

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

## CBRM Database

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| <b>Date:</b>                   | <b>2/03/2013</b>   | <b>Entry Number:</b> | <b>1247</b> |
| <b>Case Study Name:</b>        | Tourism Revenue Sharing Policy at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda: A Policy Arrangements Approach  |                      |             |
| <b>Author:</b>                 | Ahebwa, W. M., van der Duim, R., Sandbook, C.  |                      |             |
| <b>Document Type:</b>          | Paper in a Scientific Journal  |                      |             |
| <b>Year:</b>                   | 2012   |                      |             |
| <b>Language:</b>               | English  |                      |             |
| <b>Document Location:</b>      | Journal of Sustainable Tourism   |                      |             |
| <b>Full Citation:</b>          | Ahebwa, W. M., van der Duim, R., Sandbook, C. (2012). Tourism Revenue Sharing Policy at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda: A Policy Arrangements Approach. <i>Journal of Sustainable Tourism</i> , 20(3), 377-394.         |                      |             |
| <b>Region:</b>                 | Africa - South of Sahara   |                      |             |
| <b>Country:</b>                | Uganda   |                      |             |
| <b>Ecosystem Type:</b>         | Tropical Rainforest  |                      |             |
| <b>Social Characteristics:</b> | War-Torn Society   |                      |             |
| <b>Scale of Study:</b>         | Protected Area   |                      |             |
| <b>Resource Type:</b>          | Tourism/Ecotourism   |                      |             |
| <b>Type of Initiative:</b>     | Research-Driven Project  |                      |             |
| <b>Community- Based Work:</b>  | Conservation, Resource Management  |                      |             |
| <b>Keywords:</b>               | Conservation, Gorilla Tourism, Tourism Revenue Sharing, Policy Arrangements, Bwindi National Park, Uganda  |                      |             |
| <b>Summary:</b>                | <b>Debates on how to deliver conservation benefits to communities living close to protected high-biodiversity areas have preoccupied conservationists for over 20 years. Tourism revenue sharing (TRS) has become a widespread</b> |                      |             |

policy intervention in Africa and elsewhere where charismatic populations of wildlife remain. This paper analyzes TRS policy at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP), Uganda, from a policy arrangements perspective. It is based on data collected at BINP and three surrounding parishes, using qualitative methods. It concludes that the governance capacity of the TRS policy arrangement at BINP is low due to the structural incongruence of the dimensions of the policy arrangement (analyzed in terms of actors, resources, rules of the game and discourses). Despite the participatory rhetoric of policy reforms, the Uganda Wildlife Authority remains the most powerful actor: it has control over resources and consequently determines the rules of the game. Local communities do not feel adequately compensated for conservation costs. This issue is exacerbated by weak communications with local people, problems of fair distribution locally and nationally, corruption claims and powerful local elites. To maximize TRS' ability to contribute to conservation through development, inequities in the design of the TRS and dispersion of benefits need to be addressed.