

**THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF ECOTOURISM AT KAPKWAI EXPLORATION
CENTRE IN KAPCHORWA DISTRICT, UGANDA**

BY

YEKO SELLY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF NATURAL
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SECTION B: NATURE OF VISITORS AND NUMBER OF VISITS

- 10. How often do visit the site 1) daily 2) weekly 3) monthly 4) annually 5) others
- 11. What means of transport do you use to reach the site?
 - 1. Vehicles public 2. motor cycles 3. vehicles private 4) air 5) others
- 12. Where does the tourist come from?
- 13. What is your travel distance to the site?
- 14. What has the trip cost the ecotourists?
 - 1) Transport 2) visa 3) entry fee 4) accommodation 5) meals 6) others
- 15. How many days will you spend at the site?
- 16. Do you have an alternative for the site? Yes or No?
- 17. If yes 1) Sipi falls 2) caves 3) others
- 18. What quality services does the site offer?
- 19. What improvements do you think should be made at the site?


SECTION C: TRAVEL COSTS

- 20. How much is your transport costs?
- 21. How much do you spend on a visa?
- 22. How much is the entry fee?
- 23. How much do you spend on accommodation?
- 24. Other expenses?

Transport	Visa	Entry fee	Meals	accommodation	Others

DECLARATION

I Yeko Selly declare that this research is my original work and has never been submitted to any other institution of higher learning for award.

Signature..... 

Date..... 20th 07/2017

APPROVAL

This research report titled "The economic value of ecotourism at Kapkwai exploration centre in Kapchorwa District, Uganda" by Yeko Selly has been submitted with my approval.

Name..... MASABA SONGU (Supervisor)
Signature..... [Handwritten Signature]
Date..... 20/07/17

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my mother Bonke Fanis, my dad Bonke Fred, Uncle Wasawas Julius, my friends Chekwech Ambrose and Limo Timothy, and my sisters and brothers for their love, care and support.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

TCM	Travel cost method
UWA	Uganda wildlife Authority
TCKM	Travel cost per kilometer
OTVC	One time visit cost
ATWD	Average two-way visit distance
MPV	Monetary park value
TV	Total number of incomes
FPV	Final park value
NR	Number of regions

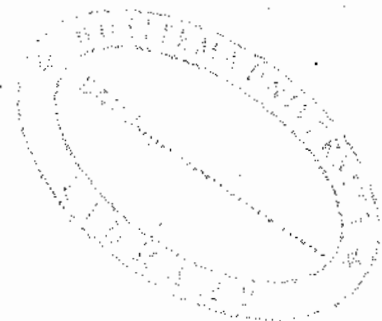


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ABSTRACT

The aimed at assessing the economic value of ecotourism at Kapkwai exploration centre in Kapchorwa district. The specific objectives were to: describe the nature of ecotourists who visit Kapkwai exploration centre, estimate the number of ecotourists who visit the site and compute the costs that ecotourists incur to visit Kapkwai exploration centre. This involved use of questionnaires covering 36 respondents. The data were managed and processed using SPSS and MS. Excel software. Data analysis involved percentages, frequencies and cross tabulations. The study findings indicate that in the last one year, Kapkwai exploration centre received 3,012 visitors. Most of the visitors were local ecotourists (66.7%) while international constituted (33.3%). The average round trip for the tourists was 2667.5 Kilometers and the average travel cost per person was Uganda shillings 1,057,014. The total economic value of the site was Uganda shillings 3,183,725,833

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Most researchers argue that ecotourism is derived from the increase in human population and preferences for leisure activities and assert that this often leads to an increase in demand for recreational use of public lands in many parts of the world (Foot, 1990, 2004; Bowler et al., 1999; Nickerson, 2000). Ecotourism i.e. travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of local people (TIES, 1990), are a fast growing industry. Research shows that ecotourism accounts for a large share of some countries' gross domestic product, and so contributes to livelihoods of many people in Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, Thailand and Malaysia (Isaacs, 2000). Since the benefits of protected areas however, often accrue to the national and global economy, but the costs are usually borne by local communities, integrating nature conservation and ecotourism has become a popular way to motivate local communities to support nature conservation projects (Abbot et al., 2001). It is argued that when ecotourism is supported in protected areas, the economic benefits accrue to local communities (Marsh, 2000; Hall, 2006a; Marsh, 2000; Weiler and Scidl, 2004).

Most values of ecotourism development to local communities are rarely studied although it is often claimed that ecotourism promotes conservation of natural and cultural heritage and may improve the standard of living of local residents (Boo, 1990; Linberg and Hawkins, 1993; Eraqi, 2008). Advocates of national parks often claim that income from ecotourism will supplement the livelihoods of individuals who reside in the vicinity of a park and the support of local communities is often required for sustainable development of ecotourism.

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