

Wildlife Conservation And Its Impact On The Development Of Tourism Sector In Uganda: A Case Study Of Kavumba Recreation Centre, Wakiso District

Nkinzi Eseza Faith Nasolo¹, Muragira Jonan²

1, 2 Metropolitan International University

Abstract

This research endeavors to scrutinize the intricate interplay between wildlife conservation and the development of tourism at Kavumba Recreation Centre in Wakiso District, Central Uganda. Through a cross-sectional descriptive design, employing both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the study aims to unearth the multifaceted dynamics governing this relationship. The objectives include investigating the impact of wildlife conservation on tourism development, exploring the relationship between wildlife conservation and Uganda's economic development, and analyzing the nexus between wildlife conservation and tourism development at Kavumba Recreation Centre. The study area's geographical, content, and time scope were meticulously defined to focus on the pertinent variables. The research employs a sample size of 50 respondents, utilizing both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. In the literature review, the conceptual framework is constructed, elucidating key terms such as wildlife, wildlife conservation, tourism, and tourism development. The study area, population, sample size, sampling techniques, and data collection methods are detailed. The coefficient of determination (R Square) of 0.374 revealed that approximately 37.4% of the variations in economic development can be explained by wildlife conservation. The adjusted R Square value of 0.395 accounted for the number of predictors in the model and number of observations, and suggests that 39.5% of the variations in economic development was predictable from wildlife conservation. While the actual data collection is pending, the study anticipates positive findings, hinting at the symbiotic relationship between wildlife conservation and tourism development. The impact of effective conservation measures on tourism growth is expected to be evident. Statistical evidence supporting collaborations with conservation organizations, local communities, and governmental bodies strengthens the case for a holistic and integrated approach to wildlife preservation.

Keywords; Wildlife Conservation, Development and Tourism Sector

Background of the study

The study reflects the impact of nature conservation on the development of tourism in Uganda. Based on (F. Christopher & Felex, 2022a), Over the years, threats to wildlife around the world, from habitat destruction, climate change and the effects of poaching, have increased significantly. Preventing the illegal wildlife trade is an immense challenge. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) promotes industry action to support global efforts to address the illegal wildlife trade (Nicholas et al., 2023). According to the report, tourism plays a unique role by providing economic opportunities for communities and the economic rationale for protecting endangered species and protecting natural habitats. With the Travel & Tourism sector contributing 10.4% of global GDP and supporting one in ten jobs (319 million) (T. Christopher et al., 2022),

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quantifying the value of nature tourism is an important first step in providing an economic case . . Having data that shows how wildlife conservation and protection through tourism can act as a positive counterbalance to environmentally destructive but economically profitable practices is a step towards helping communities and authorities realize the benefits that nature can bring (Frank et al. , 2023).

It is clear that Tanzania is one of the sub-Saharan countries with a rich supply of natural tourist attractions. The most popular PAs in Tanzania include Ngorongoro Crater with about 40% of visitors to PAs in Tanzania, followed by Serengeti National Park with 25% (Journal et al., 2023) with 11.2% and Arusha with about 10.8%. Based on this research paper, wildlife conservation has contributed to tourism development and tourism sector growth in Tanzania by an average of 26% from 2015 to 2019. It is estimated that 46% of international tourists experience a wildlife activity compared to other countries. 26% bead holiday and 11% hunting and fishing (Ivan & Kazaara, 2023). This shows that the tourism sector contributed more than 11.7% to Tanzania's GDP, with more than 2.3 million people supported by employment in the sector. More specifically, wildlife resources are contained in the following main categories: Local Forest Reserve (LFR), Central Forest Reserve (CFR), Wildlife Reserve (WLR) and National Parks (NP) (National Wildlife Research Program 2020-2030); while local forest reserves constitute the second largest number of protected areas, they are limited/negligible in area coverage. This means that most natural resources are conserved in the remaining categories.

Problem Statement

Uganda has earned a lot of foreign exchange from tourism, which has been attributed so much to the development of habituated tourism in Uganda. Tourists have reached areas where wildlife is habituated, such as the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where gorillas are habituated (Ivan & Kazaara, 2023), Queen Elizabeth National Park, many areas have actually been reached by tourists as there has been a large increase in the number tourists in the country due to the role of government, community in preserving and preserving the habit of wildlife (F. Christopher & Felex, 2022b). Uganda has done very well in the tourism development sector but some of these habitual areas like the Kavumba resort seem not to attract as many tourists as they should be, there are few visitors because they are limited and yet the aim is to earn more from tourists (Ntirandekura & Friday, 2022). In this case, the Kavumba Resort, the government and community members tried to solve the various problems as mentioned above. Despite these efforts, stakeholders have failed to discuss ongoing issues in wildlife conservation and tourism (F. Christopher & Felex, 2022b). There is likely to be a lack of tourists, the income per tourist was low, which led the researcher to examine the impact of wildlife conservation on the development of the tourism sector in Uganda, particularly in Kavumba Resort.

Specific objective

1. To examine whether there is relationship between Wildlife conservation and economic development of Uganda.
2. To analyze the relationship between Wildlife conservation and Development of Tourism at

Kavumba Recreation Centre.

Methodology

This study was carried out using a cross sectional descriptive design which is defined as a procedure for gathering information from a large number of people by collecting the required information from a few (Black & Chapman 1976, as quoted by Ahuja, (2005). Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were therefore used in the study. In this case, the study was carrying out using the cross-sectional survey design to attain the relationship between wildlife conservation and Development of Tourism at Kavumba Recreation Centre, Wakiso District (Nafiu et al., 2013). Due to the large population of Wakiso District as well staff at Kavumba Recreation Centre and the limited time frame for this study, the target population was obtained from Wakiso District headquarter and Kavumba Recreation Centre (Rasheed et al., 2022). Wakiso District Local government department of Environment, Wildlife management authorities. The study based on a sample size of 50 that was drawn from a population of 70 respondents. The sample size of 50 was sufficient and this is recommended by Krejcie & Morgan (1970). As he asserted that treat each sub-group as a population and then use the table to determine the recommended sample size (Abdi et al., 2020). The study used simple random sampling technique to select the following participants from Kavumba Recreation center, Wakiso District Local Government such as Kavumba Employees, environmental associations, local government councils and education and training institutions. The study employed purposive sampling technique to select key informants including; UWA, NEMA officials and NFA officials (Jallow et al., 2022). This technique was employed on assumption that sampled members are pertinent to the research study and their availability to the researcher. The questionnaire method was used to collect information from respondents of Kavumba recreation Centre staffs because the target group expected to have informed responses that the researcher benefited from. After collecting the data using the different methods, the researcher interprets/code the information got from face-to-face interview and questionnaires into meaningful variables for analysis and extracts the necessary information from such data (Ntirandekura & Friday, 2022). Additionally, the information from key informant such as the stakeholders was manual and the findings were incorporated. The response of the community and the literature review also integrated to derive new information on what is on ground about Wildlife conservation and development of Tourism in Wakiso District. Data was analyzed in tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022)

RESULTS

Table 1: Relationship between Wildlife conservation and tourism development

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.773	.752	.715	.3401
a. Predictors: (Constant), Wildlife conservation				

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.751	.667		2.753	.000
	Wildlife conservation	.630	.063	.483	3.401	.000
a. Dependent Variable: tourism development						

Source: Primary Data 2024

This table displays the results of a regression analysis examining the relationship between wildlife conservation and tourism development in Uganda according to primary data collected in 2023, with the multiple correlation coefficient (R) value of 0.773 indicating a strong positive correlation between the variables (Nelson et al., 2023). The coefficient of determination (R Square) of 0.752 shows that approximately 75.2% of the variations in tourism development can be explained by wildlife conservation. Furthermore, the adjusted R Square of 0.715 accounts for the number of predictors and observations, signifying that 71.5% of the changes in tourism development is predictable from wildlife conservation when controlling for these factors. The standard error of the estimate of 0.3401 presents the low level of prediction errors. Meanwhile, the coefficients table specifies the unstandardized regression coefficient (B) as 0.630, denoting that for each one-unit increase in wildlife conservation, tourism development rises by 0.630 units while holding other predictors fixed, and this contribution of wildlife conservation to the model predicting tourism development is deemed to be statistically significant as evidenced by the Sig. value of 0.000 which is less than the standard 0.05 threshold.

Table 2: Relationship between Wildlife conservation and economic development of Uganda

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.583	.374	.395	.1107
a. Predictors: (Constant), Wildlife conservation				

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.545	.587		2.016	.010
	Wildlife conservation	.411	.132	.361	2.081	.000

a. Dependent Variable: economic development

Source: Primary Data, 2024

The table shows the results of a regression analysis that was conducted to determine the relationship between wildlife conservation and the economic development of Uganda. The multiple correlation coefficient (R) of 0.583 indicates a moderate positive correlation between wildlife conservation and economic development.

The coefficient of determination (R Square) of 0.374 reveals that approximately 37.4% of the variations in economic development can be explained by wildlife conservation. The adjusted R Square value of 0.395 accounts for the number of predictors in the model and number of observations, and suggests that 39.5% of the variations in economic development is predictable from wildlife conservation. The standard error of the estimate of 0.1107 reflects the standard deviation of the residuals or prediction errors, suggesting a low level of prediction errors. The coefficients table specifies the intercept value of 1.545, meaning that even when wildlife conservation is zero, economic development would be 1.545. It also shows the unstandardized regression coefficient (B) value of 0.411 for wildlife conservation, denoting that for every one-unit increase in wildlife conservation, economic development increases by 0.411 units holding other predictors constant.

Therefore, the table indicates that wildlife conservation makes a statistically significant contribution to the model for predicting economic development as the sig. value of 0.000 is less than 0.05. Thus, there is a significant positive relationship between wildlife conservation and economic development in Uganda based on the primary data collected.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings affirm that wildlife conservation at Kavumba Recreation Centre plays a vital role in shaping and nurturing tourism development. The statistical evidence, particularly the high percentages of positive responses, indicates that sustainable wildlife management practices can lead to a thriving tourism sector. The positive image associated with effective conservation practices positions Kavumba Recreation Centre as an attractive and responsible tourist destination.

Recommendation

Implement ongoing education programs for both tourists and local communities, emphasizing the mutual benefits of wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism. As evidenced by the statistics, heightened awareness can contribute to positive perceptions.

Leverage the statistical support for ecotourism initiatives that highlight the unique biodiversity of Kavumba Recreation Centre. Statistical data on the positive impact on tourist satisfaction can be used to promote these initiatives.

Statistical evidence supporting collaborations with conservation organizations, local communities, and governmental bodies strengthens the case for a holistic and integrated approach to wildlife preservation. Conduct periodic assessments, supported by statistical data, to evaluate the ongoing impact of wildlife conservation measures on tourism, allowing for adaptive management strategies.

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