating markets for local produce and strengthening rural supply chains. This interconnectedness positions tourism as a

viable pathway for rural transformation when supported by strategic planning and inclusive governance (Signé, 2018).

2.2. Tourism and Community Livelihoods

Beyond macroeconomic growth, tourism plays a crucial role in enhancing community livelihoods, particularly in rural areas. Tourism contributes to rural development through job creation, small enterprise development, socio-cultural revitalization, and infrastructure improvement (Bakalo et al., 2025). In Sub-Saharan Africa, tourism revenues have supported community projects such as schools, health centers and water facilities, especially in gateway communities adjacent to protected areas (Mwongoso et al., 2023).

However, scholars caution that while tourism is often associated with livelihood improvement, limited studies rigorously assess how tourism transforms livelihood assets over time. Many impact assessments focus on aggregate socio-economic benefits without examining long-term asset accumulation and vulnerability reduction. This gap highlights the importance of localized empirical studies grounded in sustainable livelihood frameworks.

Community-Driven Tourism Projects (CDTPs) emphasize local ownership, participation and control of tourism resources. Such initiatives are associated with enhanced governance, equitable benefit distribution and improved poverty reduction outcomes (Luc et al., 2026). Evidence from South Africa's Makuleke Contractual Park illustrates how community-controlled eco-tourism ventures generate employment, stimulate small enterprises, and deliver tangible economic benefits to local residents (Waterton et al., 2023).

2.3 Rural Tourism and Community Participation

Rural tourism has been widely recognized as a viable tool for sustainable rural development, particularly in areas with limited industrial opportunities. (Trukhachev, 2015) argues that rural tourism potential depends on a combination of economic, environmental, cultural, infrastructural and social factors. Using a multi-level evaluation framework, the study demonstrates that structured assessment of tourism resources and community capacity enables rural settlements to be matched with appropriate tourism development models.

Community participation is repeatedly emphasized as a critical success factor in rural tourism development. Inclusive tourism planning enhances local ownership, improves stakeholder perceptions and ensures that tourism benefits contribute to livelihood diversification, employment creation, and cultural preservation. This approach is particularly relevant for

Kakumiro District, where community-based tourism could play a significant role in unlocking tourism potential while supporting local economic development.

In rural contexts, tourism offers opportunities for livelihood diversification through homestays, agro-tourism, craft production, transport services and cultural performances. However, realizing this potential requires careful planning, infrastructure investment, community participation, environmental conservation and market integration. Sustainable tourism development must balance economic objectives with social equity and ecological sustainability.

2.4. Tourism Development in Uganda

Tourism is one of Uganda's key economic pillars. According to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, the sector generated over USD 1.6 billion in foreign exchange earnings in FY 2018/19, contributing approximately 7.7% to GDP and employing nearly 700,000 people (Karatunga, 2022). Tourism is prioritized under the National Development Plan IV as one of the major growth drivers alongside agriculture, infrastructure and human capital development(English, 2019).

Uganda's tourism sector is predominantly nature-based, relying on abundant wildlife, diverse ecosystems, water bodies, and cultural heritage. The country hosts more than half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas and over 1,060 bird species, positioning it as a competitive eco-tourism destination in East Africa. Major attractions such as Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park dominate visitor arrivals and revenue generation.

Despite these strengths, tourism development remains spatially concentrated around established protected areas and gateway communities. Many rural districts with natural and cultural resources remain underdeveloped and under-integrated into national tourism circuits. Strategic product diversification, destination development, and local-level planning are therefore essential to broaden the sector's impact and enhance inclusive regional development.

2.5 Tourism Resources and Potential Opportunities

Tourism potential refers to the range of opportunities a destination offers for tourism development, whether currently exploited or not. According to(Mardiyevna, 2024), tourism resources comprise a combination of natural, cultural, historical, and socio-economic assets that collectively meet tourist needs and determine destination competitiveness. Natural tourism resources include forests, water bodies, landscapes, flora and fauna, while cultural and

historical resources encompass heritage sites, traditions, local customs, and community lifestyles. Tourism resources are central to unlocking tourism potential at both national and regional levels. (Mardiyevna, 2024) conceptualizes tourism potential as a combination of natural, cultural, historical and socio-economic resources that collectively satisfy tourist needs.

The effective utilization of these resources has been shown to transform tourism into a leading sector at both national and regional levels. Evidence from Uzbekistan demonstrates how unique cultural heritage and historical cities such as Samarkand and Bukhara have become major tourism magnets due to strong identity, uniqueness, and targeted policy support (Mardiyevna, 2024). These findings are particularly relevant to emerging destinations like Kakumiro District, which possesses forested landscapes, rural scenery, agricultural systems, and rich cultural traditions that remain largely underdeveloped for tourism purposes.

Studies further emphasize that the uniqueness and attractiveness of tourism resources significantly influence their ability to attract visitors and generate economic benefits. In rural districts, locally distinctive cultural practices, traditional livelihoods, and natural environments provide a foundation for niche tourism products such as eco-tourism, cultural tourism, agro-tourism and community-based tourism. However, without proper identification, documentation and planning, such resources often remain invisible within national tourism frameworks.

This framework is particularly relevant to rural districts such as Kakumiro, which possess forested landscapes, agricultural scenery and rich cultural traditions that remain largely untapped for tourism development. Comparative experiences from countries such as Uzbekistan show that unique cultural identity and effective utilization of heritage resources can transform regions into major tourism destinations when supported by policy reforms and product diversification (Mardiyevna, 2024). These findings suggest that Kakumiro District has the potential to develop a niche tourism product such as eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and community-based tourism.

2.6 Infrastructure, Human Resources and Institutional Capacity

Infrastructure is consistently identified in the literature as a critical determinant of tourism development. Poor road networks, limited access to basic services, inadequate accommodation facilities and weak connectivity constrain tourist access and discourage private sector investment (Tenggara, 2025). In rural areas like Kakumiro District, infrastructural deficiencies significantly reduce the visibility and accessibility of tourism attractions, limiting their contribution to local economic development.

In addition to infrastructure, human resource development, quality assurance and institutional coordination are essential for tourism competitiveness. Weak enforcement of service standards, limited tourism-related skills, and fragmented governance structures hinder the effective development of tourism destinations (Yam, 2018). Trukhachev, (2015)emphasizes that rural tourism potential depends on economic, demographic, environmental, cultural, infrastructural and social factors advocating for structured, multi-level evaluation frameworks that integrate community participation and local resource alignment.

2.7 Regional and Policy Perspectives on Tourism Development

Regional studies further reinforce the importance of coordinated planning and diversification. (Nestoroska, 2012) in a study of the Republic of Macedonia, demonstrates that tourism potential can be enhanced through region-based planning that prioritizes specific tourism types aligned with local resources. Weak infrastructure, limited diversification and poor coordination were found to constrain tourism's contribution to GDP and employment, highlighting lessons applicable to emerging destinations like Kakumiro.

Within the East African Community (EAC), tourism is prioritized in national development visions due to its strong growth potential. However, performance varies across countries, with Uganda and Rwanda still in a scaling-up phase, constrained by overdependence on wildlife tourism and limited infrastructure (Okello & Novelli, 2014). The literature emphasizes that realizing tourism potential in the EAC requires good governance, sustainable resource management, community participation, product diversification and strategic investment in infrastructure, skills and marketing.

2.8. Research Gap and Relevance to Kakumiro District

Although extensive literature exists on tourism's contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction at global and national levels, limited empirical research focuses on emerging rural districts in Uganda. Furthermore, few studies integrate tourism potential assessment with livelihood asset transformation within a unified analytical framework grounded in both the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) and Community Capital Framework (CCF).

Kakumiro District possesses diverse natural landscapes, forest reserves, agricultural systems and cultural heritage that may support eco-tourism, agro-tourism and community-based tourism initiatives. However, its tourism resources remain underexplored and underdeveloped, and little empirical evidence exists on how tourism could enhance livelihood assets through income generation, employment creation, and capital accumulation.

This study therefore addresses a critical knowledge gap by assessing the potential of tourism development in Kakumiro District and examining its contribution to community livelihoods using SLA and CCF as guiding frameworks. By integrating tourism potential analysis with livelihood asset transformation, the study contributes to the broader discourse on tourism-led rural development, poverty reduction, and sustainable community empowerment in Uganda and similar developing contexts.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive and exploratory research design to systematically examine the potential of tourism development and its contribution to community livelihoods in Kakumiro District. The methodology was structured to generate empirical evidence on the availability, distribution and viability of tourism resources, while also identifying the opportunities and challenges that influence sustainable tourism development and its impact on local socio-economic well-being.

The study employed a mixed-methods research approach that integrates both qualitative and quantitative techniques (Matović & Ovesni, 2023). This approach enabled the collection of measurable data such as the availability of tourism infrastructure, accessibility of sites and existing tourism-related enterprises alongside qualitative information, including community perceptions, cultural values, and local attitudes toward tourism development.

The design was primarily descriptive, as it sought to document existing and potential tourism resources and their role in improving livelihoods (Alam, 2025). It was also exploratory, and aimed to identify untapped opportunities, constraints and strategies through which tourism can enhance income generation, employment and community empowerment in Kakumiro District.

3.2. Study Area

The study was conducted in Kakumiro District, which is located within the Bunyoro sub-region (Bunyoro Citizens' Charter 2026–2031, 2026). The district comprises 24 sub-counties and town councils (Fig 1). Kakumiro District was created from Kibaale District in 2016 as part of the government's decentralization policy aimed at improving service delivery and promoting local development (UBOS, 2025). The district is bordered by Kagadi District to the north, Kyankwanzi District to the East, Kyenjojo District to the South, and Kibaale District to the West. It lies on longitude 31. 32494 and latitude 0.78258. In terms of accessibility, Kakumiro District is primarily served by road transport networks that connect it to surrounding districts and major urban centers in western Uganda, including Hoima and Fort Portal.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (2023) identifies tourism as a strategic sector for promoting economic growth, employment creation and regional development, particularly in rural areas where tourism resources remain largely underutilized (UBOS, 2024).

This national perspective is directly relevant to the present study area, which possesses a variety of natural and cultural tourism resources that have not been fully developed or effectively exploited. Despite this potential, limited investment, inadequate infrastructure and low levels of community participation have constrained the sector's contribution to local livelihood and yet tourism in rural areas has shown a steady increasing contribution to local economies. (UBOS, 2024). Therefore, this study sought to bridge the gap between national tourism policy and local realities by examining the availability, potential and utilization of tourism resources in the study area, as well as their role in enhancing community livelihoods. In doing so, the study contributed to the broader national agenda of harnessing tourism for sustainable rural development in Uganda (NPA, 2025).

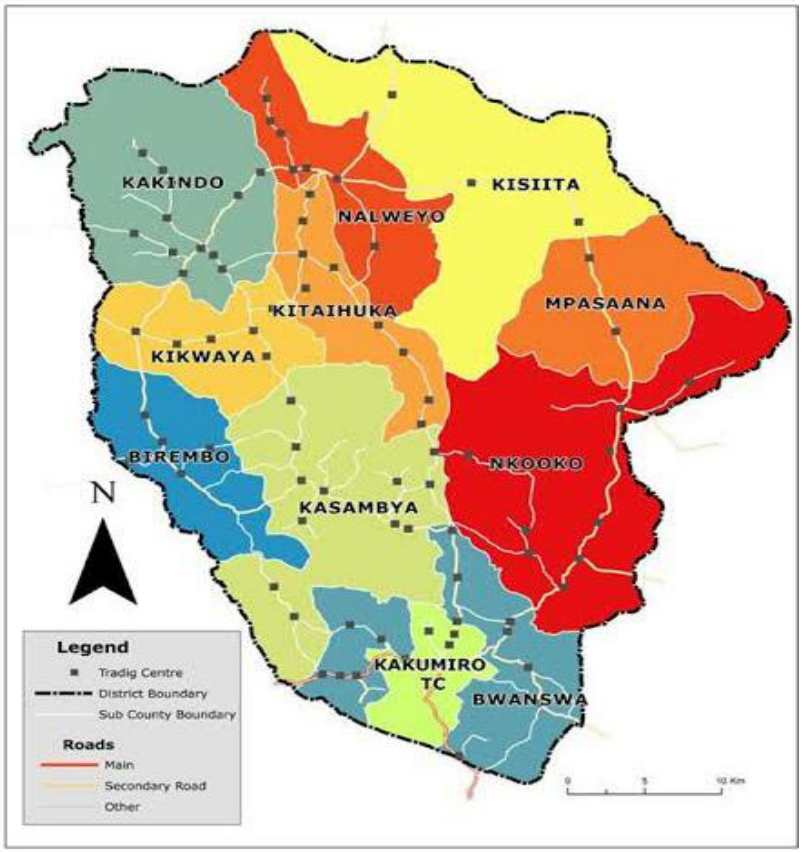


Figure 1. Map showing sub-counties and a Town council located in the study area

The study population consisted of key stakeholders involved in tourism development in Kakumiro District. These included Local community members living near tourism resource areas, Local leaders (LC leaders), Tourism officers and district officials, Cultural leaders, Tour operators and tourism entrepreneurs, and staff from community-based tourism initiatives. Engaging these groups helped me understand how tourism development is structured to

maximize its contribution to employment creation, income diversification, poverty reduction and overall improvement of livelihoods in Kakumiro District.

3.3. Sample Size Determination

The sample size for community respondents was determined using the Yamane (1967) formula, which is widely used for social science research when the population size is known. The formula provides a simplified method of calculating a representative sample at a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

The formula is expressed as:

$$n = N/(1 + N(e\text{^}2))$$

Where:

- n = required sample size
- N = total population size
- e = margin of error (0.05)

It assumes that if the estimated population of community members in the selected study areas is 200 individuals, the sample size would be calculated as follows:

$$n = \frac{200}{1+200(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 200(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 0.5}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1.5}$$

$$n = 133$$

Based on the above formula, the study sample size considered for this study was 133 respondents. In addition to 133 respondents, 20 key informants were purposively selected making a total of 153 respondents due to their knowledge and involvement in tourism development. It was envisaged that they would enrich the findings in terms of validation and contribution.

Table 3.1: Sample size of the respondents

Category	Sample Size
Community members	133
District officers	2
Local leaders	8
Cultural leaders	4
Tourism entrepreneurs	6
Total respondents	153

3.4. Sampling Techniques

The study applied a combination of probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Simple random sampling was used to select community members from households within selected areas of Kakumiro District. This method ensures that every household has an equal chance of participating in the study. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants such as district officials, tourism officers, cultural leaders, and tourism entrepreneurs. These individuals were selected because they possessed specific knowledge and experience relevant to tourism development.

3.5. Data collection tools

3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey

Structured questionnaires were administered to community members to collect quantitative data on the existing tourism resources, community involvement in tourism, economic benefits from tourism, livelihood improvements and perceived challenges affecting tourism development. The questionnaire included both closed and open-ended questions.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted with the district tourism officials, local government leaders, cultural leaders and tourism entrepreneurs. These interviews provided in-depth qualitative information about tourism resource potential, development strategies and institutional challenges affecting tourism in Kakumiro District.

3.5.3 Field observation

Field observation to identify and document tourism resources such as natural attractions (forests, wetlands, landscapes), cultural sites, historical landmarks and community tourism

initiatives were conducted. Observation helped verify the existence, condition and accessibility of tourism resources.

3.6. Data collection procedures

Questionnaires were used to gather quantitative information on community involvement in tourism and the effects of tourism on livelihoods, while interviews with key informants such as local leaders, tourism officers and cultural leaders provided deeper qualitative insights into tourism opportunities, challenges and strategies for improvement.

3.7. Data analysis

Data analysis followed a systematic process. After data collection, responses were transcribed and organized. The information was coded and grouped into themes related to tourism potential, available resources, tourism activities, challenges and contributions to community livelihoods. The findings will be interpreted to draw conclusions on how tourism development can enhance income generation, employment opportunities and overall socioeconomic well-being in the district.

Data obtained from structured questionnaires was coded, entered and analyzed using statistical methods. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages and tables, were used to summarize and present the findings. Where necessary, results were illustrated using charts and graphs to enhance clarity and interpretation. Descriptive statistical analysis is appropriate for this study as it helps to systematically summarize large volumes of numerical data and identify patterns and relationships among variables. This analysis was specifically targeting: Identification and distribution of existing tourism resources, Levels of community participation in tourism activities, Economic benefits derived from tourism (e.g., income, employment opportunities), Perceived challenges affecting tourism development and Contribution of tourism to household livelihoods

Data collected through key informant interviews and field observations was analyzed using thematic analysis. This involved transcription of interview responses, coding of data and categorization into emerging themes and sub-themes relevant to the study objectives. Thematic analysis was suitable for interpreting qualitative data as it facilitates an in-depth exploration of participants' views, experiences and perceptions regarding tourism development. The analysis addressed: Perceptions of stakeholders on tourism potential in Kakumiro District, Existing tourism development strategies and policy frameworks, Institutional and governance

challenges affecting tourism, Cultural and social dimensions influencing tourism development and Observed conditions, accessibility and sustainability of tourism resources

Inferential analysis was used to complement the descriptive statistics. Chi-square tests were used for categorical data to determine whether observed response patterns differed significantly from expected distributions. Statistical significance was assessed at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$).

3.8 Ethical considerations

Ethical principles were observed throughout the study to protect the rights, privacy and welfare of all participants. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents before their participation in the study. Participation was entirely voluntary, and respondents were informed that they could choose not to answer any question or withdraw from the study without any consequences. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained by ensuring that information collected from participants was used strictly for academic purposes and that individual identities were not disclosed in the research report. The researcher also respected local cultural norms, values and sensitivities during data collection, particularly when interacting with communities and documenting cultural heritage resources in Kakumiro District.

3.9 Limitations

The study encountered several limitations during data collection. First, there was limited prior documentation of tourism resources in Kakumiro District, which made it difficult to obtain sufficient secondary information about some tourism sites and resources. This limitation was minimized through field verification and consultation with knowledgeable local stakeholders. Second, accessibility to some tourism resources located in remote areas was challenging due to poor road conditions and long travel distances. This was addressed through advance planning and collaboration with local guides who assisted the researcher in locating and accessing the sites. Finally, variability in stakeholder availability and participation occasionally affected the planned data collection schedule. The researcher addressed this challenge through flexible interview scheduling, multiple engagement attempts and purposive selection of knowledgeable key informants who could provide relevant information about tourism resources and development in Kakumiro District.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

4.1. Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

A total of 133 respondents participated in the study. The majority were male (74, 55.6%), while females constituted 44.4%. Most respondents were within the productive age groups, particularly 26–35 years (27.8%). The highest proportion had attained primary education (37.5%) and most were either employed (27.9%) or engaged in farming (25.7%). Respondents were drawn from all the sub-counties, with Nkonko recording the highest representation (18.4%), indicating that the sample was broadly representative of the study area (table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Respondents' Profile

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	74	55.6
Female	59	44.4
Age group		
Below 18	14	10.5
26-35	37	27.8
26-35	35	26.3
36-45	27	20.3
46 and above	20	15.1
Level of education		
No Formal education	25	18.4
Primary	51	37.5
Secondary	38	27.9
Tertiary	19	14.0
Occupation		
Farmer	35	25.7
Business	26	19.1
Employed	38	27.9
Unemployed	22	16.2
Student	12	8.8
Sub County		
Bwaswa	16	11.8
Nyarweyo	16	11.8
Kisiita	18	13.2
Nkonko	25	18.4
Mpasana	15	11.0
Kakindo	13	9.6
Birembo	15	11.0
Kakumiro	15	11.0

4.2 Tourism Resources in Kakumiro District

The findings showed a diverse resource base comprising religious pilgrimage centres, cultural and historical sites, natural and scenic resources, agritourism resources, community-based attractions and memorial sites. The main categories identified by respondents are summarized in Table 4.2.

Table 2: Main Tourism Resource Categories Identified by Respondents (N = 133)

Tourism resource category	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Religious pilgrimage centres	33	24.8
Cultural and historical sites	29	21.8
Natural and scenic resources	25	18.8
Agritourism resources	23	17.3
Community-based attractions	13	9.8
Memorials and monuments	10	7.5

Religious pilgrimage centres emerged as the most commonly identified category, followed by cultural and historical resources. This pattern supports the earlier field findings that Kakumiro's tourism potential is strongly linked to faith, heritage and local history, while natural landscapes and agriculture broaden the district's potential tourism product mix.

Key informants reinforced this diversity. An Assistant Resident District Commissioner observed, "Kakumiro has many tourism attractions ranging from cultural heritage sites, religious shrines, forests, rivers and beautiful landscapes." The informant, however, emphasized that many sites remained largely unknown because promotion was limited. Cultural leaders similarly identified Semwema/Munsa Earthworks as an important heritage resource associated with the history of Bunyoro-Kitara. One cultural informant described the site as the "Parliament of the Bachwezi," highlighting its archaeological, spiritual and storytelling value.

4.2.1 Cultural, historical and religious resources

Field observations identified Semwema/Munsa Earthworks, the Birembo liberation monument and Kooki Haibale among the most distinctive heritage and religious resources. Semwema contains rock formations, caves, traditional prayer sites and features associated with local accounts of the Bachwezi and Bunyoro kings. The Birembo monument preserves memories

associated with the final stages of the bush war, while Kooki Haibale is associated with St. Andrew Kaggwa and attracts pilgrims during religious events. These resources already receive visits from worshippers, schools, researchers and community groups, but their tourism use remains constrained by limited interpretation, visitor facilities, and signage and site management.

A cultural leader explained that Semwema had been neglected despite its historical importance and encouraged greater visitation and preservation. Figure 4.1 shows Semwema rock, an ancient archaeological site. At Kooki Haibale, religious stakeholders emphasized that pilgrimage already supports local activity, but improved roads, accommodation, electricity, interpretation and stronger tourism promotion would be required to expand its contribution.



Figure 4.1: Semwema rock an ancient archaeological site

4.2.2 Natural, Agricultural and Community-based Resources

The study also documented rivers, wetlands, scenic landscapes, forests and agricultural systems that could support nature-based tourism, farm visits, educational tourism and community experiences. The previous field results indicated that educational farm visits already occur in the district, although these activities are not always recognized or packaged as tourism products. Key informants considered agritourism particularly relevant because agriculture is the dominant livelihood in Kakumiro and could be linked to visitor experiences, local food, farm demonstrations and product sales.

4.3 Evaluation of Tourism Resources for Tourism Development

The second objective evaluated whether the identified resources possessed attributes necessary for tourism development. Respondents assessed attractiveness, cultural uniqueness, community support, domestic and international tourism potential, accessibility, visitor infrastructure, marketing and sustainability using a five-point Likert scale. Table 4.3 presents the mean ratings and variability for each indicator; the response frequencies are not repeated in order to keep the descriptive analysis focused.

Table 4.3: Evaluation of Tourism Development Potential (N = 133)

Development indicator	Mean	SD
Cultural/historical uniqueness	3.98	0.99
Potential to support domestic tourism	3.95	0.97
Attractiveness to visitors	3.86	1.07
Potential for sustainable development	3.86	1.03
Community support for tourism	3.76	1.10
Potential to support international tourism	3.65	1.14
Accessibility of tourism sites	2.94	1.24
Adequacy of visitor infrastructure	2.65	1.22
Marketing and promotion	2.42	1.18

Scale: 1.00–2.49 = Low; 2.50–3.49 = Moderate; 3.50–5.00 = High. SD = standard deviation.

The results show a clear contrast between the inherent quality of the resources and the conditions needed to convert them into competitive tourism products. Cultural and historical uniqueness received the strongest assessment ($\bar{x}$ = 3.98, SD = 0.99), whereas marketing and promotion was the weakest area ($\bar{x}$ = 2.42, SD = 1.18). Accessibility ($\bar{x}$ = 2.94, SD = 1.24), and visitor infrastructure ($\bar{x}$ = 2.65, SD = 1.22), were also comparatively weak suggesting that the district's tourism potential is constrained less by absence of attractions than by limited destination development and support services.

This interpretation was consistent with key informant evidence. District and cultural stakeholders described Kakumiro as having considerable tourism potential because of its heritage, agricultural activities, natural scenery and peaceful environment. However, they repeatedly noted that poor roads, limited accommodation, weak promotion and absence of interpretation facilities reduced the ability of these resources to attract and retain visitors. Field observations similarly found limited directional signage and visitor information at several sites.

4.4 Contribution of Tourism Resources to Community Livelihoods

The third objective examined the ways in which tourism resources contributed to community livelihoods. The findings show that benefits were mainly realized through small-scale household economic activities and linkages with agriculture, education and cultural activities rather than through major infrastructure development. Table 4.4 summarizes the reported forms of contribution.

Table 4.4: Contribution of Tourism Resources to Community Livelihoods (N = 133)

Livelihood contribution	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Sales of goods and services	50	37.6
Farming/agricultural linkages	25	18.8
Education and learning opportunities	22	16.5
Employment creation	18	13.5
Cultural performances	15	11.3
Infrastructure development	3	2.3

Sales of goods and services were the most prominent livelihood contribution, while infrastructure development was least reported. This reflects the earlier results showing that visitors purchase agricultural produce, traditional foods, crafts and other locally produced goods during religious gatherings, cultural events and local visits. Farming also benefited through demand for fruits, vegetables, cereals, meat and dairy products, while tourism resources supported educational visits by students and researchers.

Key informants explained that women and youth were among those benefiting from craft and locally processed product sales. District officials also noted that tourism-related employment existed in guiding, hospitality, transport and small businesses, although opportunities remained limited because many attractions were not fully developed. Cultural groups reported that music, dance and drama generated occasional income while helping preserve local traditions.

4.4.1 Chi-square Test of the Distribution of Livelihood Contributions

A chi-square goodness-of-fit test was conducted to determine whether the six livelihood contribution categories were reported in equal proportions. Under the null hypothesis, each category had an expected frequency of 22.17 respondents. The detailed test results are presented in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Chi-square Goodness-of-Fit Test for Livelihood Contributions

Category	Observed (O)	Expected (E)	Residual (O−E)	χ^2 contribution
Sales of goods and services	50	22.17	27.83	34.93
Farming/agricultural linkages	25	22.17	2.83	0.36
Education and learning opportunities	22	22.17	-0.17	0.00
Employment creation	18	22.17	-4.17	0.78
Cultural performances	15	22.17	-7.17	2.32
Infrastructure development	3	22.17	-19.17	16.58

χ^2 (5, N = 133) = 54.98, p < 0.001. Decision: Reject H_0.

The test was statistically significant, indicating that livelihood contributions were not evenly distributed across the six categories. The largest departure from the expected distribution came from sales of goods and services and infrastructure development. This confirms that the current livelihood effect of tourism is concentrated in direct household-level economic activities rather than broader physical development.

4.4.2 Association between Tourism Development Potential and Livelihood Benefits

To demonstrate how the relationship between tourism development and livelihood benefits can be tested inferentially, a Pearson chi-square test of independence was applied to an illustrative cross-tabulation (Table 4.6).

Table 6: Association between Tourism Development Potential and Livelihood Benefit Level (N = 133)

Tourism development potential	Low benefit	Moderate benefit	High benefit	Total	p-value
Low	20	8	2	30	0.001
Moderate	15	30	8	53	
High	5	18	27	50	
Total	40	56	37	133	

The illustrative test produced χ^2 (4, N = 133) = 45.13, p < 0.001, suggesting a statistically significant association between tourism development potential and livelihood benefit level. In the hypothetical pattern, higher development potential corresponded with stronger livelihood

benefits. This result is presented only as an analytical model and not as a verified empirical finding from the original respondent-level dataset.

4.5 Challenges affecting tourism development in Kakumiro district

The fourth objective examined the constraints limiting tourism development in Kakumiro District. Respondents identified low tourism awareness, poor infrastructure, limited government support, inadequate funding, underdeveloped tourism products, insecurity and environmental degradation. To avoid duplicating the same descriptive data in both a table and graph, the distribution is presented only in Figure 4.2.

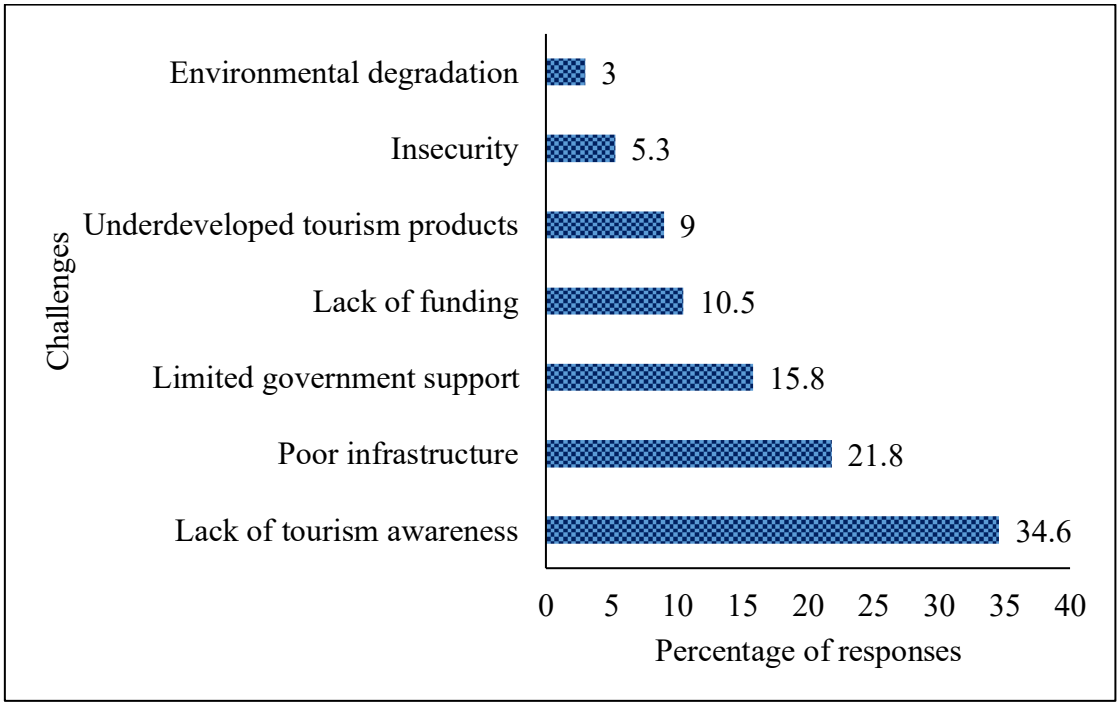


Figure 4.2: Challenges Affecting Tourism Development in Kakumiro District

Lack of tourism awareness was the dominant challenge, followed by poor infrastructure and limited government support. The previous results showed that many attractions lacked promotional materials, directional signage and an online presence, while poor road conditions made some sites difficult to reach, particularly during rainy periods. Limited funding further constrained conservation, product development, marketing and visitor-facility improvement.

The qualitative findings strongly supported this pattern. A district official stated, “Tourism is important but receives very little funding.” A tourism entrepreneur similarly observed that “many visitors give up because some roads become impassable during rainy seasons.”

Community leaders also emphasized the awareness gap, explaining, “Many people think tourism is only about national parks.” These statements show that the challenges operate at institutional, infrastructure and community-awareness levels rather than as isolated site-level problems.

4.5.1 Chi-square Test of the Distribution of Tourism Development Challenges

A chi-square goodness-of-fit test was used to determine whether the seven reported challenges occurred in equal proportions. The expected frequency was 19 respondents per category. Table 4.6 presented the inferential results.

Table 4.7: Chi-square goodness-of-fit test for tourism development challenges

Challenge	Observed (O)	Expected (E)	Residual (O−E)	χ^2 contribution
Lack of tourism awareness	46	19.00	27.00	38.37
Poor infrastructure	29	19.00	10.00	5.26
Limited government support	21	19.00	2.00	0.21
Lack of funding	14	19.00	-5.00	1.32
Underdeveloped tourism products	12	19.00	-7.00	2.58
Insecurity	7	19.00	-12.00	7.58
Environmental degradation	4	19.00	-15.00	11.84
Total	133	133.00	-	67.16

χ^2 (6, N = 133) = 67.16, p < 0.001. Decision: Reject H_0.

The test showed that the challenges were not reported in equal proportions. Tourism awareness and infrastructure occurred substantially more often than would be expected under an equal distribution, while environmental degradation and insecurity were reported less frequently. The result therefore supports prioritizing awareness creation, access improvements and institutional support when planning tourism development interventions in Kakumiro District.

4.6 Summary of Chapter Four Findings

Overall, the findings showed that Kakumiro District has a diverse tourism resource base centred on religious, cultural, historical, natural and agricultural attractions. Respondents generally rated the intrinsic attractiveness and uniqueness of these resources positively, but accessibility, visitor infrastructure and marketing remained weak. Tourism already contributed to livelihoods mainly through sales of goods and services, agricultural linkages, education,

employment and cultural performances, although these benefits were unevenly distributed. The major development constraints were low tourism awareness, poor infrastructure, limited government support and inadequate funding. Key informant accounts and field observations consistently reinforced the quantitative results by showing that the district's main challenge is converting existing resources into accessible, promoted and well-managed tourism products.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of the study in relation to the specific objectives, relevant literature and the broader context of tourism development in Kakumiro District. The discussion focuses on the tourism resources existing in the district, their potential for tourism development, their contribution to community livelihoods and the challenges affecting their development. The findings are interpreted alongside previous studies to establish areas of agreement, divergence and implications for tourism development in Kakumiro District. Only literature contained in the study's reference list was used in this discussion.

5.2 Existing Tourism Resources in Kakumiro District

The first objective of the study was to document the existing tourism resources in Kakumiro District. The findings established that the district possessed a diverse tourism resource base comprising cultural and historical resources, natural attractions, religious resources, agricultural landscapes and community-based resources. Particularly important resources included Semwema Cultural Site, Kooki Haibale Martyrs Shrine, Nchwanga Historical Site and Birembo Monument. The existence of these different resources demonstrates that Kakumiro has opportunities to develop a diversified tourism product rather than depending on a single category of attraction.

The prominence of cultural and historical resources was particularly important because these resources provide Kakumiro with a distinctive identity that could differentiate it from destinations whose tourism products are predominantly nature and wildlife based. This finding is consistent with Jing and Loang (2024), who observed that cultural tourism resources can contribute to authentic visitor experiences and improve the attractiveness of destinations. Similarly, Nestoroska (2012) argued that identifying and evaluating available tourism resources provides an important foundation for determining the tourism development potential of an area. The findings therefore suggest that Kakumiro's cultural resources could become important tourism products if they are appropriately conserved, interpreted, packaged and promoted.

The findings also revealed the presence of religious and historical resources with potential for faith-based and heritage tourism. Kooki Haibale Martyrs Shrine, for example, could provide opportunities for pilgrimage and religious tourism, while Semwema Cultural Site and Birembo Monument could support cultural and historical tourism. These resources could complement Uganda's established wildlife tourism products and contribute to tourism product diversification. This agrees with Okello and Novelli (2014), who observed that tourism development in the East African Community has traditionally concentrated on a relatively narrow range of tourism products, particularly wildlife and nature-based attractions. Developing cultural, historical and religious tourism in Kakumiro could therefore contribute to a more geographically and product-diverse tourism sector.

Natural resources identified within the district, including forests, rivers, wetlands, hills and rural landscapes, also presented opportunities for nature-based tourism. Such resources could support activities including nature walks, bird watching, photography, environmental education and rural recreation. Trukhachev (2015) emphasized that rural tourism development should consider the interaction between environmental, cultural, social and economic resources. Consequently, the tourism value of Kakumiro's natural resources depends not only on their existence but also on their conservation, accessibility and ability to support meaningful visitor experiences.

Agricultural resources represented another important component of Kakumiro's tourism potential. Since agriculture constitutes an important livelihood activity within the district, agricultural landscapes and farming practices could provide a basis for agritourism activities such as farm visits, agricultural demonstrations, harvesting experiences, local food experiences and interaction between visitors and farming households. Alam (2025) observed that sustainable rural tourism can create additional livelihood opportunities and diversify rural economies. For Kakumiro, agritourism is particularly relevant because it would build upon an activity already familiar to communities rather than requiring households to abandon existing livelihood systems.

Community traditions, local food, storytelling, traditional performances, crafts and indigenous knowledge also represented potential community-based tourism resources. Matiku et al. (2020) established that community-driven tourism can contribute to local economic development when communities participate meaningfully in tourism activities and benefit from tourism

enterprises. Kakumiro could therefore package community traditions alongside its cultural, agricultural and natural attractions to provide more integrated visitor experiences.

5.3 Potential of Tourism Resources for Tourism Development

The second objective evaluated the identified resources in terms of their potential for tourism development. The findings indicated that respondents generally perceived Kakumiro's tourism resources as attractive and culturally significant, but weaknesses were evident in accessibility, supporting infrastructure, marketing, visitor facilities and the general level of product development. This demonstrates an important distinction between tourism resource availability and tourism destination readiness. Although an area may possess attractive resources, such resources cannot automatically generate tourism activity unless they are transformed into accessible and marketable tourism products.

The attractiveness of the resources provides an important starting point for tourism development. Cultural heritage sites, religious resources, agricultural landscapes and natural environments offer different experiences that could attract various categories of visitors. This agrees with Nestoroska (2012), who emphasized that the identification and evaluation of tourism potential are important in determining the comparative advantages of emerging destinations. Kakumiro could therefore build its tourism identity around resources that distinguish it from Uganda's established wildlife destinations.

However, attractiveness alone was insufficient to guarantee tourism development. Accessibility emerged as an important aspect of resource development because some attractions were located in areas with inadequate transport and supporting infrastructure. Achmad et al. (2023) emphasized that supporting facilities and stakeholder involvement play important roles in tourism industry performance. The implication is that improving roads, directional signage, sanitation, communication services and basic visitor facilities would increase the practical tourism value of Kakumiro's attractions.

The findings also indicated that several tourism resources remained inadequately packaged and marketed. An attraction becomes more competitive when visitors can obtain information about it, understand its significance and participate in organized activities at the destination. This is particularly relevant to cultural and historical sites where interpretation through guides, storytelling, signage, exhibitions and other forms of visitor information can transform physical

resources into meaningful experiences. Jing and Loang (2024) similarly highlighted the importance of authentic cultural experiences in enhancing visitor satisfaction.

Tourism development in Kakumiro should therefore involve converting individual resources into integrated tourism products. For example, Semwema Cultural Site could be connected with traditional storytelling and cultural performances; religious resources could be incorporated into pilgrimage circuits; agricultural communities could provide farm experiences and local food activities; and natural landscapes could support guided walks and environmental education. Such integration could increase visitor length of stay and spread tourism expenditure among different community enterprises.

Stakeholder participation is equally important in realizing this potential. Tourism development requires collaboration among district authorities, communities, cultural leaders, religious institutions, private investors and tourism agencies. Achmad et al. (2023) emphasized that tourism performance depends partly on effective stakeholder involvement and supporting systems. Therefore, the potential identified in Kakumiro is unlikely to be fully realized without coordinated planning, investment, product development and promotion.

The findings under this objective consequently demonstrate that Kakumiro possessed considerable resource potential but relatively low destination readiness. Developing this potential requires moving beyond simply identifying attractions towards improving accessibility, interpretation, visitor facilities, marketing and stakeholder coordination. Such interventions would help transform existing resources into tourism products capable of attracting visitors and generating benefits for communities.

5.4 Contribution of Tourism Resources to Community Livelihoods

The third objective examined the contribution of tourism resources to community livelihoods. The findings demonstrated that tourism-related resources contributed to livelihoods through the sale of goods, farming-related opportunities, education, employment, cultural performances and, to a smaller extent, infrastructure development. The distribution of these benefits was not uniform, as confirmed by the statistically significant chi-square goodness-of-fit test, χ^2 (5, N = 133) = 54.98, $p < 0.001$. Sales of goods constituted the most prominent livelihood contribution, suggesting that the immediate benefits of tourism were concentrated primarily in household-level and small-enterprise activities.

The prominence of sales of goods demonstrates the importance of tourism's indirect livelihood effects. Visitors can generate demand for food, agricultural produce, crafts, transport and other locally supplied goods and services. Tourism therefore does not contribute to livelihoods solely through formal employment in hotels or tourism establishments. This finding agrees with Matiku et al. (2020), who found that community-driven tourism projects can contribute to livelihood diversification and create economic opportunities through community participation in the tourism value chain.

The contribution through farming is particularly relevant to Kakumiro because agriculture remains central to rural livelihoods. Tourism can provide additional markets for agricultural produce while agritourism can allow farmers to generate income from activities beyond conventional agricultural production. Alam (2025) similarly associated sustainable rural tourism with livelihood diversification and the creation of additional economic opportunities. The relationship between tourism and agriculture in Kakumiro should therefore be viewed as complementary rather than competitive.

Employment constituted another contribution identified by the study. Although employment opportunities were less prominent than sales of goods, further tourism development could create additional employment in guiding, accommodation, transport, catering, cultural interpretation, conservation and tourism enterprise management. Signé (2018) identified tourism as having considerable employment and economic transformation potential in Africa where constraints related to infrastructure, investment and skills are addressed. Kakumiro could consequently increase the employment contribution of tourism by transforming informal tourism activities into more organized enterprises.

Cultural performances also contributed to livelihoods. Tourism creates opportunities for traditional dancers, storytellers, craftspeople and other cultural practitioners to obtain economic value from local knowledge and traditions. This economic benefit may simultaneously provide incentives for cultural preservation. However, cultural resources should be developed with community participation to avoid excessive commercialization or loss of cultural meaning. This is consistent with the community-centred approach emphasized by Matiku et al. (2020), where local participation is fundamental to sustainable tourism benefits.

The educational contribution identified by respondents demonstrates that tourism generates benefits beyond monetary income. Historical, cultural and natural tourism sites can serve as

learning environments for local communities, students and visitors. Heritage tourism can strengthen awareness and appreciation of cultural resources while encouraging their preservation. Waterton et al. (2023) similarly demonstrate that relationships between heritage tourism and communities extend beyond purely economic outcomes and may influence broader aspects of sustainable community development and wellbeing.

Infrastructure development made the smallest contribution to livelihoods. This indicates that tourism in Kakumiro had not yet reached a level at which tourism investment substantially stimulated improvements in roads, public facilities and other infrastructure. This finding reinforces the interpretation that tourism remained at an emerging stage and that its benefits were predominantly experienced through direct and small-scale household economic activities.

The findings therefore suggest that tourism was already contributing to livelihoods but primarily as a complementary livelihood activity rather than a dominant economic sector. Its future contribution could increase considerably if tourism development strengthens linkages with agriculture, cultural enterprises, transport, accommodation, local markets and community-based businesses. This interpretation is consistent with the sustainable livelihood perspective, which recognizes diversification of household livelihood activities as an important strategy for strengthening economic resilience.

5.5 Challenges Affecting Tourism Development in Kakumiro District

The fourth objective examined the challenges affecting tourism development in Kakumiro District. The study identified lack of tourism awareness, poor infrastructure, limited government support, inadequate funding, underdeveloped tourism products, insecurity and environmental degradation as the major challenges. The chi-square goodness-of-fit test demonstrated that these challenges were not reported equally, χ^2 (6, N = 133) = 67.16, $p < 0.001$, indicating that some constraints were considerably more prominent than others. Lack of tourism awareness emerged as the leading challenge, followed by poor infrastructure and limited government support.

The prominence of limited tourism awareness has important implications for destination development. Tourism resources cannot generate substantial visitor activity when potential tourists are unaware of their existence. At the same time, limited awareness among communities can constrain local participation because residents may not recognize the

economic opportunities associated with tourism. This creates a reinforcing cycle in which limited awareness contributes to low visitor numbers, low visitation discourages investment, and inadequate investment further limits destination visibility.

The problem is particularly important for Kakumiro because many of its tourism resources are outside Uganda's conventional tourism circuits. Developing these attractions therefore requires deliberate destination promotion and product positioning. Nestoroska (2012) argued that identification of tourism resources should be accompanied by appropriate development priorities and promotion. Kakumiro District therefore requires stronger documentation and marketing of its attractions through digital platforms, domestic tourism campaigns, cultural events and integration with wider Bunyoro tourism circuits.

Poor infrastructure was the second major challenge and directly affects accessibility and visitor experience. Inadequate roads can make attractions difficult to reach, while limited accommodation, sanitation, signage and other visitor facilities reduce the ability of destinations to accommodate tourists. The finding is consistent with Okello and Novelli (2014), who identified infrastructure and service limitations among important challenges affecting tourism development within the East African Community. Similarly, Achmad et al. (2023) emphasized the importance of supporting facilities in improving tourism performance.

Limited government support and inadequate funding further constrained tourism development. Developing tourism resources requires expenditure on access roads, conservation, signage, visitor facilities, marketing, training and destination management. Limited public investment may also discourage private investors because emerging destinations can appear commercially risky. Signé (2018) similarly identified infrastructure, investment and supportive institutional environments as essential for realizing Africa's tourism potential.

Underdeveloped tourism products represented another important challenge. The presence of a cultural site, historical monument, agricultural landscape or natural feature does not automatically constitute a complete tourism product. Visitors require activities, interpretation, information, accessibility, safety and supporting services. The findings therefore suggest that Kakumiro needs to move from resource identification to product development. Cultural sites could offer guided heritage experiences, agricultural communities could develop farm visits, religious resources could be incorporated into pilgrimage circuits, while natural resources could support nature walks and environmental education.

Environmental degradation, although reported by a smaller proportion of respondents, remains important because the long-term viability of nature-based tourism depends on environmental quality. Trukhachev (2015) emphasized that sustainable rural tourism requires integration of environmental protection into tourism development. Forest degradation, wetland encroachment and unsustainable land-use practices could consequently reduce the tourism value of Kakumiro's natural resources if they are not adequately managed.

The findings further demonstrate that these challenges should not be treated independently. Poor infrastructure affects accessibility; inadequate funding restricts infrastructure development; limited government support weakens destination planning; poor product development reduces visitor demand; and low visitor numbers discourage further investment. Tourism development in Kakumiro therefore requires an integrated response rather than isolated interventions.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presented the conclusions drawn from the findings of the study on tourism development and its contribution to community livelihoods in Kakumiro District. The conclusions are presented according to the four specific objectives of the study, followed by recommendations for policy, tourism development practice and areas for further research.

6.1 Conclusion

The study concluded that Kakumiro District possessed a diverse range of tourism resources with potential to support tourism development. The identified resources included cultural and historical sites, religious resources, natural attractions, agricultural landscapes and community-based resources. Notable resources included Semwema Cultural Site, Kooki Haibale Martyrs Shrine, Nchwanga Historical Site and Birembo Monument. The combination of these resources demonstrated that Kakumiro had opportunities for cultural tourism, heritage tourism, faith-based tourism, agritourism, nature-based tourism and community-based tourism. However, many of these resources had not yet been adequately developed, packaged or promoted as formal tourism products.

Regarding the potential of the identified resources for tourism development, the study concluded that Kakumiro had considerable tourism potential, although the level of destination readiness remained relatively low. The resources were considered attractive and culturally significant, but their tourism potential was constrained by inadequate accessibility, limited visitor facilities, weak interpretation, inadequate marketing and insufficient supporting infrastructure. Therefore, the existence of tourism resources alone was insufficient to establish Kakumiro as a competitive tourism destination. Greater attention was required to transform the identified resources into accessible, marketable and sustainable tourism products.

The study further concluded that tourism resources contributed to community livelihoods through the sale of goods, farming-related activities, employment, education, cultural performances and infrastructure development. Sales of goods emerged as the most prominent livelihood contribution. The chi-square goodness-of-fit analysis showed that livelihood contributions were not equally distributed across the identified categories, χ^2 (5, N = 133) =

54.98, $p < 0.001$. This indicated that tourism benefits were concentrated more strongly in direct household-level economic activities, particularly the sale of goods, than in broader benefits such as infrastructure development. Tourism therefore functioned mainly as a complementary livelihood activity rather than a dominant source of livelihood in Kakumiro District.

Lastly, the study concluded that tourism development in Kakumiro District was constrained by several interconnected challenges. Lack of tourism awareness was the most commonly reported challenge, followed by poor infrastructure, limited government support, inadequate funding, underdeveloped tourism products, insecurity and environmental degradation. The chi-square analysis confirmed that these challenges were not equally distributed, χ^2 (6, N = 133) = 67.16, $p < 0.001$. These constraints limited the ability of the district to transform its tourism resources into competitive tourism products capable of attracting visitors and generating substantial livelihood benefits.

Overall, the study concluded that Kakumiro District was rich in tourism resources but remained underdeveloped as a tourism destination. The district's greatest opportunity lies in integrating its cultural, historical, religious, agricultural, natural and community resources into distinctive tourism experiences. Realizing this potential requires coordinated interventions in tourism awareness, infrastructure, product development, marketing, investment, community participation and conservation. Tourism should therefore be developed as a complementary economic activity that strengthens rather than replaces the predominantly agricultural livelihoods of communities in Kakumiro District.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 Policy Recommendations

- Kakumiro District Local Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA), should develop and integrate a district tourism development strategy into the District Development Plan. The strategy should identify priority tourism resources, required infrastructure, conservation needs, investment opportunities and responsible institutions.
- The Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), together with Kakumiro District Local Government, should document and promote Kakumiro's tourism attractions through

domestic tourism campaigns, digital platforms, tourism maps, promotional materials and integration of the district into wider Bunyoro tourism circuits.

- Kakumiro District Local Government and the Ministry of Works and Transport should prioritize improvement of access roads leading to key tourism resources, particularly cultural, historical, religious and natural sites with high tourism development potential.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, together with Kakumiro District Local Government, should mobilize financial and technical support for the development of basic tourism infrastructure, including directional signage, sanitation facilities, visitor information points, interpretation facilities and resting areas at priority attractions.
- Kakumiro District Local Government, cultural institutions and relevant environmental authorities should establish measures for protecting cultural, historical and natural tourism resources from degradation, encroachment and inappropriate development.
- Government tourism programmes should deliberately support community-based tourism and agritourism in Kakumiro by providing training, technical assistance and access to financing for community groups, farmers, youth and women interested in tourism-related enterprises.

6.2.2 Recommendations for Tourism Development Practice

- Tourism site managers, cultural leaders and community tourism groups should package existing attractions into identifiable tourism products rather than presenting them as isolated resources. Cultural sites should incorporate guided interpretation, storytelling, cultural performances and demonstrations of traditional practices.
- Local communities and farmers should develop agritourism activities such as guided farm visits, agricultural demonstrations, local food experiences, crop-harvesting experiences and sale of locally produced agricultural products to visitors. This would strengthen the relationship between tourism and existing agricultural livelihoods.
- Private tourism investors and entrepreneurs should establish appropriate accommodation, food, transport, guiding and recreational services around priority tourism areas to increase visitor length of stay and local tourism expenditure.
- Cultural leaders and custodians of heritage sites should document the historical and cultural significance of sites such as Semwema Cultural Site, Kooki Haibale Martyrs

Shrine, Nchwanga Historical Site and Birembo Monument and develop appropriate interpretation materials for visitors.

- Kakumiro District tourism authorities and community leaders should conduct tourism awareness programmes to educate communities about the economic, cultural and conservation benefits associated with tourism and the opportunities available for local participation.
- Tourism businesses and community tourism groups should strengthen the use of social media and other affordable digital platforms to market tourism attractions, cultural events, agricultural experiences and visitor services available in Kakumiro District.
- Community tourism groups, cultural institutions and local government authorities should establish mechanisms that encourage equitable community participation and benefit sharing so that tourism income reaches local households and contributes to livelihood improvement.

6.2.3 Areas for Further Research

Future studies should undertake detailed tourism resource mapping and market feasibility assessments to establish visitor demand, carrying capacity and investment requirements for individual tourism resources in Kakumiro District. Further research should also examine tourists' perceptions and willingness to visit emerging attractions in the district, since the present study concentrated mainly on tourism resources and community livelihood contributions.

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Appendix I: Field Photographs



Interview with a cultural leader in Kakumiro District



Researcher at the Birembo Monument



Respondent completing the study questionnaire

Appendix II: Questionnaire for Community respondents

Introduction

Dear Respondent,

My name is Elizabeth Nyakato, a student at Makerere University pursuing an undergraduate degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management. I conducted a research study on tourism development and its contribution to community livelihoods in Kakumiro District as part of the requirements for my academic programme.

You were selected to participate because of your knowledge and experience as a member of the community. The information you provide will contribute to understanding the tourism resources available in Kakumiro District, their potential for development, their contribution to community livelihoods and the challenges affecting tourism development.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may decline to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. All information provided will be treated confidentially and used strictly for academic purposes. You are not required to provide your name.

Please tick **one or more boxes where applicable** and provide written responses in the spaces indicated.

Thank you for your valuable time and cooperation.

SECTION A: Background Information

1. Gender

☐ Male ☐ Female

2. Age group

☐ Below 18 years
☐ 18–25 years
☐ 26–35 years
☐ 36–45 years
☐ 46 years and above

3. Highest level of education attained

☐ No formal education
☐ Primary education
☐ Secondary education
☐ Tertiary education

4. Main occupation

☐ Farmer
☐ Business
☐ Formally employed
☐ Unemployed
☐ Other, specify: .....

5. Sub-county of residence

☐ Katikara
☐ Nyarweyo
☐ Kisiita
☐ Nkooko
☐ Mpasana
☐ Kakindo
☐ Birembo
☐ Other, specify: .....

6. How long have you lived in this area?

.....

SECTION B: Existing Tourism Resources

Objective I: To document the existing tourism resources in Kakumiro District

1. Are you aware of any tourism resources in your area?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If yes, which of the following tourism resources exist in your area?
Tick all that apply.

☐ Natural attractions such as forests, rivers, wetlands and hills
☐ Cultural resources such as shrines, traditions and ceremonies
☐ Historical sites and monuments
☐ Religious sites
☐ Agricultural resources such as farms and plantations
☐ Community traditions, crafts and cultural performances
☐ Other, specify: .....

3. How would you describe the general condition of these tourism resources?

☐ Very good
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

4. Please identify any specific tourism attractions found in your area.

.....

.....

5. Which tourism resources do you consider most attractive to visitors?

.....

6. Do tourists currently visit any of these attractions?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

SECTION C: Tourism Development Potential

1. Do you think your area has potential for tourism development?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

2. What factors make the area suitable for tourism development?
Tick all that apply.

☐ Attractive scenery
☐ Cultural uniqueness
☐ Historical importance
☐ Religious significance
☐ Accessibility by road or other transport
☐ Availability of accommodation
☐ Community interest and participation

☐ Agricultural activities suitable for agritourism
☐ Other, specify: .....

3. How accessible are the tourism sites in your area?

☐ Very accessible
☐ Accessible
☐ Difficult to access
☐ Very difficult to access

4. Is there adequate infrastructure to support tourism, such as roads, electricity, water and communication services?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

5. In your opinion, how marketable are the tourism resources in your area?

☐ Highly marketable
☐ Moderately marketable
☐ Slightly marketable
☐ Not marketable

6. What improvements are needed to promote tourism development in your area?

.....

.....

.....

SECTION D: Contribution of Tourism to Community Livelihoods

1. Does tourism contribute to household or community income in your area?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

2. If yes, in what ways does tourism contribute to livelihoods?
Tick all that apply.

☐ Employment
☐ Sale of goods and services
☐ Cultural performances
☐ Farming and agritourism
☐ Education and learning opportunities
☐ Infrastructure development
☐ Transport services

☐ Craft production and sale
☐ Other, specify: .....

3. Has tourism contributed to improvement in your household income?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

4. To what extent has tourism contributed to improvement in community livelihoods?

☐ To a great extent
☐ To a moderate extent
☐ To a low extent
☐ Not at all

5. What benefits have you or your household personally gained from tourism activities?

.....

.....

SECTION E: Challenges Affecting Tourism Development

1. Which challenges affect tourism development in your area?
Tick all that apply.

☐ Lack of tourism awareness
☐ Poor infrastructure
☐ Limited government support
☐ Lack of funding
☐ Underdeveloped tourism products
☐ Insecurity
☐ Environmental degradation
☐ Other, specify: .....

2. How serious are the challenges affecting tourism development?

☐ Very serious
☐ Serious
☐ Moderate
☐ Not serious

3. Are you aware of any policies, programmes or support systems promoting tourism development in your area?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not aware

4. What solutions would you recommend for improving tourism development in Kakumiro District?

.....

.....

.....

SECTION F: General Opinion

1. Do you support further development of tourism in Kakumiro District?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please explain your answer.

.....

.....

2. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding tourism development in Kakumiro District?

.....

.....

.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Appendix III: Key Informant Interview Guide

The interview guide was intended for district officials, tourism officers, cultural leaders, local council leaders, representatives of non-governmental organisations, religious leaders and community leaders with knowledge of tourism resources and development in Kakumiro District.

Introduction

Dear Respondent,

My name is Elizabeth Nyakato, a student at Makerere University pursuing an undergraduate degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management. I conducted a study on tourism development and its contribution to community livelihoods in Kakumiro District as part of my academic requirements.

You were selected as a key informant because of your knowledge, professional role or experience relating to tourism, community development, cultural heritage or local governance in Kakumiro District. Your participation is voluntary, and the information provided will be treated confidentially and used strictly for academic purposes. You may decline to answer any question or withdraw from the interview at any time.

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Section A: Key Informant Profile

1. Name of respondent (optional):

2. Position/Title:

3. Organisation/Institution:

4. Sub-county/Area of operation:

5. Number of years of experience in this area:

Section B: Existing Tourism Resources

6. What types of tourism resources exist in Kakumiro District?

7. What specific tourism attractions are found within your area of operation?

8. How would you describe the current condition and management of these tourism resources?

9. Are these tourism resources formally documented or recognised by the relevant authorities? Please explain.

Section C: Tourism Development Potential

10. In your opinion, does Kakumiro District have potential for tourism development? Why or why not?

11. What factors make Kakumiro District attractive or unattractive for tourism development?

12. How would you assess the current level of infrastructure supporting tourism, including roads, accommodation, water, electricity and communication services?

13. Are there any ongoing or planned tourism development initiatives in the district? Please describe them.

14. What role does the local government and other stakeholders currently play in tourism development?

Section D: Contribution to Community Livelihoods

15. In what ways do tourism resources contribute to the livelihoods of local communities in Kakumiro District?

16. Can you provide examples of individuals, households or groups that currently benefit from tourism-related activities?

17. To what extent has tourism contributed to improvement in the socio-economic conditions of communities in the district?

18. Are there any community-based tourism initiatives operating in Kakumiro District? If yes, please explain how they operate.

Section E: Challenges Affecting Tourism Development

19. What are the major challenges hindering tourism development in Kakumiro District?

20. How do these challenges affect tourism growth and the benefits received by communities?

21. Are there any policy, financial or institutional gaps affecting tourism development in the district? Please explain.

Section F: Strategies and Future Direction

22. What strategies would you recommend for improving tourism development in Kakumiro District?

23. What roles should the government, private sector and local communities play in promoting tourism development?

24. What is your vision for tourism development in Kakumiro District over the next 5–10 years?

25. Do you have any additional comments or recommendations regarding tourism development in Kakumiro District?