

Enhancing Rural Livelihoods Through Sustainable Community Tourism

CIDA Project

Summary Report on the Trip to Canada

Canada July 28th to August 18th 2007



Guided tour of Sprucewoods Provincial Park, look-out tower

Summary

The visit to Canada was designed to specifically provide experiential learning for the steering committee/ faculty of Makerere University in tourism management in a developed environment such as Canada. It was intended to expose the members to unique tourism attractions and environments, enable the staff members to generate and build teaching materials for teaching the new curriculum at Makerere. At the same time this provided an opportunity to run workshops intended to engender and complete the drafting of the tourism curriculum.

1.0 Participants

Ugandan team members who visited during the period from 28th July to 18th August included the following:

- Dr. Consolata Kabonesa (Départment of Women & Gender Studies).
- Dr. Jockey Baker Nyakaana (Department of Geography)
- Dr. John Bosco Nizeyi (Department of Wildlife & Animal Resources Management).
- Dr. Christine Dranzoa (Team Leader)

Canadian team members hosting events in Canada included the following:

- Dr. Michael Campbell
- Dr. Merlin Shoemsmith
- Dr. Kelly MacKay
- Dr. Leslie King
- Dr. David Walker

2.0 Activities

The activities under taken during the visit are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: *Summary of activities- August Canada Journal*

Date	Activity/Issues
Friday 27 th July, 2007	Departed Entebbe Airport via Addis Ababa and arrived Dubai International Airport at 12.30 p.m.
Saturday 28 th July, 2007	Departed Dubai International Airport at 7.45 a.m. via London – Heathrow, arrived at 12.30 U.K time and departed at 4.30 p.m. for Calgary-Canada – 9 hours 30 minutes flight
Sunday 29 th July, 2007	Visited Lake Minnewanka
Monday 30 th July, 2007	Visited Banff Headquarters and met Director General parks Canada – Western and Northern Canada, Mr. Bill Fisher. His team members Sheila Lucy - communications Director, Alex Kolesch – Manager Integrated Land use, Policy and Planning Lake Louise
Tuesday 31 st July, 2007	Met Banff Town Council Authority, Mr. Randall Mckay and Ms. Clare Wilkinson (student on attachment)
Afternoon 31 st July, 2007	Met Park Officials in charge of Natural Resources Division Heather NR Superintendent Bill – Ecosystems Unit Jeremy – Natural Resources/Wildlife specialist Gordon – Rescue Team Manager and thereafter visited fire lines

Date	Activity/Issues
Wednesday 1 st August, 2007	Visited Lake Louise, met Dr. Alex Kolesch
Thursday 2 nd August, 2007	Visited Columbia Ice Fields (whole day)
Friday 3 rd August, 2007	Visited Friends of Parks Canada in the morning and departed for Manitoba
Saturday 4 th - Sunday 5 th August, 2007	Weekend: Dinner Party at Dave Walker's House
Monday 6 th August, 2007	Manitoba – Integrating gender into the tourism curriculum presented by Dr. Kabonesa Best tools for usage were identified Environmental concerns; eco tourism sites, biodiversity hotspot, IK, biodiversity. “Incubator” synergy between biodiversity and development by setting institutional framework Roles of all stake holders be defined (see presentation)
Tuesday 7 th August, 2007	Manitoba – Dr. King Lesley Campfire experience a) Diversify Village Livelihoods b) Explore ecological principles in solving livelihood issues (Niche Management concepts) Wildlife for livestock c) Train in negotiation and capacity enhancement d) Protect community livelihoods e) Ecological, economic, cultural, social and political sustainability
Friday 10 th August, 2007	Oak Hammock Marsh Site that was farmland, intense pesticides use would have destroyed the large bird fauna Rehabilitated in 1973. Now RAMSAR site attracting 300 species of birds Bird nests, tunnels, low impact tourism with “Canada’s award winning Green House”. “Empower local people to develop tourism facilities”
12-13 th August (DUCK Mts)	Self Guided Drive with Dave Walker to Duck Forest and site visits to highest mountain in Manitoba- Baldy Mts (831m)
14 th August 2007	Discussions with the International District Conservation Agency (An organ that links local communities, farmers and conservation agencies to achieve conservation in an integrative manner)
15 th August 2007 (RIDING Mts)	Presentations and discussion by Dr. Celes Davar (Experiential Tourism) Philosophy, concepts and practices A second meeting was held with the Management of Riding Mts national Park
16 th August 2007	Discussions with the Nature Conservancy Agency of Manitoba The Team also met with the
17 th August 2007	Traveled Back to Manitoba and stayed at Best Western
18 th August 2007	Departed for Uganda

3.0 Experiences obtained from Banff, Duck Mts, and Riding Mts National Parks visits

From the various interactions and visits, *Banff National Park* could easily be equated to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park of Uganda, in terms of popularity (attractions), volume of revenue accruing from visitors, sheer numbers of visits and visitor turn-over is very large unlike Bwindi and other parks in Uganda. Banff National Park especially is heavily-built up (CITY – IN PARK) set-up.

Lessons learnt

- National Park Officers must have clear vision/mission/goals for the Park and people's enjoyment (TOMM principle).
- High level of emphasis needs to be put on ecosystems integrity.
- There is active and intensive wildlife and range management; fire management, safety management and wildlife population monitoring.
- High levels of expertise in Natural Resources management are vital.
- Networking closely with city officials, NGOs, private developers.
- Management of Wildlife and other Natural Resources on shared common vision and understanding and philosophy.
- There was an intense level of awareness for opportunities and risks posed by Wildlife.
- Planning, monitoring systems for fires, problem animals, visitors are all in place and functional with well set up risk management.
- Active removal of pines affected by prairie beetles.
- Capability, helicopter for rescue operations.
- Communications/information flow is constant, efficient and effective to all the visitors. These were accomplished through Volunteers, NGOs i.e. Friends of Banff.
 - Tourism impacts on Wildlife is monitored, equipment maintained and infrastructure is well developed
 - Bird/hides and walkways created. These were well developed with highly trained personnel
 - Creation of corridors, passages, electric poles erected.

3.1 Banff Town Council Management as a special case of Town council involvement in tourism management

Highlights on the management system as informed by the Banff Town Planner

- Based on the principles of planning and re-planning, evaluation and monitoring.
- The city character and interest in conservation in general was high.
- Well planned and managed city;
 - Zero growth principles were maintained
 - Clear focus on city landscape
 - Visitor experience/services are key priority of all stakeholders
 - No one owns land, lease system applies, Banff has land
- Zoning 15-25 land use systems based on altitudes.
- Of the built-up area every square foot of Banff has been inventoried and mapped.
- Large training centers not accepted. City has policy on non-native species being implemented and monitored daily.
- All architects is based on mountain architecture, strict building design, shapes, colour, no storey buildings beyond 3 storey, shapes, and mountains' biking is also restricted.

Lessons Learnt

- Set basic rules and everyone must comply.
 - Have data and monitor for effective and sustainable growth and development.
 - Develop signage based on size/location/zoning.
 - Network; National Park official members of Banff Town Council.
 - Resources accrue from commercial enterprises.
 - Plan well and monitor with passion.

3.2 The Oak Hammock Marsh

The Oak Hammock Marsh is an extensive conservation area. This site was previously individual farmlands where pesticides were extensively used by farmers. Then, the biological resources were threatened especially water birds and herps, whilst there was intense wildlife-conflicts due to destructions of cereals by birds. In 1973, the habitat was re-stored after farmers contributed their land for conservation. Currently it is a RAMSAR site and attracts over 300, including rare bird species. New habitats (bird tunnels and dykes) have been re-created in the patches of grasslands to facilitate breeding. The education centre is visited by large school groups, families and foreign individuals all over the world.

OHM is a success story of the a) community based-collaborative conservation initiative b) An exemplary habitat restoration that stimulates recovery of biodiversity, promotes conservation education; c) harmonized land-use system thereby reducing wildlife-farmland conflicts and d) income through tourist.

3.3 Duck Mountain and Riding Mountain National Parks

The team traveled to Duck Mountains, Sites such as Spirit Sand and others were visited and ecological adaptations were demonstrated. When the team was in Riding Mountains National Park, meetings were held with the Conservancy, Local Council Committee, Park Authorities gave presentations on the Management of the management of the parks.

Lessons Learnt

- Local partnerships in natural resources management ensures long term integrity of ecosystem and biosphere
- New opportunities for enhancing visitor experience can be developed through capturing and identifying the Best experience and expertise of communities, packaging tourism products e.g. Geo-Cashing.
- Researchers work closely with Parks Authorities to find out possible socio-cultural and ecological and management options

4.0 Community Project Site Selection

From the two days or workshops, the team came up with a fine filter system of impartial but rigorous criteria for the identification of the community the project will work with. The selection process prioritized Ruhija as the first community to develop followed by Katunguru.

4.1 Fine filter Ruhija vs Katunguru was based on:

1. Timeline for Mt. Gorilla habituation – which was expected to take 1 year.
2. Conservation implications within Ruhija are high since it is located within the Albertine Bio-diversity Hot Spot.
3. Both economic and political necessity for Kabale District was recognized as higher than the rest of the districts of Kasese and Bushenyi.
4. There is real challenge of tourism sustainability in case the single group of Gorillas perishes, tourism could easily seize.

5.0 Conclusion

1. The team had first hand and practical experience in many aspects of sustainable tourism management, ecosystem management and conservation.
2. Furthered the existing relations and established new contacts.
3. Collected documents and useful materials, equipment- lap-top computer) for the implementation of Masters Curriculum.
4. Developed criteria for identifying collaborating communities and selected one (Ruhija where activities will commence in 2008).

6.0 Acknowledgement

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