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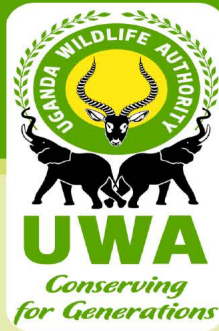


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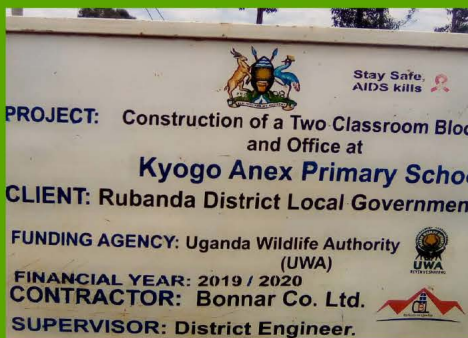
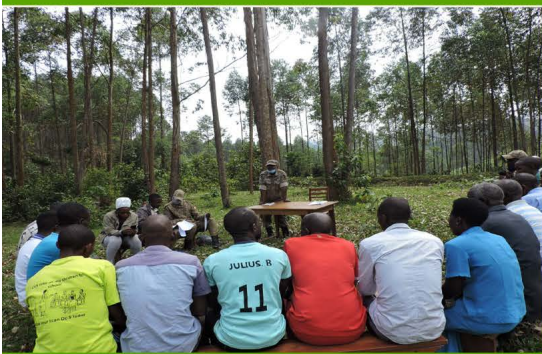
ASSESSMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR TOURISM REVENUE SHARING SCHEMES IN UGANDA.

**A CASE OF BWINDI IMPENETRABLE
NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA**

MAY 2023

Taddeo Rusoke, Ph.D.

*Findings and Recommendations from an Assessment of
Tourism Revenue Sharing Schemes in Bwindi Impenetrable
National Park, South Western Uganda.*



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BINP:	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
CAO:	Chief Administrative Officer
CCR:	Community Conservation Rangers
DPC:	District Procurement Committee
IIED:	International Institute for Environment and Development
LC:	Local Council
LG:	Local Government
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGOs:	Non-Government Organizations
PAM:	Problem Animal Management
PAs:	Protected Areas
PMC:	Project Management Committee
RCPC:	Revenue Community Procurement Committees
RS:	Revenue Sharing
RSF:	Revenue Shared Funds
S/C:	Sub-County
SCT:	Social Capital Theory
SDA:	Subsistence Daily Allowance
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
TRSF:	Tourism Revenue Shared Funds
TRS:	Tourism Revenue Sharing
UGX:	Uganda Shillings
UN:	United Nations
UNESCO:	United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organization
US:	United States
USD:	United States Dollar
UWA:	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WHS:	World Heritage Sites



OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Frontline Villages:

These are villages in parishes that border Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It is from these villages that respondents for the study were selected. Communities in these front-line villages experience more prone to damages imposed by wildlife from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Tourism Revenue Sharing Fund (TRSF):

In this study, the term Tourism Revenue Sharing Fund refers to the 20% gate collection/ entry and the US\$10 gorilla levy fee (a percentage of each gorilla ticket sold). The gorilla levy fee is only generated from national parks where gorilla tracking takes place that is Mgahinga Gorilla and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks.

Tourism Revenue Sharing Fund (TRS):

In this study, TRS refers to the 20% of revenue generated from gate entry fees and US\$10 of the gorilla levy fee that is shared with communities and local governments in frontline villages around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) by the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings on a study that assessed the framework for tourism revenue sharing schemes in Uganda: A case of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP), South Western Uganda. Adopting a cross-sectional design, the study a) ascertained communities' perceptions of the benefits of tourism revenue sharing (TRS), b) measured the relationship between tourism revenue sharing and livelihoods, c) determined the effect of TRS sharing projects on socio-economic well-being and e) investigated challenges associated with processes of tourism revenue access, management and monitoring among 367 respondents from frontline communities in villages bordering BINP. The tourism revenue sharing schemes investigated were; the 20% gate collection fees paid by tourists and the US\$10 gorilla levy fees shared in parishes bordering Kanungu, Rubanda, and Kisoro districts. Preliminary findings indicate that (72.4%) of the 367 respondents who were involved in tourism-sharing programs propose changes in the tourism revenue-sharing legal framework to ensure efficiency in the implementation, monitoring, and management of Tourism Revenue Sharing Projects around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park ($r = .784, P < 0.05$). There was a significant relationship between the construction of schools, and the socio-economic well-being of communities bordering BINP ($\beta = .164, P < 0.05$). Fewer health centers were supported through TRSF, and this negatively affected expenditure in terms of income spent by communities bordering BINP on healthcare services ($\beta = -.098, P < 0.05$). At the household level, involvement in TRSPs resulted in an improvement in household income by directly addressing household needs by 73.5% ($r = 0.735, P < 0.05$) and indirectly improving income by 89.5% ($r = 0.895, P < 0.05$). The main challenge associated with TRS processes around BINP is delays in the disbursement of funds from the local government to implement and monitor TRSP at 52%. Communities around BINP suggested that future investments in TRSPs should focus on road construction (30%), and construction of more classroom blocks at the different schools within the frontline parishes (17.71%).

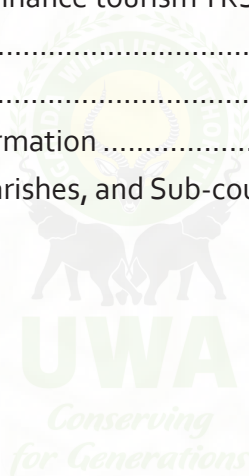
Based on the findings, the following strategic recommendations are proposed:

1. Uganda Wildlife Authority should manage the Tourism Revenue Shared Funds (TRSF) rather than disbursing TRSF to the Local Government. This shall require an amendment of the legal framework governing tourism revenue-sharing schemes in Uganda.
2. District Procurement Committees should involve communities in procurement processes and decisions on the choice of projects to be supported under TRSF. This could require amended of the project procurement processes at the different levels.
3. All stakeholders should actively get involved in TRSF management and monitoring processes to avoid delays in the disbursement and implementation of agreed-upon projects between Local Governments and the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

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0.1 Introduction

Sustainable management of protected areas in Africa without doubt requires the involvement of local communities in conservation and livelihood improvement through tourism revenue sharing (Spenceley *et al.*, 2017). Protected area management has tried out revenue-sharing schemes where communities receive benefits from tourism in protected areas aimed at changing community mindset towards the conservation of natural resources and consequently improving livelihoods.

Since communities bordering protected areas share disproportionate costs of nature conservation (Carius and Job, 2019), protected area managers apply several participatory approaches to deliver benefits and provide alternative livelihoods to the communities. Analyzing the impact of tourism revenue sharing on the livelihoods of communities bordering protected areas in Uganda using Bwindi Impenetrable National Park shall provide insights into whether tourism revenue shared with adjacent communities contributes and/or translates into improved livelihoods and nature conservation.

The purpose of the study was to assess the framework for Tourism Revenue sharing namely: - the 20% gate collection fees shared herein referred to as Tourism Revenue Sharing Fund (TRSF) and the US\$10 gorilla levy fees (Mugenyi *et al.*, 2015) shared with frontline villages in parishes bordering Kanungu, Kabale and Kisoro districts, Uganda.

1.1 Conceptual Perspective

Sharing of tourism revenue is a widespread policy intervention across Africa and in other continents where large wildlife-protected areas containing key wildlife populations exist. This intervention is deemed to improve the livelihood of beneficiaries and reduce resentment toward wildlife (Ahebwa *et al.*, 2011). Despite the participatory rhetoric of policy reforms, the Uganda Wildlife Authority remains the most

powerful actor. UWA has control over resources and consequently determines the rules of the game. Local communities do not feel benefiting adequately from wildlife conservation and thus feel not compensated for conservation costs. This seems to be exacerbated by poor communication and sensitization of the local communities about the values and benefits of wildlife conservation, challenges in ensuring fair distribution of TRSF

to frontline communities, claims of corruption, and marginalization/greed of powerful local elites (Ahebwa *et al.*, 2011). To maximize Tourism Revenue Sharing's (TRS) ability to contribute to

conservation through development, inequities in the design of the TRS and the dispersion of benefits need to be addressed.

1.2 Historical Perspective

Tourism revenue sharing in BINP can be traced back to 1994 when the Government of Uganda responded by developing a revenue-sharing policy for Protected Areas (Tumusiime and Velded, 2012). Under this arrangement, 12% of the revenue was shared on a pilot basis by the then Uganda National Parks (Tumusiime and Velded, 2012). Uganda National Parks (UNP) was a Government parastatal responsible for the management of Uganda's national parks.

In 1995, the Uganda Wildlife Authority formally adopted revenue sharing as a wildlife management policy, and in the same year, a revenue sharing scheme was established in BINP whereby 12 percent of all PA's park entrance revenue was earmarked for revenue sharing with peripheral local communities which were later supplemented by gorilla levy of US\$10 on each tracking permit. The Uganda Wildlife Statute (now the Wildlife Act, Cap 200 of the Laws of Uganda, 2000) merged Uganda National Parks and the Game Department into the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in 1996. Under the Act, the revenue sharing percentage was revised from 12 percent of the total park revenues to 20 percent of park entry fees (Tumusiime and Velded, 2012). Increasing revenue sharing from 12% to 20% was meant to increase the local share of the revenues from protected areas to communities.

After piloting Tourism Revenue Sharing between 1995 and 1998 (Naughton-Treves, 2002), in the year 2000, UWA started sharing 20% of gate collection fees or revenue with adjacent

local governments and communities. By 1996, the 20 percent revenue sharing of the park entrance fees apply to all wildlife-protected areas in Uganda and was recognized under the legislation - the Uganda Wildlife Statute (now the Wildlife Act, Cap 200 of the Laws of Uganda, 2000). Furthermore, BINP communities also get revenues from the gorilla levy fee, which is US\$10 for every gorilla permit sold (Mugenyi *et al.*, 2015). The sharing of revenue from gorilla tourism with local communities around Bwindi entails the allocation to local communities of USD5 on every permit sold. This was a positive step towards achieving conservation and community welfare objectives. However, both the current general revenue sharing scheme and the gorilla levy fee do not offer sufficient benefits that can achieve the twin objectives of sustainable conservation and improved park-adjacent community welfare (Twinamasiko, 2014). This is partly because the level of funding for community projects under revenue sharing is too low, and the system of disbursement of funds has been corrupted leading to some of the allocated funds failing to reach intended beneficiaries. The revenue-sharing scheme has also not adequately engaged the poorest front-line households hence making little effect on these households. Current conservation outcomes could be enhanced by an incentive system that offers more and better-targeted community support to sustain their livelihoods and improve governance of the Revenue Sharing scheme (Twinamasiko, 2014).

Studies by (Mugenyi *et al.*, 2015) propose Uganda

Wildlife Authority increase the community share of the gorilla permit fee from USD 5 to USD 10 and improve the governance of the Revenue Sharing scheme to ensure that revenue-shared funds reach the front-line communities that are the poorest of the local communities around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The two measures were more likely to affect positively the welfare of the frontline communities and sustainable management of the park. Many lessons have been learned from the multitudes of projects funded under the revenue-sharing scheme around wildlife-protected areas in different parts of the country in the last decade. Though most studies concentrated on policy reforms, fewer studies have identified the effect of Tourism Revenue Sharing schemes on livelihoods.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority Tourism Revenue Sharing (TRS) guidelines were developed in 2012 to guide tourism revenue sharing between wildlife-protected areas and adjacent local governments and communities. This can be considered a milestone towards the reduction of human-wildlife conflict and improvement of livelihoods of households in communities adjacent to wildlife-protected areas since the guidelines are built on broad consensus and comply with all laws and financial regulations in Uganda (UWA, 2012). The outcome of this study is to find out whether revenue shared translates into tangible livelihoods which ultimately influence conservation.

Since 2000, Uganda Wildlife Authority has

disbursed tourism revenue funds to the communities through their local governments as prescribed in the Wildlife Act (CAP 200) now Wildlife Act, 2019. Although Tourism Revenue Sharing (TRS) programs are aimed at promoting tourism development and ensuring that local communities enjoy tangible benefits from the industry while participating in the conservation of natural resources (Naughton-Treves, 2002), it appears that in some areas, the whole program or concept has not fully been appreciated since local people in some protected areas continue to invade conservation areas despite their protection status, illegal activities like pit sawing, poaching, encroachment and snaring to supplement their subsistence activities thus threatening tourism which is crucial to Uganda's economy.

Whereas the ultimate objective of the fund is to improve the welfare of local people that bear the cost of conservation through wild animal damage to crops, and farm structures, bodily injuries and harm, and loss of lives and livestock as wild animals stray from protected areas damaging their livelihoods, this study on the effect of tourism revenue sharing on the livelihoods of communities bordering protected areas in Uganda is key to evaluate and establish if the funds disbursed translate into the promotion of livelihoods for the affected communities. Effective tourism revenue sharing can improve livelihoods and conservation of communities in Uganda while building community resilience and support for conservation (Munanura *et al.*, 2021)

1.3 Theoretical Perspective

This study is based on the Social Capital Theory (SCT) to analyze the effect of tourism revenue sharing on the livelihoods and sustainability of the local communities bordering Bwindi

Impenetrable National Park (BINP). The social capital theory tends to characterize the aspects of the effect (Tourism Revenue Sharing) as positive or negative or as supporting

sustainable livelihoods or unsustainability of the communities (Piotr *et al.*, 2020). This study adopts Putnam's approach to the social analysis of the sustainability effects of Tourism Revenue Sharing and how it improves on livelihoods of the local communities and informs conservation decisions and supports Bwindi Impenetrable National Park management. The findings can be replicated in other protected areas to evaluate the performance of tourism revenue-sharing schemes.

1.4 Contextual Perspective

Before it was gazetted as a National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Reserve provided multiple livelihoods and subsistence resources for people living around it (Bromley, 2010). These include domestic timber products such as firewood, building poles, forest products such as medicinal plants, basketry materials, and foods that included honey, edible plants, and bush meat (Mukanjari, 2012). In 1991, the forest was gazetted as a national park, which changed its conservation status and meant that forest access by the communities including the Batwa (the forest-dwelling people) was prohibited. This created conflict between the local community and the conservation agency. This conflict was a result of the loss of subsistence and livelihood resources that local people used to collect from the forest since their existence. In 1994 as a result of the tense relationship between the community and conservation agency, the government designed a collaborative forest management approach that allows sharing of conservation benefits with the frontline communities that shoulder the opportunity cost of land for agriculture to a wildlife-protected area. Local communities suffer crop damage from gorillas and other species of wild animals.

Analyzing the challenges faced by communities while accessing tourism revenue shared is imperative to understand the need for a changing of the perspective from individually or commonly experienced changes regarding tourism revenue sharing within neighbourhoods of protected areas in Uganda using Bwindi Impenetrable National Park as a case study. The Social Capital Theory (SCT) is deemed appropriate for this study on analysis of the effect of tourism revenue sharing on the livelihoods of communities bordering protected areas in Uganda.

The collaborative forest management approach involves regulated access to plant resources for medicines, basketry weaving materials, and placement of beehives and subsequently the Revenue Sharing (RS) scheme. The incentive scheme of revenue sharing with park-adjacent communities was considered critical and remains important in winning community support and compliance with conservation requirements. Indeed this is reflected in the overall goal of UWA policy on Revenue Sharing. The goal is, "to ensure that local communities living adjacent Protected Areas (PAs) obtain benefits from the existence of these areas, improve their welfare, and ultimately strengthen partnerships between UWA, local communities, and Local Governments, for sustainable management of resources in and around the PAs (UWA, 2000).

Uganda Wildlife Authority has shared revenue with communities bordering BINP since 2006. The trend is tourism revenue sharing (TRS) decreased from 316,480,000/= in 2006 to 107,000,000/= in 2007. There was no tourism revenue shared in 2008, later in 2009 the tourism revenue shared doubled from 107,000,000/= earlier shared in 2007 to 287,577,850/=. In 2010, 100,004,000/=

was shared, no TRS was in 2011, in 2012 TRS amounting to 661,774,809/= was shared, and no revenue was shared in 2013, 500,241,012/= was shared in 2014. From 2015 to 2018 no tourism

revenue was shared and in 2019, 4,332,000,000/= was shared with communities bordering BINP (UWA, 2020).

1.5 Conceptualization

The amount of tourism shared influences the livelihoods and socio-economic status of communities bordering protected areas such as Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and other protected areas in Uganda. The tourism sharing guidelines and policies influence both the tourism revenue shared and projects which are supported in protected-area adjacent communities as shown in Figure 1.

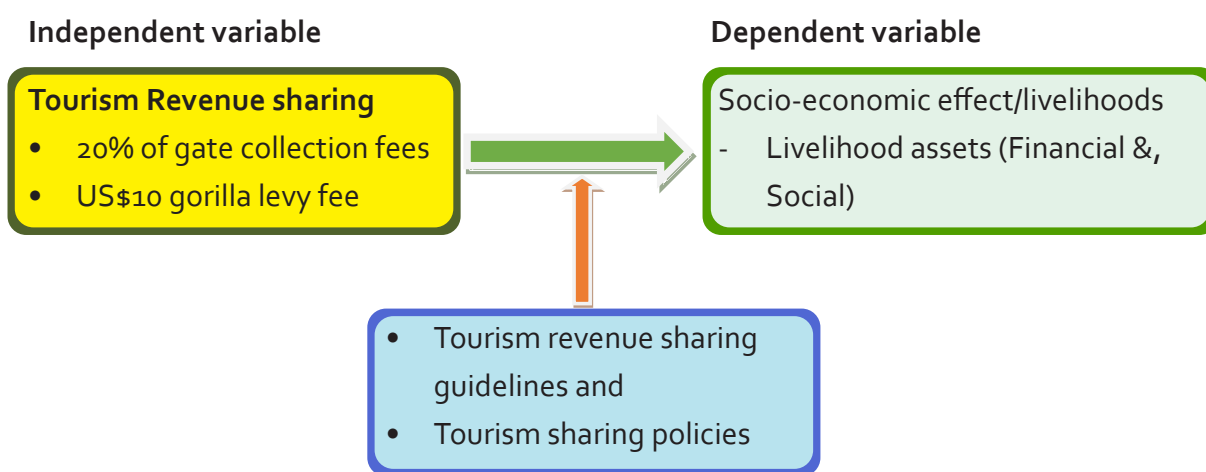


Figure 1: Tourism Revenue Sharing and Promotion of Livelihoods of Communities Bordering Protected Areas in Uganda

1.6 Statement of the Problem

Since 1996 there has been a legal provision directing the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to disburse 20% of park entrance fees through local governments to the local communities neighbouring protected areas. The aim is to support conservation and development programs and the improvement of the livelihoods of the communities surrounding protected areas. From 2006 to 2019, UWA shared 6,305,077,671/= with communities bordering BINP. Despite the tourism revenue shared, Twinamatsiko et al., (2015) observed 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 which was analyzed in terms of actors, resources, rules of the game

and discourses. According to Naughton-Treves (2002), there are four potential obstacles to TRS success: poorly defined TRS policies and unsteady implementing institutions, corruption, inadequate funds, and numerous stakeholders with differing priorities.

Ahebwa et al., (2011) study suggested that improving and making tourism revenue sharing around BINP more meaningful to contribute to conservation, livelihoods, and development, inequities in the design of the TRS and dispersion of benefits need to be addressed. The UWA Revenue Sharing Programme is experiencing significant challenges with its strategies for implementation hence the need for this study.

1.7 Aim/ Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to generate existing information on tourism revenue-sharing schemes which can help to inform a framework on trends of revenue sharing and enhance the tourism revenue-sharing guidelines and policies of the Uganda Wildlife Authority. The information generated from the study will provide insights into the performance of revenue sharing for appropriate conservation interventions among communities within and around protected areas in Uganda.

1.7.1 Main Objective of the Study

To determine the effect of Tourism Revenue Sharing Schemes (20% revenue generated tourist entry fees and US\$10 gorilla levy fees for each gorilla permit sold) on the livelihoods of communities bordering protected areas in Uganda using Bwindi Impenetrable National Park as the case study.

1.7.2 Specific Objectives

1. To ascertain communities' perceptions on the benefits of tourism revenue sharing (TR) and how TR is shared around BINP.
2. To measure the relationship between tourism revenue sharing and livelihoods improvement in communities bordering BINP
3. To determine the effect of TRS sharing projects on the socio-economic well-being of communities bordering BINP.
4. To investigate challenges associated with processes of tourism revenue access, management, and monitoring around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

1.8 Research Questions

1. What are the community perceptions on the benefits of tourism revenue sharing (access and monitoring)?
2. To what extent has tourism revenue sharing improved the livelihoods of communities bordering BINP?
3. What are the effects of tourism revenue sharing on the socioeconomic well-being of communities bordering BINP?
4. To investigate processes of tourism revenue access, management, and monitoring around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.
5. What challenges are associated with processes of tourism revenue access, management, and monitoring around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park?

1.9 Justification of the Study

The purpose of this study was to assess the framework of tourism revenue sharing schemes and their socio-economic effects on communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to

provide data to UWA for strengthening tourism revenue sharing schemes. This study is premised on the fact that the overriding objective of the revenue-sharing policy is to address both people's livelihoods which directly translates into community support for the conservation of wild fauna and flora. This report provides data on tourism revenue access, management, project implementation, monitoring, and governance. The report further provides priority projects that should be supported under TRS and highlights challenges faced by communities in accessing and investing in tourism revenue shared by Uganda Wildlife Authority. It provides a comprehensive assessment of how TRS should be managed and

data on improving access to revenue-sharing schemes.

The draft report provides insights into how much revenue has been shared since 1996. Data on whether the tourism revenue shared has translated into tangible livelihood benefits at the household level and community perceptions towards revenue sharing processes. The results provided in this report are expected to guide UWA to review the Tourism Revenue Sharing guidelines of 2012. The information provided can be used by UWA to enhance the effectiveness of TRS by adopting the strategic recommendations proposed.

1.10 Significance of the Study

The findings from this study can be used by UWA, the Local Communities, the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Government of Uganda to strengthen tourism revenue-sharing policies, laws, and regulations and to come up with innovations and strategies for strengthening revenue sharing programs to promote community support for wildlife conservation and improve their livelihoods.

Some findings are very useful in strengthening tourism revenue sharing projects' (TRSPs) implementation, monitoring, and planning.

The disbursement of tourism revenue sharing funds (TRSF) to communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is important in enhancing livelihoods to mitigate wildlife crime.

1.10.1 To Uganda Wildlife Authority

The study findings are important for Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in terms of shaping the implementation, management, and monitoring of the Tourism Revenue Shared funds. UWA can also use information in this report to make informed decisions regarding amendments to the tourism revenue-sharing policies and guidelines.

This study identified discrepancies in income invested over time and gaps between tourism revenue-sharing practices and project management. This information can help UWA to enhance the adoption of the best practices that are deemed appropriate to strengthen tourism revenue-sharing schemes.

1.10. 2 To communities neighbouring BINP

The study has determined the relationship between tourism revenue sharing and the promotion of livelihoods of communities bordering BINP at the household level, and communities were able to

report on actual versus reported indicators of livelihoods in terms of assets, subjective well-being, and household income.

Communities were further able to report on their socioeconomic status as determined by tourism revenue sharing. Further, communities

(respondents) were able to mention through interviews on challenges associated with tourism revenue-sharing processes after funds have been disbursed from Uganda Wildlife Authority to Local Governments (LGs) in Rubanda, Kisoro, and Kanungu Districts.

1.10.3 To Researchers

The study contributes to the base of the existing pool of knowledge on the subject of tourism revenue-sharing schemes and community development in Uganda while comparing it with other schemes across the region. This information is relevant to support the revision of TRS guidelines since most studies by Lisa-Naughton Treves 2002 and Ahebwa et al., 2011 tended to concentrate on tourism revenue policy analysis.

1.11 Scope of the Study

1.11.1 Contextual Scope

There has been an increase in tourism revenue shared per year with communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park from 316,480,000/= in 2006 to 4,332,000,000/= in 2019 (UWA, 2020). Whether this revenue shared has translated into tangible livelihoods among the communities is the subject of investigation.

1.11.2 Spatial Scope

The study was conducted around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Figure 12). The park is bordered by three districts of Rubanda, Kanungu, and Kisoro and is home to endangered mountain gorillas. Located in south-western Uganda the in Kigezi region, at the junction of the plain and mountain forests, Bwindi Park covers 32,000 ha and is known for its exceptional biodiversity, with more than 160 species of trees and over 100 species of ferns. Many types of birds and butterflies are also found there, as well as many endangered species, including the mountain gorilla (UNESCO, 2004). The study covered communities in the three districts of Rubanda, Kanungu, and Kisoro, selecting frontline villages that share tourism revenue

in at least 10+ sub-counties that have been receiving revenue for the last ten years. The consideration for front-line villages only is based on the revenue-sharing policy and guidelines which stipulate that communities to share in the revenue should be those bordering the park boundary. These frontline villages bear the direct costs of conservation.

Why Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP)? As enshrined in the Community Protected Area Policy of Uganda Wildlife 2000, BINP is the first National Park in Uganda where tourism revenue sharing as a collaborative management approach was tested and is still in practice since 1995. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is among

the first parks around which Tourism Revenue Sharing Programme which involves local government participation in park management and decision-making processes was established (Namara, 2003). The Tourism Revenue sharing scheme which started as a pilot model with a clearly defined institutional arrangement needs an assessment of its livelihood aspects that influence conservation.

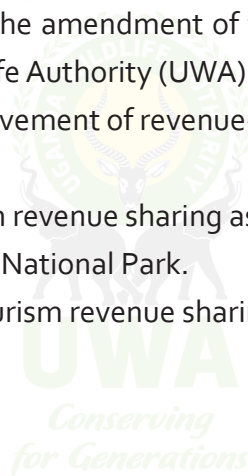
First gazetted under district administration in 1932 by the British colonial government, later with restricted hunting rights after the enactment of the Game Act in 1964, Bwindi is considered among the earliest sites to benefit from integrated community development programs (Mwesigye et al., 2018) including Tourism Revenue Sharing

1.11.3 Temporal Scope

The study was completed within seven (07) months. Three months were used to develop comprehensive data collection tools, conduct the survey and, data analysis, and prepare the 1st quarterly progress report and this draft report to Uganda Wildlife Authority.

1.12 Expected Outcome

1. Generate information that can be used to develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for UWA on the trends and effect of revenue sharing with frontline communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and other wildlife-protected areas in Uganda.
2. To provide strategic recommendations on strengthening tourism revenue sharing and gorilla tourism levy fees.
3. Information provided can facilitate the amendment of the tourism revenue-sharing policies and guidelines 2012 of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).
4. Generated information for the improvement of revenue-sharing guidelines of the Uganda Wildlife Authority.
5. Communities' perceptions of tourism revenue sharing assessed since the inception of the scheme in 1996 around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.
6. Identified challenges in accessing tourism revenue sharing and gorilla tourism levy fees.



02 Review of the literature

Over a period of 28 years, UWA has been sharing tourism revenue with communities in frontline villages of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP), a Park located in southwest Uganda (refer to Figure 12). BINP is one of the ten national parks in Uganda and is a World Heritage Site (WHS) which provides a habitat for 459 mountain gorillas (Pauvarel, 2023). Some gorilla groups are habituated for gorilla tracking and this allows UWA to sell each gorilla permit to tourists who wish to track them. Therefore, 20% of all of the PA's revenue from gate entry fees and subsequently a US\$5 levy on each gorilla trekking permit is shared with communities living in frontline villages in the form of Tourism Revenue Shared Funds (TRSF) to compensate for the costs associated with conservation (Franks and Twinatsiko, 2017). The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) bases both the Uganda Wildlife Act 2019, The Tourism Revenue Sharing Guidelines (2012), and The Uganda Wildlife (Revenue Sharing) Regulations 2022 to implement the TRSF. This study assessed the framework for TRS schemes in Uganda, A case of BINP.

Revenue sharing is considered one of the integrated conservation development interventions (Munanura et al., 2021). It can be regarded as a long-term strategy for achieving community support for conservation while improving their livelihoods (Tumusiime and Veled, 2012). When communities' livelihoods are improved through tourism revenue sharing, this will deliver conservation benefits and loss of biological resources through inappropriate and unsustainable access by communities (Tumusiime et al., 2011).

Available literature indicates that most studies on Tourism Revenue Sharing analyzed tourism revenue sharing policies when the scheme was

in its inception stage on a pilot basis by Uganda Wildlife Authority between 1995 and 1998. Between 1995 and 1998, tourism revenue was shared with communities bordering Mgahinga Gorilla Bwindi Impenetrable and Lake Mburu National Parks. During this period, communities around these three national parks used a total of US \$83000 of tourism revenue to build 21 schools, four clinics, one bridge, and one road (Naughton-Treves, 2002).

Ten years later after a study conducted by Naughton-Treves (2002) analysed tourism revenue sharing around three national parks in Uganda, Bwindi, Lake Mburu, and Mgahinga national parks, a study by Mwesigye and Veled (2012) on False Promise or False Premise? Using Tourism Revenue Sharing to Promote Conservation and Poverty Reduction in Uganda, the challenges to implementation of Tourism Revenue Sharing were mainly difficulties in integrating with existing local, historical, socio-economic, and institutional landscapes. This majorly emanated from the insignificant scale of socio-economic returns relative to costs.

A study by Twinamatsiko (2015) linked conservation to the implementation of revenue sharing policy and livelihood improvement of people bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) and compared tourism revenue shared between Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park from 1996 to 2012, fewer studies since then have been conducted to determine how tourism revenue sharing influences livelihoods. There is a gap in temporal scope which this study on analysis of the effect of tourism revenue sharing on the promotion of livelihoods of communities bordering protected areas such as BINP intends to bridge.

03 The design methods and procedures

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a cross-sectional design, adopting the use of descriptive methods to assess the framework for tourism revenue sharing and its effect on the livelihoods of communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda (Figure 11). It is expected that the improvement of livelihoods consequently improves wildlife conservation and negates human-wildlife conflicts around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. This report provides some insights and lessons learned.

Adopting Olsen and Marie's (2004) description of research design as a blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data, a cross-sectional research design was selected for this type of research study because the entire population around BINP was represented by a sub-set of selected individuals from frontline villages per parish. Using questionnaire surveys, a total of 367 respondents participated in the study through interviews and answering questionnaires. More data was collected through observation (INTRAC, 2017) and photograph methods.

3.2 Recruitment of study participants

The target population included resource users with UWA resource access agreements; Local community and Batwa households, UWA representatives from the tourism and community conservation units, members from local government, local councils, and Project Monitoring Committees selected purposively from frontline villages to participate in the study.

The study examined local communities' perceptions of the benefits of tourism revenue sharing through interviews and questionnaires for objective 1. The study shall determine the relationship between tourism revenue sharing and livelihood improvement of communities bordering BINP using Pearson correlation product moment for objective 2. To determine the socio-economic effects of tourism revenue sharing on the promotion of livelihoods of communities bordering BINP a multivariable regression analysis shall be performed for objective 3. Descriptive analysis and cross-tabulations shall be performed to identify challenges associated with communities' access to tourism revenue from UWA as per objective 4.

The Principal Investigator (P.I) worked with five (05) rangers from the Community Conservation Unit, warden tourism, warden community conservation in BINP, and local council leaders to participate and facilitate the process of data collection. The research assistants were trained on how to administer questionnaires and conduct interviews with respondents.

The study sample was determined from the target population of 74,553 from frontline parishes and villages in Kanungu, Kabale, and Kisoro using Tolo Yamen's formula of:-

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N = the target population

n = the sample size

e = the acceptable sampling error at a 5% confidence level

Based on a population of 74,553 the sample size was calculated as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{74553}{1+74553(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{74553}{1+74553(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{74553}{1+186.38}$$

$$n = \frac{74553}{187.38}$$

$$n = 398$$

Of the targeted sample of 406 respondents, 367 participated in the study accounting for 92.21% of the response rate (Table 1).

3.3 Data Collection Methods and Tool

Detailed data collection tools and instruments were developed and used to collect data. The tools included interview guides, a household questionnaire, an observation checklist, and a key informant questionnaire (Appendices I, II, IV, V, and VI).

All the necessary ethical approvals (Appendix III) were obtained before and during field data collection. For instance, the interviewees were assured of anonymity and confidentiality while conducting fieldwork.

3.4 Target Population and Sample Size

3.4.1 Categorization of Respondents

A projected population of about 74,553 persons lives in Kinkizi, Bufumbira, and Rubanda Counties in the districts of Kanungu, Kisoro, and Rubanda District (UBOS, 2014). From these counties, respondents were selected purposively from parishes of Buhoma Southern ward, Bujengwe, Kiziba, Bushura, Buremba, and Mpungu in Kanungu district; Kashekyera, Kiyebe, Nshanjaare, Kitojo, Kashasha and Nyamabale parishes in Rubanda district and Rushaga ward, Nyabaremura Ward, Kashija Ward, Nombe Ward and Nteko parishes in Kisoro District.

Table 1: Categorization of the sample population

Key Informants	Target	Actual
Chief Warden-BMCA	01	01
Warden Community Conservation Unit	01	01
Assistant Warden Tourism	01	01
Community Conservation Rangers	05	05
General respondents	398	367
Total	406	375

Source: Primary Data, 2022

3.4.2 Socio-demography of Respondents

Most (86.6%) of the respondents were males, who were aged between 36 and 55 years old (57.2%). The majority of the respondents were from Buremba Parish in Kanungu District (8.7%) as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Characteristics of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	318	86.6
Female	49	13.4
Age of the respondents		
18-25	35	9.5
26-35	88	24.0
36-45	110	30.0
46-55	100	27.2
56+	34	9.3
Parishes		
Bushura	25	6.8
Buhoma Eastern Ward	27	7.4
Mpungu	26	7.1
Buhoma Southern Ward	8	2.2
Bujengwe	5	1.4
Ngaara	15	4.1
Buremba	32	8.7
Kitojo Ward	27	7.4
Kiyebe	12	3.3
Nyamabale	20	5.4
Buhumuro	26	7.1
Kashasha	30	8.2
Kashekyera	20	5.4
Nshanjare	20	5.4
Kiziba	22	6.0
Rushaga Ward	14	3.8
Nyabaremura Ward	6	1.6
Kashija Ward	7	1.9
Nombe Ward	10	2.7
Greater Nteko	15	4.1

Source: Field Data, 2022

3.5 Reliability of the data collection tools

The questionnaire was given to three wildlife experts from Makerere and Nkumba Universities, who edited the contents of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was later pre-tested in Ntungamo Parish before the main data collection process has begun. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire were later subjected to a Content Valid Index (CVI) test using Cronbach's Alfa. The score was 0.864% (Table 3). When Cronbach Alpha

value is greater than 0.9 = Excellent, greater than 0.8 = Good, greater than 0.7 = Acceptable, greater than 0.6 = Questionable, greater than 0.5 = Poor, and less than 0.5 Unacceptable (Bolarinwa, 2015). This demonstrates that the variables in the questionnaire were appropriate and produced valid and reliable results. The results of the validity and reliability are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.935	45

3.6 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using content analysis and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) respectively. Content analysis was done in an Excel coding matrix while quantitative data was processed in a codebook and transcribed into the software package SPSS for analysis.

3.7 Limitations to the Study

This assessment focused on Tourism Revenue sharing, access, management, and monitoring and did not investigate details of the procurement processes, reporting of activities, and accountability processes (how much are items bought, where and how much was agreed for each item). This is proposed as an area for further investigation. All the CCRs had only spent a year at their new work-stations they lacked a historical account of the previously implemented projects. The principal investigator had to spend extra time perusing through files at the Park headquarters to ascertain previously supported projects though not exhaustively.



04 Findings

4.1 Tourism Revenue Sharing (TRS) around BINP

Tourism Revenue sharing is mandated by law. The 20% of gate collection fees are shared per parish that borders Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The basis for tourism revenue sharing (20%) is the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 as amended section 65 and The Revenue Sharing Fund Regulations Section I No.65 of 2022. The US\$10 gorilla levy fee is shared by frontline communities of BINP.

4.1.1 Tourism Revenue invested in Community Projects 1996-2019

Since 1996, approximately Ugx. 47,671,455,454 has been shared in tourism revenue within front-line parishes as shown in Figure 2.

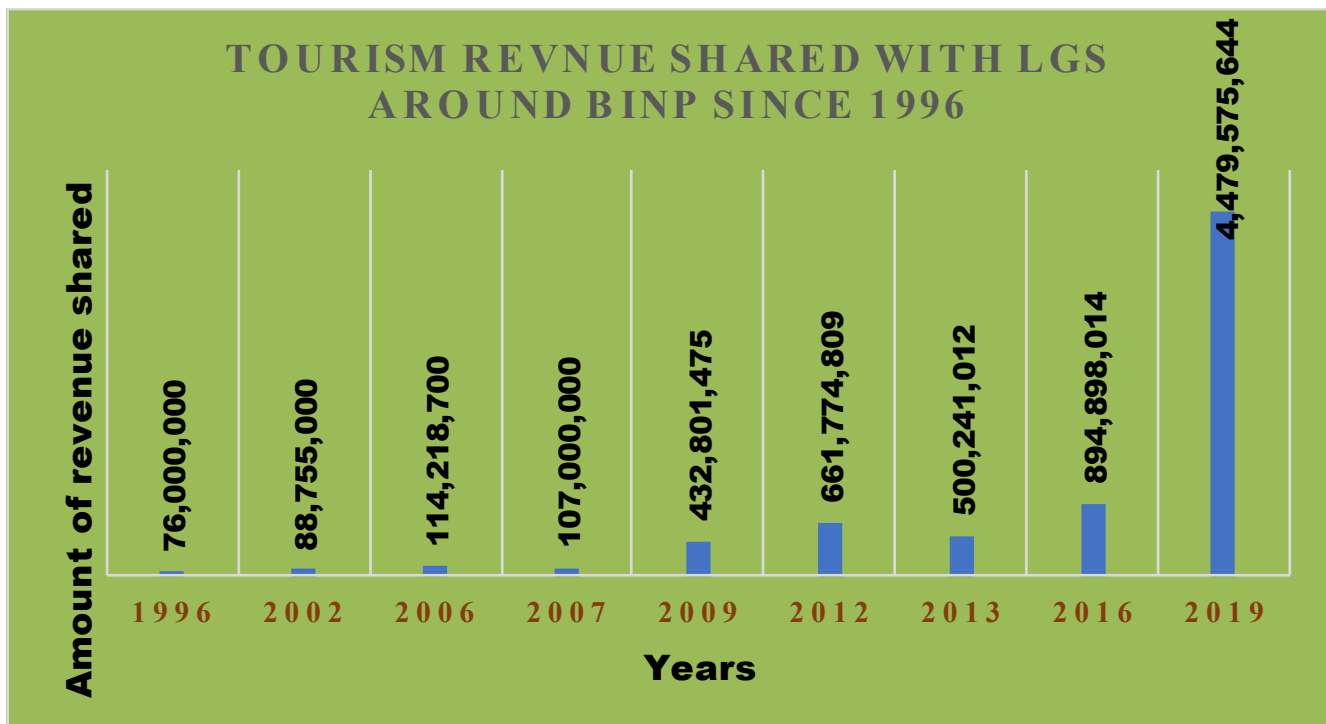


Figure 2: TRSF received by Local Governments bordering BINP since 1996.

Source: UWA 2023

4.1.2 Changes in Tourism Revenue Sharing around BINP since 1996

There was an increase in tourism revenue sharing within 3 years (2016-2019) from Ugx. 894,898,014 in 2016 to Ugx. 4,479,575,644 in 2019. This was an increment of Ugx. 3,584,677,630 as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

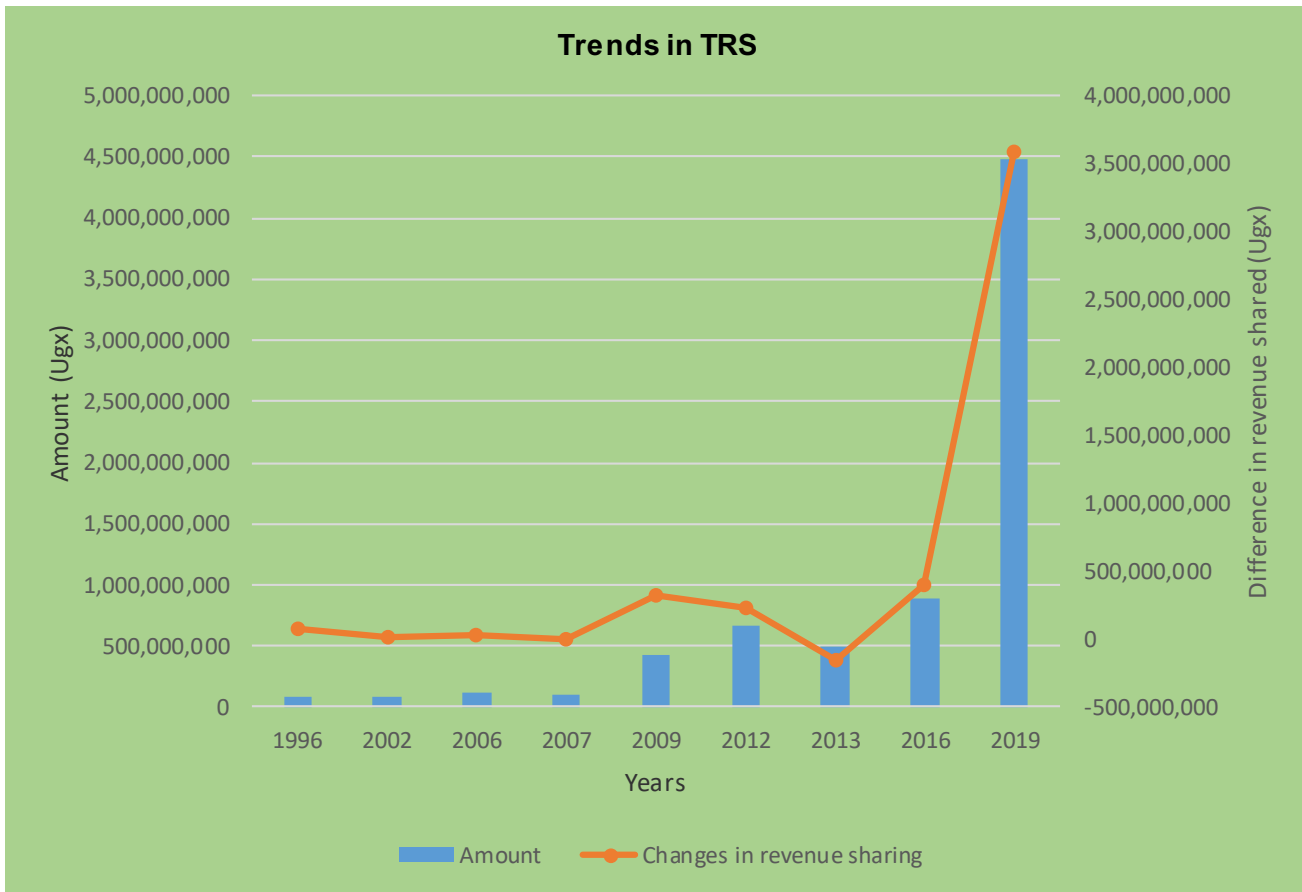


Figure 3: Trends in TRS around BINP from 1996 to 2019

4.1.3 Mean Variation in Tourism Revenue Shared Funds (TRSF)

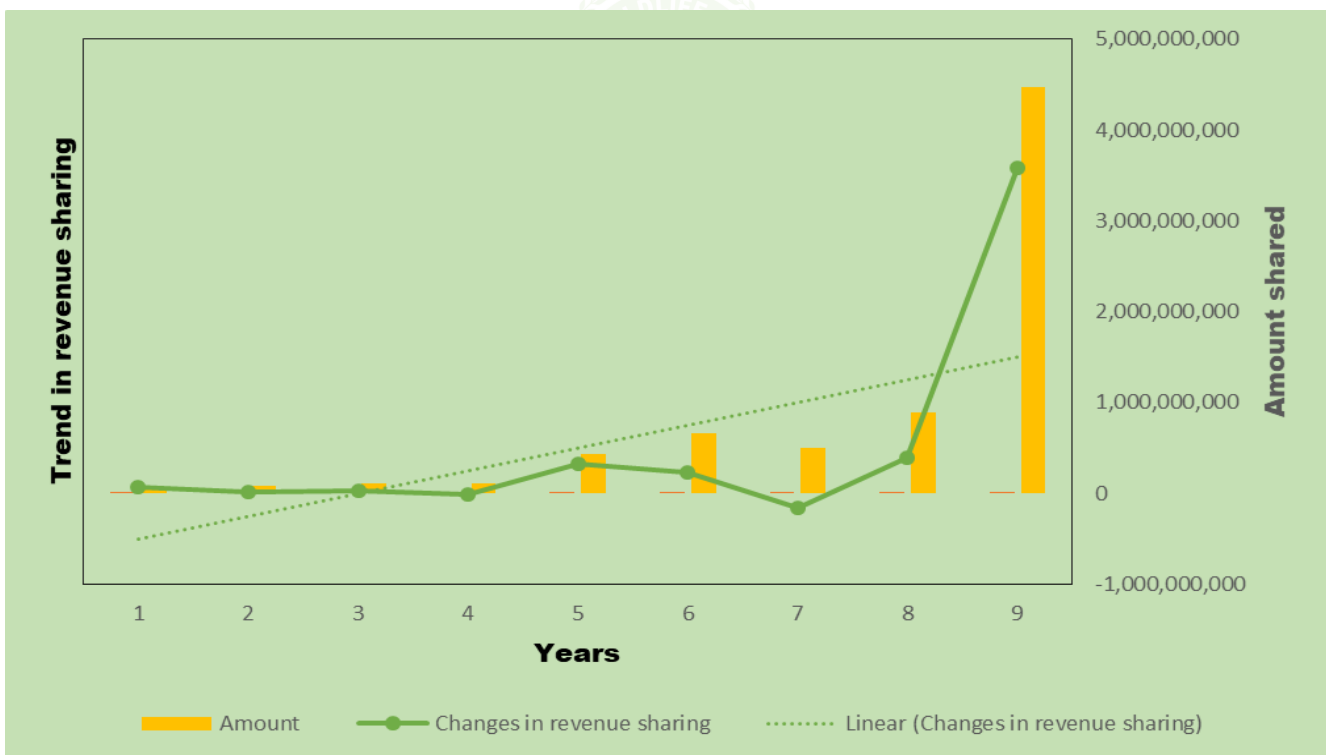


Figure 4: Mean variations in tourism revenue sharing over nine disbursements since 1996

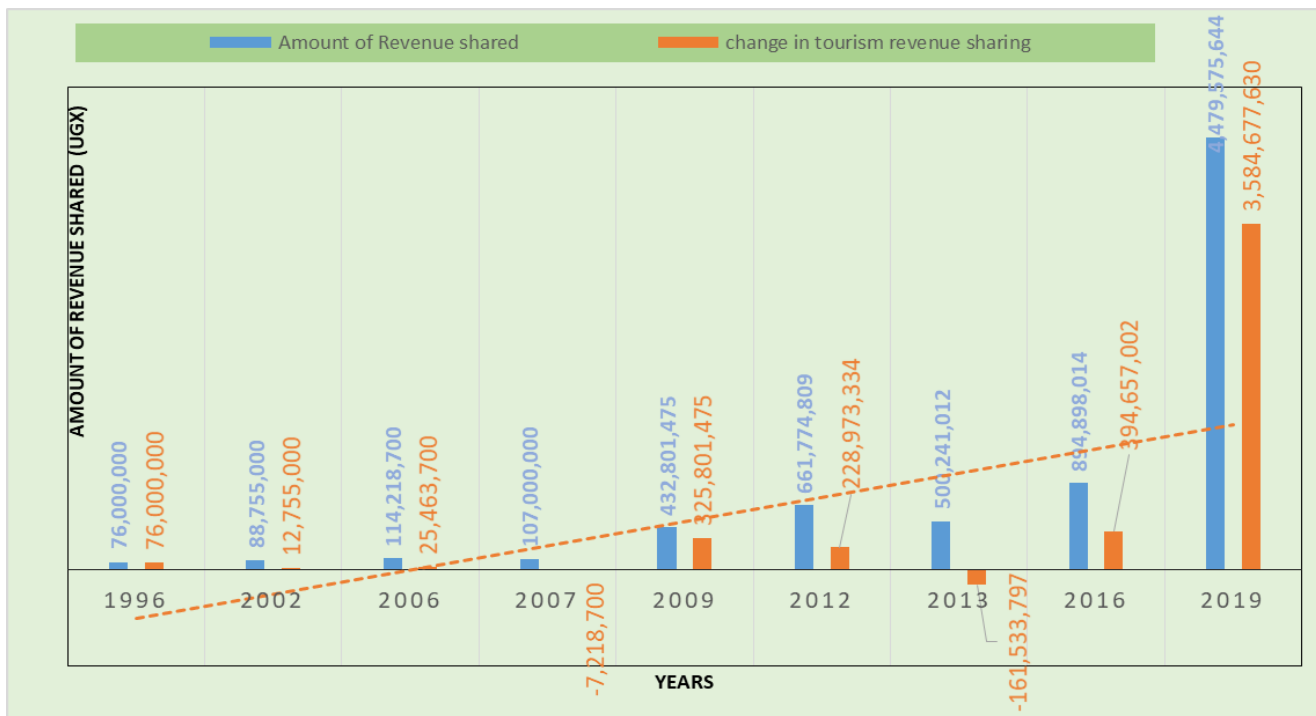


Figure 5: Discrepancy in Tourism Revenue Sharing since 1996

4.1.4 Tourism revenue sharing/access, implementation, monitoring, and management around BINP

The overall goal of tourism revenue sharing is to ensure a strong partnership between protected areas management, local communities, and local governments leading to sustainable management of resources in and around protected areas by enabling people living adjacent to protected areas to obtain financial benefits derived from the existence of these areas that contribute to improvements in their welfare and help gain their support for protected areas conservation (UWA, 2012).

Through elections conducted at the local council level by community members in frontline villages, at the Local Council/ village level (LC1), Project Management Committee (PMC) and Revenue Community Procurement Committees (RCPC) are formed. The two committees are constituted

of 3 males and 2 females from the communities in the frontline villages to the park boundary.

The PMC monitors and assesses the performance of revenue projects whereas, the RCPC works with the District Procurement Committee (DPC) during procurement processes such as bidding and, working with suppliers to name project contractors, funders, and supporters. Regarding reporting, both committees prepare quarterly reports on the management and procurement process to the LC1 chairperson who later reports to the Parish and the Parish Chief reports to the Sub-County chief who in turn reports to the District authorities. The RCPC is further mandated to make payment requisitions to the Sub-County to pay suppliers and contractors upon satisfactory project completion.

Table 4: Tourism Revenue Sharing (Revenue Access, Monitoring & Management)

Current status	Proposed	Comment
The US\$10 gorilla levy fee is added to the 20% Revenue Sharing Fund (RSF)	Criteria for the US\$10 gorilla levy fee should be changed.	To ensure that the levy fee is shared among parishes where gorilla tracking takes place
Revenue sharing is based on the Uganda Wildlife Act 2019, section, 65 and RSF Regulations S.I No. 65 of 2022.	Amend the legal framework to allow UWA to manage the 20% RSF and US\$10 gorilla levy fee.	Communities propose the funds should be managed by UWA to ensure transparency & avoid over costing during procurement processes
RSF is disbursed to the Chief Administrative Officer from UWA	Disbursement of funds should be conducted at the Conservation Area level	To increase the efficiency of operations and funds management (<i>this might require amends with the existing/governing financial procedures</i>).
RSF is disbursed from UWA to the district (CAO), to the sub-county, and the parish(es)	Disburse funds from UWA to parishes (<i>this could require an amendment of the Uganda Wildlife Act to enhance the livelihoods of the affected communities</i>).	To reduce delays experienced during project funds disbursement from the bank and implementation
TRSP is monitored by UWA, RMC, CAO, Sub-county chief, Environmental Officers	-The RDC and DISO should be involved in TRSP monitoring (<i>these are not elected leaders as opposed to local councils, their involvement would strengthen monitoring of TRSF</i>). -Establish an independent TRSP monitoring team.	Sometimes the specified officers do not monitor projects
The 100% RSF (95% of RSF is invested in projects and 5% allocated for project monitoring) is managed by Local Government.	95% should be directly managed by UWA as an agency to fund community projects and 5% allocated to LG for monitoring	Avoid delays in procurement processes, project implementation, and over-costing of project items

Source: Field Data 2022.

4.1.5 Tourism Revenue Sharing Projects (TRSPs) implementation

Though tourism revenue-sharing scheme implementation started in 1996, this study presents data about TRSPs supported through tourism revenue-shared funds around BINP. The most supported projects were roads and the construction of classroom blocks as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: TRSPs Implemented and their Status in Selected Parishes around BINP

Kanungu District

Sub-county	Parish	Village	Project	Status	Comments	Recommendation
Buhoma Town Council	Buhoma Southern ward	Nkwenda	Road maintenance, grading, and installation of 5 culverts along the 1.5 Km Nkwenda – Kacwampare road 2020/2021	Project incomplete. Because only 3 out of 5 culverts were installed.	The project is in existence though not maintained.	To dig drainage channels to avoid running water and to prioritize completion in the next disbursement.
Kayonza	Bujengwe	Nyamishamba	Construction of Tourism camp site bandas	Project incomplete. Plumbing was not done	The project is in existence though not maintained	To designate space for camping for those who can't afford Banda rates
Kinaba	Kiziba	Kiziba	Grading up of a new road measuring 5 kilometres that connects Kiziba to Mukirwa parish.	Opened in 2018, is being rehabilitated in 2022 -2023 using revenue sharing for 2020/21.	It is a hard terrain road that needs regular rehabilitation	Continuous rehabilitation of the road by grading using 200,000,000/= of the funds for 2021/2022.
Kirima	Bushura	Rushamba	- Construction of four (04) classroom blocks, 2 classroom blocks at St. Kagwa P/S; 1 classroom block at Migyera P/S, and 1 classroom block at Rushamba Nursery School	Construction was commissioned in 2018 and completed in 2023.	Classroom construction completed.	Need to add more classroom blocks when funds are available.
Mpungu	Buremba	Buremba	- Construction of a community lodge and campsites in 2018	Project incomplete	Complete the project	There is a need to complete the project to create employment opportunities

	Mpungu	Buremba	- Purchase of land and construction of Buremba Tourism Center	The project began in 2015 and is still incomplete	All the allocated parish funds were committed to the project	More funds are needed to complete the project
	Mpungu		Extension of land for Buremba Tourism Center and completion of Buremba Tourism Center	In 2022, the procurement process started underway	All revenue for the parish is to be invested in the project	Speed up the procurement process
Mpungu	Mpungu		Proposed construction of Mpugu community eco-lodges.	Architectural designs were approved and Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted in 2018.	Site clearing commenced. All parish funds were committed to the project.	Construction should continue to create employment opportunities
Rubanda District						
Sub-county	Parish	Village	Project	Status	Comment	Recommendation
Ruhija	Kashekyera	Kyogo	2 classroom block and an office at Kyogo Annex P.S	The project was completed.	The project is well-maintained.	Construct more classrooms in the next disbursement.
		Bitanwa	Rainwater harvesting tank	The project is complete	The project is well-maintained.	To construct another tank to reduce water shortage.
	Kiyembe	Mataka	Construction of a chain link in Mataka-Kabere-Nyakaranga villages	Forty-six metres (46m) chain link was constructed during FY 2018/2019 and 44 metres was constructed during FY 2020/21	The chain link is set up at elephant and baboon crossing points and it's well maintained.	Construct more chain links was deemed effective to stop elephants and baboons from crossing into community gardens

Kiyebe	Nyakaranga, Kabere and Kiyebe	F/Y 2018/2019 opening access community road 5.2km connecting Mataka, Nyakaranga, Kabere Kiyebe villages	Road opened and not graded.	Completed during TRSF shared during FY 2020/21	UWA to continue supporting communities regarding infrastructural development.
Nshanjare	Kagogo	Completion of a 3-km road connecting Kagogo village to Nshanjare Ward.	The murram was opened in FY 2018/2019 and completed using revenue funds disbursed in FY 2021/22.	The road is not well maintained, yet it would facilitate the movement of persons and goods to markets.	More roads could be maintained using revenue-disbursed funds.
	Ihunga	Construction of 1 classroom block at Ihunga Secondary School FY 2021/22.	Construction ongoing	Project on track	The classroom block should be completed on time for use.
Kitojo	Katoma	Community access road measuring 4-5km connecting Katoma Rwesanziro to Bishayu villages.	The project is incomplete because it was not completed.	Not maintained	Funds should be disbursed when available to complete the project.
Kashasha	Ndego	Community access road connecting Mitooma- Ndego villages.	Project is incomplete	Not maintained and destroyed by running water.	Prioritize its completion in the next disbursement of funds
Ikumba		Construction of 2-classroom block at Ndego Secondary School.	Project incomplete	Construction of classroom during FY 2021/2022, left with roofing.	Need to buy timber and start preparation for roof construction.

			Kitahurira	2 spring water reservoir tanks were constructed during FY 2018/19.	The project was completed and communities can access clean water.	Well maintained	Construct another tank
			Murubaya	2 classroom block at Kiriba Primary School during FY 2018/19	Project incomplete. It stopped at ring beam level.	The classroom is maintained though not complete.	Prioritize completion so that it can be used.
			Kiriba	Construction of a 2-classroom block at Kiriba P/S FY 2021/22.	Never completed.	The project never commenced	To start the construction when more revenue is disbursed.
	Nyamabare		- Nyamabare -Kigarama, and Kachwamuhoro	Distribution of 200 plastic water harvesting tanks of 5000 litres during FY 2018/19	Water tanks are installed and in use at the household level	More water to be distributed in FY 2021/22	Access to clean and safe water remains a challenge in Nyamabare more tanks should be distributed.
Kisoro District							
Sub-County	Parish	Village	Project	Status	Comment	Recommendation	
Rushaga TC	Rushaga ward	-Rushaga, Kanyamahene, and Birara.	Purchase and distribution of heifers and sheep	In FY 2018/19, the distributed heifers and sheep have multiplied	- No available data to establish the number of heifers and sheep distributed - The CCR at the station was new in the area and could not easily provide old information on the projects.	Maintain a strong database and report-filling system	

	Nyabaremura Ward	Nyabaremura and Higabiro.	In FY 2018/19, eighteen (18) heifers and one (01) bull were distributed to 18 households.	The project is progressing well.	Households that received the heifers can access milk and other products.	More heifers should be distributed to households.
	Kashija Ward	Rushaga, Kanyamahene, and Birara.	Distribution of Heifers and construction of roads	More heifers should be distributed to households.	Households that received the heifers can access milk and other milk products.	More heifers should be distributed to households.
	Nombe Ward	Nombe cell	Distribution of Heifers.	More heifers should be distributed to households.	Households have access to milk and other milk products	More heifers should be distributed to households.
	Nombe Ward	Nombe cell	Planting of 4 km of Mauritius thorns during FY 2016/17	The hedge is well maintained.	Hedge effective against baboons	More Mauritius thorn fences should be planted.
Nyabwishenya	Greater Nteko	Kahurire	Purchase of land for tree planting during FY 2018/19.	Five pieces of community land for tree planting were bought at 22,000,000 each.	The land was bought and tree planting began.	Communities should plant more trees for fuelwood.
		Murore	Construction of a classroom block.	One classroom was constructed and completed at Murore Bright Future P/S.	The classroom was constructed during FY 2016/2017 and is in use.	More classrooms should be constructed if funds are available.
		Murore	Constructed of a 7-kilometer road in Murore.	A 7-kilometre road was constructed and maintained.	The road is used by tourists while going for gorilla tracking and also for community access.	Expand and extend the road width and length.

				Procurement and distribution of 66 heifers	Only nine (09) heifers are available within households	Fifty-seven (57) heifers were sold and the money was used to open a community access road of 6kms	Communities should be fully involved in procurement processes and choice of project.
	Kikobero			Purchase and distribution of goats during FY 2016/2017	72 goats procured and distributed to 72 households	Weaned Kids are distributed to other members of the community	More goats can be procured and distributed to communities
	Nteko			Construction of water storage tanks	Three (03) water tanks were constructed during FY 2016/2017	Water tanks in use and still functional	More water tanks should be constructed when funds are available.
	Nteko			Purchase and distribution of heifers	15 heifers purchased at a cost of Ugx. 110,000,000/=	Of the 15 Heifers purchased during FY 2018/19, 3 died. Total number of cattle has increased from 12 to 28.	Purchase and distribute more heifers to enhance livelihoods.
	Nteko			Water storage tanks construction	20 water tanks of 10,000 litres constructed	Tanks in use and well maintained	To increase access to clean and safe water more storage tanks can be constructed.

Source: Field data 2023.

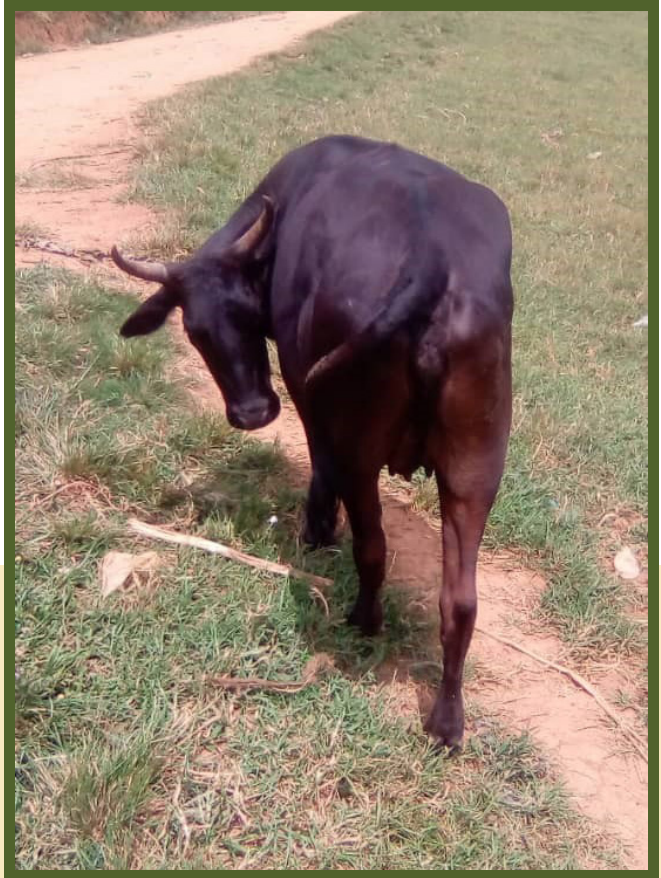


Plate 1: Beneficiary of a water tank, and some cattle distributed in Nteko village, Nkuringo Sector Kisoro District



Plate 2: Protected spring with reservoir tank at Kitahurira Parish, Ikumba S/C, Rubanda District



Plate 3: Construction of a 2-classroom block at Ndego S.S, Kashasha, Ikumba, Rubanda District (FY2018/19-2021/22)



Plate 4: Two classrooms block and office at Kyogo Annex Primary School, Kashekyera Ward, Ruhija Town Council, Rubanda District



Plate 5: Tea seedlings to be planted as buffer crops in the Ruhija Sector of BINP



Plate 6: Chain link constructed at Mataka and Kyeitokwa villages in Ntungamo and Kiyebe parishes in Ruhija S/County Rubanda District.

4.2 Community perception of the benefits of TRS around BINP

The perceptions of the communities around BINP on tourism-revenue sharing schemes (Access, implementation, management, and monitoring) of projects are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Community Perceptions on Tourism Revenue Sharing (TRS) schemes around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, South Western Uganda.

Perception	N	SD	D	N	A	SA	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
I am conformable with how TR is accessed	367	53.1	27.2	16.3	0.5	2.7	1	5	4.28	.94
Attendance at meetings on TRS	367	2.7	7.4	1.9	8.7	79.3	1	5	1.46	1.02
TRSPs agreed upon in consultation with UWA	367	1.4	3.0	4.4	36.0	55.3	1	5	1.59	.82
Project procurement processes are transparent	367	26.7	39.2	34.1	0	0	3	5	3.98	.77
Women equally decide on TRS projects	367	16.9	3.8	11.2	26.4	41.7	1	5	2.28	1.46
UWA selects projects for the community	367	49.0	32.7	18.3	0	0	3	5	4.31	.76
Processes of accessing revenue are fair	367	27.5	21.5	24.0	13.1	13.9	1	5	3.36	1.37
Receiving enough information about TRSPs	367	24.8	2.5	27.2	2.7	42.8	1	5	2.64	1.62
Tourism revenue sharing policy implementation	367	51.2	18.8	16.3	10.9	2.7	1	5	4.05	1.16
Involvement in TRS projects monitoring	367	24.5	30.0	18.3	5.4	21.85	1	5	3.30	1.45
Contented with how TRS is monitored	367	24.8	30.0	21.0	24.3	0	1	5	3.31	1.47

Some 72% of the respondents were not contented with the TRS processes (Figure 6).

Some 72% of the respondents were not contented with the TRS processes (Figure 6).

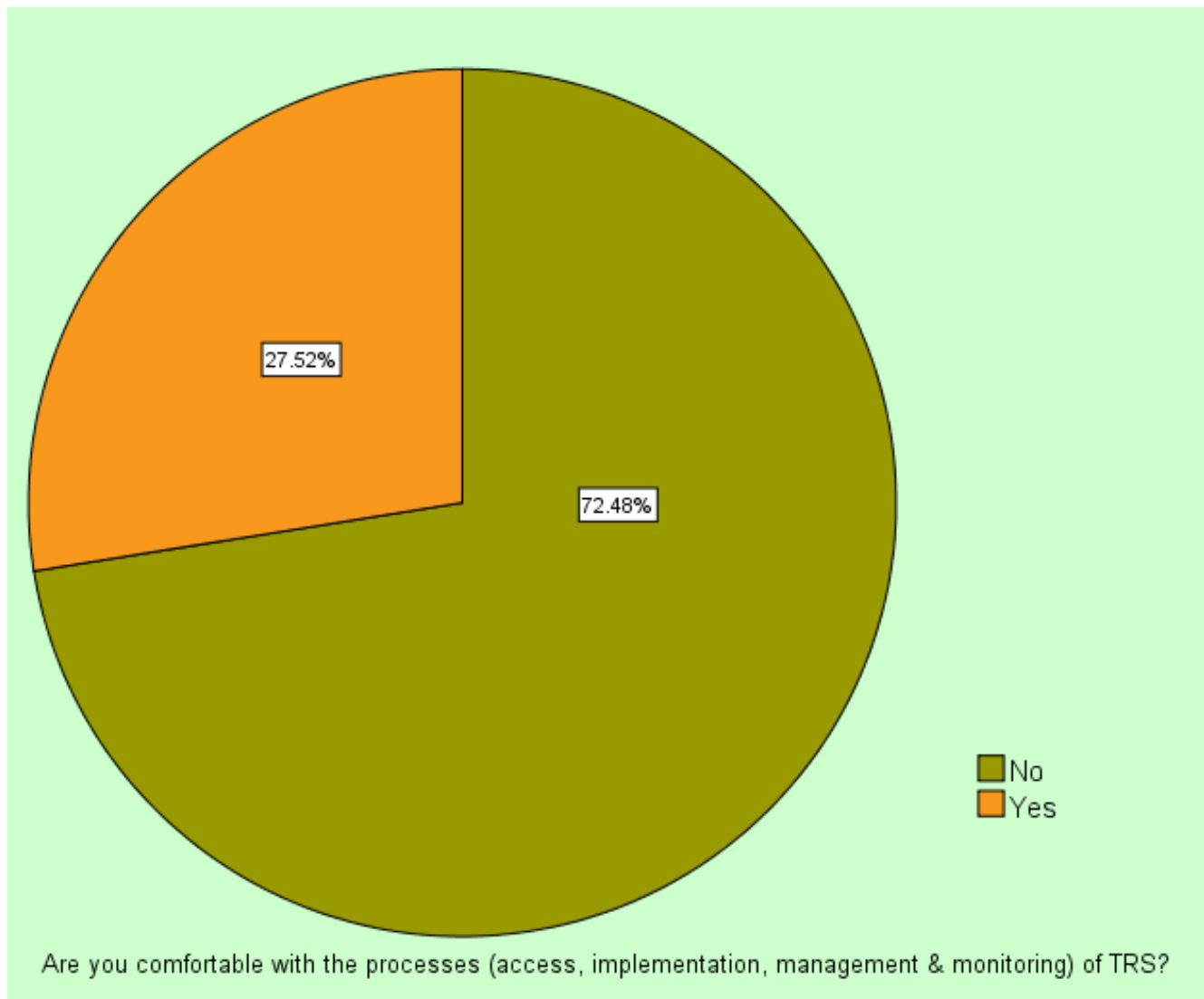


Figure 6: Are you contented with how Tourism Revenue Sharing is accessed, implemented, managed, and monitored?

4.2.1 Perception of Involvement in TRS Schemes and the legal framework

Seventy-Two percent (72.4%) of the 367 respondents involved in tourism revenue sharing programs propose changes in the tourism revenue sharing legal framework to ensure efficiency in the implementation, monitoring, and management of Tourism Revenue Sharing Projects around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park ($r = .784, P < 0.05$) as shown in Table 5.

4.2.2 Involvement in TRS and Changes in policies regarding TRS

The majority of the respondents who are involved in tourism revenue-sharing projects suggest that TRS policies and guidelines should be amended to ensure efficient TRSP monitoring and management ($r = 0.784, P < 0.05$).

Table 7: Involvement in Tourism Revenue-Sharing Programs and Policies

	Are you involved in TRS sharing programs?	Should policies & guidelines regarding TRS be amended for efficient TRSP management?
Are you involved in TRS-sharing programs	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.784**
	N	367
Should policies & guidelines regarding TRS be amended for efficient TRSP management?	Pearson Correlation	.784**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	367

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.2.3 Perceived Benefits of Tourism Revenue Sharing

Seventy-three percent (73%) of the respondents were not contented with the processes of TRS. The 10% who were contented with TRS processes were direct project beneficiaries Figure 7.

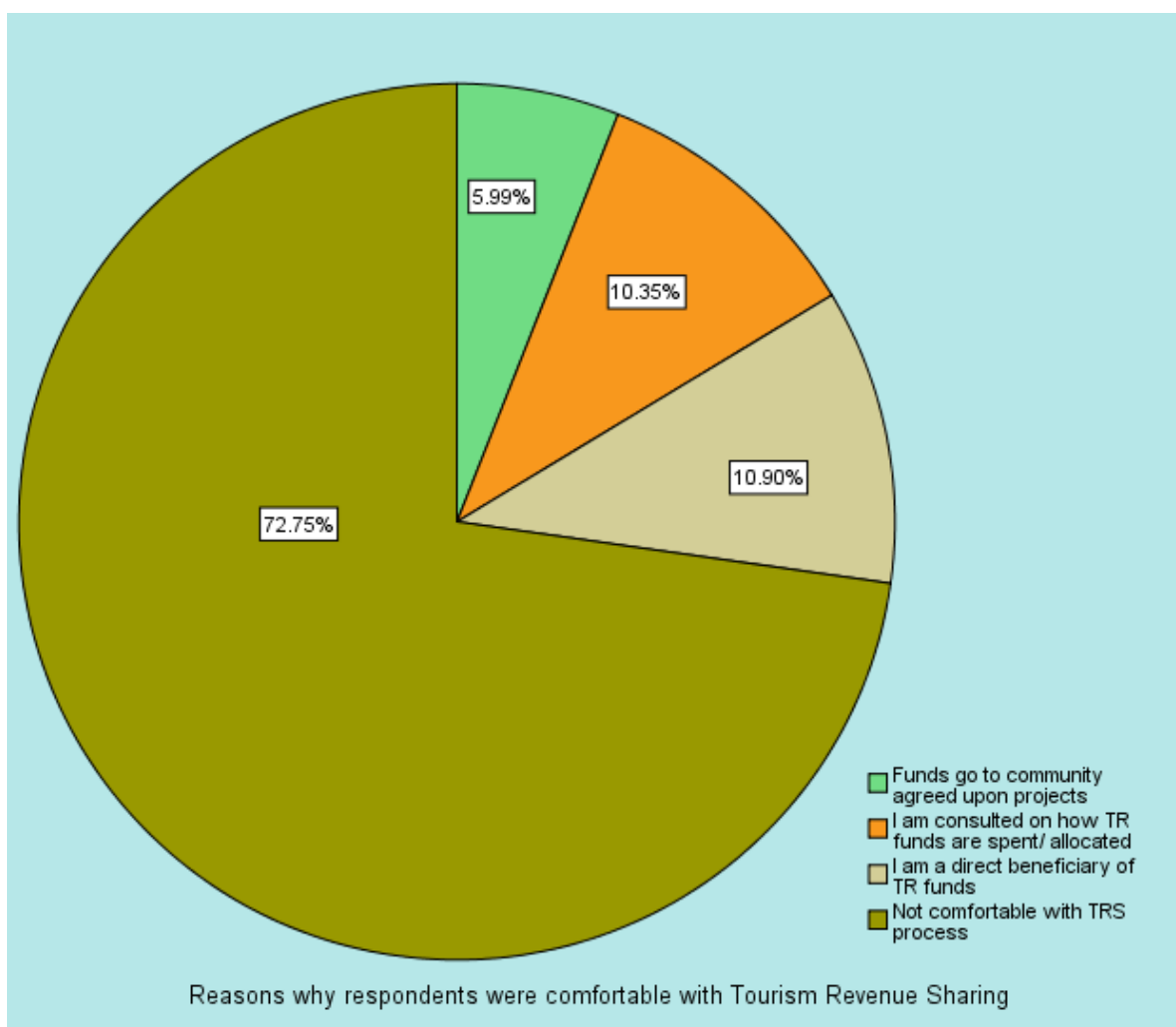


Figure 7: Are you contented with TRS processes

4.2.4 Perception of Management of TRS Funds

Most of the respondents (70%) suggest that the management of Tourism Revenue Shared Funds (TRSF) should be the mandate of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), while a paltry 13% of the respondents suggest an independent TRSP management fund should be set (Figure 8).

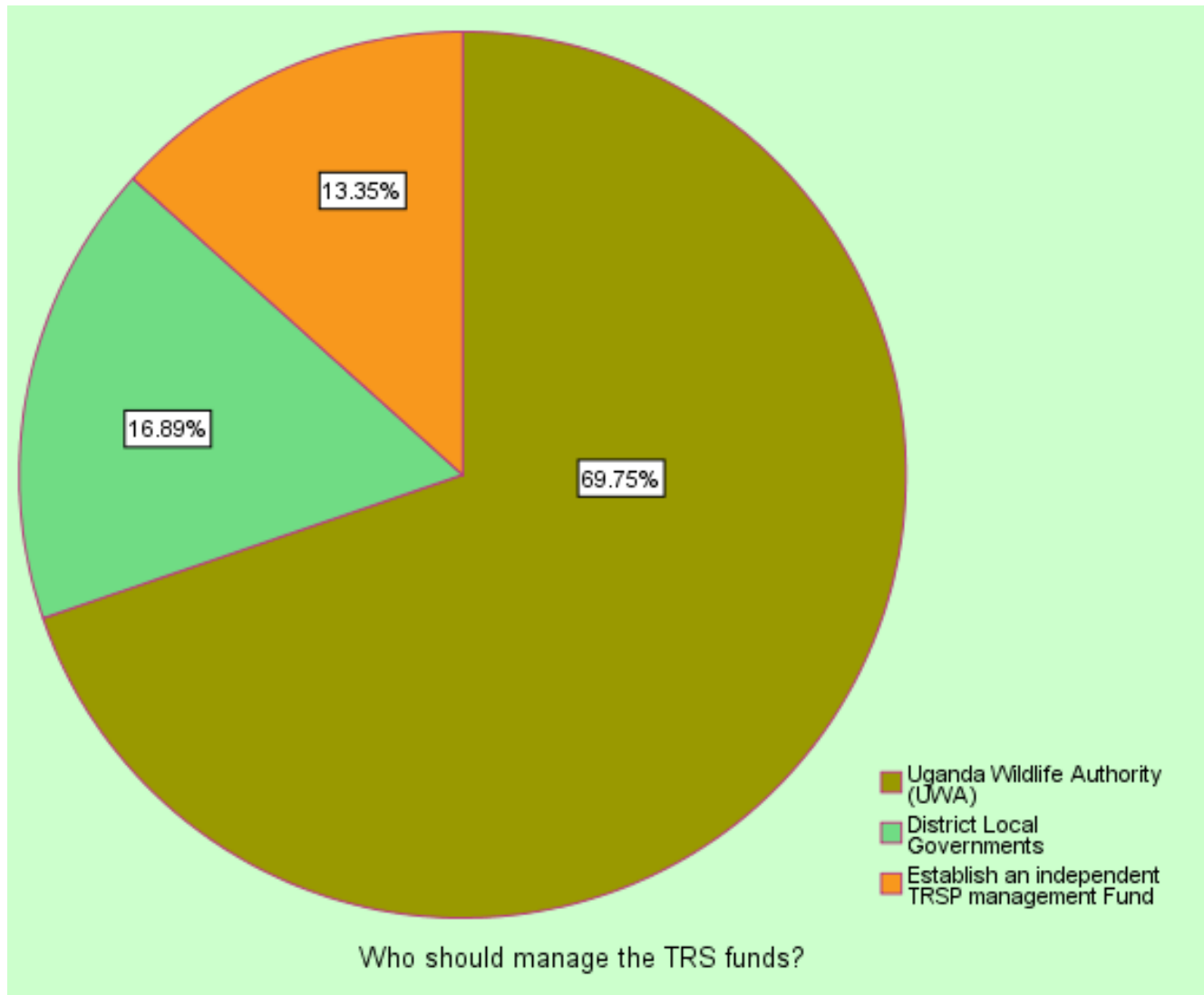


Figure 8: Who should manage Tourism Revenue Shared funds (TRSF)?

4.2.5 Why change management and governance of TRSF?

The 72% of the respondents who were not contented with how TRS are managed and governed reported factors such as delayed disbursement of TRSF from the district (26.98%), bureaucracy in procurement processes (17.17%), lack of involvement in decision-making TRSP (26.43%), more so, 1.91% believe TRSP do not benefit all (Figure 9).

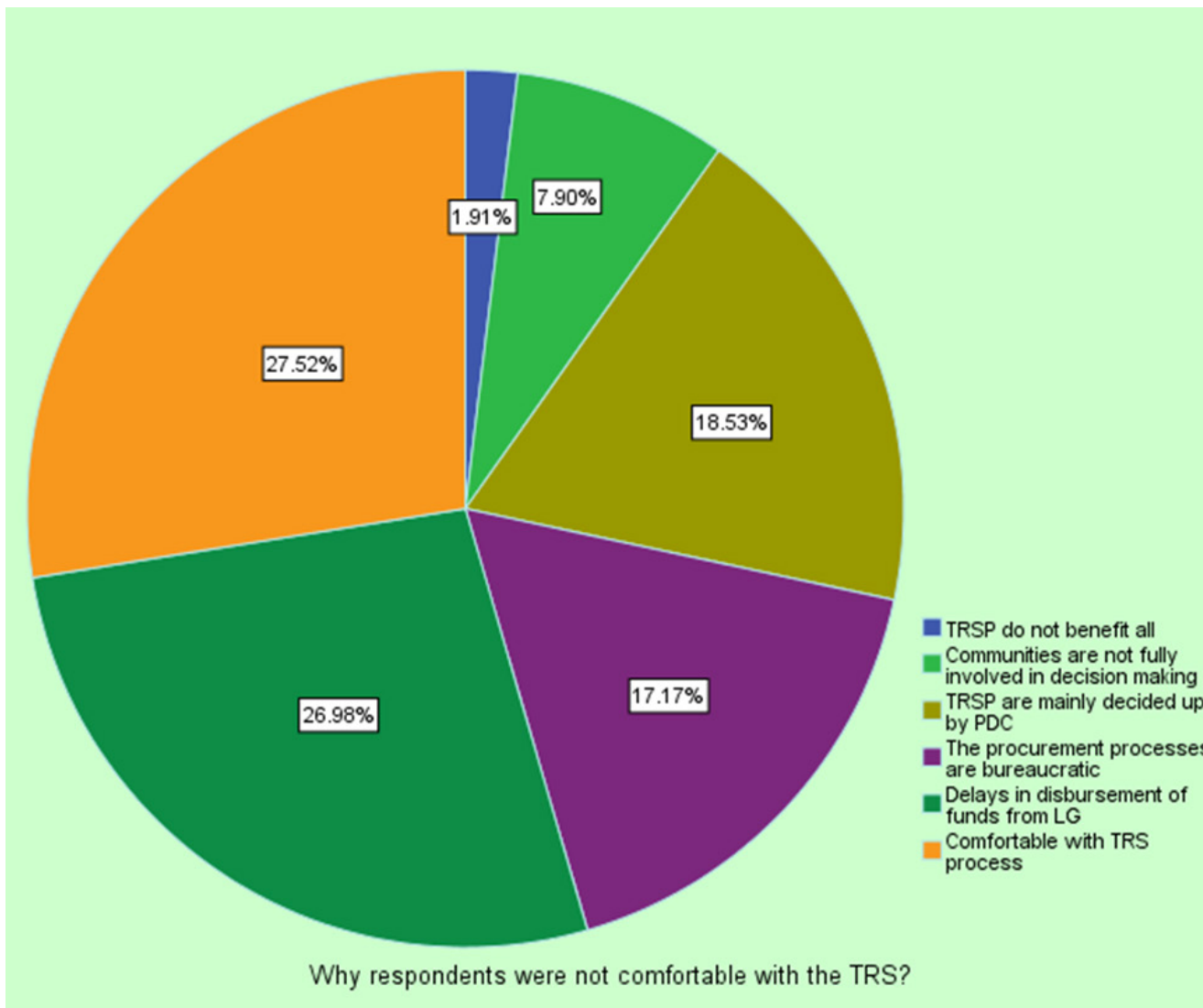


Figure 9: Reasons why respondents were not contented with TRS processes

Important notes from general respondents' interactions on improving TRSFs

Making tourism revenue sharing more efficient will require:

- Ensuring all communities in frontline villages benefit from the TRSF
- Involvement of all communities in decision-making from projects identification, selection, funding, implementation, monitoring, and management
- Addressing delays in disbursement of TRSF from Local Government (LG) to benefit communities
- Active involvement of other stakeholders such as RDCs, and DISOs in the tourism revenue projects monitoring.
-

4.2.5 Perceptions on Successes & Failures of Selected TRS Projects

Table 8: Perceptions on success and failure of selected TRS projects around BINP

S.No.	TRSP supported and Location	Perception of project success	Perception of project failure
01	Rubona P/S in Mukono Parish (Kanungu District)	×	Contractor not supervised
02	Kihoso P/S Ruhijja Parish	Community involvement in the procurement of the contractor	
03	Kashasha- Ndego road connecting Kashaha to Ndego parishes (Rubanda district)	×	Substandard work due to inadequate supervision
04	Construction of a 2 classroom block at Kyogo village in Kashekyera Ward, Ruhijja Town Council (Rubanda District)	Good workmanship with the project contractors	
05	Construction of a 4-classroom block at Ihunga S.S.S in Ikumba Parish (Kanungu District)	×	Due to inadequate funding, the project was never commenced.
06	Construction of a tourism camp with four Bandas and a dining area in Bujengwe Parish, Kayonza Sub-county in Kanungu District	Community involvement in project design, implementation, and management	
07	Opening of a community road in Kishegyere in Kanungu District	×	The project was not completed, force on account method failed.
08	Opening of a 20-km community access road in Bugoro and Ishaya (Kanungu District)	Effective supervision by the community and procurement of competent contractor	
09	Rearing of dairy cattle on a revolving basis in Rushaga, Kashija, Nyabaremura, and Nombe Wards in Kisoro District).	Appropriate heifers were procured and offspring were handed over to members who did not receive heifers	
10	Construction of a 70,000-litre water tank at Ntungamo Parish in Ruhijja sub-county, Rubanda District	Community involvement and effective supervision by beneficiaries	
11	Construction of Mukono-Kibirangwe Road, Southern Ward Buhoma T/C (Kanungu District).	Good workmanship with project contractors and monitoring teams	
12	Construction of 3 classroom blocks at Rubona P/S in Buhoma TC (Kanungu District).	Active community participation in monitoring and supervision of the construction works.	

13	Procurement of two (02) tents for Central Ward, Buhoma TC (Kanungu District).	Active involvement of the procurement committee	
14	Procurement of Problem Animal Management Equipment such as pangas, axes, gumboots, vuvuzelas, torches, and hoes in South Ward, Buhoma TC (Kanungu District).	Procurement and revenue monitoring committees were actively involved in the procurement of PAM equipment.	
15	Construction of a 2-stance pit latrine at Nyamassinda P/S (Kisoro District)	Community members participated in project monitoring.	
16	Procurement and distribution of 200 plastic water harvesting tanks of 1500 litre capacity in Nyamabale parish in Rubanda District.	The project was successful because of active community participation in monitoring and procurement processes.	
17	Construction of two protected springs with reservoir tanks in Kitahurira Parish, Ikumba Rubanda District	Active participation of community members in monitoring the construction works	
18	Ruhijja-Katoma-Rwejanziro Road, Ruhijja Parish, Rubanda District.	×	Overpricing of construction items and materials by the contractor.
19	Construction of a two (02) classroom block at Ndego village, Rubanda District.	×	The project was delayed due to overpricing of construction materials by the contractors.
20	Construction of a Tourism Center, Buremba Parish, in Mpungu Sub-County, Kanungu District.	×	The project failed due to inadequate funding and delays in the disbursement of more TRS funds.

Source: Field Data, 2022.

4.3 Effect of TRS Projects on the Socio-economic Well-being

4.3.1 Rating performance of TRSPs around BINP

There was a significant relationship between the construction of schools and the socio-economic well-being of communities bordering BINP ($\beta = .164, P < 0.05$). Fewer health centers were supported through TRSF and this negatively affected expenditure in terms of income spent by communities bordering BINP on healthcare services ($\beta = -.098, P < 0.05$) as indicated in Table 9.

Table 9: Regression of socio-economic effect of TRS on livelihoods of communities bordering BINP

Model	Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	Beta		
1 (Constant)		23.065	.000
Construction of Schools	.164	5.403	.000
Health Centers	-.098	-3.930	.000
Road construction	.501	8.714	.000
Water sources (tanks & spring wells)	.386	9.867	.000
Livestock distribution (Goats, Cattle, and Sheep)	.148	3.773	.000
Land provision (for campsites and Planting trees)	.103	3.167	.002
Trees seedlings	.173	5.855	.000
Problem Animal Management	.192	2.954	.003

Source: Field Data 2023

4.3.2 Involvement in TRS and socio-economic needs at the household level

At the household level, involvement in TRSPs resulted in an improvement in household income by directly addressing household needs by 73.5% ($r = 0.735$, $P < 0.05$) and indirectly improving income by 89.5% ($r = 0.895$, $P < 0.05$) as shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Correlational statistics on community involvement in TRS and socio-economic needs at the household level

	Are you involved in TRS-sharing projects	Does TRS directly address your household needs?	How has TRS directly or indirectly improve your income?
Are you involved in TRS-sharing projects?	1.000	.735**	.925**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000
N	367	367	367
Does TRS directly address your household needs?	.735**	1.000	.859**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000
N	367	367	367
How has TRS directly or indirectly improve your income?	.925**	.859**	1.000
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.
N	367	367	367

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.4 Challenges Associated with TRS

4.4.1 Delays in Disbursement of TRSF from Local Governments

The main challenge associated with TRS processes around BINP was delays in the disbursement of funds from the local government to implement and monitor TRSP at 52% as shown in Figure 10.

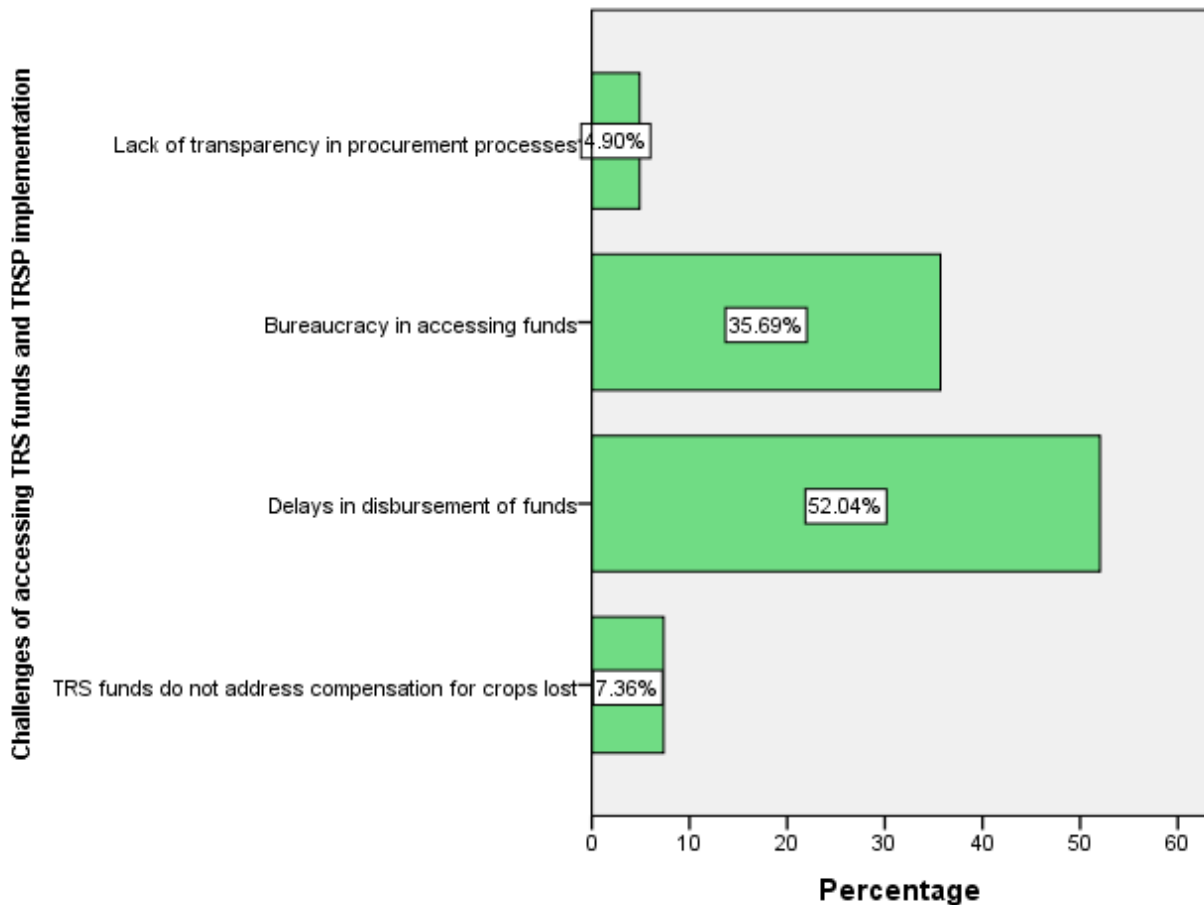


Figure 10: Challenges associated with TRS around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

4.4.2 Limited community involvement in procurement processes

It was reported that sometimes communities are not fully involved in procurement processes and consultations on choices of the projects, for instance in Kikobero Ward and Nkunyonyo Town Council (Greater Nteko Parish) in Nkuringo Sector of BINP. Due to a lack of community involvement, some projects were abused, for instance in Greater Nteko out of Sixty Six (66) heifers procured and distributed under TRSF, Fifty Seven (57) heifers were sold, and the money was used to open up a community access road measuring 6kms.

4.4.3 Other challenges associated with TRS Schemes

"When it comes to Problem Animal Management equipment, gum boots, and pangas are over-costed. I feel there is no value for money. Torches were distributed to chairpersons living in trading centers rather than crop guards. Pangas were costed at 15,000/= and gum boots at 35,000/ per pair. This is beyond normal market prices". Interviewee₁, Mataka village in Kiyebe Parish.

"As I guard my crops from elephants I feel so insecure, I use a Vuvuzela to create noise that scares away elephants while hiding in a temporary structure constructed in my garden. I appeal to UWA to support me to construct a strong guard house against elephants". Interviewee₂, Mataka village in Kiyebe Parish.

4.5 Enhancing TRS schemes (the way forward)

4.5.1 Priority Projects

Communities around BINP reported that future investments in TRSPs should focus on road construction (30%), the construction of more classroom blocks at the different schools within the frontline parishes (17.71%) and the distribution of more livestock (goats, sheep, and cattle) rated at 16.35% and least priority project is the construction of baboon live traps at 4.09% (Figure 10).

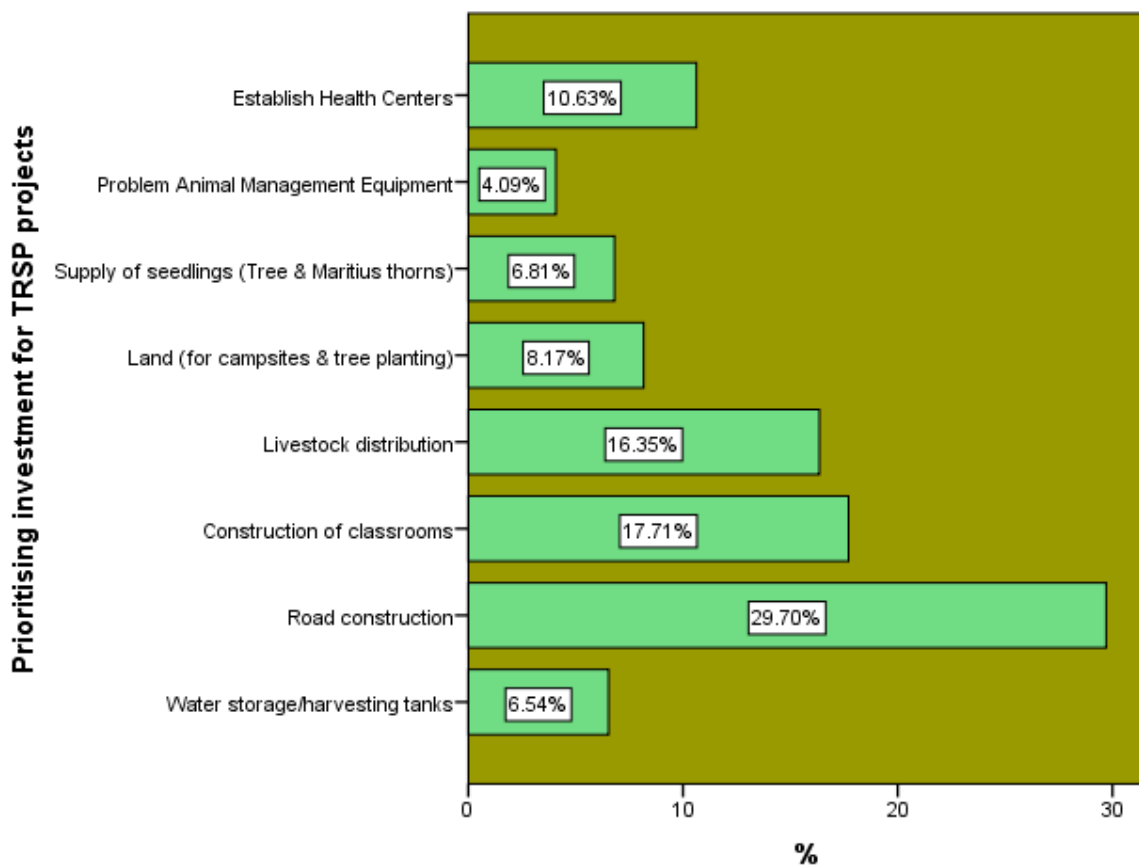


Figure 11: Priority projects for TRS around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

4.6 Discussion

Generally, communities believe that implementation of tourism revenue-sharing schemes enhances livelihoods, income, and attitudes towards conservation, but this has not been fully achieved simply, the tourism revenue-shared funds delay reaching intended beneficiaries (projects to be supported). There are delays in the disbursement of funds from District Local Government to the time when TRS projects Contractors and suppliers are paid. Moreover, when they are paid there is minimal supervision and follow-up on projects especially schools and

roads by the District Officials. Most supervision is done by UWA and other Local councils, though 5% of total funds are allocated for monitoring and project follow-up. About Franks and Twinatsiko's (2017) study on TRS, six (06) years later, the issues surrounding the inefficient performance of TRS around BINP seem not to change at all. It is imperative to adopt recommendations made to improve Tourism Revenue Sharing Schemes around Bwindi Impenetrable and other national parks in Uganda.

4.6.1 Comparing TRS frameworks: Lessons learned from BINP

Lesson 1: Whereas in Uganda tourism revenue sharing is shared with district local Governments bordering protected areas, in Rwanda tourism revenue is allocated to national parks by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Development Board (Snyman et al., 2023). With four national parks in Rwanda, the allocation of the 10% pooled revenue is of a ratio of 35%, to Volcanoes National Park; 25%, to Akagera National Park; 25%, to Nyungwe National Park; and 15%, Gishwati-Mukura National Park. This form of tourism revenue sharing and management seems effective as national park management directly works with organized community cooperatives for effective accountability.

Lesson 2: Whereas there are committees formed to perform monitoring and assessment tasks, to ensure appropriate rations (ratio of sand to

cement) are followed during the construction of schools and health centers and other projects, to mitigate the cost of Problem Animal Management (PAM) equipment (gloves, scissors, gum boots, pangas, and rain gear), monitor the pace of work done against time and activities completed. Communities report the cost of equipment used under PAM. This doesn't provide value for money and revenue shared.

Lesson 3: Due to the cost of PAM equipment, unclear procurement processes through Local Government structures, and delays in funds disbursement from the Local Government (LG), most (69.75%) of the TRS project beneficiaries suggest that UWA should manage the Tourism Revenue Sharing Scheme by directly supporting community-identified projects.

4.6.2 Success Stories of Tourism Revenue-Sharing Projects

In comparison, the case in Rwanda where 80% of the tourism revenue sharing was invested in infrastructure development and support of education projects through community co-operatives (Snyman S, Fitzgerald K, Bakteeva A, Ngoga T and Mugabukomeye B, 2023). It's only in Uganda where communities receive the highest amount of tourism revenue sharing at 20% plus the US\$10 gorilla levy fee making it 25%

revenue shared around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Rwanda increased its revenue sharing from 5% to 10% (Snyman et al., 2023). Increased revenue sharing in Uganda provides an opportunity for communities to effectively benefit from tourism if appropriate frameworks on tourism revenue access and management are followed.

4.6.3 Challenges associated with Tourism Revenue Sharing

Despite the benefits of revenue-sharing from PA tourism, there are also numerous challenges. Spenceley (2014) identified six key challenges with benefit-sharing from PAs, several of which were identified during this study as well. These include: (1) the value of money per person is small if divided among a large number of people; (2) benefits of social infrastructure (e.g., schools, water, infrastructure) are not always associated with the conservation or tourism; (3) those who benefit are not necessarily the same as those who experience the costs of conservation, [e.g., human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and loss of access to land]; (4) poorest residents are often not the beneficiaries; (5) community entities may not have the capacity to partner with other stakeholders or to agree on benefit-sharing

processes; and (6) legislation may constrain benefit-sharing processes (adapted from Spenceley, 2014). Because project monitoring committee members voluntarily, there was some form of laxity in project monitoring. This some extent led to delays in project implementation.

Revenue sharing does not meet the immediate needs of the local communities bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, this finding is similar to those of Hulme and Murphree (2001). Despite the revenue sharing, it doesn't address the immediate household needs. Communities cite overpricing of items bought under 30% of the revenue shared to buy Problem Animal Management equipment such as gum boots, pangas, rain gear, and torches.

4.7 Conclusion

Investment in tourism revenue-sharing projects enhances income and livelihoods, but the processes of accessing tourism revenue are bureaucratic which leads to delays in project implementation, and monitoring. Most monitoring is done by UWA with minimal involvement of other stakeholders. There was a significant relationship between involvement in tourism revenue sharing and livelihood improvement among communities bordering BINP, though communities suggest that the tourism revenue-sharing scheme should be managed by Uganda Wildlife Authority. There has been a lot of investment in tourism-revenue-sharing projects such as the construction schools of classrooms and roads. The main challenge to successful tourism revenue-sharing schemes is the delayed disbursement of tourism revenue-shared funds from Local Governments.

4.8 Strategic Recommendations to enhance tourism TRS

1. **Uganda Wildlife Authority** should manage the Tourism Revenue Shared Funds (TRSF) rather than disbursing TRSF to the Local Government. This shall require an amendment of the legal framework governing tourism revenue-sharing schemes in Uganda.
2. **District Procurement Committees** should involve communities in procurement processes and decisions on the choice of projects to be supported under TRSF. This could require amended of the project procurement processes at the different levels.
3. **All stakeholders** should actively get involved in TRSF management and monitoring processes to avoid delays in the disbursement and implementation of agreed-upon projects between Local Governments and the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

4.9 Areas for Further Research

1. Investigating Tourism Revenue Sharing procurement processes on social service delivery.
2. Investigate tourism-revenue-sharing scheme reporting and accountability methods.
3. Relationship between tourism revenue sharing and Parish Development Model on community development.



4.10 References

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Annex 1: Supplementary qualitative information



Plate 7: Training of respondents from Rushamba Sector of BINP in Kanungu District



Plate 8: A road connecting Rubimbwa and Rutugunda Parishes in Kirima S/C, Kanungu District supported under TRS



Plate 9: Respondents from Mpungu Parish, Kanungu District



Plate 10: PAM equipment (Pangas, Gloves, Gum boots, RaiRaincoatsnd Vuvuzelas) at Ruhijja Sector Office, Rubanda District



Baboon live traps in Ruhijja and Kashasha Parishes, Rubanda District



Plate 11: Baboon live traps in Ruhijja and Kashasha Parishes, Rubanda District



Plate 12: Poster of Kyogo Annex P.S, Rubanda District



Plate 13: Poster of Buremba Community Tourism Centre, Buremba-Mpungu Sub-County, Kanungu District

Annex 2: TRSF with Frontline Villages, Parishes, and Sub-counties

DISTRICT	SUB COUNTY	PARISH	VILLAGE
KANUNGU	Kayonza	Bujengwe	Nyamishamba
			Mushorero
			Kishegyere
			Byumba
			Kacerere
			Kazahi
		Karangara	Musheija
			Kagoma
	Rwamiyumbu		
	Nyakabingo		
	Butogota T/C	Southern Ward	Kanyabuhama
	Buhoma T/C	Southern Ward	Mukono
			Nkwenda
		Eastern Ward	Kyumbo gushu
			Rubona
	Central Ward	Iraaro	
		Buhoma	
	Kirima	Rubimbwa	Kitunga
			Ruheza
			Kasoni
			Nyakabungo
		Rutugunda	Buhamba
		Bushuura	Nyakabungo
			Kajumo
			Ahabutare
			Rwengwe
			Kazuru
	Bugandaro		
	Mutojo		
	Kanungu T/C	Southern Ward	Kyabworo
	Rutenga	Muramba	Omumbuga
			Kashenyi
Butare			
Kinaba	Mukirwa	Kijuma	
	Kiziba	Ishaaya	
Mpungu	Mpungu	Bugoro	
		Kanyashogi	
		Murushasha	
	Buremba	Nyamizo	
		Rukungwe	
		Karukara	
		Kikome	
		Bweyongyezo	
	Muramba	Katunda	
		Karambi	
	Ngaara	Muramba	Kibingo
			Kigaga
Ngaara		Kyogo	
		Bushegenyi	

KISORO	Bukimbiri	Iremera	Nyamasinda
	Rubuguri T/C	Eastern Ward	Kanyamahene
			Rushaga
			Birara
		Southern Ward	Musezero
			Kashasha
			Kashija
		Northern Ward	Nyabaremura
	Igabiro		
	Western Ward	Nombe	
Nkuringo T/C	Nteko	Kahulire	
		Murole	
		Kikobero	
		Nteko	
RUBANDA	Ruhija	Kiyebe	Kiyebe
			Mataka
			Nyakaranga
			Kabere
		Ntungamo	Ntungamo
			Kyeitokwa
			Rugandu
		Buhumuro	Mburameizi
			Buzaniro
			Nyabiha
		Kashekyera	Kyogo
			Inywero
			Nyakabungo
			Bitanwa
		Kitojo	Rwesanziro
			Katoma
	Bishayu		
	Muko	Kaara	Byamihanda
	Ikumba	Mushanje	Bigandu
			Kigumira
Kinyungu			
Rwaburegyeya			
Nyamabare		Nyamabare	
		Kachwamuhoro	
		Kigarama	
Kashasha		Kitahurira	
		Katojo	
		Ndeego	
		Murubaya	
	Kiriba A		
	Kiriba B		
	Mashoho		
Kagogo			
		Ihunga	

Source: UWA-BINP-Community Conservation Unit Report 2022

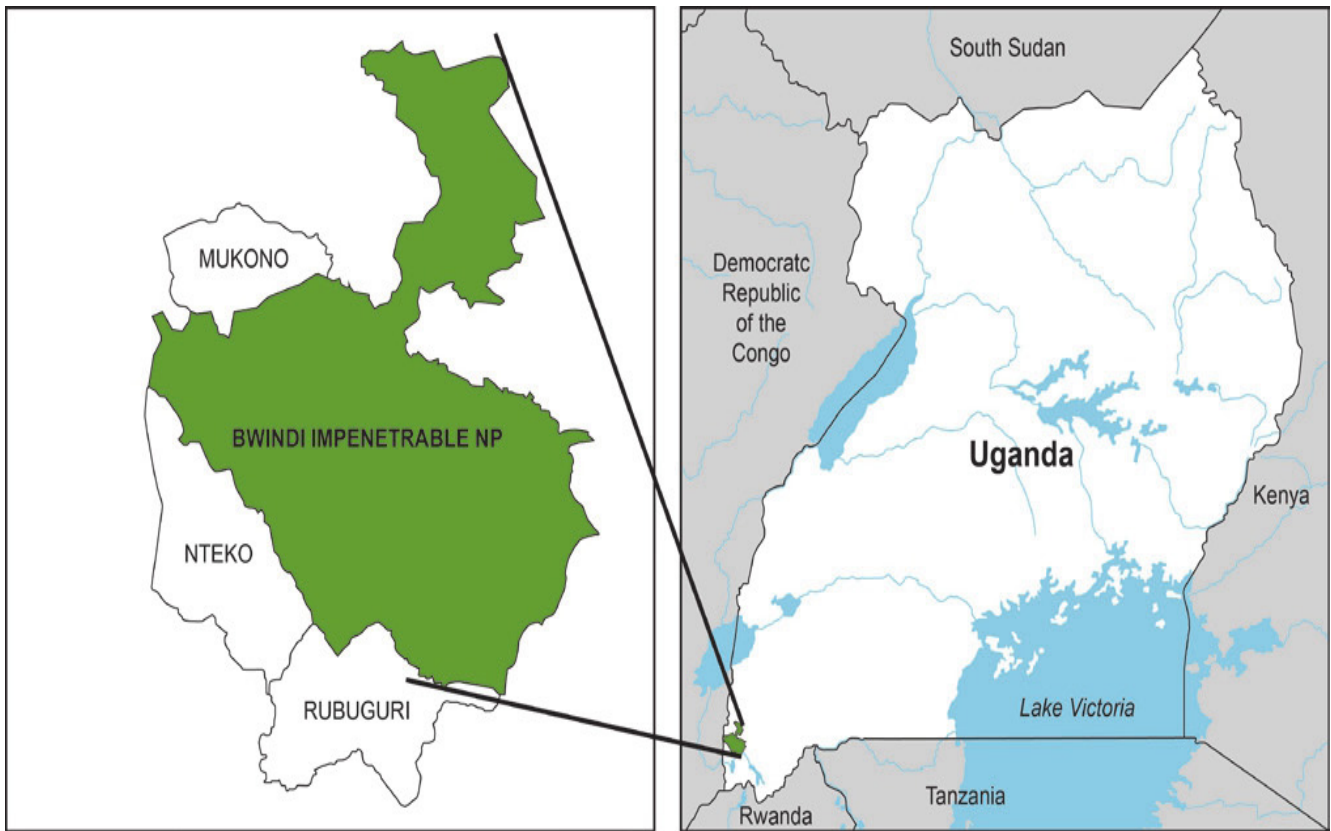


Figure 12: Location of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
(Source: primeugandasafaris.com)





Uganda Wildlife Authority
Plot 7, Kira Road
P.O BOX 3530, Kampala Uganda