

**IMPACT OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN UGANDA.  
A CASE STUDY OF LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK.**

**BY:**

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### DECLARATION

I **ATUHAIRE SHEILA** hereby declare that this research proposal is my original work and it has never been submitted before for any award of Degree in any University or Academic Institute.

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### APPROVAL

This work has been submitted for examination under my facilitation as the University Supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my father Mr. Natumanya David and my uncles for the moral and financial guidance they have accorded me throughout my entire academics.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I want to thank the Almighty God, for providing me with his grace and opportunity to finish this academic study. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed towards the successful completion of this dissertation.

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**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1 Background of the study

##### **Community conservation**

This is a conservation movement that emerged in the 1980s through escalating protests and subsequent dialogue with local communities affected by international attempts to protect the biodiversity of the earth. Older conservation movements disregarded the interests of local inhabitants. This stems from the Western idea on which the conservation movement was founded, of nature being separate from culture. The object of community-based conservation is to incorporate improvement to the lives of local people while conserving areas through the creation of national parks or wildlife refuges. While there have been some notable successes, unfortunately community-based conservation has often been ineffective because of inadequate resources, uneven implementation, and over-wishful planning. Some critics have also complained about often unintended neocolonialist undertones involved in the particular conservation projects.

The first protected areas around the world such as Yosemite in 1864 and Yellowstone National Park in 1872 were founded by the colonial or classical conservation method. Classical conservation created protected areas to protect wilderness and wildlife areas of pristine wilderness that was untouched and uninhabited by humans. All people inhabiting these areas were removed from the land and displaced onto marginal land surrounding or near by the newly protected land. It is estimated that 20 million people were displaced from their land. This conservation strategy was used widely until the 1970s when indigenous people started to fight for their rights and land. In 1975 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Parks Congress recognized the rights of indigenous people and to recognize their rights of the protected areas. More policy changes came about that increased the rights of indigenous people. Community-based conservation came into action from these changes.

The majority of wildlife conservation activities implemented over recent years in East and southern Africa have been at least nominally community-based, aiming to overcome inequities in wildlife benefit distribution. Most rely on indirect methods for distributing wildlife benefits to landholders, sometimes in combination with other community incentives such as permitting

limited wildlife resource utilization or employing local people as wildlife workers. They primarily operate in protected areas and their buffers, where income is collected by the state or some other authority through such mechanisms as entry charges, sales of wildlife products, or fees and levies raised on hunting, tourism and other wildlife-based activities. For more than three decades in Africa community involvement in conservation has been promoted as an alternative to ‘fortress conservation’ –the defense of Protected Areas (PAs) and wildlife from the depredations of people. As part of fortress conservation protected areas were created and often fenced off from surrounding areas, people were excluded from the protected areas, consumptive use of wildlife was prevented and other forms of human impact minimized (Adams 2014). Para-military game rangers were employed to prevent local people from using resources in national parks and from killing wildlife for trade or for the pot. Fortress conservation was established under colonial rule in Africa but was often perpetuated by post independence governments. The involvement of local communities in conservation, known generally as “community conservation”, emerged as an alternative approach based on experiences in East and Southern Africa in the 1970s and 1980s (Adams 2014).

Community intervention in conservation of Natural Resources has become an important element in the design and implementation of development projects. Participation of the community is in the form of Community Based Development (CBD) and is among the fastest growing mechanism for channeling development assistance. The aim of community participation in conservation of Natural Resources is not only to reverse the existing power relations in a manner that creates agency and voice for the poor but also to allow the poor living around national parks to have more control over development assistance. It is expected that this will result in the allocation of development funds in a manner that is more responsive to the needs of the poor, better targeting of poverty programs, more responsive government and better delivery of public goods and services, better maintained community assets, and a more informed and involved citizenry that is capable of undertaking self-initiated development activity.

Villagers stated positive trends for various wildlife species such as in warthog, baboon and grass cutter populations. They attributed this trend to improved forest cover, coupled with further enforcement of hunting regulations in recent times. Bushfires were declining. In 2008, illegal forest utilization was reported.

In Ghana Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) have been established under the Collaborative Community-based Wildlife Policy of 2000. By 2009 in Ghana, the CREMAs had delivered some success for conservation of natural resources through a reduction in illegal activities, believed to be based on the expectation of future returns. In 2009, it was too early to judge impacts of CREMAs in Ghana on livelihoods, although early experiences suggested negative sentiments as CREMA regulations restricted certain activities. They said that social capital indicators, in contrast, were very positive, as CREMA members perceived the institutions to be working for the common good.

In East Africa, community owned or managed land appears to be performing better than state land in maintaining wildlife populations. This was particularly the case in Kenya and Tanzania where landholders were generating significant economic returns from wildlife. Game counts in community conservancies between 1990 and 2005 showed stable or increasing wildlife populations. Studies also indicated that a number of community forest areas were conserving forest vegetation more effectively than State National Parks. In Tanzania, impacts of participatory National Parks management include: Improvement in water discharge and quality from PFM areas, increasing signs of natural regeneration in degraded areas, reduction in unregulated and unsustainable levels of harvesting (such as logging, charcoal production and hunting of game), reduced incidences of fire, reduced village revenue from fines, due to reduction in illegal activities, reduction in encroachment of agricultural land into forest areas, increases in game and wildlife numbers/diversity. However, attempts to introduce community conservation through establish community Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Tanzania have been less successful because the procedures need to go through to obtain WMA status are particularly onerous, the government regulations do not devolve secure and long-term wildlife user rights to communities and creates additional institutions above village level, which remove management authority from the existing village institutions..

In conservancies supported by the Northern Rangeland Trust there is a core conservation area in which grazing by domestic livestock is prohibited, surrounded by a larger buffer zone which acts as a dry season grazing reserve for livestock. The condition of vegetation in these conservancy land use zones and found significant improvements in green vegetation in conservancies in comparison to control areas indicating improved habitat condition in community conserved areas. Grazing was an important determinant of vegetation change within the management zones

of conservancies. Seasonally grazed buffer zones experienced significantly higher increases in green vegetation during the dry season than the exclusionary core zones due to stimulatory effects of grazing and livestock presence on photosynthetic activity.

In Uganda's current environmental management policies and practices date back to the colonial history. This legacy has created a protectionist perception in which resource users are problem makers. This perception guided the creation of National Parks; wildlife and forest reserves in which resource uses have been either restricted or banned. The total of these restricted areas comprises approximately 8% of Uganda's total land area (Hulme and Infield, 2001). In the meantime, two relatively recent developments have influenced the environmental regime in Uganda. First, as international environmental concerns attract global attention, Uganda signed important conservation international conventions. Second, partly influenced by this Uganda's participation in conventions, a new constitution, clearly stipulates that environmental issues form one of the important matters for the state and the people in Uganda.

Community-based conservation seeks to achieve both sustainable uses of natural resources and adequate conservation practices through devolving control over those resources to local communities like those living around Lake Mburo National Park. Here, local resource users own land and resources either by de facto or de jure arrangements. For effective operation, an emphasis is placed on developing local economy. This has been in fact a common approach in Southern Africa. In Uganda, the establishment of the LC system has been contributing this type of community-based conservation activities as well. "Inclusion of provisions for granting user rights, and the establishment of community management areas as a category of conservation area has created both the climate and the legal structures for community-based conservation". Community intervention is one of the domains of community capacity building in Lake Mburo National Park. It is one of the mechanisms to empower people to take part in conservation of natural resources. Community intervention is an essential part in conservation of Natural resources, which allows intervention of people in the different stages of decision making.

Lake Mburo National Park (LMNP) is Uganda's largest national park. It measures approximately 3,893 square kilometers (1,503 sq mi). It was originally gazetted in 1933 as a controlled hunting area and upgraded to a game reserve in 1963. The Banyankole Bahima residents continued to graze their cattle in the reserve until it was upgraded to national park status in 1983. The

Obote government's upgrade decision was intended, in part, to weaken the Banyankole, who supported Anti-Obote rebels. It came at the time of the Operation Bonanza massacre of 300,000 people. The park has a variety of animals such as zebras, hippopotamus, impala, warthogs, elands, buffaloes, jackals, leopards, and over three hundred (300) bird species. At 260 square kilometers (100 sq mi), the park is the smallest of Uganda's Savannah national parks. The park has camp grounds and permanent tent facilities for visitors. In 2009, the Uganda Wildlife Authority, which manages the park announced plans to introduce balloon tourism in the park.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Community intervention has evolved through a long process of wildlife and conservation reforms in Uganda, where by community intervention has led to development projects that are more responsive to the needs of the poor, more responsive government and better delivery of public goods and services, better maintained community assets, and a more informed and involved citizenry in the name of conserving natural resources like Lake Mburo national park. However, it is not clear whether intervention of the local community has been effective in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park since the communities are heterogeneous consisting of many different kinds of people with unequal positions and different aspirations which leads to an unequal opportunities of community members to take part in conservation activities (Blackstock, 2010), and secondly because communities in areas surrounding the National Park, frequently lack information, resources and power which difficult to reach the market, the fact that the park management strategy has not taken cognizance of the potentialities of the community, and the community itself has not been assisted to recognize its capacity to ably manage these resources shows, the inherent structural weaknesses of the management system. The community is thus dependent on other stakeholders and therefore vulnerable and also due to the fact that the local communities often do not have ownership over the natural resources and land since when land is owned by outsiders, locals are limited by the owners (Ashley & Roe (2008). Another constraint is that most poor communities have difficulties with attracting capital or resources to build the facilities and infrastructure that is necessary for tourism development and also Community members with a higher status are more likely to participate in tourism development, and will not always act in the best interest of other community members.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study.**

The purpose of this study was to assess the roles played by local communities in addressing degradation of natural resources in Lake Mburo National Park.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study.**

#### **1.4.1 General Objectives**

To analyze the roles of Community involvement in Conservation of Natural resources in Lake Mburo National Park

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

- i). To establish the major indigenous practices used by the local community around Lake Mburo National Park in conserving the national park
- ii). To establish the challenges faced by local communities around in conserving Lake Mburo National Park
- iii). To establish the best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

- i). What are the major indigenous conservation practices used by the local community around Lake Mburo National Park?
- ii). What are the challenges faced by local communities in conserving Lake Mburo National Park?
- iii). What are the best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park?

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

#### **1.6.1 Subject scope**

The study mainly focused on indigenous practices used by local communities, community activities that had degraded the environment and the benefits that local communities had gotten from conservation area.

#### **1.6.2 Geographical scope**

The research was carried out at Lake Mburo Conservation Area in Western Uganda. Lake Mburo National Park is located in Kiruhura District in Western Uganda. The park is situated about 30 kilometers (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 of the study could furnish the management of conservation areas with research based information on benefits of involving the local community in conservation matters. With this information, reform programs can be tailored to addressing these problems. The implementation of the recommendations from the study might provide the basis for community involvement in conservation.

It's expected that community involvement will help management of the park to meet tourist's demands and therefore be able to retain them

The researcher hopes that the study will extend the frontiers of knowledge by contributing to the understanding of community involvement and its benefits and challenges faced by the community in the region.

### **1.8 Justification of the Study**

To the Government of Uganda, the study findings and policy implications thereof are of significance in as far as enhancing development and improving community participation in conservation of national resources.

This study also points to areas that Uganda's development partners should improve on in line with their international commitments on effective community participation towards natural resource conservation.

The study is also significant to the community and the civil society in that it sheds light on the relationship between community participation and project outcomes.

For researchers with interest on community participation and sustainability, this study examines factors affecting community participation and identifying the relationship between community participation and conservation of national resources.

## 1.9 Conceptual framework

### IMPENDENT VARIABLES

#### Community Intervention

- Participation in decision making
- Control loss of habitats
- Creation of local markets
- Enforcement of rules and regulations
- Creating organizations .e.g NEMA
- Creating boundaries on protected areas.

### DEFENDANT VARIABLES

#### Conservation of Natural Resources

- Infrastructure development and amenities
- Carrying capacity is controlled
- Development of National parks with different animal species
- Presence of tourists

#### Intervening variables

Government policies

## 1.10 Explanation of the conceptual framework

The conceptual framework above shows the relationship between variables i.e. independent variable and the dependent variables as regards the impact of community intervention in conservation of natural resources in Uganda, and thus it shows that Local community participation was the independent variable and it was in terms of Participation in decision making, Control loss of habitats , Creation of local markets , Enforcement of rules and regulations, Creating organizations .e. g NEMA, and Creating boundaries on protected areas while the Dependent variable was conservation of natural resources and it was in terms of Creation of employment, Infrastructure development and amenities and carrying capacity is controlled, Development of National parks with different animal species, Presence of tourists. However the two variables are intervened by moderate factors like; Government policies and Currency rates which tend to influence the success of conservation of natural resources



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter comprises of what other scholars/researchers have written about the topic under the study. It has a theoretical framework, and then literature that was reviewed basing on the study objectives.

#### **2.1 Community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park**

##### **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

Communities living around national parks like Lake Mburo National normally work as Park rangers that work in law enforcement since they have knowledge, training and authority to enforce state and federal laws within municipal, state and national parks. Some state parks departments, such as the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation require all park rangers to be trained and certified as law enforcement/peace officers (Li, Y. 2011). Within the National Park Service (NPS), a select group of park rangers serve in a protection/law enforcement capacity. Law enforcement rangers, like general park rangers, often have a strong knowledge of natural resource management, but they must also have a background that includes training and education in law enforcement. Law enforcement rangers serve as the “eyes and ears” of the parks in which they work. This means they are knowledgeable of: The park system and related rules and regulations within the park, Laws and regulations at the local, state and federal level, Basic law enforcement and Emergency operations. Law enforcement rangers are primarily responsible for providing law enforcement services, which often includes: Detecting and investigating violations of local, state and/or federal criminal laws, Apprehending and detaining violators, Patrolling park grounds, enforcing park rules and regulations and protecting park resources, Providing search and rescue services, Assisting other law enforcement agencies and Responding to emergency incidents and providing emergency care. Law enforcement rangers may patrol parklands on foot, using off-road vehicles, on horseback, in boats, or even on bicycles (Manyara, G., Jones, E. 2007).

## **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:**

Communities often need to strengthen their organizational capacity in order to re-claim responsibilities in management and conservation of forest resources through education and other forms of capacity building. Educational awareness and capacity building can enhance the participation process. The educational process should run parallel to the actual roll out of the project so that in the process of drawing up plans, developing participatory tools the stakeholders can learn from each other. Appropriate educational processes should be used to mobilize prior and new knowledge and build competence among the community members. National Parks conservation refers to efforts and activities to maintain and sustain those attributes in natural National Parks which are essential both to human, physical and mental health and to the enjoyment of life. The attitude of people towards forest conservation on one hand and its utilization on the other hand depends mostly on their belief system, cultural disposition, level of awareness, age, sex, different religious affiliations among others. Preservation and conservation of environmental resources suggests positive and friendly attitude while the careless utilization of these resources suggests negative attitudes. The environmental policy of Ethiopia has recognized and identified environmental education and awareness as a key strategy to transform knowledge of environmental issues to the people. Education is a key element in the design of the National Park Service (NPS). When one goes to a National Park, for example, one cannot help but notice the ubiquitous informational signs and the many tours and lectures offered by park rangers(Christianson, E.H. 2010).

## **RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

The goal behind Research Program and Monitoring is the provision of information for planning, decision-making and evaluation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources. Research and Monitoring Priorities include; Ecology in form of species, habitat, fire, hydrobiology and disease, Biodiversity in form of inventories, vegetation dynamics and mapping, Social-economics in form of local communities, human-wildlife interactions and cost-benefit sharing and Development in form of policy, tourism, use rights and trade. Detailed priorities for each of the Protected Areas are available at UWA headquarters, and are provided on request by the Monitoring and Research Unit (Stahl, M. 2009). Conduct workshops to improve students' knowledge on Uganda wildlife with special emphasis on those animals at the verge of extinction such as the mountain gorillas. In addition to the mentioned activities, some

workshops and events will be conducted to educate the local communities on key environmental concepts to complement conservation education and awareness issues that the school children will have learnt from this project. Believe that local stakeholders, including indigenous communities such as youths and children should be at the centre of conservation programs. This will make local communities better custodians of the environment (Kibicho, W. 2013).

## **TOUR GUIDING**

A guided tour is performed through the park. Within the network of trails, there is a wide range of itineraries to choose from, adapting to the group, taking into account their age, degree of difficulty and time availability. The group must not exceed sixty people. It shall be subdivided into smaller groups, without exceeding twenty students each (Timothy, D. J. 2009). Along the route, we try to encourage students to observe the environment, as well as their active participation with comments or in the games and experiences that are proposed. It is important that students come to the national park conveniently equipped with appropriate shoes, comfortable clothes, a coat, a hat and sunscreen, as well as water and some light food (Tosun, C. 2011).

## **TOURISM LOCAL CRAFTS:**

The local people living around Lake Mburo National Park have decided to make local crafts that can attract tourists to come and visit Uganda. These include the Artists who have designed art things through local materials. This is so unique and very new on the eyes of the tourists which make them happy while on their Uganda safaris (Adams, W.M., and D. Hulme. 2011). The Artists have decided to make art designs from polythene bags, dropped mineral water bottles, beer bottles, and soda bottles, fabrics of tailors, sticks and sort of dumped rubbish. These are creative things that they make and therefore attract many tourists to come for Uganda visits with many questions of who these are made hence boosting the tourism sector. This is something which needs creativity and therefore just easy to do (Biira, O., S. Muhumuza, 2009). Traditional craft items in Uganda cultures include amulets, necklaces or beads, arm and leg ornaments, bracelets, rings, and headdresses. Ugandan craft works are so varied that one needs to pay attention to various ethnic setting in order to exhaust it.

One has also to make distinctions and give similarities that occur within the crafts of different ethnic groups. The differences that appear in crafts are consequences of the cultural practices of each ethnic group (Mugisha, A. 2009).

## **RESOURCE HARVESTING**

**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. The Preservation of plant diversity is directly related to local knowledge and 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. 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 (Tosun, C. 2011).

**Fishing and grazing:** 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 Lake Mburo National Park and dome cylindrical troughs and hooks to catch the fish. This limits the number of family members who go fishing. These methods are not as exploitative as the massive fishnets which can even catch the small/ young/ immature fish as practiced today elsewhere. While on the other hand Traditional pastoral systems preserve natural ecosystems through extensive ranching and rotational grazing and by using a variety of livestock. For example, the pastoral Bahima around Lake Mburo National Park keep cattle, goats and sheep that utilize different parts of the range's plant community (NdyakiraAmooti, 2006).

**Grazing and honey harvesting:** Grazing is provided for in the Forest Act (cap 385) and is used as a management tool to suppress weeds in forest plantation. This facilitates faster growth of the young trees and reduces biomass that could otherwise pose fire hazards in the dry seasons. However this has resulted into biodiversity loss and accelerated soil erosion in some areas. Honey harvesting within Lake Mburo National Park 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 income generating activity and needs to be promoted further. Grazing was one of the most appreciated benefits from the reserve (Kibicho, W. 2013).

## **INCOME GENERATION**

There are a number of interventions, in a collaborative manner, by CBOs towards the realization of sustainable income generating activities. Activities such as nurturing tree nurseries for afforestation of degraded areas and for sale can generate incomes to this group. For these initiatives to bear fruit however there is need for stakeholder cooperation, so that policy can match the realities on the ground and suit the objectives of biodiversity conservation as well as a balance between economy and ecology. The initiatives need to be low cost, and funding for implementation readily available. There is also need for awareness creation and educating the community on the need for conservation of nature, and thus the need for these interventions. In Nepal, communities in national parks has been a source of income and employment for rural communities especially through inter cropping of cash crops, cultivation of non-timber forest products, medicinal herbs, selling seedlings and organizing tours for tourists in community National Parks (BlackStock, K 2010).

### **CRAFTS TOURISM:**

According to Tumusiime, D.M. (2006), in many places, crafts such as textiles and art contribute greatly to the culture of a destination and the travel experience. Crafts can be an important contributor to a country's economy, employing artisans that are preserving cultural heritage, while generating an important source of income through the/informal sector. The tourism industry provides an important export market for a host of craft products. For example, hotels and restaurants demand diverse craft products in order to furnish and equip their establishments. Tourists often set a budget for themselves expecting to buy different products to take home as souvenirs. These souvenirs then serve as tourism marketing tools by telling a story of the destination and adding to the travel experience. Solimar's Craft and Tourism Program improves the cohesion between the craft and tourism sectors by creating stronger linkages between the two along an integrated value chain.

### **RESOURCE SHARING:**

Resource sharing is where profits or products are distributed either among community members, between communities and the private sector or between communities and the state (Rogelberg, S. G. 2012). Resource sharing is a potent tool for active community involvement in natural resource

management. The distribution of benefits among the members of the community has to be fair and equitable. For distribution of benefits, interests of the weaker marginalized sections of the society have to be taken in to account predominantly. Interests of women should also be guarded as they are the ones who are primarily associated with forest ecosystems and spend a great deal of time inside the forest areas. According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 Report the government has acknowledged that poverty and environmental concerns are intertwined and need to be addressed simultaneously (Republic of Kenya, 1997-2001). However, there is need to address the implementation of government policies and greater communication and involvement of local communities, especially in out-lining the opportunities that exist for them. In the past, some communities have encroached on Forest areas arguing that the benefits from the National Parks accrue more to “outsiders” through the excision and licensing processes than to forest adjacent communities (Ribot, J. 2014).

#### **REVENUE SHARING:**

Revenue sharing is also conservation measure in Lake Mburo National Park as tourists come in the Park, they are charged a minimum percentage on the rates they pay on entering the park. This percent is collected and given to the local communities at the end of the year. The local communities use this money for their own benefits and development.

#### **POACHING:**

The illegal killing of wild life is predominant in many of the parks in the country including Lake Mburo national park. Poachers use crude means to get their prey. They set snares and wheel traps very powerful contraptions that derive their name from the leaf springs of vehicle wheels from which they are made, as well as spears and nets that immobilize and injure the animals. Some are even armed with automatic weapons. Poachers’ snares trap a wide variety of animals. They do not discriminate (Koster, R. and Randall, J. E. 2015). Trapped animals usually bleed and die slowly if not immediately attended to. In 2011, hundreds of animals- including giraffes, elephants and lions - were killed or severely injured after getting caught in snares or traps. The snares are laid by criminals who hunt wild animals for commercial bush meat market or to profit from other illegal wildlife products such as ivory (Kibicho, W. 2013).Uganda has a lot of wildlife that attracts many people to come for Uganda tours and this has improved tourism in Uganda.

However the sector is affected by poachers, these kill the animals which registers a reduction in the number of animals, they hunt animal and therefore misplace them since they take them where they are not supposed to be, the poachers also sell off the animals at times alive or their parts and also at times use their coatings for exchange of things they may need (Manyara, G., Jones, E. 2007).

### **CULTURAL EROSION:**

Following cultural analysis, the cultural of different ethnic groups living around Lake Mburo National Park is being eroded in terms of their way of life, change in nature of their environment. In Lake Mburo National Park, the cultural values of the Ankole cow, and the conflict over the meaning of the landscape; a herd of 'beautiful cows' was formed and grazed within the park. In both cases the intention was to remove or reduce conflicts between local communities and the parks resulting from conflicting cultural values, and build interest, engagement, and support for the parks by integrating key cultural values into their day-to-day management. After four years of implementation, people's knowledge, attitudes and practices towards the parks were investigated to assess project impacts. The review also examined changes in the perceptions, of the communities and their values, amongst park staff. The evaluation used guided discussions with key informants amongst the communities and park staff. Standard questions were generated from indicators designed to evaluate the project (Biira, Muhumuza, and Mugisha 2009).

### **CULTURAL VALUES**

Staff at Lake Mburo was more ambivalent about the contribution of the cultural values approach to conservation of the park. They recognized that Ankole cows were unique and important to conserve (Ribot, J. 2014). They also recognized that Bahima attached great value to them, and that helping to conserve livestock would improve relations with the Bahima. However, they remained concerned about the implications of having livestock within a protected area. Despite these concerns,, it was recognized that, if well managed and marketed, the Ankole cow could become a flagship for the park, increasing local and tourism interest. Park guides revealed that the often-cited fear that Ankole cows in the park negatively affected tourism was not substantiated (Saunders, M., P. Lewis, and A. Thornhill. 2010).

The reaction of tourists was affected by information provided by the guides. Interestingly, local visitors were more likely to be concerned about the cows in the park, while international visitors are excited by the cows, and keen to take photos and learn about them. In the words of the head guide, “This project will be great for the park. It will give tourists an extra choice.

## **DEFORESTATION**

Deforestation was ranked number one degrading practice with 64.3% of the study population and this included the cutting of trees for timber, building poles, charcoal burning, fuel, and fire wood and for medicinal purposes. This was followed by poaching with 50% which has led to extinction of buffaloes and leopards in Lake Mburo National Park. Mining, cultivation and bush burning were ranked third with 35.7% each, then grazing 28.6% lastly fishing and witchcraft with 14.3%. The rate of deforestation in Uganda has sky rocketed and Uganda’s National Parks are disappearing, Uganda will not have forest in next 40 years. This has ushered in a number of environmental problems such as devastating impacts of climate change, soil degradation reduced biodiversity, degradation of water sheds, food insecurity due to exacerbated drought, loss of recreation, Loss of biological diversity. Uganda government as a response to the predicament in her aptitude put forward various policies, regulations, laws, statutes, among others that would regulate National Parks and natural resources exploitation (Timothy, D. J. 2009). The Uganda National Parks Policy and National Environment Management Policy all have core objectives of promoting environmental sustainability of which forest ecosystems are part. The strategies laid down in these policies were so promising. What is neck-wracking is that even with a number of policies Uganda has put forward, together with well stipulated strategies; deforestation continues to claim large chunks of forest land in Uganda(Songorwa, A. N. 2009).

### **2.2 Challenges faced by local communities in conserving Lake Mburo National Park**

Various researchers have examined community participation and identified a number of inter-related barriers that prevent effective local communities’ involvement and participation in the tourism industry (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 tourism 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 the tourism development process which often demands time and energy, 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, identified a number of barriers that make active local community participation hard to achieve in the tourism industry. Lack of ownership, capital, skills, knowledge and resources all constrain the ability of communities to fully control their participation in tourism development. In addition, lack of skills, knowledge, ownership of tourism resources, Manyara and Jones (2007) further identified that 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 altogether, 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 tourism development process. Nonetheless, one approach to ensure that local communities can overcome those barriers and ultimately participate actively in tourism development is to empower them (Tosun, 2001).

### **2.3 Best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park**

**Flood mitigation:** During floods and to mitigate its effect on the environment and wildlife effective steps like increasing of patrols, maintenance of existing and acquiring of new speed boats etc., controlling speed on the National Highway 37, construction and maintenance of highlands with the help of Indian Army, removal of water hyacinth and close collaboration with other civil departments are some of the measures taken. Construction of several corridors and other steps including construction of road signage, terrain easements, rumble strips, road awareness campaigns, intensive night patrolling and regulation of vehicular traffic to mitigate the number of death of wild animals by speeding vehicles on NH-37 have been done by the park management (Li, W. 2005).

**Illegal grazing control:** To prevent illegal grazing and [preserve the] genetic distinctness of the wild buffaloes systematic steps like enforcement of legal measures, motivating the people to rear high yielding varieties of fodder, immunization of the livestock and fencing in the sensitive areas of the park are undertaken regularly by the park management. The park management have around looking after the health and nutritional requirements of the departmental elephants and constructed permanent shelter for them. Maintenance and upkeep of records of all the livestock within a radius of 10 km of the park and regular immunization of the cattle living in the fringe villages to prevent spread of diseases among wild animals (Li, Y. 2011).

**Bio-diversity research:** The park authorities carry out research on siltation, stopping spread of Water hyacinth inside the park. To control growth and irradiation of invasive species like Mimosa research on biological methods of controlling the weeds, manual uprooting and weeding before seed settling are done often.

**Soil erosion control:** The park management is well concerned with the matter of soil erosion and to conserve soil they regularly monitoring of the water flow using multi-date satellite data and planning medium and other long term measures. To increase the existing grassland habitat to provide food for the parks huge herbivorous population various grassland management techniques such as controlled burning for grassland are done for a long time. (Timothy, D. J. 2009)

**Repair of existing infrastructure:** The park authorities often repair and maintain the existing infrastructure, vehicles, wireless etc. and acquire of new ones to keep up the conservation of wildlife. Communication in the park is presently carried out through an extensive wireless network system with support from a local NGO, which has facilitated the arrangement with an international donor agency (David Shepherd Foundation) for a period of 10 years. This has helped in efficient communication among the staffs. Lake Mburo National Park has a wide network of forest roads. These roads are either graveled or fair weather in nature. These roads are to be repaired annually after the flood season is over to make them usable again. There are several wooden bridges and culverts on these roads. These are also to be periodically repaired and some of these are to be reconstructed. These paths along with a number of patrolling paths all over the park help in keeping an eye on the poachers (Manyara, G., Jones, E. 2007).

## **2.4 Conclusion**

The literature has revealed that community conservation in Uganda has become a key element in many aspects of environmental and wild nurturing in national parks like Lake Mburo National Park.

## **CHAPTER THREE:**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter outlines the methodology used for data collection in study. It starts by linking the literature review to the research methods before discussing it. The chapter then provides a detailed discussion of the research strategy adopted and the reasons for choosing it. It highlights the underpinning reasons towards adopting a community case study approach and the reasons for employing a combination of techniques of data collection. The chapter continues with a description of the case study area profile, which provides background information of the research context and establishes the context of generality of findings. A brief description of various participants involved in the study is provided. The analytical framework that outlines the patterns of data analysis is introduced. A critical discussion of the study limitations is presented.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used a case study research design where both Qualitative and quantitative approaches will be adopted. Qualitative studies have the advantage of yielding in depth detailed information and from the perspective of informants (Mbaaga, 2000). The qualitative aspects of the research were aimed at capturing these merits. Quantitative studies on the other hand have the advantage of generating generalizable findings, standardizing sample selection, data collection and analysis and obtaining results that are free of personal bias (Mbaaga, 2000). The qualitative components of the study were aimed at capturing these merits.

#### **3.3 Study population**

The study target population of the study consisted of all the residents living around the national park approximated to about 1000 individuals.

#### **3.4 Sample Size**

The research used a sample size of 278 respondents which were selected from a population of 1000 individuals and among them are; Environmental and community activists, Lake Mburo National park management, NGO officials, Formal and informal tourism groups and Tourism establishments' representatives, using Krejcie & Morgan (1970).

### **3.5 Sources of data**

This research project is enriched by the use of both secondary data and primary data. Primary data are the new data or original data generated by this research, whereas secondary data are existing data or information collected for a purpose other than that of the study. (Finn *et al*, 2000). Various techniques of data collection were employed to gather both primary data and secondary data.

#### **3.5.1 Secondary data**

In order to successfully address the research questions, the research required some secondary data collection. The main purpose is to better understand the background of key issues the research is trying to examine. As argued by Veal (1997), secondary data, though meant for another purpose, is considered useful in providing the basis for the research project. Secondary data used in this research, which is mostly quantitative in nature collected for administrative records or management data.

Other sources of secondary data were; local newspapers, brochures, books such as National Park Management Plan, reports such as the financial reports Lake Mburo National Park. These reports were useful as they outline the distribution of tourism benefits, which is one of the key issues this research is examining.

#### **3.5.2 Primary Data**

Primary data was collected by using four major techniques of data collection. These were in-depth semi-structured interviews, household surveys, field observation and document analysis. While each of these techniques is discussed in detail in the subsequent sections, document analysis also served as a source of secondary data.

### **3.6 Data collection methods and instruments/tools**

#### **i). Questionnaire survey method**

The study used a self-administered questionnaire and semi structured instruments to collect data from respondents. McMillan and Schumacher (2001) recommend a questionnaire if the respondents will be in position to answer the questionnaire. Different set of questionnaires were set and given to respondents selected. Both open ended and closed ended questionnaires were formulated to provide adequate information on the study about the topic for the study.

## **ii). Documentary Analysis method**

Secondary data from materials such as textbooks, newspapers, journals and internet were used to back up primary information and relate the findings to other approaches already in existence. The method used document checklists and guides to get views from other writers which are instrumental especially in comparison analysis and literature review.

## **(iii) Interview Tools**

Besides the questionnaire method, interviews were also carried out at Lake Mburo National Park. Both formal and informal interviews will be performed. In formal interviews, guides were used with the target groups while informal interviews were through day-to-day conversation with different people park residents and some park management who were administered through interview.

## **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

The data was analyzed using MS excel used for analyzing data. It was presented in form of tables and frequency polygons, like; pie-charts, bar-graphs and other descriptive statistics.

### **3.7.1 Methods of Analysis**

#### **a) Tables**

Tables are the most common method of presenting analyzed data. Tables offer a useful means of presenting large amounts of detailed information in a small place. Frequency distribution tables in this case were used where by response values are summarized in a table.

Frequency distribution table measurements are grouped into classes. Then the number of measurements for each class is reported. The totals for each class are called the frequency of the responses for that class. Frequency distribution tables present the frequencies or counts of the occurrence of each value (class or category) of a variable.

#### **b) Graphs**

The main objective of graph is to present data in a way that is easy to understand and interpret, and interesting to look at. Common types of graphs include; bar charts, histograms, frequency polygons, scatter graphs and cumulative frequency polygons.

### **3.8 Research Procedure**

A letter of introduction was obtained from the Head Of Department Leisure and Hospitality Management, Kampala International University seeking permission to conduct the study. It will then be presented to the Management of National Park, in participial to seek permission for carrying out the study in the Park. After granting the permission, the study proceeded with making appointments with the selected respondents. Thereafter, questionnaires will be administered and the required data was collected.

Questionnaires were administered to the respondents in order to avoid delay, to avoid collecting wrong data, ensure completeness and accuracy and also not forgetting confidentiality of the data collected which is strictly adhered to.

### **3.9 Limitations to the Study and the Mitigations measures.**

The respondents were uncooperative and reluctant to give the information which limited the study.

Some respondents were not willing to give in the right information required they doubted my intentions and also wanted something in return in return in form of cash payments, which limited the study, and this came especially in situations of giving in their personal information as regards family backgrounds, and occupations they normally do.

The respondents were difficult to access which also hindered the study since most of them are unfriendly to strangers, and being that the location is remote with limited transport facilities.

The respondents were not willing to give the reliable data needed due to the sensitivity of the topic thus limited the study.

Some of the people chosen to participate in the study decided to withdraw their participation, which reduced on the total number of respondents.

### **3.10 Ethical considerations**

**Informed consent:** Participants were given the choice to participate or not to participate, and furthermore be informed in advance about the nature of the study.

**Right to privacy:** The nature and quality of participants' performance will be kept strictly confidential.

**Honesty with professional Colleagues:** Findings were reported in a complete and honest fashion, without misrepresenting what has been done or intentionally misleading others as to the nature of it. Data was not fabricated to support a particular conclusion.

**Confidentiality/Anonymity:** Confidentiality or anonymity was practiced since it led to participants giving more open and honest responses.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

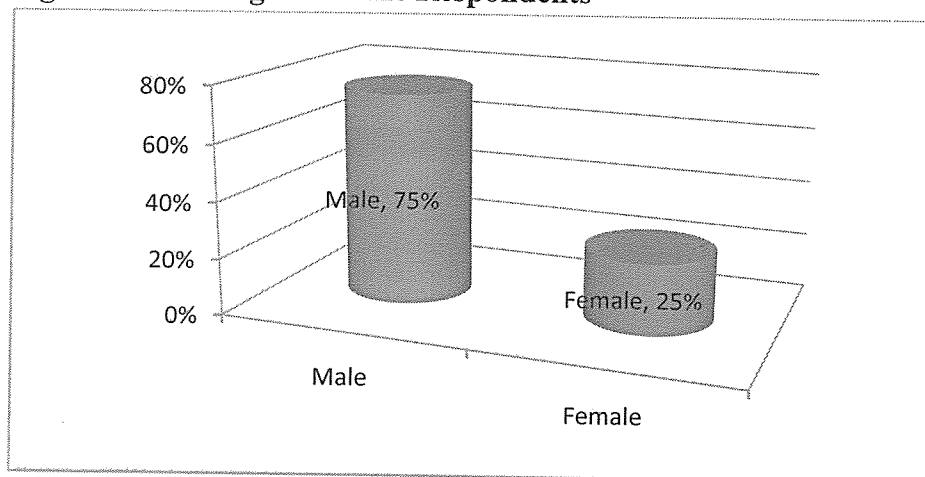
#### 4.1 Introduction

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 as in Figure 1 below;

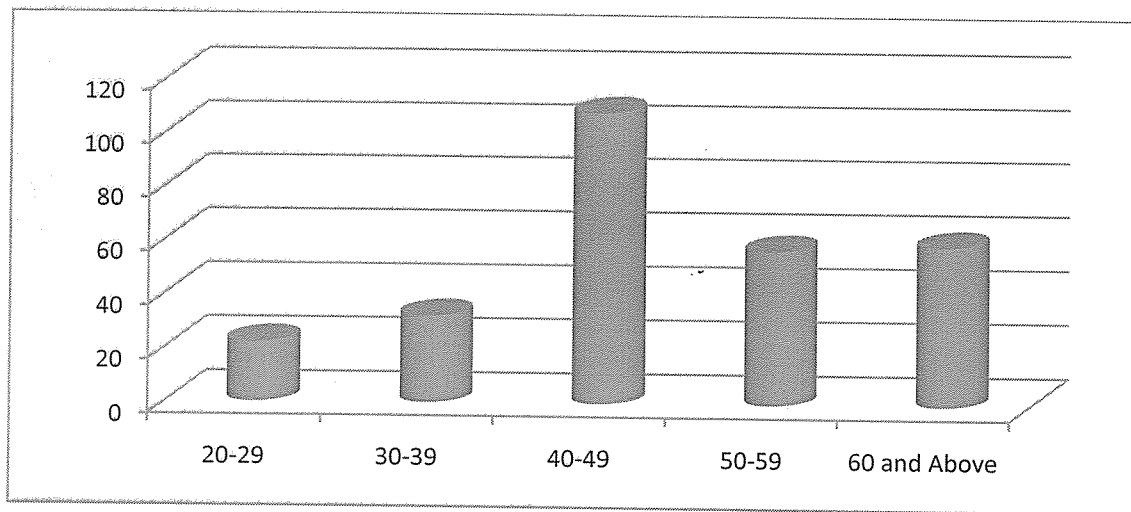
**Figure 1: Showing Sex of the Respondents**



The results from Figure 1 above show that among the respondent interviewed the males dominated with a percentage rate of 75.5%, while the females had the least response rate of 24.5%. 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 lake national park management which holds strong information as regards the study.

### 4.3 Age Distribution of Respondents

**Figure 2:** Showing Respondents' Age Differences



From the above findings in the Figure 2: above show that people found in the age group between 40-49 were more concerned with local communities involvement in development of tourist attractions as shown with the highest figure of 108 (38.8%) 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, 22(7.9%) 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 in development of tourist attractions in Uganda, hence in position to produce enough evidence about the study.

This was followed by 32 (11.5%) that represents age group between 30-39 years of the respondents that were willing to participate in the study because people in this age group most people are seriously engaged in development of tourist attractions 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 Lake Mburo national park in development of tourist attractions.

The minority of 57(20.5%) 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 59(21.3%) 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 Lake Mburo national park.

4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education

Figure 3: Showing Respondents' Education

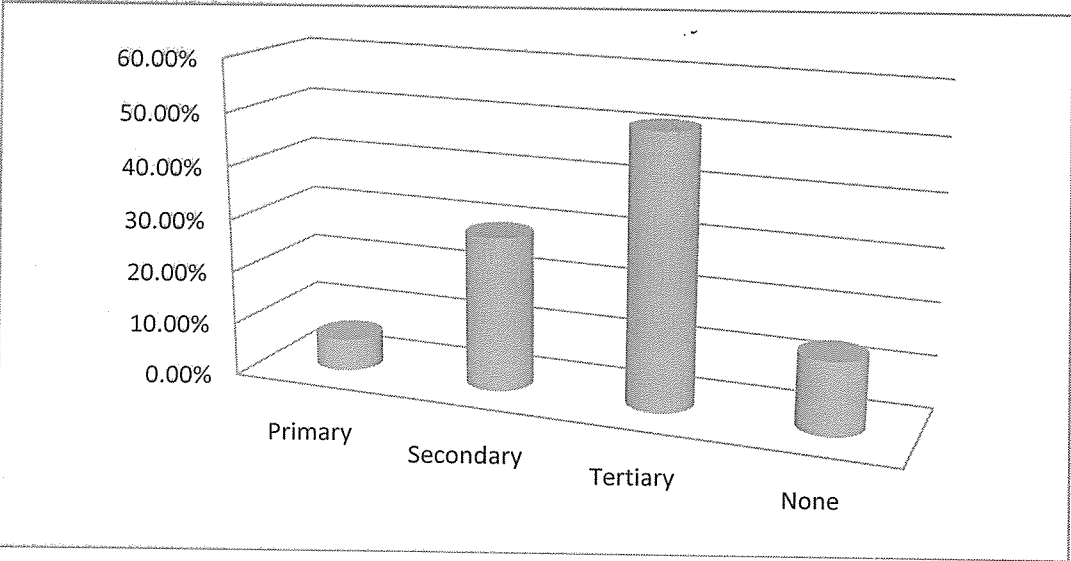


Figure 3 above, shows that the majority, 17 (6.1%) had attained primary education. This is because with introduction of universal primary education at least everybody is in position to join primary which is free programme. 81(29.1%) of this respondents attained secondary school education, which reveals 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 142(51.1%)of the respondents attained tertiary level, that confirms that many people in Lake Mburo national park are able and can attain formal employment depending to their level of education, and 38(13.7%) of the respondents had never gone to school. This is an indication that illiteracy still prevails in communities around Lake Mburo 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.

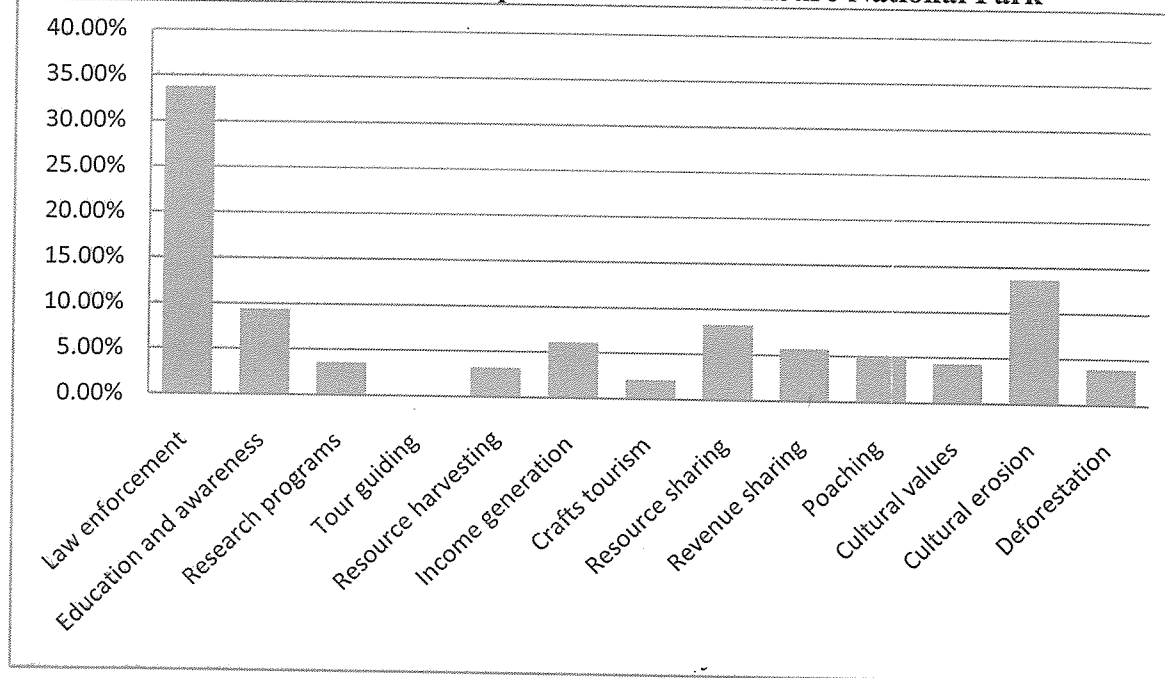
**Table 1. Showing whether there are indigenous practices done by local communities around Lake Mburo National parks in development of tourist attractions**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	208	74.8%
No	70	25.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table 1 above, it reveals that majority 208 (74.8%) of the respondents claimed that there are indigenous practices used by the local communities around Lake Mburo National parks in development of tourist attraction 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 70 (25.2 %) 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.

#### 4.5 Community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park

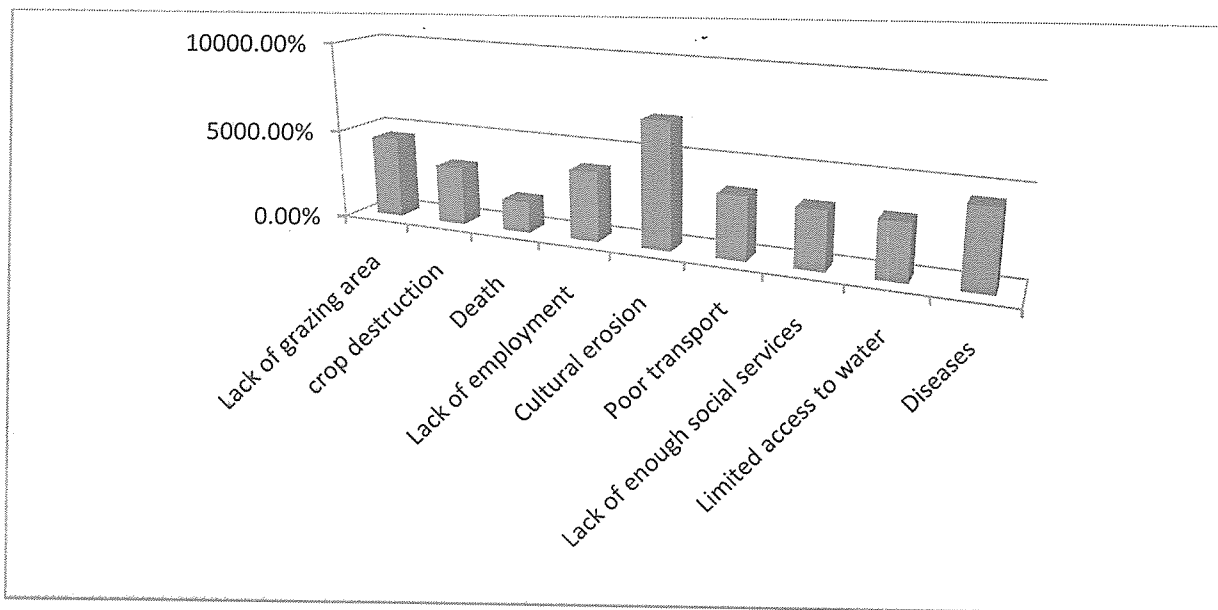
**Figure 4: Community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park**



From the Figure above, it shows that Law enforcement and Cultural erosion are the major community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park, and these were at 33.8% and 13.7%. This was followed by cultural erosion at 13.7% as a part of community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park and this was followed by Resource sharing at 8.3% , education and awareness at 9.4%. Deforestation was also recognized by respondents as another indigenous activity done by people of Lake Mburo national park with 12.5%. However, tour guiding had the least response as an activity done by local community of Lake Mburo national park and thus only had 2.5%, followed by beliefs and taboos, honey harvesting and deforestation which had 7.5% and 4.0% respectively. This therefore implies that; Grazing, Fishing and Hunting are the major indigenous practice done by the people of Lake Mburo National Park.

#### 4.5 The Challenges faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park

**Figure 6: The Challenges faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park**

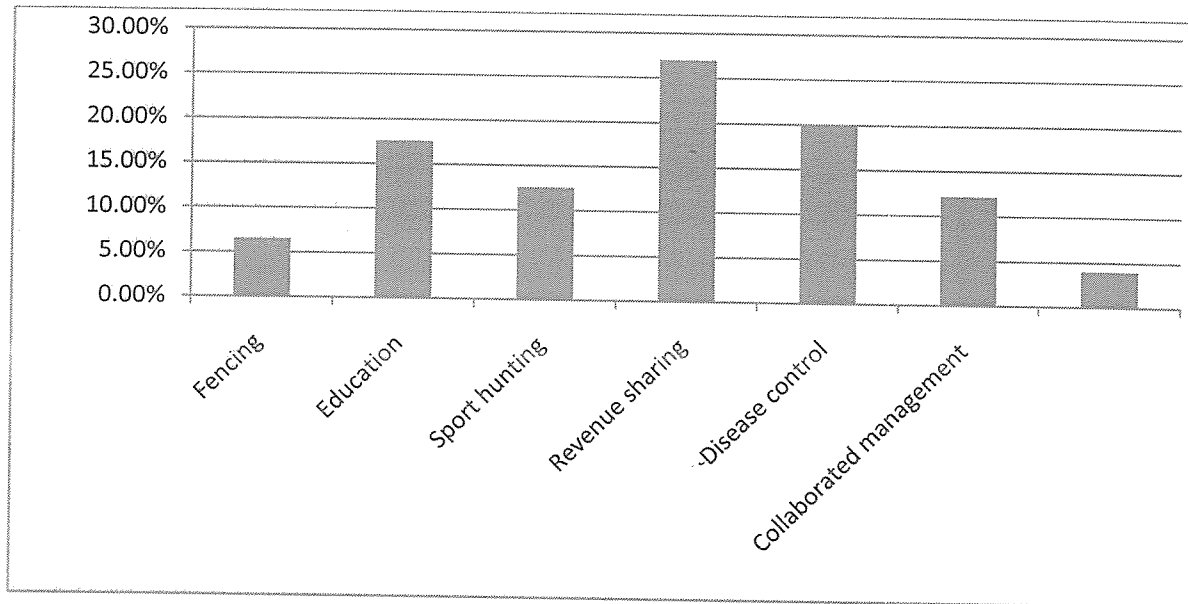


From the Figure 6 above, the finding revealed that cultural erosion is the major challenge faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National and this was at a percentage rate of 70.0% followed by Lack of grazing area at 45.3% which was recognized by respondents as the another challenge affecting local communities in lake Mburo national park. 43.8% of respondents from the national park emphasized that diseases were also the major problems causing harm especially to their health.

Crop destruction and lack of enough social services was also another challenge affecting local communities living around the park with both at 32.5% response rates. However, Soil erosion was recognized as the least challenge faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park at a percentage rate of 18.7%, while Death was at 17.5%, Poor transport at 35.0% and Lack of employment at 38.8%.

#### 4.5 The best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park

**Figure 7: The Challenges faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park**



The study investigated the best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park and thus mostly 27.0% of respondents suggested that Revenue sharing is their best conservation management practice in the park, followed by other respondents in the park who suggested that Disease control is also another conservation practice and this was at 20.1% while Education was also recognized as another conservation practice by the conservation practice with 17.6% followed by 12.2% of respondents who suggested that modern forms of grazing to replace pastoralism is also community conservation management practice in Lake Mburo National Park. The least responses came from those respondents who suggested that modern forms of grazing to replace pastoralism might also be another conservation management practice and these were at 4.0% response followed by fencing of the national park at 6.5%. This therefore implies that revenue sharing, disease control, sport hunting and education are the best community conservation management practices carried out in Lake Mburo National Park.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter mainly dealt with summary of key findings, conclusion and recommendations related impact analysis of local communities on development of tourism attractions in Uganda, drawn from the finding and analysis made after conducting the study.

#### **5.1 Summary of the Findings**

The summary of the findings were presented in accordance with the research objectives of the study as follows;

#### **5.2 Findings on the community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park**

The findings revealed that Law enforcement and Cultural erosion are the major community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park as contended by (Li, Y. 2011) that Communities living around national parks like Lake Mburo National normally work as Park rangers that work in law enforcement since they have knowledge, training and authority to enforce state and federal laws within municipal, state and national parks. Some state parks departments, such as the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation require all park rangers to be trained and certified as law enforcement/peace officers.

The findings also revealed that cultural erosion is greatly considered as a community conservation practices in Lake Mburo National Park as cited by Biira, Muhumuza, and Mugisha (2009) that the cultural of different ethnic groups living around Lake Mburo National Park is being eroded in terms of their way of life, change in nature of their environment In Lake Mburo National Park, the cultural values of the Ankole cow, and the conflict over the meaning of the landscape; a herd of 'beautiful cows' was formed and grazed within the park. In both cases the intention was to remove or reduce conflicts between local communities and the parks resulting from conflicting cultural values, and build interest, engagement, and support for the parks by integrating key cultural values into their day-to-day management.

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

Last but not least is education and awareness which was also recognized by environmental and community activists, lake Mburo park management, NGO officials, formal and informal tourist groups and tourism establishments as another community conservation practice as cited by Christianson, E. H. (2010), that communities often need to strengthen their organizational capacity in order to re-claim responsibilities in management and conservation of forest resources through education and other forms of capacity building. Educational awareness and capacity building can enhance the participation process. The educational process should run parallel to the actual roll out of the project so that in the process of drawing up plans, developing participatory tools the stakeholders can learn from each other. Appropriate educational processes should be used to mobilize prior and new knowledge and build competence among the community members.

### **5.3 The Challenges faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National Park**

The finding revealed that cultural erosion is the major challenge faced by local communities in conservation of Lake Mburo National and this was at a percentage rate of 70% as cited by Tosun (2000) that a wide range of obstacles to community participation in the context of developing countries. He categorized these obstacles into operational, cultural and structural limitations. Those categorized as operational limitations include the centralization of public administration of tourism 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



The findings also revealed that lack of grazing area at 45.3% which was recognized by respondents as the challenge affecting local communities in Lake Mburo National Park. 43.8% of respondents from the national park emphasized that diseases were also the major problems causing harm especially to their health. Crop destruction and lack of enough social services was also another challenge affecting local communities living around the park with both at 32.5% response rates as cited by Timothy, D. J. (2009) who stressed out that The rate of crop destruction in Uganda has sky rocketed and Uganda's National Parks are disappearing which has ushered in a number of environmental problems such as devastating impacts of climate change, soil degradation reduced biodiversity, degradation of water sheds, food insecurity due to exacerbated drought, loss of recreation, Loss of biological diversity. Uganda government as a response to the predicament in her aptitude put forward various policies, regulations, laws, statutes, among others that would regulate National Parks and natural resources exploitation.

#### **5.4 The best community conservation management practices in Lake Mburo National Park**

The findings revealed that revenue sharing is their best conservation management practice in the park, as cited by McNeish, (2010), that revenue sharing is also conservation measure in Lake Mburo National Park as Exports of minerals and hydrocarbons account for more than a quarter of total exports in half of the sub-Saharan economies and the share of natural resources revenue (NRR) on total government revenue is expected to become dominant for an increasing number of countries.

The findings also revealed that disease control is also another conservation practice and this was at 20.1% while Education and awareness was also recognized as another conservation practice by the conservation practice with 17.6% as contended by Christianson, E. H. (2010), that communities often need to strengthen their organizational capacity in order to re-claim responsibilities in management and conservation of forest resources through education and other forms of capacity building. Educational awareness and capacity building can enhance the participation process. The educational process should run parallel to the actual roll out of the project so that in the process of drawing up plans, developing participatory tools the stakeholders can learn from each other.

The findings further revealed that modern forms of grazing to replace pastoralism are also community conservation management practice in Lake Mburo National Park. The least responses came from those respondents who suggested that Modern forms of grazing to replace pastoralism might also be another conservation management practice and these were at 4.0% response as cited by Kibicho, W. (2013) that grazing is used as a management tool to suppress weeds in forest plantation. This facilitates faster growth of the young trees and reduces biomass that could otherwise pose fire hazards in the dry seasons. However this has resulted into biodiversity loss and accelerated soil erosion in some areas. Honey harvesting within Lake Mburo National Park reserve is also one of the controlled activities permitted in the buffer zone. This therefore implies that revenue sharing, disease control, sport hunting and education are the best community conservation management practices carried out in Lake Mburo National Park.

## **5.5 Conclusions**

The research findings established that local people wish to play a role in the conservation, decision-making process as indicated in Table 7 and Figure 3 that local people majorly engage in conservation activities like; grazing, fishing, deforestation, bush burning, honey harvesting, hunting, beliefs and taboos. 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 and 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 in Table 6 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.

## 5.6 Recommendations

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

There is need to promote participatory conservation planning systems and regulatory frameworks to ensure effective consultation with all stakeholders in conservation developments as to curb down barriers like Lack of co-ordination between involved parties and Limited revenue sharing as indicated.

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 them.

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.

There is need to promote Community Based Organization (CBOs), Non-Government Organization (NGOs) in Lake Mburo 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.

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.

#### **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 more findings on the role of Government on the development of international tourism in Uganda.
- There should also be further research done impact of local communities' social development in rural areas of Uganda.

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**APPENDICES**  
**APPEDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Dear respondent;

I am, **ATUHAIRE SHEILA** a student at Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. I kindly ask you to fill up these questionnaires that will help me succeed in finishing academic research project for the partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor's degree in tourism and hotel management.

This information is purely academic purposes.

This study is carried out to find out the impact of community conservation in Uganda, a case study of Lake Mburonationalpark. The answers provided will be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. You are therefore not expected to indicate your name.

**SECTION A: Demographic characteristics of respondents**

**1. Gender of respondents**

a) Male ☐

b). Female ☐

**2. Age of Respondents**

a) 20-29 ☐

b).30-39 ☐

c) 40-49 ☐

d) 50-59 ☐

e). 60+ ☐

**3. Level of education**

a) Primary ☐

b) Secondary ☐

c) Tertiary ☐

d) None ☐

Others specify.....

**4. Name of the organization**

.....

## SECTION B: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

Indicate Your Level Of Response

4-Strongly Agree

3-Agree

2-Disagree

1-Strongly Disagree

No.	Indigenous practice	1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Do you carry out grazing?				
2.	Do you carry out fishing?				
3.	Do you carry out deforestation?				
4.	Do you carry out bush burning?				
5.	Do you carry out honey harvesting?				
6.	Do you carry out hunting?				
7.	Do you practice beliefs and taboos?				

## SECTION C: CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

No.	Challenges	1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Has flooding affected green vegetation?				
2.	Has illegal grazing reduced on the vegetation cover in the park?				
3.	Has soil erosion affected farming practices in the park?				
4.	Has poaching affected animal population within the park?				
5.	Does cultural erosion influence the society living within the park?				

**SECTIOND: THEBEST COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK.**

No.	Conservation Management Practices	1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction if your crops in the park				
2.	Has illegal grazing influenced vegetation cover within the national park				
3.	Has soil erosion helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park				
4.	Does repairing of existing infrastructure help in keeping up conservation of wild life?				
5.	Has biodiversity helped in controlling growth and irradiation of invasive species within the park?				

**Thank you for your corporation**

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## APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRES TO UGANDA WILD LIFE AUTHORITY

Dear respondent;

I am, **ATUHAIRE SHEILA** a student at Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. I kindly ask you to fill up these questionnaires that will help me succeed in finishing academic research project for the partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor's degree in tourism and hotel management.

This information is purely academic purposes.

This study is carried out to find out the impact of community conservation in Uganda, a case study of Lake Mburo national park.

The answers provided will be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. You are therefore not expected to indicate your name.

### SECTION A: Demographic characteristics of respondents

#### 2. Gender of respondents

b) Male ☐

b). Female ☐

#### 2. Age of Respondents

a) 20-29 ☐

b).30-39 ☐

c) 40-49 ☐

d) 50-59 ☐

e). 60+ ☐

#### 3. Level of education

a) Primary ☐

b) Secondary ☐

c) Tertiary ☐

d) None ☐

Others specify.....

#### 4. Name of the organization

.....

## SECTION B: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

Indicate Your Level Of Response

4-Strongly Agree

3-Agree

2-Disagree

1-Strongly Disagree

No.	Indigenous practice	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Do communities within the park carry out grazing?				
2.	Do communities within the park carry out fishing?				
3.	Do communities within the park carry out deforestation?				
4.	Do communities within the park carry out bush burning?				
5.	Do communities within the park carry out honey harvesting?				
6.	Do communities within the park carry out hunting?				
7.	Do communities within the park practice beliefs and taboos?				

## SECTION C: CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

No.	Challenges	5.	6.	7.	8.
6.	Has flooding affected green vegetation?				
7.	Has illegal grazing reduced on the vegetation cover in the park?				
8.	Has soil erosion affected farming practices in the park?				
9.	Has poaching affected animal population within the park?				
10.	Does cultural erosion influence the society living within the park?				

**SECTION D:THE BEST COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK.**

No.	Conservation Management Practices	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction if your crops in the park				
2.	Has illegal grazing influenced vegetation cover within the national park				
3.	Has soil erosion helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park				
4.	Does repairing of existing infrastructure help in keeping up conservation of wild life?				
5.	Has biodiversity helped in controlling growth and irradiation of invasive species within the park?				
6.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction of your crops within the park?				
7.	Has illegal grazing influencedvegetation growth within the national park ?				

**Thank you for your corporation**

### APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dear respondent;

I am, **ATUHAIRE SHEILA** a student at Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. I kindly ask you to fill up these questionnaires that will help me succeed in finishing academic research project for the partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor's degree in tourism and hotel management.

This information is purely academic purposes.

This study is carried out to find out the impact of community conservation in Uganda, a case study of Lake Mburo national park.

The answers provided will be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. You are therefore not expected to indicate your name.

#### SECTION A: Demographic characteristics of respondents

##### 3. Gender of respondents

a) Male ☐

b). Female ☐

##### 2. Age of Respondents

a) 20-29 ☐

b).30-39 ☐

c) 40-49 ☐

d) 50-59 ☐

e). 60+ ☐

##### 3. Level of education

a) Primary ☐

b) Secondary ☐

c) Tertiary ☐

d) None ☐

Others specify.....

##### 4. Name of the organization

.....

## SECTION B: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

Indicate Your Level Of Response

4-Strongly Agree

3-Agree

2-Disagree

1-Strongly Disagree

No.	Community Conservation Practices	9.	10.	11.	12.
8.	Do you carry out grazing?				
9.	Do you carry out fishing?				
10.	Do you carry out deforestation?				
11.	Do you carry out bush burning?				
12.	Do you carry out honey harvesting?				
13.	Do you carry out hunting?				
14.	Do you practice beliefs and taboos?				

## SECTION C: CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

No.	Challenges	9.	10.	11.	12.
11.	Has flooding affected green vegetation within your park?				
12.	Has illegal grazing reduced on the vegetation cover in the park?				
13.	Has soil erosion affected your farming practices in the park?				
14.	Has poaching affected animal population within the park?				
15.	Does cultural erosion influence your society living within the park?				



**SECTION D:THE BEST COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK.**

No.	Community Conservation Management Practices	9.	10.	11.	12.
1.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction if your crops in the park				
2.	Has illegal grazing influenced vegetation cover within the national park				
3.	Has soil erosion helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park				
4.	Has biodiversity helped in controlling growth and irradiation of invasive species within the park				
5.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction of your crops within the park?				
6.	Has illegal grazing influenced vegetation growth within the national park?				
7.	Has soil erosion control helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park?				
8.	Do repairing of existing infrastructure help in keeping up conservation of wild life?				

**Thank you for your corporation**

## APPENDIX IV: QUESTIONNAIRES TO NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Dear respondent;

I am, **ATUHAIRE SHEILA** a student at Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. I kindly ask you to fill up these questionnaires that will help me succeed in finishing academic research project for the partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor's degree in tourism and hotel management.

This information is purely academic purposes.

This study is carried out to find out the impact of community conservation in Uganda, a case study of Lake Mburo national park.

The answers provided will be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. You are therefore not expected to indicate your name.

### SECTION A: Demographic characteristics of respondents

#### 4. Gender of respondents

c) Male ☐

b). Female ☐

#### 2. Age of Respondents

a) 20-29 ☐

b).30-39 ☐

c) 40-49 ☐

d) 50-59 ☐

e). 60+ ☐

#### 3. Level of education

a) Primary ☐

b) Secondary ☐

c) Tertiary ☐

d) None ☐

Others specify.....

#### 4. Name of the organization

.....

## SECTION B: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

Indicate Your Level Of Response

4-Strongly Agree

3-Agree

2-Disagree

1-Strongly Disagree

No.	Community Conservation Practices	13.	14.	15.	16.
1.	Do communities in the park carry out grazing?				
2.	Do communities carry out fishing?				
3.	Do communities carry out deforestation?				
4.	Do communities carry out bush burning?				
5.	Do communities carry out honey harvesting?				
6.	Do communities carry out hunting?				
7.	Do communities practice beliefs and taboos?				

## SECTION C: CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

No.	Challenges	13.	14.	15.	16.
1.	Has flooding affected green vegetation of local communities?				
2.	Has illegal grazing reduced on the vegetation cover in the park?				
3.	Has soil erosion affected farming practices in the park?				
4.	Has poaching affected animal population within the park?				
5.	Does cultural erosion influence the society living within the park?				

**SECTIOND: THEBEST COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK.**

No.	Community Conservation Management Practices	13.	14.	15.	16.
9.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction of communities' crops in the park				
10.	Has illegal grazing influenced vegetation cover within the national park				
11.	Has soil erosion helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park				
12.	Has biodiversity helped in controlling growth and irradiation of invasive species within the park				
13.	Has flood mitigation helped in limiting destruction of people's crops within the park?				
14.	Has illegal grazing influencedvegetation growth within the national park ?				
15.	Has soil erosion control helped in monitoring the flow of water within the national park?				
16.	Do repairing of existing infrastructure help in keeping up conservation of wild life within the park?				

**Thank you for your corporation**

## APPENDIX V: WORK PLAN

Activity	Time in month			
Proposal writing				
Data collection				
Data analysis				
Submission of the dissertation				

#### APPENDIX VI: BUDGET

Item	Amount
Stationary -papers and pens	50.000/=
Transport	100.000/=
Phone calls	100.000/=
Internet usage	30.000/=
Typing and printing	50.000/=
Miscellaneous	200.000/=
Total	530.000/=

**-END-**