

**BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN  
CONSERVATION OF PROTECTED AREAS**

**A CASE STUDY OF BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK**

**KANUNGU DISTRICT**

**BY**

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**BU/UG/2018/1946**

**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE IN BACHELORS OF  
SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

**APRIL**

**2022**

**DECLARATION**

I **ANDINDA DAISY** declare that this research report submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences is my original work and to the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted by any other person to any institution for any academic qualification.

Signature

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**APPROVAL**

This is to certify that this research report titled “Barriers and challenges to women participation in conservation of protected areas: a case study of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Kanungu District” by Andinda Daisy has been done under my supervision and it is ready to be submitted to the Faculty of Natural resources and Environmental sciences Busitema University.

Signature

.....

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SUPERVISOR

.....

DATE

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this research study to my siblings Arthur and Morghan, my cousins Sheila and Edwin and my nephew Jethro. May my academic journey be an inspiration to you as you strive to achieve greatness.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God For the gift of life, knowledge and for all the provisions throughout my entire academic journey. May His name forever be glorified.

I extend my most profound appreciation to my entire family especially my grandmother Ms. Rhoda Betubiza and my parents Mr. & Mrs. Aheirwe Robert Arthur for the spiritual, financial and moral support for I would never have come this far without them. May the Almighty God bless them abundantly.

I also express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my academic supervisor, Mrs. Nyangoma Immeldah for the guidance and encouragement during this study. May God richly bless her

I am grateful to my cousin Giles Agambe and his wife Linda Owembabazi, Aunt Rebecca and her family, Aunt Olivia Mugabirwe for being my other parents and always welcoming me with open arms. I will forever be grateful and may God keep them safe always and continue to bless them.

I acknowledge the contribution of the Bwindi Community for their willingness to participate in this study.

Lastly, I thank specially my roommates Hellen, Julian and Agatha for their love and support throughout my three-year journey, not forgetting my friends Collin and Martin and all my course mates within whom I have shared this chapter of my academic journey.

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## ACRONYMS

AWF – Africa Wildlife Foundation

BINP – Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

UNESCO- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UWA – Uganda Wildlife Authority

LC - Local Council

ITFC – Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation

CBD – Convention on Biodiversity

UNCCD - United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

COPs - Conferences of Parties

IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

GGEO – Global Gender and Environment Outlook

CII – Conservation Initiative Indigenous

## ABSTRACT

Since time immemorial, women have always had a special relationship with the environment, being that they interact with it often in different aspects like collecting firewood, fetching water among others in their primary capacity as caretakers of their families. This therefore makes it impossible to design progressive policies for conservation without considering the needs and views of the women as well as actively involving them in the conservation activities (AWF, 2020), yet this is often the case in most of our communities in Uganda and even globally.

This study was conducted in BINP and the community around it in Buhoma and Nkwenda parishes in Kayonza Sub County and Mpungu parish in Mpungu Sub County, Kanungu District so as to gather information on the barriers and challenges to women participation in conservation. This was aimed to gather information on the issues that hinder women participation, the challenges that the women who have bravely ventured into conservation face and how these can be addressed. This was done by finding out the conservation activities that women currently participate in, the issues that hinder them from participating in certain conservation activities, the challenges they face while taking part in conservation as well as the bodies and organizations involved in increasing women participation in conservation and how this is being achieved.

Data was collected using three methods, that is, questionnaire, interviewing, and observation. Simple random sampling method was used to come up with a sample size of 60 respondents. Data was collected, entered and analyzed using SPSS 20 and results were presented by use of frequency tables, bar graphs and pie-charts.

The study revealed that women mostly participate in implementation of conservation activities but are less involved in planning and monitoring these activities yet these are the aspects in which decisions are made. This thus brought to light the fact that the views of women mostly remain unacknowledged since they are left out of these crucial aspects of conservation. The study also revealed that due to their role as primary caretakers, women often have limited time to engage in conservation activities. The study further revealed that not all hope is lost as there's potential for increasing women participation in conservation majorly through educating the women.

The study recommended that a lot more effort be put in sensitization of the entire communities and not just the women on the benefits of recognizing the intrinsic relationship between women and the environment and acknowledging it when designing conservation policies and activities for protected areas like BINP.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Beyond climate change, biodiversity decline is considered the major threat to human well-being in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2010, the Earth's nations agreed again to try to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets), but global prospects of improvement are still slight (Hoffmann S et al., 2018). More than 99% of all species that ever lived on Earth are estimated to be extinct and the loss of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries can be attributed to among other factors, a high rate of population growth which has led to increased human activities and degradation of habitats. Consequently, there is need to preserve populations of rare or threatened species (Malav et al., 2020).

The true aim of conservation, is to ensure the preservation of a quality environment that considers aesthetic and recreational as well as product needs and to ensure a continuous yield of useful plants, animals and materials (Raimi M, et al., 2019). Protected areas are the cornerstones of biodiversity conservation (Boucher T, et al., 2013). Therefore, establishing protected areas not only helps conserve the natural landscape and geography, but also the wildlife that lives there, like the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP). Protected areas, such as national parks and nature reserves, aim to ensure that some corners of the earth remain sheltered from human disturbance.

By measure of their global coverage, these areas are transforming landscapes and seascapes: an estimated 14.4% of the land and 2.8% of the oceans were under some form of legal protection in 2014 (Ferraro P, et al., 2015) worldwide. Of these, 10.1% are in West and Central Africa, 15.9% in East and South Africa. Uganda as a country has 10 National Parks, 8 wildlife Sanctuaries and 9 Ramsar Sites of those in East Africa. However, success in conservation depends on our ability to reduce human pressures in areas that harbor biological diversity and ecosystem services (Ferraro P, et al., 2015). Participation of both men and women in conservation projects is key to the success and fair outcome of these initiatives. For example, a study in Bangladeshi wetlands showed that community compliance with

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