# ROLE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN FOREST CONSERVATION.

# A CASE STUDY OF BWINDI FOREST NATIONAL PARK

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## A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITED TO THE COLLEGE OF ECONOMICS AND

# MANAGEMENT IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

# FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN TOURISM

# AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT OF KAMPALA

# INTERNATIONAL

# UNIVERSITY

# SEPTEMBER, 2017

# DECLARATION

I KAKAI DOREEN BEATRICE declare that this report is my original work and has not been submitted for any other award of a degree and published at any institution of higher learning.

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Sign: \_

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## **APPROVAL**

This dissertation: "Role of local communities in forest conservation. A case study of Bwindi Forest National Park" has been done under my close supervision and is now ready for submission to the Department of Leisure and Hospitality Management as a requirement for partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Tourism and Hotel Management of Kampala International University.

Sign:

Date: 37 10 2017.

**EUNICE OGWARO** 

## **DEDICATION**

I sincerely dedicate this dissertation to my dear beloveds Mr. Othieno Chrisostom, Okwero Dennis, Odoi Joseph, Jaajo Grace, Nangaka Moses, Owomugisha Margret, Munga Christine, for their love and continued moral support they have rendered to me throughout all hardships in life.

All my success goes to you.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Great thanks to The Almighty GOD who has frequently sustained me in perfect health, wisdom and in strength till the successful completion of my dissertation. I bless the name of the LORD.

My gratitude goes to Madam Eunice Ogwaro, my research supervisor for the time she gave me, academic professional guidance and advice in organizing this work into its present state. May the Almighty God reward her abundantly.

I do appreciate the great work of my university lecturers at the Faculty of Business and Management especially, Mr. Tusiime Nicholas, Mrs. Kasozi sharifa for their guidance and continuous support they have always offered to me.

My gratitude is also extended to my family and friends for their financial support, advice and encouragements towards the all entire course.

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

JFM -	Joint Forestry Management
BINP-	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
QENP -	Queen Elizabeth National Park
GDP -	Gross Domestic Product
NEMA-	National Environmental Management Authority
PFM -	Participatory Forest Management
NGO -	Non-Governmental Organization
LC1 -	Local council 1
CBO -	Community Based Organization
N P -	National Park
CF -	Community Forestry

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# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides an introduction to the research on the role of local communities in forest conservation, a case study of Bwindi forest national park. This section presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, specific objectives, research questions, and significance of the study as seen below;

#### 1.1 Background of the study

According to Willy (2002), Participatory Forest Management (PFM) is being adopted widely in many developing countries as an alternative method of managing forestry resources. PFM is increasingly being used as an approach through which to achieve the sustainability of threatened forests and conservation of biodiversity. This is done through a process of inclusion, equity and democratization of the governance of the forest resources (Amanor, 2003). According to (ILO 2000), promoting public participation has become an issue of growing importance in worldwide forestry policies. In Kenya, Participatory Forest Management (PFM) is a relatively new concept that has been as a result of the government recognition of the critical role to be played by forest adjacent communities in ensuring that tree cover in the country increases from the current 2% to the recommended 10% (Menr, 2007). This stemmed from the pressing need not only to increase forest cover but to also reduce forest destruction. The Forest Act (2005) was passed which applies Participatory Forest Management (PFM) principles to all public, private, and local authority forests and this has been a tremendous achievement for the local communities (Ongugo et al, 2007).

Different motivations dominated in different countries towards forest management. In Nepal and India community forestry programs were initially conceived to reverse degradation of national forests, which could not be managed and protected effectively by state forestry services (Springate-Baginski et al 2003; Khare et al 2000). This was also one of the motivations for the establishment of the first village-owned forest reserves in Tanzania (and perhaps in Africa), described by Wily (1995). Rural poverty alleviation was a further motivation behind Leasehold Forestry in Nepal and Joint Forest Management in India (Thoms et al, 2003; Khare et al, 2000). Increasing local associated with governmental

decentralization programs, such as in Honduras and Bolivia where responsibility for forest management and for increasing levels.

Local community involvement is one of the domains of community capacity building and in term of forest conservation. It is one of the mechanisms to empower people to take part in natural resource conservation. Community involvement is an essential part in natural resource conservation, which allows involvement of people in the different stages of decision making (McNaughton& Jacobs, 2007). It was launched as a key concept of tourism development. Increased community involvement is a mean to achieve community capacity to resolve conservation problems. The World Bank recognized the lack of community participation as a reason for failure of many conservation attempts in developing countries (World Bank, 1993).

Local community involvement can be an important factor for community capacity building in tourism development. Without community participation, there are obviously no partnerships, no developments, and no conservation programs. Ashley & Roe, (1998) describe community participation as a spectrum from passive to active involvement to full local participation, where there is active community participation and venture ownership. It should be noted that community participation often means the involvement of people or community with the government or state. However, this study emphasizes the participation of the community as an involvement of local people in conservation of natural resources. Lehtinen,(2009).

According to Ademola, (2010). Conservation and development were rarely taken as compatible, especially for the rural poor (local community) whose livelihood largely depends on direct utilization of natural resources. Today, the Ugandan government has increasingly sought to integrate rural community development with conservation in order to ensure improved natural resource management. For threatened resources that require increasing protection,

It has been done through revisiting both specific property rights regimes and devising suitable management strategies, stressing the importance of the two concepts in realizing sustainable development. Ugandan Government, with the help of international funding bodies, have embarked on two major ways of combating the "hostility" of communities towards protected areas, while promoting conservation. These are the involvement of the local communities in the management of protected areas; and fostering the emergence of either rural environmental

projects (with conservation as the primary objective) or development projects (conservation as a secondary objective), through government agencies, NGO initiatives and other organized groups.

Uganda is a country of exceptional diversity, containing the zone of overlap between the East African Savannah and West African rainforests. The country has varied habitats, which support a diversity of plant and animal life, making Uganda rank among the top ten countries in the world in terms of animal and plant diversity, and specifically diversity of the mammalian species. More than 18,783 species are known or have been recorded in Uganda. The country is also privileged because of the forest in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, known as the Albertan Right of Regional Endemism. The environment is the basis for economic and social development. All three aspects must be in balance for economic growth. Wildlife and other biological resources make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of humanity. This is in terms of food, commercial activities, medicine, energy, shelter and social and aesthetic values.

The environment and natural resources sector contribute 54.4% of the total GDP in 1998 and 32% of the monetary and 84% of non-monetary. The nonmonetary contribution accrues to Ugandans rural poor. In economic terms, wildlife conservation has been mainly viewed in the light of tourism and its contribution to GDP. Whenever the national economic situation is being assessed, environmental values such as contribution of wildlife conservation and habitat are excluded. The contribution of the sub sector to economic growth is significantly undervalued, leading to low prioritization by the government. In the last 30 years, wildlife has been severely threatened and their population reduced by poaching and habitat degradation. Wildlife is under increasing pressure of encroachment as a result of the growing human population in the country, estimated at approximately 3% per annum. Ecotourism conserves the natural environment and improves the wellbeing of the local population. There are many examples in Uganda of this type of tourism contributing not only to the protection of valuable natural resource but also benefiting the local population and national economy. Ecotourism is contributing towards the conservation of mountain gorillas and other species in Uganda as well as improving the wellbeing of the local population who live near the park. Ecotourism can mean different things to different groups involved in the relationship between tourism and environment if it is to be recognized as a legitimate sector of tourism and environment. If it is to be recognized as a legitimate sector of tourism industry, it must be

defined to universal satisfaction. Broadly speaking it refers to tourism that is based on nature but that seeks to minimize harmful impact and better still, seeks to promote conservation.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park lies in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. Its mist-covered hillsides are blanketed by one of Uganda's oldest and most biologically diverse rainforests, which dates back over 25,000 years and contains almost 400 species of plants. More famously, this "impenetrable forest" also protects an estimated 400 mountain gorillas – roughly half of the world's population, including several habituated groups, which can be tracked. This biologically diverse region also provides shelter to a further 120 mammals, including several primate species such as baboons and chimpanzees, as well as elephants and antelopes. There are around 350 species of birds hosted in this forest, including 23 Albertine Rift endemics. The neighboring towns of Buhoma and Nkuringo both have an impressive array of luxury lodges, rustic bandas and budget campsites, as well as restaurants, craft stalls and guiding services. Opportunities abound to discover the local Bakiga and Batwa Pygmy cultures through performances, workshops and village walks.

In 1932, two blocks of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest were designated as Crown Forest Reserves. The northern block was designated as the "Kayonza Crown Forest Reserve", and the southern block designated as the "Kasatora Crown Forest Reserve". These reserves had a combined area of 207 square kilometers. In 1942, the two Crown Forest Reserves were combined and enlarged, and renamed the Impenetrable Central Crown Forest. This new protected area covered an area of 298 square kilometers and was under the joint control of the Ugandan government's game and forest departments.

In 1964, the reserve was designated as an animal sanctuary in order to provide extra protection to its mountain gorillas and renamed the Impenetrable Central Forest Reserve. In 1966, two other forest reserves became part of the main reserve, increasing its area to almost 321 square kilometers. The park continued to be managed as both a game sanctuary and forest reserve. In 1991, Impenetrable Central Forest Reserve along with Mgahinga Gorilla Reserve and Rwenzori Mountains Reserve was designated as a national park and renamed Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It covered an area of 330.8 square kilometers. The national park was declared in part to protect a range of species within it, most notably the mountain gorilla. Gorilla tracking became a tourist activity in April 1993, and the park

became a popular tourist destination. In 1994, it was inscribed on the World Heritage List and a 10 square kilometer area was incorporated into the park. The park's management changed: Uganda National Parks, since renamed Uganda Wildlife Authority, became responsible for the park. In 2003 a piece of land next to the park with an area of 4.2 square kilometers was purchased and incorporated into the park.

#### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The rate at which natural forest resources are being harvested is unsustainable markedly in recent years. This is largely due to involvement of the local community both positively and negatively due to population, standards of living, levels of education, cultural values and traditions. This is according to (Koch, 2010; Tosun, 2009).

There has been a decline in the rate of natural forest harvest at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Thus a need to find out how the local communities have impacted on the forest conservation. This is because their ways of living conserve the forest in question as well as destroying it. (Blackstock, 2010),

#### 1.3 Purpose of the Study.

The purpose of this study was to analyze the impact of local communities in forest conservation, case study Bwindi Forest National park in Uganda.

#### 1.4 Objectives of the Study

#### **1.4.1 General Objectives**

To analyze the role of local communities in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park.

#### 1.4.2 Specific Objectives

 To determine the major indigenous practices used by the local community around Bwindi Forest National parks in forest conservation.

ii). To Examine the ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park.

i). To identify the major barriers to forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park.

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## **1.5 Research Questions**

- ii). What are the major indigenous practices used around Bwindi Forest National parks in forest conservation?
- iii). What are the ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park?
- iv). What are the Barriers to community participation in forest conservation in developing countries like Uganda?

#### 1.6 Scope of the study

#### 1.6.1 Subject scope

The study focused on indigenous practices used in forest conservation such as medicinal plants, to examine the ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation and to identify the major barriers to community involved in forest conservation from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### 1.6.2. Time scope

The study focused on the operations of a period of 2009-2012 because during this period there was a lot of unsustainable harvest from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. (Ademola, 2010). Conservation and development were rarely taken as compatible, especially for the rural poor (local community) whose livelihood largely depends on direct utilization of natural resources.

#### 1.6.2 Geographical scope

The research is carried out at Bwindi forest conservation area in Western Uganda. Bwindi Forest National Park is located in Kiruhura District in Western Uganda. The park is situated about 30 kilometres (19 mi), by road, east of Mbarara, the largest city in the sub-region. This location is approximately 240 kilometres (150 mi), by road, west of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city. The coordinates of the park are: 00 36S, 30 57E (Latitude: 0.6000; Longitude: 30.9500).

#### 1.7 Significance of the Study

The findings will benefit academicians such as students and teachers, government planners like NEMA, Participatory Forest Management, NGO's and the local communities.

The findings of the study will enable government organizations like NEMA, PFM to conserve the forested areas and other natural resources.

The findings will also enable the government to reduce the negative impacts of local communities on the resources of Bwindi Forest National Park

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# CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents a review of related literature of the study. It therefore stresses various themes from the study objectives including the major indigenous practices used by the local community around Bwindi Forest National parks in forest conservation. The factors influencing community participation in conservation of Bwindi forest national park and the major barriers hindering local communities in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park

## 2.1 Community Participation in Forestry Conservation Projects

The concept of participation originally grew out of criticism of the mainstream development projects of the 1960s and 1970s where critics asked why development projects often did not lead to the expected results and came to the conclusion that the problem was lack of people's participation. Too many projects, it was argued, were designed and implemented without debate and co-operation with people whose lives were to be changed by the projects.

The World Bank defines participation as a process through which stakeholder's influence and share control over development initiatives and the decision and resources which affect them (World Bank). As indicated by Lise (2000) in Phiri (2009) participation consists of three components, namely contribution to, benefiting from and involvement in decision making and evaluation.

Participation means that a project is the direct outcome of people's own initiatives. Real participation is when people are involved in the planning, organization and decision making of a project from the very beginning in order that the project fits their needs and capabilities.

Participation is not a guarantee for success but the outcome depends on additional factors such as the institutional and legal backing provided by the governments and their agencies which play significant roles in participatory processes by providing an enabling environment for these processes to fully develop.

The active involvement of local communities in forest management and use, popularly known as Community Forestry (CF), has become one of the popular approaches for sustainable forest management. In Nepal, the CF policy emerged in 1970 after a failure of the previous forest policy to halt deforestation and by a realization of the need for a forest management responsive to and built upon local needs and the indigenous systems. (Macnus Phil 2006)

Participatory processes help stakeholders to appreciate each other goals and perspectives thereby facilitating communication even if the concerned parties fail to resolve a particular problem (Scott, 2008). The process builds local capacities for managing natural resources and for negotiating locally relevant environmental development. It also facilitates better targeting of benefits to the voiceless and the poor through identification of key stakeholders. Increased public participation could promote consensus building which is necessary at all levels in priority setting and decision making. Involving people in the design and implementation of policies and strategies for environmental management is crucial on both ethical and sustainability grounds. Ethically, people should be free to choose the direction of their development and to influence the means by which they subsist since they are the ones who bear the consequences of their decisions. Experience has revealed that environmental management initiatives that exclude affected parties from policy making have proven to be unsustainable.

In India, the concept of people participation in management of forests is known as Joint Forestry Management (JFM). The National Forest Policy of 1988 recommended involvement of people in forest conservation and management as a major means of putting off impending ecological crises and providing the benefits of these efforts directly to the people.

There is great need for interactive community participation in natural resource conservation to enhance the sense of ownership in local communities that inhabit the margins of forested landscapes (Scott, 2008). Inclusion of local people in forest management is premised on the realization that sustainable development involves increasing the potential of rural people to influence and control the means by which they earn their livelihoods on a long term basis.

The poor conservation outcomes that followed decades of intrusive resource management strategies and planned development have forced policy makers and scholars to reconsider the role of community in resource use and conservation.

If community participation is to be enhanced, greater emphasis should be placed on understanding the perspectives of the different stakeholders. Historically, the relationship between members of local communities and the institutions mandated with natural resource management has been characterized by suspicion, punitive measures and limited dialogue.

There is need for forums where government officials and community representatives can discuss their expectations of increased community participation.

Presently, a number of NGOs, CBOs and voluntary organizations are making good strides in enlightening the common citizen on laws and their rights. The trend towards prioritizing greater local participation in conservation stems in part from the belief that local involvement could reduce hostility towards conservation efforts and that restricting local access without offering an alternative is morally irresponsible. (Stem et al 2002)

Wildlife and forest conservation approaches based on conservationist communities their entitlement to what they considered theirs. Conflicts between protected area management and local economic developments have intensified in many parts. This demands conservation approaches that also protect the rights of the people who world live in and around these protected areas. It is therefore imperative that the protected area

Contribute to meeting the needs of the local communities. (Njogu 2004). Wildlife and forest conservation approaches based on protectionism which embraces preservation and protection have denied local communities their entitlement rights to what they considered theirs. The worldwide establishment and expansion of wildlife and forest conservation areas has the unintended consequence of displacing people and cutting them off from their principle source of social and economic livelihood. The state control of and the total exclusion of local communities and indigenous people from protected wildlife and forest areas not only disrupted the socio economic systems but also the old-age ant time tested practices that are known to be beneficial to natural ecosystems. Consequently, management approaches based on local participation have sprung up particularly in developing countries.

These approaches have an interest in local-level solutions to resource problems and in changing local institutional arrangements. They do so by conferring specific rights as incentives in order to stimulate local participation in the conservation efforts.

The community based conservation approach to biodiversity conservation was entrenched following the UNCED consensus that the implementation of sustainable development should be based on local level solutions derived from community initiatives. Agenda 21 advocates a

natural resource management approach that ensures community participation which is to be achieved through government decentralization and devolution to local communities of the responsibility of the natural resource held as commons (Njogu 2004).

# 2.2 Community participation and development initiatives in development of tourism attractions in Uganda

Community participation has become a common element in many development initiatives, such as community-based programmes, which assume participatory methods and has been promoted by development organizations, notably the World Bank, to address the inefficiency of highly centralized development approaches particularly in the developing world. (Kweka, J. and Ngowi, D. 2007).

Today, many development initiatives solicit the participation of all concerned stakeholders, at the relevant level, not only for the sake of efficiency and equity of the programmes, leverage of donors and demands of local communities, but also for sustainability of these initiatives (Ribot, 2004). Consequently, the real outcome for soliciting such community participation is to create and produce an enabling environment needed by these stakeholders, especially local communities who have been vulnerable to negative impacts of tourism attributed partly to the fact that many tourism resources occur in their areas, to have a real stake in development activities (Koster, R. and Randall, J. E, 2015).

This requires involving local communities in decision-making and strengthening their ability to act for themselves. One approach to achieve this is "through investments in human capital, such as education and health, investments in social capital such as local-level institutions and participatory processes, and support for community based development efforts planned and implemented from bottom up" (Havel, 1996, p.145). However, given the fact that the central point underlying people's participation may be the degree of power distribution, these efforts are less likely to succeed unless responsive institutions and the legal and policy framework that facilitate and support local participation are in place. (Kamugisha and Stahl, 2009).

# 2.3 Major indigenous practices of the local people around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation in Uganda

#### 2.3.1 Definition of Indigenous

The word indigenous refers to the local/ traditional practices. Indigenous knowledge for 1000's of years has been used by local people in Africa, Asia and Latin America to sustain themselves to the maintenance of their cultural identity. The history of indigenous environmental knowledge began with a systematic investigation with a series of study on the terminologies that people of different cultures used to classify and name objects within their natural and social environment where by all cultures recognized natural classes of animals and plants and the traditional cultures also were concerned with classification of their environments as the case of Western scientists (Kibicho, W. 2013), these were used to conserve the forests and wildlife.

The following are some of the indigenous practices that conserve forestry in Bwindi Impenetrable National park.

#### 2.3.2 Honey harvesting

Honey harvesting as an activity facilitates the growth of trees which are necessary for support of bee hives and also act as a habitation of bees. Such an activity forces the people in buffer zones to conserve the tress and forests at large, this is because bee keeping is an eco-friendly activity within the reserve is also one of the controlled activities permitted in the buffer zone. Some community-based organizations are involved in bee keeping which is an eco-friendly in this way both tree and animal species are conserved. income generating activity and needs to be promoted further. (Kibicho, W. 2013).

#### 2.3.3 Traditional teachings and stories about forests.

Li, Y. (2011) asserts that the traditional teachings and stories were always passed on from one generation to another through story-telling, a form of informal education, and would be recited around the fire places soon after meals or during food preparations and they were recited by the old people.

Traditionally, parents, elders, guardians and older children were charged with the responsibility of ensuring that children are equipped with the basic cultural informal

education through story telling example in Nyaruguru. Topics like totems and cultural beliefs about forests encouraged forest conservation.

#### 2.3.4 Totems as a means of conservation

According to Reed, (2008), Conservation ethics are mainly embodied within their daily cultural practices and customs. For example, the study found out that, in all the communities at clan level, people had totems in form of an animal. Each clan has a different animal and these totems include: elephants, red tailed monkeys, lions, bushbucks, duikers, Uganda leopard, crested crane. These totems are regarded as a member of kin, such as a sister or a brother, that one is prohibited from mistreating, killing or even eating. The logic behind these totems ensures that animal species of one's totem, which live near him/her, will not be killed. The more clans exist, the more animal/bird totems are protected and thus conservation of their habitat which are forests in this case. (Luvanga, N, 2013).

#### 2.3.5 Taboos/beliefs

In Uganda communities that lived around the forestreserves used beliefs/ taboos as a way of conserving wildlife. In relation to wildlife management, many natural/cultural beliefs concerning conservation are practiced. Whoever is found guilty of committing "a taboo" is required to undergo a ritual cleansing. These taboos include: killing a pregnant animal; killing big animals like elephants, buffaloes, hippopotamus, gorillas, Chimpanzee; in the case of the last two, because they resemble humans, killing a chimpanzee is permissible if the chimpanzee has raped a woman. It is also believed that cat family (lions, leopard, cheetah, serval, caracal and golden cats) "have bad spirit and that if a man kills one, all the children born in his family will die. It is an offence to cut a big tree species for the sake of honey, rather one has to climb or use a Ladder. Urinating or defecating in water body like rivers and is also a taboo. It was also noted that the Basongora tribe have a very strong taboo on wild meat; they still believe that if they eat bush meat, it brings bad omen to the cows (Manyara, G. 2007).

Taboos such as these act as conservation management tools that control and check people's behavior, and attitudes towards wildlife. They also instill in them the respect and love for wildlife and make them aware that their survival and continuity are intertwined with wildlife conservation. These traditional by-laws help to protect the wildlife resources that are seen today in these Protected Areas (Hanna & Munasinghe, 1995).

#### 2.3.6 Fishing

Fishing, as a means of subsistence, is carried out by the head of the family on the shallow shores of lakes Edward, Kazinga channel in QENP and rivers Munyaga in BINP with the use of spear-like tools and dome cylindrical troughs and hooks to catch the fish. This limits the number of family members who go for cultivation and pastoralism which negatively affects the forest resources. (Ndyakira Amooti, 2006).

#### 2.3.7 Medicinal plants:

The tradition of using and maintaining non-domesticated plants in house gardens is an expression of culture, and represents an intense interaction between humans and plants, Redzuan, (2010). The Preservation of plant diversity is directly related to local knowledge, practices and closely linked with microeconomic and social processes. Human beings play a role in maintaining selected plant species, providing botanical refuges and serving as an active force in shaping the landscape. Sultana &Abeyasekera, (2008), Traditional knowledge can make a significant contribution to sustainable development as these indigenous and local communities are situated in areas where the vast majority of the world's plant genetic resources are found. Many of them have cultivated and used plant diversity in a sustainable way for thousands of years. Examples of this medicinal plants are Piper guineense (Rukokota) Rytigyniakingeziensis (Nyakibazi) Prunusafricana (Omumba) Myrianthushoistii (Omufa) Triumfettamacrophylla (Omunaba) Basella alba (Enderema) Bersamaabysiinica (Omukaka) Croton macrostachys(Omurangara) Sericostachysscandens (Omuna) the above medicinal plants are mention in both English and local language. Tosun, C. (2001).

#### 2.3.8 Witchcraft and cultural rituals

Forests are associated with rituals that can heal /punish people. Some trees are believed for giving fertility, blessing the community with fortunes or luck and the case applies to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park certain initiations like marriage, oaths, are carried out in these forests and therefore the local community have an attachment to this forest in terms of leaving and therefore they play a bigger role in ensuring the continuity of these forests thus forest conservation. (Stewart, 1992).

However, the local communities have also negatively impacted on the forest through; bush burning and cultivation, hunting, grazing and deforestation.

# 2.4 The ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park

There are various ways through which communities can be involved in forestry conservation so as to attract their support and participation which in turn enhance development of the industry. This section will focus on and compare two factors: involvement in the forest conservation decision-making process; and employment opportunities. Communities can participate in the decision-making process (Zhao and Ritchie, 2007; Li, 2005; Li, 2004; Tosun, 2000; Chok and Macbeth, 2007). One of the key underlying principles of pro-poor tourism clearly declares that local communities "must participate in forest conservation decisions if their livelihood priorities are to be reflected in the way tourism is developed" (Chok and Macbeth, 2007). This can be achieved through engaging local communities as members in the public and forest conservation related decision making bodies.

Community participation via decision-making is a crucial determinant to ensure that the benefits local communities get from forest conservation are guaranteed, and their lifestyles and values are respected. However, this approach is rarely found in developing countries (Tosun, 2001; Li, 2005). Building on the same argument, Kibicho (2003) in his study about community forest conservation in Kenya, further noted that local communities had the feeling that they were not fully involved in their country's coastal forest conservation, especially in decisions regarding its development, despite the fact that the industry has impacts on their well-being. In his study about the nature of community participation expected by the local community in Turkey, Tosun (2001) observed that the local community needs to be part and parcel of the decision making body through consultation by elected and appointed local government agencies or by a committee elected by the public specifically for developing and managing forest conservation issues.

It is however, important to note that community participation in decision making is not only desirable but also necessary so as to maximize the socio-economic benefits of forest conservation for the community. It is perhaps one of the most important elements of forest management to enable communities who often serve as tourist destinations and for that matter suffer from the negative impacts of forest conservation, to get involved and eventually participate in planning decisions regarding tourism development. This is important in order to create better handling of the negative impacts of forest conservation development (Li, 2004; Tosun, 2000). Much of the literature seems to support the idea that if local communities want to benefit from tourism they must be integrated into the decision-making process.

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However, Li, Y. (2011), while studying community decision-making participation in forest conservation development in Sichuan Province, China, pointed out that there was weak local participation in the decision-making process yet local communities received satisfactory benefits from forest conservation. It is equally important to note, therefore, that integration of local communities into the decision-making process is "not a final goal itself" but only one of the many ways through which community participation can be achieved.

Another way to involve and attract community participation and ultimately their support in forest conservation development is through local job creation (Zhao and Ritchie, 2007). Since forest conservation offers better labour-intensive and small scale opportunities (Chok and Macbeth, 2007; Scheyvens, 2007) and since it happens in the community, arguably, it is thought to be one of the best placed potential sources of employment opportunities for local communities, inclusive of women and the informal sector (Blank, 1989; Li, 2005; Johannesen and Skonhoft, 2005; Scheyvens, 2007). Community participation via employment opportunities, as workers or as small business operators, can be a catalyst to the development of forest conservation products and services, arts, crafts and cultural values, especially through taking advantage of abundant natural and cultural assets available in communities in developing countries (Scheyvens, 2007). Tosun (2001) stressed that community participation through working in the forest conservation industry has been recognized to help local communities not only to support development of the industry but also to receive more than economic benefits.

Apart from participation in the decision making process, or simply, apart from the high need by local people to be consulted about local tourism development issues, Kibicho (2003) further identified that 88.6% of 236 members of the local community who participated in his study stated that encouraging local people to invest in, operate small scale businesses, and work for the conservationists is a suitable means for community participation. This is in line with Tosun (2000) who underlined that in many developing countries community participation through employment as workers in the industry or through encouraging them to operate small scale business, "has been recognized to help local communities get more economic benefits rather than creating opportunities for them to have a say in decision making process of tourism development". Zhao and Ritchie (2007) added that communities, as a way of participation and as the input of the local workforce, may pursue conservation-

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related economic activities as paid or self-employed workers. While participation through employment has more direct impacts on the lives of poor households, it is arguably a useful way to curb poverty at the household level since it diverts economic benefits forest conservation brings directly to the family level (Zhao and Ritchie, 2007).

#### 2.5 Barriers to community participation in forest conservation in Uganda

Various researchers have examined community participation and identified a number of interrelated barriers that prevent effective local communities' involvement and participation in forest conservation (Tosun, 2000; Manyara and Jones, 2007; Cole, 2006).

The overall outcome of such barriers is often the communities' limited enthusiasm towards the industry thereby resulting in little benefits that trickle down to the grass-roots, the local community (Kamugisha, J.R. And Stahl, M. (2009).

Tosun (2000) identified a wide range of obstacles to community participation in the context of developing countries. He categorised these obstacles into operational, cultural and structural limitations. Those categorized as operational limitations include the centralization of public administration of forestry development, lack of co-ordination between involved parties and lack of information made available to the local people of the tourist destination as attributed to, but not limited to, insufficient data and poor dissemination of information. Under these conditions, low public involvement in the tourism development process is obvious as people are not well-informed. Those categorized as structural impediments include institutional, power structure, legislative, and economic systems. They mostly impact negatively on the emergence and implementation of the participatory tourism development approach. And those identified as cultural limitations include limited capacity of the poor to effectively handle development.

The fact that the majority of people in developing countries struggle to meet their basic and felt needs and that mere survival occupies all their time and consumes their energy, implies that getting closely involved in issues of community concern such as community participation in which often forest conservation demands time, may be a luxury that they cannot afford. On the other side of the coin, apathy and a low level of awareness in the local community is generally accepted. While a low level of interest in taking part in matters beyond their immediate family domain (apathy) can be partly attributed to many years or centuries of

exclusion from socio-cultural, economic and political affairs that impact their dignity, a low level of awareness of such issues stops the poor from demanding that their needs be accommodated by the institutions which serve them (Stahl, M. 2009).

Cole (2006), while focusing on spontaneous community participation, which is the highest level of community participation (Figure 1), identified a number of barriers that make active local community participation hard to achieve in forest conservation. Lack of ownership, capital, skills, knowledge and resources all constrain the ability of communities to fully control their participation in tourism development. In addition to lack of skills, knowledge, ownership of forest resources, Manyara and Jones (2007) further identified that elitism, empowerment and involvement, leakage of revenue, partnerships, access to tourists, transparency in benefit-sharing, and lack of an appropriate policy framework to support the development of community initiatives have significant impacts on community participation in the industry. These obstacles all together, which are in fact similar to but presented differently in Tosun's work, collectively make it difficult for the local community to participate in the conservation activities. Nonetheless, one approach to ensure that local communities can overcome those barriers and ultimately participate actively in forest conservation is to empower them (Van der Duim et al, 2006; Zhao and Ritchie, 2007; Tosun, 2001).

### 2.6 Communities benefits from development of tourism attractions in Uganda

In reference to Bwindi Forest National Park-Uganda, communities around these Protected Areas have benefited in many ways which included: employment opportunities; market for their produce; support to schools and hospitals; improved social amenities; improved transport network; international friendship; scholarship to students, 20% revenue sharing from park entry fees; 5% of the Gorilla levy fund for the case of LMNP; multiple use programme; community based Conservation; free entrance; discount to schools and organized groups; conservation and environmental education; economic development; development of towns/centers; climate modification; and foreign exchange among others(Luvanga, N. and Shitundu, J. 2013).

#### 2.7 Conclusion

The literature has revealed that community participation has become a key element in many developments of tourist attraction projects and that the concept has its roots in development studies. Furthermore, it has underlined that forest conservation is a well-placed poverty

reduction tool that if used properly can contribute significantly in efforts towards poverty alleviation, especially in developing countries. While involvement and participation of communities in forest conservation can be viewed in the decision-making process and in the sharing of tourism benefits, community participation through employment brings more economic benefits directly to the household level which, in turn, can be used to alleviate widespread poverty. To achieve this, the literature has suggested that an 'enabling environment' that encourages and empowers community participation is required.

# CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter covers the background against which data is gathered. It discusses the research design, study population, sample size and selection, sources of data, data collection methods and instruments, data processing and analysis and limitations of the study.

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study used both quantitative and qualitative. A cross-section research design was employed by the researcher. Under quantitative design, the data was collected was analyzed interms of numbers like population. Due to the anticipated limited data like minimizing the respondent's representative to the population, the researcher used qualitative research which was used highly structured interview instruments to collect data. The qualitative research helped me to describe the direct observation I found in the human behavior in a detailed manner.

#### **3.2 Population Size**

The population size of the study was 500 respondents of which they are key informants such as forest officers, community leaders, community Based Organization (CBO) leaders and community members living adjacent to the Bwindi Forest National Park.

#### 3.3 Area of Study

The **Bwindi Impenetrable National Park** (BINP) is in south-western Uganda. The park is part of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and is situated along the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border next to the Virunga National Park and on the edge of the Albertine Rift. Composed of 331 square kilometres (128 sq mi) of both montane and lowland forest, it is accessible only on foot. BINP is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-designated World Heritage Site.

Species diversity is a feature of the park. It provides habitat for 120 species of mammals, 348 species of birds, 220 species of butterflies, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos, and many endangered species. Floristically, the park is among the most diverse forests in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, including 163 species of trees and 104 species of ferns. The northern (low elevation) sector has many species of Guineo-Congolian flora, including two endangered species, the brown mahogany and Brazzeia longipedicellata. In particular, the area shares in the high levels of endemism of the Albertine Rift.

## 3.4 Sample size and selection

The solvent's formula, (2003) was used to determine the sample size out of a total population of 500 respondents. Sample random and purposive sampling was used as respondents were grouped according to departments. This procedure was less costly and time saving. Each respondent had an equal chance of being selected.

Category	Population	Sample size
Forest officers	25	10
Police constables	20	10
Local community members	360	147
community Based Organization (CBO) leaders	15	10
community leaders	222	42
Total	500	222

	T	able	1:	Po	pulation	and	Sample	size	of	res	pon	dent	S
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Source: Primary Data, 2017.

3.4.1. Sample selection using Solvent's formula,

n = \_\_\_\_N

 $1 + N(e)^{2}$ 

Where n =sample size

n = population of the study

1 = constant

e = level of significance

Therefore;

n = 500 1 + 500 (0.0025) = 500 1 + 1.25

= 500

2.25

n= 222 respondents

# **3.5 Source of data collection Primary data**

Primary data was collected using various methods that were, interview and observation methods. All sources in general were treated and assessed as of high quality and the diversity of sources and nature of records was in accordance with the multifaceted and holistic approach of this study.

# Secondary data

Secondary data was collected from journals, articles, books (published and non-published) and authors that had written about the same topic and related literatures and topics of the different authors and researchers. For purposes of this study, secondary data was collected through the use of a literature survey.

## **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

- i. There was need to acquire an introductory letter of authorization from the university which introduced her to the officials and staff of Bwindi Forest National park so as to conduct her research in their park.
- ii. The participants were asked to assign a sign-off sheet to prove that they have fully accepted to take part in this study with their consent.
- iii. The participants were assured of confidentiality and that the information given to her will only be used for study purposes.

# 3.7 Data Collection methods and instruments

### 3.7.1 Interview

During the study interviews were used and these involved asking directly face to face the respondents in Bwindi Forest National park and direct answers ought to be given to back to me. Interview schedules were also used especially when she needed more information from respondents from the park once they are suspected to have more additional information relevant for the study.

#### **3.7.2 Questionnaires**

This method was conducted using self-administered questionnaires with both open ended questions and the closed-ended questions. In open-ended form, questionnaires were used to get information from park settlers, and management governing the park. Open ended and closed questionnaires were used and administered to selected households living near Ntugi Hill forests. The respondents included farmers (pastoralists and agrarian), staff members of organizations within Bwindi forest N.P area and Forestry department staffs. The questionnaires sought to assess the benefits and constraints of community participation in local forest management.

In close ended form, the researcher used questionnaires to get all responses from the respondents. The respondents were determined and guided by the research questions to the respondents to avoid irrelevant information from the respondents.

This method was good especially when the respondents who tend to be busy doing their work and have little time to attend to external duty and this was solved by designing interview schedule to meet the respondents' time.

#### **3.7.3 Observations**

The community engagement in various activities was greatly observed in terms of the different economic activities and practices they engage in to see that achievement of forest conservation.

#### **3.7.4 Documentary**

In this method of data collection, other related literature in books, brochures, journals, newspapers with some articles of role of local communities in forest conservation were consulted. Using documentary methods of data collection, the researcher was able to collect a large amount of data previously collected by others and were not published. Through this method the information that has not been analyzed was analyzed, published and presented to schools, institutes, colleges and universities about the different service provisions to tourism in different locations.

## 3.8 Data Processing and Analysis

During data processing the researcher collected information basing on the study objectives and needed to visit the library to read in different books while writing and recording the information into text form. Quantitative and qualitative research design was used to analyze data and finally, the data was encoded and edited for easy interpretation.

#### 3.8.1 Tabulation

The researcher also put data into tabular form after coding them. The tally system marks were given, designating responses to their suitable codes. The researcher then added the tally

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marks or scores under each category to establish the number of times each of the different answer was given to each category. This helped in drawing up a clear conclusion of the research findings.

#### 3.8.2 Data analysis

Data analysis is generally used to show how significant the data collected. Data was analyzed using different frequency tables and pie charts. The researcher used qualitative methods summarizing the responses from the key information into tables, percentages and others. This was done manually because of varying responses. Editing was also done by checking in the questionnaires to eliminate errors and detect omissions in all the questionnaires. The research focused on the information in the frequency tables to analyze and interpret the data.

#### **3.9 Ethical consideration**

The researcher sought permission from the Head of Department of Leisure and Hospitality management of Kampala International University and thus an introductory letter was issued to the park management or LCI governing the area around park to allow me to go ahead with the research.

#### 3.10 Limitations of the Study

The researcher conducted the research under several constraints as follows;

One major constraint might be the difficulty in convincing the park settlers and other different individuals like guides, wardens and the police to be interviewed.

Financial insufficiency was a major resource of hindrance for the researcher to successfully conduct the whole research process. This is because financing the research study might be too costly in terms of transport costs, feeding and processing of the proposal and research report.

The respondents might have lost and misplaced the questionnaires and also failed to respond to them in time. This led the researcher to move to the different areas around the park several times to get back the questionnaires of which others might be returned totally incomplete.

Limited time: Inadequate time frame required for a detailed research study. Comprehensive research study involves a great deal of collecting, analyzing and processing that requires a lot of time. Non-response: Owners of businesses might also be busy attending to their customers and rarely spared time for the researcher, which was hard for me to interrupt the working hours.

#### **CHAPTER FOUR**

### PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the statistical results that are generated from the data analysis, together with the interpretation thereof. The presentation in this chapter is guided by the research objectives and the results are generated so as to appropriately address the research objectives and questions. It includes descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and regression analysis; the findings are presented in line with the stated objectives.

## 4.2 Descriptive characteristics of the sample

This section presents the sample characteristics of the respondents such as; their gender, ages, marital status, level of education, department, positions, length of service, and the number of years the company has operated since its formation. The results are presented in Table form with generated respective frequencies and graphs.

#### **Table 2: Showing Sex of the Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	
Males	150	67.56%	
Females	72	32.43%	
Total	222	100	

Source: Field data, 2017

The results from table 2 above show that among the respondent interviewed the males dominated with a percentage rate of 67.56%, while the females had the least response rate of 32.43%. This is because the males had enough prior knowledge as regards analyzing of local communities on development of tourist attractions is these basically constituted; NGO officials, formal and informal tourism groups, environmental and community activists, tourist establishment representatives and Bwindi Forest National Park management which holds strong information as regards the study.

Figure 1: Showing Sex of the Respondents



Source: Field data, 2017

## 4.2.2Age Distribution of Respondents

Age range	Frequency	Percentage	
20-29	66	29.72%	
30-39	70 31.56%		
40-49	46	20.72%	
50-59	23	10.36%	
60+	17	7.65%	
Total	222	100	

#### **Table 3: Showing Respondents' Age Differences**

#### Source: Field data, 2017

From the above findings in the Table 3 above show that people found in the age group between 40-49 were more concerned with local communities' involvement in forest conservation as shown with the highest figure of 29 (36.25%) of the respondents who were willing to provide data about that study phenomenon. This is because this age group at least everybody has responsibilities related to the community or family members. However, 11(13.75%) of the respondents in the age group between 50-59 were willing to participate in study because at their age they are considered to have experienced a lot of scenarios related to community involvement on forest conservation in Uganda, hence in position to produce enough evidence about the study.

This was followed by 22 (27.5%) that represents age group between 30-39 years of the respondents that were willing to participate in the study because people in this this age group

most people are seriously engaged on forest conservation like national parks and are more likely to get more concern of eradicating barriers limiting development of tourist attractions like; overgrazing, deforestation, over fishing and many others, so they believed that their full participation in this study would help to improve on indigenous practices used by local communities around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation.

The minority of 12(15%) revealed the respondents that are also willing to participate in the study because most of them were more interested in protecting the area from destruction of conservation in the National Park. Finally, 6(7.5%) of the respondents were in the age group between 60 and above. These were contacted and were willing to participate in the study because of their age and their experience they have facts on the factors influencing community participation in the development of tourist attractions in Bwindi Forest National Park.

Response	Response	Percentage	
Primary	47	21.17%	
Secondary	79	35.58%	
Tertiary	90	40.45%	
None	06	2.71%	
Total	222	30	

# 4.2.3: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education Table 4: Showing Respondents' Level of Education

#### Source: Field data, 2017

Table 3 above, shows that the majority, 30 (37.5%) had attained primary education. This is because with introduction of universal primary education at least everybody is in position to join primary which is free programme. 20(25%) of this respondents attained secondary school education, which reveals that they were able to understand what it means by the involvement in development of tourism attractions and national resource like flora and fauna. At least 22(27.5%)of the respondents attained tertiary level, that confirms that many people in Bwindi Forest National Park are able and can attain formal employment depending to their level of education, and 8 (10%) of the respondents had never gone to school. This is an indication that illiteracy still prevails in communities around Bwindi Forest National Park hence showing that some don't know and can't understand the meaning and implication of the roles played by local communities in the development of tourist attractions in Uganda.



Figure 2: Showing Respondents' Level of Education



 Table 5.Showing whether there are indigenous practices done by local communities

 around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation

Response	Frequency	Percentage	
Yes	170	76.57%	
No	52	23.42%	
Total	222	100	

Source: Field data, 2017

From the table 4 above, it reveals that majority 170 (76.57%) of the respondents claimed that there are indigenous practices used by the local communities around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation in Uganda. The respondents pointed out that; environmental and community activists, NGOs officials, formal and informal groups had enough knowledge relevant for the study. While the minority 52 (23.42%) of the respondents revealed that they had little knowledge of practices done by the local communities in conservation of natural resources in Uganda, this was so because some respondents, especially the community residents believed that they are greatly involving on conserving natural resources.

4.3 The major indigenous practices used by the local communities around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation

 Table 6: Major indigenous practices used by the local communities around Bwindi

 Forest National Parks in forest conservation

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Beliefs and taboos	58	26.12%	
Honey harvesting	46	20.72%	
Medicinal plants	30	12.5%	
Totems	22	2.50%	
Fishing	20	9.10%	
Hunting	28	12.61%	
Grazing	18	8.11 %	
Total	222	100	

Source: Field data, 2017

From the Table 6 above, the finding revealed that beliefs/ taboos was one of the major indigenous practices done by communities around Bwindi Forest National Park, and this had a percentage of 26.12%. This was followed by honey harvesting at 20.72% since as revealed by respondents living around the national park that it is one the mostly dominating economic activity in the region. In the scenario, the respondents also revealed out that medicinal plants also being practiced by many individuals living around the national park since they utilize timber for both furniture manufacturing and electric poles and this was at 12.5%. Another group of respondents from the national park revealed out that totems are also greatly practiced by different people especially the natives living around the national park and this was 2.50% and hunting at 12.61%. However, minority of the respondents from the national park suggested that grazing is also practiced but on a low level as evidenced with only 8.11 % response rate followed by fishing at 9.10%. This therefore implies that; grazing, fishing and deforestation are the major indigenous practice done by the people of Bwindi Forest National Park





Source: Field data, 2017

4.4 The ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation	
Table 7: The ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservatio	n

Ways	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Participate in decision making	26	11.72%
process.		
Engaging local communities and	24	10.81%
tourism bodies as members in		
the Public		
Strengthening communities'	40	18.01%
abilities to act for themselves		
Through employment as workers in the industry	17	7.65%
Support for community based	54	24.32%
development efforts		
Implementation from bottom up	10	2.51%
Local job creation	32	14.41%
Participation via employment	19	8.55%
opportunities		
Total	222	100

Source: Field data, 2017

From the Table 7 above, it shows that support for community based development efforts through which communities can be involved in forest conservation with 24.32%, followed by strengthening communities' abilities to act for themselves is another way through which

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communities can be involved in forest conservation with 18.01%. The findings went on to reveal that participation in decision making process with 11.72% was also a key way through which communities can be involved in forest conservation. The findings further revealed that engaging local communities and tourism bodies as members in the Public 10.81% is remarkable a way which communities can be involved in forest conservation, followed by local job creation with a percentage of 14.41%. However, implementation from bottom up had the least response as a way through which communities can be involved in forest conservation and this was at only 2.51%, followed by employment as workers in the industry and participation via employment opportunities with a percentage rate of 7.65% and 8.55% respectively. This therefore implies that strengthen communities' abilities to act for themselves and encouraging support for community based development efforts are the major ways through which communities can be involved in forest National Park.





Source: Field data, 2017

# **4.5** The Barriers to community participation on forest conservation in developing countries like Uganda

Factors	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Communities' limited enthusiasm	30	13.51%	
Centralization of public administration of tourism	10	4.51%	
development			
Lack of co-ordination between involved parties	24	10.81%	
Limited revenue sharing	20	9.10%	
Insufficient data and poor dissemination of information	46	20.72%	
Lack of information and awareness	50	22.52%	
Leakage of revenue	14	6.31%	
Lack of ownership	28	12.61%	
Total	222	100	

 Table 8: The Barriers to community participation in forest conservation in developing

 countries like Uganda

Source: Field survey, 2017

The study investigated the factors influencing community participation in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park, and thus the findings show that lack of information and awareness was one of the major factors and this had a percentage of 22.52%, followed by lack of ownership of land since most local community residents tend to ignore participation in developmental programes as a result of lacking attachment to the land at a percentage rate of 12.61%. The findings also further revealed that insufficient data and poor dissemination of information was also another factor which influences community involvement on achieving successful forest conservation with a 20.72%, followed by lack of co-ordination between involved parties with 10.81%. However, centralization of public administration of tourism development had the least response with only 4.51% followed by leakage of revenue and limited revenue sharing which had a percentage of 6.31% and 9.10% respectively. This therefore implies that community participation in forest conservation like Bwindi Forest National Park is mostly influenced by insufficient data and poor dissemination of information.

# CHAPTER FIVE SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter mainly dealt with summary of key findings, conclusion and recommendations related to the role of local communities in forest conservation in Bwindi Forest National Park, drawn from the finding and analysis made after conducting the study.

#### 5.1Summary of the Findings

The summary of the findings were presented in accordance with the research objectives of the study as follows; the major indigenous practices used by the local communities around Bwindi Forest National Park in forest conservation, the ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation and the barriers to community participation in forest conservation in developing countries like Uganda. Therefore, basing on the first objective, the study conducted revealed that beliefs and taboos was one of the major indigenous practices done by communities around Bwindi Forest National Park, and this had a percentage of 26.12% as cited by (Manyara, G. 2007) that beliefs / taboos is provided for in the forest act (cap 385) and is used as a management tool to control and check on peoples' behavior and attitude towards forest conservation. This is a way of conserving forests in that however is found of committing a taboo is required to undergo ritual cleansing. guilty. This was followed by honey harvesting at 20.72% which activity is controlled in the buffer zones. Another group of respondents from the national park revealed out that medicinal plants are to be conserved for fertility and medicines also greatly used around the national park. Totems which act as conservation ethics embodied within cultural practices and customs. According to Reed, (2008). Fishing is also practiced to limit the local community member who engage in cultivation and pastoralism. However, the other respondents also argued out that hunting is also part of the indigenous practices covering 12.61%. It was also evidenced that grazing is one of the negative indigenous practice with a percentage of 8.11% as the least practiced activity.

In accordance with the second objective of the study which was to examine the ways through which communities can be involved on forest conservation, the findings revealed that that support for community based development efforts through which communities can be involved in forest conservation with 24.32%, followed by strengthening communities' abilities to act for themselves is another way through which communities can be involved in forest conservation with 18.01%. The findings went on to reveal that participation in decision making process with 11.72% was also a key way through which communities can be

involved on achieving successful forest conservation as cited by Li, Y. (2011) that while studying community decision-making participation in tourism development in Sichuan Province, China, pointed out that there was weak local participation in the decision-making process yet local communities received satisfactory benefits from tourism. It is equally important to note, therefore, that integration of local communities into the decision-making process is "not a final goal itself" but only one of the many ways through which community participation can be achieved.

The findings further revealed that engaging local communities and tourism bodies as members in the public 10.81% is remarkable a way which communities can be involved in forest conservation, followed by local job creation with a percentage of 14.41%. However, Implementation from bottom up had the least response as a way through which communities can be involved in forest conservation and this was at only 2.51%, followed by employment as workers in the industry and Participation via employment opportunities with a percentage rate of 7.65% and 8.55% respectively. This therefore implies that strengthening communities' abilities to act for themselves and encouraging Support for community based development efforts are the major ways through which communities can be involved in forest conservation like Bwindi Forest National Park.

Lastly, when it came to the third objective of exploring the barriers to community participation in forest conservation in developing countries like Uganda, the findings revealed that lack of information and awareness was one of the major factors and this had a percentage of 22.52%, followed by lack of ownership of land since most local community residents tend to ignore participation in developmental progammes as a result of lacking attachment to the land at a percentage rate of 12.61%. The findings also further revealed that insufficient data and poor dissemination of information was also another factor which influences community involvement on forest conservation with a 20.72%, followed by lack of co-ordination between involved parties with 10.81%. However, centralization of public administration of tourism development had the least response with only 4.51% followed by leakage of revenue and limited revenue sharing which had a percentage of 6.31% and 9.10% respectively. This therefore implies that community participation on forest conservation of information on forest conservation of set on forest conservation of set on forest conservation of public administration of tourism development had the least response with only 4.51% followed by leakage of revenue and limited revenue sharing which had a percentage of 6.31% and 9.10% respectively. This therefore implies that community participation on forest conservation like Bwindi Forest National Park is mostly influenced by insufficient data and poor dissemination of information.

#### **5.2 Conclusions**

The research findings established that local people wish to play a role in the conservation decision-making process, that local people majorly engage in conservation activities like; beliefs and taboos, honey harvesting, medicinal plants, traditions and rituals, totems. Thus the findings have suggested that while local people recognize and acknowledge the need to involve conservation professionals and experts when making decisions about conservation measures, they wish to be involved in the decision-making process. In general, local people want to see decisions about conservation measures in their area made jointly by government officials and local leaders in consultation with the local community.

The research findings also established that local people wish to be involved in the sharing of conservation benefits, that local communities have greatly been involved in supporting community based development efforts, implementation from the bottom level, participating in decision making, strengthening communities' abilities to act for themselves, local job creation and also engaging local communities and tourism bodies as members of the public. The findings revealed that replantation of trees and plantation businesses in the study area have developed some benefit-sharing schemes that enhance capacity building, and sharing conservation profits with the wider community.

## 5.3. Recommendations

There is need to promote participatory conservation planning systems and regulatory frameworks to ensure effective consultation with all stakeholders in conservation development so as to cut down barriers like lack of co-ordination between involved parties and limited revenue sharing.

Using the findings, the study has established that there are policy issues, which need to be addressedfortheeffectiveinvolvementoflocalpeopleintheconservation of natural resources, in the sharing of conservation benefits, and how conservation measures have contributed towards poverty alleviation.

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

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

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

There is need to promote Community Based Organization (CBOs), Non-Government Organization (NGOs) in Bwindi Forest National Park area for technical and financial support.

There is need to encourage private sectors to invest in the conservation development planning and enterprises while engaged local communities.

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

There is need to raise people's awareness from the National Forest Association so as to educate more the local people living around the park since they are illiterate and most of them have only attended up to primary level of education.

# 5.4. Suggestions for Further Research

- More research should be done on the role of small holder farmers on conservation and poverty alleviation in Uganda.
- There should also be further research done to the impact of local communities social development in rural areas of Uganda.
- There should also be more findings on the role of Government on the development of international tourism in Uganda.

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#### Appendix1

# A) INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY (RESIDENTS) AND LOCAL LEADERS.

# Dear Sir/Madam

I am a student of **KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY** carrying out a research on the attitudes of the local community residents and community leaders towards Forest Conservation around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

You are kindly requested to take part in the study by responding to the questions below. The information obtained is purely for academic purposes and will be kept confidential.

## SECTIONA: GENERALINFORMATION.

1 Village nam	ıe				
2 Sex of respo	2 Sex of respondent				
a) Male	b) Female				
3 Age of resp	ondent				
4 Ethnicity		-			
5 Length of re	sidency				
6 Main source	of income?				
7 Average Mo	onthly income_				
8 Level of edu	8 Level of education of respondent				
a) Primary	b)sec	ondary	c)Tertiary	d)None	
9 The marital status of the household head					
a) Single	b) Married	c) Divorced	d) Widowed		

## SECTION B: Participation and the benefits from the forest

10 What do you think is your role in promoting forest conservation in this area?

11 Is there any project that you are involved in within or around the National park?

12 In which way have you been involved in forest conservation? And what level have you been involved (planning, implementation or Management)?

13 In your opinion do people around here understand the reason why the Bwindi forest exists?

14 Do you think people or you in particular, have benefited because of the existence of the forest?

15 In what ways do you think people have benefited from Bwindi forest national Park?

16 Is there anything you achieved as a result of the existence of the forest? If yes what and how?

17 What are the indigenous practices that people around the forest carry out for conservation purposes?

18 In your opinion how do you relate or how does the public and the forest relate with each other?

19 Are there areas of conflict and if so what are they and how do they affect the coexistence of the forest and the people?

20 In your opinion how do you think the forest should be conserved and how should people benefit from it?

Thank you for reserving time to participate in the study

## APPENDIX II

# INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARK OFFICIALS AND UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

1 What are the major areas of concern and operation of Bwindi forest?

2 Do the local communities get involved in the management of the forest?

3 If yes, how do you involve them?

4 What do you think is the role of the community in promoting forest conservation?

5 What benefits do you think have accrued to the communities in relation to the establishment of the national park?

6 There must be some conflicts that are there between the national park and the local communities, what are they and how or what strategies are in place to reduce these conflicts?

7 What is the park doing to increase the way people benefit from participating or being part of the conservation drive?

8 What do you think should be the areas of concern for this area in the future?

Thank you for your time.