

Enhancing Rural Livelihoods Through Sustainable Community Tourism

CIDA Project

Report on the Reconnaissance trip to communities neighboring
Protected Areas in western Uganda.
Makerere University-University of Manitoba

Uganda May, 2007



Katunguru "Bacala Tweyombye ki" Women Group (Photo: C. Dranzoa)



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Rural Livelihood Project through sustainable tourism links higher education, private sector with community development, biodiversity conservation and gender equity. It is jointly implemented with the University of Manitoba, other key stake holders (UWA, UTA, UCOTA and grassroots communities) to curb the ever growing poverty and increased decline in biodiversity because of deforestation and other ecosystem disturbances.

The principal objective of the project is to collectively stimulate economic development at the community level through mobilization of community-based natural resources and biodiversity as rural development capital.

This reconnaissance survey was the first project implementation action, spearheaded by the project implementation team, as a fact finding mission.

The field study was carried out from May 3rd to May 7th, 2007 covering three major surroundings of Bwindi Impenetrable, Queen Elizabeth, National Park and Kibale National Park.



Kibale National Park's landscape is characterized by strips of forest fragments and expanses of tea plantations. (Photo: C. Dranzoa 2007).

1.1 Purpose of the Trip

As highlighted above, the objectives of this trip were 3 fold:

- a) Acquaint the project team with project areas and communities therein.
- b) Assess grossly, the existing communities around the PAs and their potential for community based tourism.
- c) Develop Criteria and Initiate the idea of community-based tourism through sustainable biodiversity conservation.

1.1.2 Specific Objectives of the trip

- To meet and interact with the leadership, community members and the UWA staff.
- To know and understand resource base amongst/surrounding the communities, wether or not the communities were utilizing the resources at hand, for community based tourism and economic benefits.
- To know and understand the levels of organization by the people for community based tourism.
- To know and understand their challenges and how they were addressing them.
- To understand Community participation in terms of equitable involvement of youth, women and men in tourism and biodiversity conservation activities.
- To identify possible ways and means of collaborating with UWA in developing and enhancing community tourism and conservation for sustainable economic development

2.0 Stakeholders Consulted

1. Ruhija-Kitojo Parish Community Members (around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park).
2. Buhoma Community Rest Camp: Team Leader and Ag. Chief Warden (BINP).
3. Mr. Tom Okello Olong (Chief Warden, Queen Elizabeth National Park).
4. Katunguru B. Parish Community (Enclave earthen QENP) Bushenyi District.
5. Kikorongo Equator Line, Community (at the edge of QENP – Kasese District).
6. Ag. Chief Warden, Mr. Michael Okiring, Kibale National Park.
7. Bigodi (KEFRID).
8. Kanyanju Research Centre.
9. Chimpanzee Forest Guest House and Camp Site.
10. CVK Family Camp.
11. Ibura Community, close to Makerere Biological Field Station.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Schedule Guide

A question guide was developed to assist the team on areas of focus to allow an understanding of community structure, composition, existing activities/engagements, natural biological resources and cultural resource potentials (see attachment A).

3.2 Interactive Meeting

Interactive Meetings were held with UWA field officials, Chief Warden and Community Conservation and Tourism Wardens to inform the team on existing communities and possible potential of such groups.

Key informants from communities were interacted with to find out about their initiatives (e.g. Family initiatives CVK, Chimpanzee camp site around KNP and Team Leaders of successful community based initiatives). The aim was to learn lessons from them on how, and why they succeeded and challenges they face and how they plan to overcome such challenges.

3.3 Focus Group Discussion

Through the kind support from UWA field officers, the team was able to meet community members represented by their leaders (Ruhija, Katunguru and Kigorongo communities.).

4.0 Findings

4.1 General

Overall, the communities around the PAs had varying levels of community-based organization, initiatives and development. There were very successful communities whose initiatives were externally triggered (e.g. Buhoma and Bigodi). However, there were other communities with no initiatives to promote or advance their development through tourism and biodiversity conservation (e.g. Kigorongo, Ruhija, and Ibura). Whilst the Katunguru group had attempted to form groups.

Around Kibale National Park, there is a different model that has emerged, a combination of community driven Family Landlord initiatives where resources on family-land have been converted into promoting tourism.

4.2 Active and successful

4.2.1 Buhoma Community Rest Camp (1991-To date).

The community targets Budget Tourists and non-competing activities that are development oriented. The Buhoma Community rest camp started in 1991 – 93 by a Peace Corp Volunteer whose objective was to change community's attitude towards conservation of the national park through BCRC's establishment.

4.2.1.1 Established Models

- Initial funds were received from USAID, a Rest Camp was then set up.
- Policy was 10% of profit was deposited for community development.
- After the accumulation of funds, the following achievements were registered;
 - 2 Private Primary Schools were built and running.
 - Land was purchased where women group built and are running a Nursery School.
 - Supported the construction of a kitchen.
 - Planted 2500 cyprus trees.
 - 20 groups of **STRETCHER** Associations were formed and are engaging in tree growing and each group may consist of 30 – 70 individuals.
 - The Stretcher Family Association engage in Agriculture, Basketry and crafts and being marketed by the Mukono Women Group at the Buhoma Women's Craft Centre.

4.2.1.2 Other Activities

- Community Village Walks each visitor pays around 15,000/=.
- The community has 10 Rangers often on rotation. These Rangers are permanent employees trained by BMCT, BHT.
- There are 4 women and 6 male guides.
- Resources for Village Walks include Water falls, viewing of Butterflies, Medicine Man, Banana Wine Brewery, Primary School, Bwamba Settlement, Tea Growing and Bird Watching.

4.2.1.3 Challenges

- Lack of skilled human resources.
- Lack of marketing skills.
- Rich people are migrating to the forest edge.
- Prostitution levels increased as well as school drop-out rates and early marriages.
- Migrant populations are floating into the forest.
- Some obvious change youth's dressing.
- Lack of funds for setting up an education centre.

4.2.1.4 Impact of the Project

- Creation of emergency reformed Poachers Association.
- 50 million shillings raised over four years and shared.
- There are 13 Permanent Camp site employees, earning from (50,000/= - 300,000/= per month).
- 10 guides employed.
- Medical Care and Dispensary constructed and assisting the community.
- Teachers are employed.
- 200 orphans have sponsors.

- 20% of profit was used for the construction of secondary school now at the level of S.1 – S.2 and 56 children are attending.
- Poaching levels and illegal activities has reduced significantly. 2001, 29 Poachers were arrested, 2006 only 6 were arrested.

4.2.1.5 Spill-over effects:

- Nyondo Community was set up five years ago and have embarked vigorously on Tropical Rainforest Restoration Program.
- Internet Services and accessibility.
- UWA's 20% revenue is now getting to support family projects.
- The district has drawn a tourism development plan, incorporates Kibwetere genocide and Ngoto Swamp as tourist sites in Kanungu.
- Socio-economic status of communities significantly improved.

4.2.2 Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KEFRED) at Bigodi.

Kibale Association for rural and environmental Development (KEFRED) started in 1992 with six members. KEFRED has grown to 39 members by 2007. UCOTA trained and supported training of the members. A Peace Corp Volunteer assisted with technical support to the community members. KEFRED's key goal is to use Tourism as a tool for the development of its community and to support biodiversity conservation.

4.2.2.1 Achievements

- There are 6 guides/receptionists (2 females and 4 males)
- Wetland is about 4km² on a public land offered by the sub county.
- tourism
- Secondary School started as benefit to community
- Before KAFREP, the village started a school on church land but it stopped due to church politics.
- 1993 – school started
- KEFRED has given assistance to women groups in product development, marketing their products, selling products eg. Crafts sell through export to USA as at April 2007 earned 3 millions.
- Youths are helped in provision of materials e.g. iron sheets
- KEFRED Assisted in construction of various bridges along rivers and streams across villages.
- Efforts are mainly on the new secondary school, Fees is subsidized, KAFRED pays part of the fees and parents only pay about 50000/=.
- Bigodi Secondary School was constructed by the project.

4.2.2.2 Challenges

- Lack of Documentation (Brochures, CDS, videos recordings, internet).
- Crop raiding by baboons, vervet monkeys and red-tailed monkeys still comes out to raid crops along the swamp forest since part of their home range is cleared.

- Due to deforestation and fragmentation, swamp, forests have become smaller and so animals are stressed.
- Revolving funds are offered to the communities surrounding the wetlands. **And there are 120 families:**
- They elected a conservation committee that oversees the wetland and funds raised. They have their bye-law each family is given about 100,000 Ugs.
- Finances are limited.
- Capacity is still low and ongoing/professionalism.

KEFRED'S Structure – KEFRED is a CBO Membership – based body.

- There are 39 members: membership is paid only once and it is only 50,000/=; those neighboring pay 25,000/=
- There are 7 committee members and small secretariat

4.2.2.3 Why they have succeeded?

- KEFRED is non-religious!
- Non-political
- Purposively excludes individuals that have destructive tendencies.
- Goal has been consistent and sustained!!
- Net gain/profit goes to the Council as community development effort.

4.2.2.4 Impacts

- There is increased membership enrollment, (39 members), For the Women group there are 40.
- Household income has increased.
- KEFRED engages in international Export of crafts to USA.
- Uganda and North Carolina international teaching for environment – is a school's exchange programme on conservation education with schools. And Bigodi school benefits.
- Attitudes of young generation has changed, they do not throw stones at animals especially birds!!
- Each child pays only 45,000= as family contribution to school fees, the rest is paid by the KEFRED .
- Enrollment of girls in educational programs has improved.
- Closeness of the secondary school has improved enrollment.
- Monthly income ranges from 600,000/= to 6 million.
- Some teachers are also hired (job creation increased)

There is international Collaboration for KEFRED are: KNP, UCOTA and North Carolina Zoo.

4.2.2.5 Spill over

- As a result of KEFRED below are some of the groups that emerged: Bigodi – Enyangi Dancers Group, they all help Build conservation awareness group. Bigodi – peanut butter 1-8 women sell to super markets and visitors.

- Home stead tourism started 2006 with Tinka (gets visitors for traditional lunches) and accommodates up to 3 people at a time.
- Village Walks
 - Local Foods demonstration
 - Culture demonstration
 - Tradition dances/activities

The tourists/visitors are taken to five villages to learn about the life of an African woman, to eat a traditional lunch and watch traditional ceremonies.

- Visitors are told stories and they learn about immigrants of the Bigodi people.
- Each person pays 10,000/= . Each story teller is given 1,000/=

4.3 Individual Active

Chimpanzee Forest Guest House and Camp Site

- Its Family project.
- Employs 15 people.
- A group of 50 orphans (primary and secondary) getting sponsorship.
- The orphans sing/play/band crafts for visitors.
- Donations from 10 – 15 visitors at peak
- What kind of things are the visitors come for to Kanyachu.
 - Others come for visitor 's exploration
 - Village Walk – 10,000= per person
 - Visitors are interested in 5 rooms (double)
 - Visitor preference – Bandas
 - Nature Walk into the forest
 - Tea Walk and Walk to top of the WORLD
 - Top of the World owned by a woman called Robinah

4.3.2. CVK operates on a similar model as above.

4.4. Potential Community Not Aware

4.4.1 Iburu Trading Centre (Near Kanyawara –MUB Field Station)

Problems:

- Lack of fuel wood, access for medicine, honey which the communities used to remove before KNP became a park.
- Crop raiding by elephants, baboons, wild pigs
- There is limited activity, no organized groups earning through community conservation

4.4.2 Advantages

- There are forest patches and wetlands outside on community land
- River dura runs through community land.
- A number of the young men and women are employed at the biological field station.
- Makerere University Biological Field Station as research center and researchers get to communities to interview and do research.

- Women group who are making crafts exists (In charge is Ms Margaret Kemigisha at Kanyawara.

4.5. Potential Communities who are Aware of existing opportunities.

4.5.1 Ruhija-Kitojo Parish

Ruhija is a Parish next to the Ruhija Research Station of Bwindi National Park. The Park plans to start Mt. Gorilla Habitat by June, 2007 at Ruhija and Nzoji. The UWA is keen to see Ruhija Community as a way of increasing benefits of community conservation. However, by the time of the meeting this community was not organized, no facilities or activities around communities.

4.5.1.2 Challenges:

- Number of visitors around Ruhija is not yet known.
- No participation from community members.

4.5.1.3 Resources within the community

- There are 8,000 members in the parish
- Water falls
- Blacksmith's work
- There are wetlands
- Handicrafts are being made by women (baskets)
- Caves
- Fruit trees development/growth
- Bee-keeping

4.5.1.4 Potential

- Home hospitality for researchers
- Development of a Cultural group
- Development of Cultural Centre or Community-based Museum
- Development of community/village trails

4.5.2 Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP).

Currently the major problems of QENP are transhumance of the Basongora people and tribal differences with the Bakonjo. Community based tourism development is generally lacking in QENP. Women's group around Katunguru is not well managed. The current crafts centre at Katunguru is owned by the women's group but being hired by a Kenyan. Most crafts pieces at Mweya Lodge are from Kenya. The only success story of QEPA is from the Rwenzori Mountaineering Services which is community-based on 5000 members who provide porters and management of the Huts. Porters are paid 8,000/= per day.

4.5.2.1: Katunguru Community (QE).

- Three years ago, there was community based tourism.
- Members lacked money for running costs.

4.5.2.2: The community planned;

- Traditional dancing
- Tree planting
- Apiary
- Brick making

4.5.2.3: Existing initiatives are;

1. Katunguru Foundation for Rural Child Support.
2. Bachala Tweyombe Ki. Women's Group (40 women engaged in basketry/mats
 - The women's group has requested the QENP management to construct for them a Crafts Shop.
 - Informed that Katunguru B Zone has about 800 people.
 - They are not allowed off take from Park.
 - Financial mismanagement by leaders has disrupted some of the earlier membership.
 - But the BTK Women Group are running their system better when money is monitored at the Headquarter save, locked up securely – 3 sets of keys held by different people who are not part of the executive committee.

4.5.3: Kikorongo Equator Line Community

4.5.3.1 Existing Association

1. Kikorongo Equator Tweyambe Women's Group (KET) 20 members.
2. Kikorongo Equator Line Credit (KELC) Group (12 members) (7 & 5 ♂)
 - KELC operates credit scheme, collects 100,000/= from group members and bank on bi-weekly basis.
 - Each borrower pays off 2.5% interest rates, plans to buy land and build.
 - KET collects 2,000/= from each members on weekly basis, the women trade on water. They possess 100 water jerricans, they hire vehicle to transport water and sell each jerrican at 500/=.
 - They are mainly migrants seeking better opportunities.
 - Water is collected from Lake Nyamugasani.
 - They plan to purchase water tank.
 - They have been in water business for 3 years. Funds/profits raised are shared amongst members to pay fees.
 - The communities feel that their live at Kikorongo is much better than where they lived previously. They can now sell roast meat and bananas to travelers and earn reasonable income.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Community Tourism/ Conservation

- Attitudes were both positive (Ruija/Buhoma/Bigodi-Kefred and negative (Ibura).
- Note there is limited awareness amongst some communities.
- The gender representation and participation adequate an indication that equitable roles.

5.2 Resources base

- In all communities the resources were there, but the level of development and conservation information was limited amongst communities.
- There was clear link between Community based tourism and conservation
- For all the successful communities external initiative, support, and community willingness was crucial.
- Market potential/opportunities were drivers
- Noted that where there are success stories, benefits were direct to communities
- In each community there were a mix of activities (e.g. cultural, nature conservation, tourism)

5.3 Challenge

- Effective communications are difficult especially packaging materials by communities.
- Migrant communities are moving and taking over community resources such as land at Buhoma at BINP.
- Cultural shift as a result of internationalization is becoming a big challenge.
- Majority of youths are transforming their style of dressing, walking, and talking, while others drop out of school



Dr. J. B. Nizeyi and one of the active youths at Buhoma (photo: C. Dranzoa)

6.0 Recommendation/Way Forward

- There is strong need to sensitize and train the communities on community tourism.
- There is need for further intensive field survey for resources assessment in the selected communities.(Intensive inventory).
- There is need to develop a criteria to enable selection of the three project communities
- Need to make EIA

Appendix A: Question Schedule for the Baseline Study

That the purpose of the field trip is to identify and document the various communities within project sites; profile them to inform the project on which communities should be selected.

Guiding questions for profiling communities

- i) What are the objectives of the group?
- ii) When was the group formed?
- iii) Are the objectives of the community linked to biodiversity conservation?
- iv) What is the group size? Sex ratios?
- v) What is the administrative structure of the group? Or Leadership?
- vi) What are their key achievements/ Successes?
- vii) What has changed because of their activities and achievements (In terms of their overall Livelihood, Natural resources Conservation, Attitude).
- viii) What are the challenges they face?
- ix) How have they addressed these challenges or how do they plan to address them?
- x) What resources are they using
- xi) How do they raise them?
- xii) Whom are they collaborating with?

Appendix B List of Community Members met during the field Trip.

COMMUNITY	MEMBERS	CONTACT
Nyundo	Twinomujuni Alfred	772869744
	Dhabasadha Moses BINP	772848960
	Twinomugisha johnson	772557627
		member
Kikorongo	Bwambale Ahmed	member
	J Sarah	member
	Jackson	member
	Tinka John	Owner homestead tourism
	Jeniffer Bwambu-c/person tweyambe women group	member
	Nakiddde Agnes	Warden community tourism
	Okiring Micheal	Law enforcement warden
	Musinguzi David	UWA
	Badazi John B	Head ranger
Kanyanchu- KNP	Bwambale A	782970356
	Kyakimwa	
	Jackson Kigere	782234584
	Joan Kigere	774195282
	Mbambu Jeneva	member
	Biira Joseline	member
	Nsima Agnes	member
	Kamatha Yofesi C/person L.CI	member
	Tinga Simon CIP	member
	Muthahya Simon	member
	Murunga S. John(muzeei)	member
	Mariam	Bandas/0712984929
	Robina	Top of the world owner
Katunguru	Tushabe Peace	772191570
	Biita Christine	782056046
	Katunde Hamimu	782665632
	Nakitende Rosemary	Sec for women

COMMUNITY	MEMBERS	CONTACT
	Kabagambe Evaristo	782836482
	Friday C Lwanga	0
	Rubowa Peter	c/man Fisherman
	Ndyanabo Bernard	Fisherman
	Magezi Didas	774363105
	Beyeza Coenelius	c/man B.M.U
	Bwambale Jane	Councillor
	Bainomugisha David	774316178
	Akaawe Gorret	772517289
	Koojo Emmanuel	772937076
	Magunda George	752496812
	Kiiza Mahesi	0772989633 CCR QEPA
Ruhija-Kitojo Parish	Monday Nicolas	LCII Kitojo
	Rev. George Monday	Parish Priest (Ruhija)
	Tamaregamo Charles	LCI-Chair Bitanka
	Kahorara Francis	LCI-Chair Nki...
	Twesigye Daudi	LCI-VC Mburamaizi
	Twehikire Norah (F)	LCI
	Bishaka Silver	Secr. Fin. Rwesanziro LC
	Kabashlya Brazio	Cathecist
	Zarex-Tuyaweba	LCI Katoavu
	Banshekura F.	LC II Dofen
	Mugabira Denis	Youth devt
	Mrs Bonny Kaharara	Councillor women
	Katabazi Aulerian	Parish chief
	Kagarambi Sylverino	Kyogo L.CI C/person
	Silver Behangana	Katooma LCI
	Mucunguzi Felix	Information
	Bugwene Porito	c/persn Wegozi
	Ngabirano Christopher	CCR
	Sgt Deus Twinomugisha	CCW BINP
	Twinomugisha Johnson	CCR