

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD POVERTY AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION CONFLICTS**

**CASE STUDY OF
MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK (MFNP)**

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DECLARATION

I Nkasiima Emmanuel declare that this research proposal is from my own findings and has never been produced by anybody else for award in any institution

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APPROVAL

This is to satisfy that this research report has been done under my supervision and submitted to the college of applied economics and management sciences for examination with my approval

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Signature 

Date 15/08/2012

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Special thanks go to Mrs. Gwiina Caroline, my lecturer, for your tireless technical guidance on my aspects on this book.

I dedicate this book to Mr. Timothy Baguma Akiiki, my younger brother.

ABBREVIATIONS

MFNP; Murchison Falls National Park

PA's; Protected areas

UNPA; United Nations Program of Action

WHO; World Health Organization

WLC; Wildlife conservation

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ABSTRACT

This research report has been successfully made in areas around MFNP in Kichwabugingo and chopelowr parishes of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district, to establish the relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts, under the consistent guidance and supervision of Madam Gwiina Caroline, a lecturer in Kampala International University, research revealed that there were links between wildlife conservation conflicts and house hold poverty.

We welcome any comments in regard to this research finding especially those involved in wildlife conservation management and community development.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

The earliest formalized management of protected areas in Uganda dates back to 1898, though it was already common practice for the kings and chiefs who ruled the area of present-day Uganda to set aside areas for sport hunting, but were also important source of meat, clothing, shelter and medicine to the entire community. *K. Beaton, (1951)*

K. Beaton, (1951) added that the primary objective of wildlife conservation in Uganda was to conserve wildlife resources for aesthetic benefits and generation of tourism revenue. Minimal attention was given to the impacts of the policy upon the lives and livelihoods of the people along the boundaries of the protected areas.

The practice of wildlife conservation in 1990s' resulted into not only limiting but stopping any person along the protected areas from depending on the protected areas for food, medicine, clothing, or do any activity like grazing, cultivation, fishing, settlement, or collect any natural resource for own consumption. *Steinhart, (2001)*

With that objective, we have learnt that we can not predict a positive future trend for any protected area without the active support of those who live along the edges because the neighbors have been left helpless and therefore despise the policy. There by saying, "the protected areas only benefit the government and not directly them. The protected areas should be shifted and taken away. *Lamprey and Michelmore (1996)*

Over the last thirty years, the large mammal populations of MFNP and its adjacent reserve have been drastically reduced by poaching. The elephant population has declined from 14000 to less than 500, buffaloes from 30000 to 2500 and hippos from 12000 to 1500. Similar trends are found for other species. *Oliver (1992)*

1.1 Statement of the problem

Despite the expectation of MFNP management that the local communities around MFNP to embrace the wildlife conservation polices in MFNP, they have shown a negative attitude and undermined the conservation polices. The relationship between MFNP and the

surrounding community is characterized by illegal activities such as poaching, lumbering, over harvesting of resources, and encroachment into the protected areas. Encroachment is mainly for agriculture and settlement leading to extinction of endangered species like the white rhinos and general reduction of biodiversity. This has led to continued conflicts between wildlife conservation management and the respective communities and hence creating room for concern to find out the causes of such conflicts between wildlife conservation and the adjacent communities considering their household economic situations.

1.2 Objectives of the study.

1.2.1 General objectives

The general objective of the study was to establish the relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts in Kichwabugingo and Chopelower parishes of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district.

1.2.2 Specific objectives

- To assess the current household poverty levels in Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district.
- To identify the extent of conflicts between the communities of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district and MFNP management.
- To establish if there was a relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts.

1.3 Research questions

- What are the current household poverty levels in Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district?
- What was the extent of conflict between the communities of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district and MFNP management?
- Was there a relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts?

1.4 Hypothesis

There could not be conflict relationships between household poverty and wildlife conservation.

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Geographical scope

The study was carried out around MFNP in areas of Kichwabugingo and Chopelower parishes in Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district.

1.5.2 Content scope

The study established the relationship between household poverty and MFNP conservation conflicts.

Level of household poverty was determined by considering the number of dependants, number of meals served per day, average daily saving, numbers and types of houses per family, ability to access household items like salt, sugar, soap, and clean water.

The levels of wildlife conflicts with the communities were determined basing on physical evidences, stored information.

1.5.3 Time scope

The study covered a period of two month which commenced on June 2012.

1.6 Justification of the study

- Research on this topic was necessary so that the existing data about household poverty of Ugandans living close to MFNP and the management of the MFNP can be supplemented on in order to increase public awareness and for public education on how to live positively with the park.
- The information produced on this topic will help the management of MFNP in designing appropriate programs which will improve on the living standards and reduce community pressure on the MFNP after reviewing the findings of the study especially the recommendations.

- Furthermore, the findings of this study will also be useful interims of academic pursuits especially those perusing studies on in tourism and related courses.

1.7 Operational definitions

Borehole; a manual machine fitted on a mechanically drilled hole into the water table in the ground that aids in drawing the water to the earth surface for various purposes.

Conservation; Is the sustainable use and development of both renewable and non renewable resources and that the feature generation can meet their own needs with out any compromise.

Conflicts; In this study, conflicts referred to challenge(s) subjected by another group to a group competing for the same given material for a given interest, wildlife for this case.

Household poverty; In this study, household poverty is described as the lack of access to enough and effective physiological needs like; food, clean water, fuel, health facilities, shelter and other basic and social needs like security, education, and market centers even if they may not totally be deprived of them.

Local Communities; Local communities in this study refer to the people neighboring MFNP in Kichwabugingo and Chopelowr parishes, in Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district.

Open wells; These were the un protected water bodies which provided water to the members of the community. Some wells were seasonal while some existed permanently. Wells varied in size and depth. As well, the quality of the water depended on the speed of the water flowing out of the well. Stagnate wells were regarded to have unsafe water for use.

Shallow well; referred to the source of freely flowing water on the earth surface which was manually covered by use of concrete to avoid destruction, accidents, pollution, among

others. Shallow wells they were common in areas where water was close too close to the water surface that it could flow on its own.

Problematic animals; these were animals which moved from their protected areas and encroached on the communities homesteads, destroyed their properties especially the crops. These animals among others included various kinds of antelopes, wild pigs, and premeds.

Wildlife; This referred to both living and non-living resources in their natural habitats. They include; plants, animals, and mineral materials,

Wildlife conservation conflict; In this study, Wildlife conservation conflict referred to the level of un agreeable relationships between the wildlife conservation and the local communities around the protected areas like; encroachment on protected areas, among other activities like poaching and tree cutting.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Literature review

This chapter is about the ideas and views of other persons in relation to the topic. The literature is important and will help the researcher to investigate into details about the topic. The literature was obtained from other secondary sources of data.

2.1 Household poverty defined

UPPAP (1998), Defines household poverty not only poor people and just not the lack of incomes; it also refers to the lack of means to satisfy basic, social needs, as well as feeling of power or easiness to break out of the cycle of a poverty and insecurity of a person and his properties. Common features of a poor household include; few assets of production, insufficient food, inadequate income to meet health care and education costs, and to obtain household necessities, many dependants, vulnerability, poor health, or lack of social support. Therefore, household poverty is about more than income expenditure when quoting the above definition.

2.2 Concept of poverty

It is natural to view poverty as a failure to meet the basic requirements of a 'descent' life. The "descent" life does, of course, vary from society to society. *Adam smith (1776)*. While biological requirements and nutritional norms provide the most elementary concept of "basic requirements", the notion of deprivation has to be considered in broader terms as to come to grips with the modern understanding of poverty. The contrast between the natural norms used by, say, *Both (1889)* and *Rwontree (1901)*, and the rather more demanding requirements used analyzing "relative deprivation" in works by such authors.

2.3 Nature of communities living in the areas of research.

source "House hold survey data (1997),"
Sixty percent of the people living around MFNP are unable to meet their basic needs and are living below the absolute poverty line, while twenty five percent cannot even meet their daily food requirements and live bellow the food poverty line, Seventy five percent live in grass thatched huts while even some share with their domestic animals. Almost 95% use fire wood as main source of fuel and only 5% use charcoal for fuel. There are less

than three government aided secondary schools and not any tertiary institution in Mutunda sub county, Kiryandongo district. There are at least two poorly maintained health units and one referral hospital located at the district headquarters an average of 30 km from Kichwabugingo and Chopelower parishes in Mutunda Sub County with only one active ambulance.

It is possible to argue that both absolute and relative deprivations are essential ingredients of the common understanding of poverty. If people are dying of hunger in a famine situation, it is legitimate to see it as a case of acute poverty. On the other hand, even if no one goes hungry, but some are terribly deprived compared with others and see their relative deprivation as acute, then it is legitimate to diagnose poverty, even though the criteria here are entirely relative rather than absolute. *Runciman (1966)* and *Townsend (1974)*

2.4 The role of indigenous people and their communities

UNPA, (1992) Indigenous people and their communities have an historical relationship with their land and are generally descendants of the original inhabitants of such lands (the environment of the areas which the people concerned traditionally occupy). Indigenous people and their communities should enjoy full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination. In view of this interrelationship, the social, cultural and physical wellbeing of indigenous people, therefore, national and international efforts for sustainable development should recognize, accommodate, promote and strengthen the role of indigenous people and their communities.

Some indigenous people and their communities may require, in accordance to the national legislation, greater control over their lands, self-management of resources, participation in development decision making affecting them, including where appropriate participation in the establishment and or management of protected areas.

2.5 Conflicts

Uganda Wildlife Society (2006), defines Conflicts as the inherent incompatibility between the objectives of two or more characters or forces. By nature, a conflict is unstable. One side must always lose or both fail to succeed in the end if not managed.

Conservation is about access to resources and land and inevitably there is some form of conflict over the decisions that are made. When ever the decision is made to protect land, water, and other natural resources, a decision is also being made about who can access these resources, and for what purpose. This often leads to competing interests among stakeholders in the same resource, sometimes dwindling, nature resources which sometimes can lead to conflicts. This is common in developing countries.

2.6 Murchison falls national park (MFNP)

MFNP is Uganda's largest national park which protects a chunk of untamed African savannah bisected by the river Nile. It is named after the falls where the world's longest river explodes violently through a narrow cleft in the rift valley escarpment. The park covers 3893 sq.kms in the north-west Uganda, approximately 90kms from Masindi. MFNP has other five game reserves attached to it. They include; Karuma wildlife reserve, Ajai wildlife reserve, east Madi wildlife reserve and Bugungu wildlife reserve. It borders six districts that include Bulisa, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Nwoya, Oyam, and Nebbi. MFNP was gazetted in 1952 due to increasing number of wild animals which was as a result of people being pushed out due to tsetse flies that was a threat to both their health and the health of their domestic animals.

2.7 Related studies

In 2006, *Shane Doyle*, in his book *Crisis and Decline in Bunyoro 1860-1955*, notes that colonialism made people more vulnerable to climate-induced famine, malnutrition, and poverty. He adds that colonialism acts as an indirect background force; creating situations which exposed people to high, standardized taxes, many people in the early colonial period had to either leave their families and work elsewhere, or devote much of their time to unremunerable cash crops like cotton. This artificial labor shortage compromised household food security and impoverished the mass of the people, so that food shortages were more likely to occur. People resorted to complete dependency on wildlife for food, shelter and medicinal purposes.

He adds that hunting in Bunyoro was also a source of highly praised food in normal times and means of survival in times of shortage. Hunters also supported local craftsmen who

made their nets, snares, and weapons. Game also provided clothing and ornamentation and items of ritual significance.

Cunningham and Cunningham (2002) noted that; poaching is perhaps the worst problem in Africa's wildlife preserves by illegal hunters who massacre wildlife for valuable meat, horns, and tusks. Thirty years ago, there were no elephants in the Serengeti national park but perhaps three million in all Africa, about 80 % of the African elephants have been killed mainly for their ivory. The 2000 elephants in Serengeti national park have been driven there by hunting pressure from elsewhere. However, poachers continue to pursue the elephants and rhinos armed with high-powered rifles, machine guns and even bazookas. From the many African wars in the last decade, park rangers try to stop the carnage, but they often are outgunned buy the poachers. The African wildlife parks are beginning to resemble war zones with fierce, lethal firefights rather than peace and tranquility.

2.8 The conceptual framework.

The framework for analyzing wildlife conservations and household poverty linkages is adopted from the DFID as sustainable livelihood approach to asses the role of wildlife in poor peoples livelihoods and their effects to wildlife. This helps to explain how livelihood assets, such as wildlife are influenced by policies, institutions and processes, and how wildlife can be used to deliver desired livelihood outcomes.

Figure 1.1 and 1.2 shows the relationship between wildlife and possible livelihood outcomes

Figure 1.1

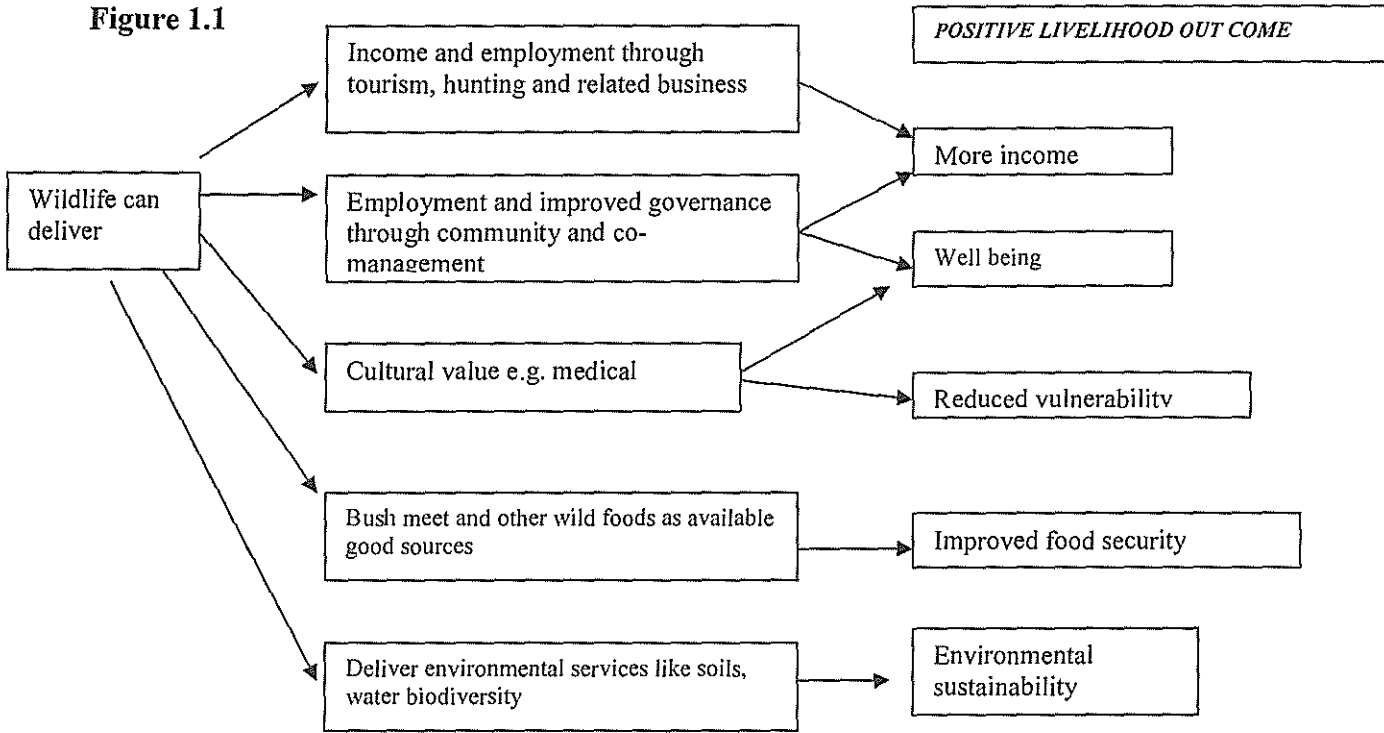
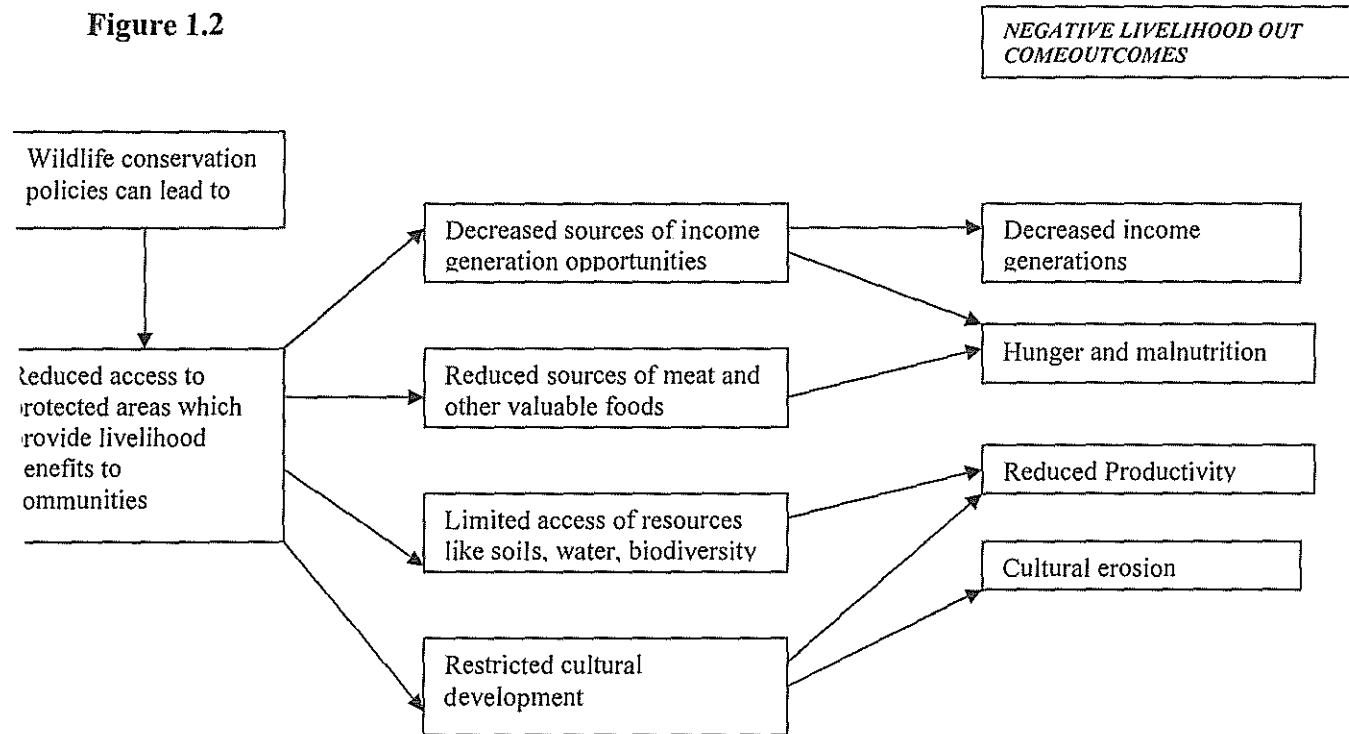


Figure 1.2



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter included the methodology of the study. Which entailed research design, geographical location, and population, sampling, design, data collection and instruments, data analysis and processing, and the limitations of the study?

3.1 Research design

This study employed the descriptive survey design. Which dealt with the relationships between variables, testing of hypothesis and development of generalization and use of theories that have universal validity? Descriptive were used to discover casual relationships and differences, to provide precise quantitative description and to observe behavior

3.2 Area and population of study.

The research was conducted around MFNP in Kiryandongo district, Mutunda sub-county in Kichwabugingo and Chopelowr parishes. The area was basically chosen because the researcher was familiar with the area and was able to speak the most common languages in the area of the study.

3.3 Sample framework

The researcher used stratified, random sampling techniques and purposive sampling technique since they ensured that the predetermined respondents chosen from purposive sampling and the chosen respondents from the sampling techniques could be approached for the relevant, correct and adequate information.

3.3.1 Sample size

The sample size of 60 respondents was to be arrived at. This included; 30 community members, 5 MFNP staffs, 5 local council leaders, 10 elders and 10 other concerned citizens. The responses got from these respondents were generalized to the whole population of the people around MFNP.

3.3.2 Sample technique

Random sampling technique was used to sample community members, where, a sample size of 100 was arrived at by randomly selecting from the sheets of paper spread to them in a simple meeting. After that, a systematic random sampling was then applied, which later give the actual sample size. This technique helped to asses the level of household poverty, conflicts, and the relationships between the communities and the PA's in the area of study.

Purposive sampling method was employed to sample the staff of MFNP management, local council leaders, and the parish's elders. Parish elders were arrived at based on age, and time spent within the community

Quantitative data collection was then employed which involved; editing, encoding, and later tabulation of the collected material.

3.3.3 Sampling procedure

Stratified random sampling was to be used to determine the respondents. This sampling data collection instrument was pre-tested to find out weather the sampling technique used was efficient or not. The determined respondents were consulted prior by the researcher seeking their consent before they fully got involved in the research.

3.4 Methods of data collection

3.4.1 Instruments.

The following data collection instruments were used:

a) Check list

This was designed in line with the topic and objectives with the aim of assessing the level of household poverty in Kichwabugingo and Chopelowr parishes of Mutunda sub-county, in Kiryandongo district.

The check list included both open and closed-ended questions in three sections comprising of *section A*, which aimed at obtaining demographic information, *section B that searched about household information* and section C, which aimed at getting information about health standards of the researched areas.

The check list was used to favorer those who could not read and write by themselves and yet had important information for the researcher, hence their task was just be to verbally answer the questions as the researcher read the questions for them from the check list while he noted their responses privately, and in a face to face manner. This helped to gather detailed responses with out fear or favor of the respondents.

b) Focus group discussions

This involved discussion aided by the interview guide where the researcher clearly read the questions, and actively listened to their responses as he noted in the notice book provided.

The discussions involved the community members, parish elders and other concerned citizens in regardless of sex, religion, educational level and physical ability, and MFNP management staff, but each group independently engaged in the discussions.

Questions asked were aimed at assessing the level of wildlife conservation conflicts in Mutunda sub/county, Kiryandongo district.

Here, the researcher was saved from misinterpretation of questions since he could rephrase the question if not fully heard or answered so that he could get the relevant information wanted.

3.5 Data presentation

Data presentation had to be started by editing the schedules and coding the responses. Editing, coding and tabulation techniques were used in data processing exercise. Data processing was then linked between data collection and analysis.

The data collected was then classified into a meaningful manner for easy interpretation and understanding. This involved preparing data collected into some useful, clear and understandable data to enable the researcher draw conclusions in relation to the research variables.

3.5.1 Tabulation

Data was put in some kind of statistical table showing the frequencies of occurrences of responses to particular questions with percentage to express data in ratio form.

3.6 Data analysis

The frequency and percentage distribution will be used to determine the demographic characteristics of the respondents and presentation of primary data got from the field. This will involve preparing information collected from the respondents into some useful, clear and understandable data, and then, present the data in tables, frequencies and percentages.

3.7 Ethical consideration

The researcher began by getting an authorization letter from the head of department of applied economics and management sciences at the university. This later was then taken to the respondents for identification purposes and to be used to confirm to the respondents that the reason for the research was only for academic purposes and that information got was to be highly protected.

The researcher also went ahead to get permission from the communities in interest and then made sure that their physical and emotional well being was not interfered with.

The researcher had the authority of not exposing the respondents' responses and was not supposed to.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the presentation, analysis and discussions of the findings focusing on the main variables of the study. That is to say; to examine the level of wildlife conservation conflict with the communities living around MFNP, to establish the level of household poverty in the communities living around MFNP and to identify the relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts, specifically in Kichwabugingo and Chopelowr parishes of Mutunda sub-county, in Kiryandongo district.

4.1 Demographic distribution of the respondents.

The study attempted to find out the differences in the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the findings were presented as follows

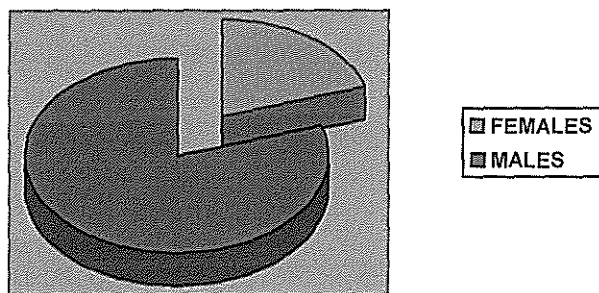
4.1.1 Distribution of respondents by gender.

In regard to the differences in gender of the respondents, the results of the findings were presented as follows in table.1

Table 1: Shows the distribution of respondents by gender

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Females	12	20
Males	48	80
Total	60	100

Figure 2: Shows the distribution of respondents by gender



The study revealed that males dominated the sample by up to 80% in relation to females who featured only 20% in the sample. This was because of the following reason;

Research revealed that most of the women were not informed about what was going on during the research due to their irregular involvement tendencies towards community activities like meetings, while some just shied off when giving relevant information, while others deliberately refused to participate in the research, were as men were eager to express their views concerning their problems and challenges in their community.

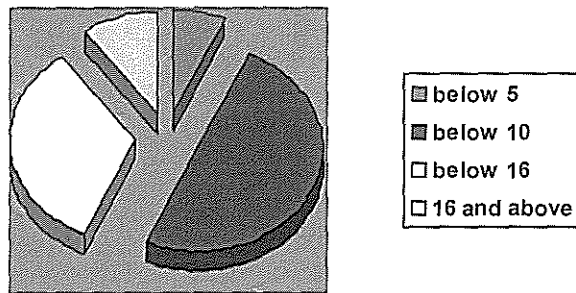
4.1.2 Study on dependants per household.

Research on the number of dependants per household revealed the information presented in table 2 below.

Table 2: Shows the number of dependants per household.

No. of dependants	Frequency	Percentage
0-4	4	6.7
5-9	30	50
10-15	20	33.3
16 and above	6	10
Total	60	100

Figure 3: Shows the number of dependants per household.



According to the findings, 50% of the household in the researched areas had between 5-9 dependants, followed by 33.3% household with about 10-15 dependants, 10% had above 15 dependants, as only 6.7% had less than 5 dependants.

This was attributed to a number of factors which included; uncontrolled pregnancies due to no family planning methods being applied in homes, death of the relatives who already had dependants, hence giving the living relatives responsibilities to adopt the dependants who depended on the deceased relatives in regardless of their ability to provide to the adopts every necessity needed in life. In addition, some homes had above one producing fertile women shearing a man hence the reasons for the responses above respectively.

10% of the respondents had over 15 dependants because of similar to the reasons explained in the above paragraph, such as; ignorance to family planning advantages and method, death of relatives who already had dependants, and the tendency of men to have more than one fertile producing women in a home.

Research showed that only 6.7% of the respondents had less than 5 dependants. This was as the result of respondents being introduced to family planning methods, newly established homes (homes with less than two years in existence), and death of one person especially the male in a couple in a home because according to their culture, unlike the men, once a woman lost a husband, she could not get involved in marriage with another man legally.

4.1.3 Household economic study.

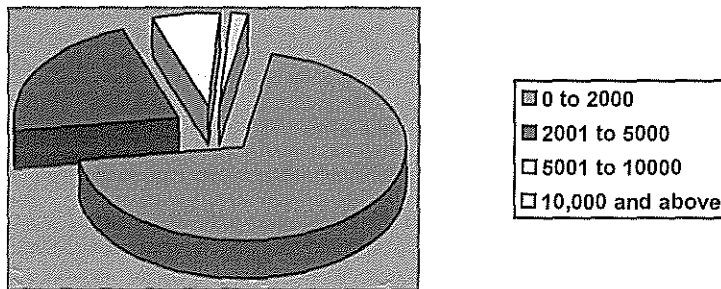
Research on average daily savings per household.

In order to discover the level of household economic situations in the areas of research, it was important to research on the daily savings of the respondents. the findings were as follows in table 3.

Table 3: Shows the daily savings per household

Daily savings in Ugandan shillings	Frequency	Percentage
0 -2,000	42	70
2,001 -5,000	13	21.7
5,001 -10,000	4	6.7
10,001- above	1	1.6
Total	60	100

Figure 4: Shows the daily savings per household



According to research, up to 70% of the respondents could save less than 2,001 Ugandan shillings a day, 21.7% could save at least 5,000, while 6.7% could save up to 10,000 and only 2% of the respondent afforded to save over 10,000.

This was mainly attributed to poor saving skills, that's to say, 95% of the 70% of the respondents never had saving bank accounts, ignorance about the importance of saving, large numbers of dependants, prices fluctuations of their agricultural products, for instance, in December 2011, a kilogram of maize grains was sold at 100/= from 500/= in July 2011, a respondent revealed.

About 22% of the respondents could at least save 5,000/= per day, but that could only be possible to those who were entrepreneurs dealing in either retail shops or sold locally brewed alcohol, i.e. waragi (a locally made gin) and maluwa (a local brew got maize products).

Results in research showed that about 7% of the respondents could save at least 10,000/=. Respondents argued that, this could be possible to people who engaged in more than one economic activity like civil servants who at the same time engaged in agricultural practices like teachers, and politicians.

More so, research on daily income saving showed that only 2% of the respondents could save above 10,000 per day, sources reveled that such respondents had saving bank accounts, held positions in government or NGO's as well as engaged them salves in other economic activities, coupled to less dependants in their homes.

4.1.4 Study on accessibility to food and safe water.

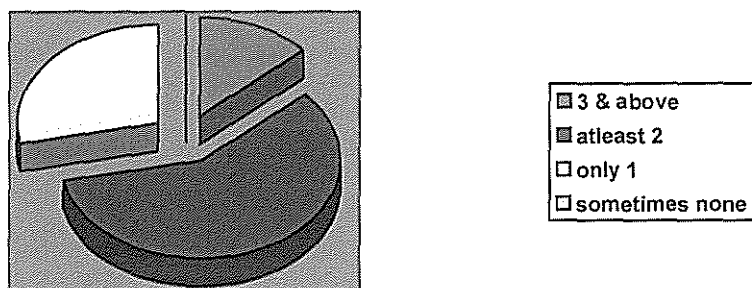
Research on the number of meals afforded in a household per day.

The levels of household poverty was also to be established basing on accessibility to meals respondents could attain per day and the results was as shown in table 4 bellow

Table 4: Shows meals respondents could afford per day

Courses of meals per day	Frequency	percentage
Sometimes none	0	0
Once	17	28.3
Twice	35	58.3
Thrice	8	13.3
Total	60	100

Figure 5: Shows meals respondents could afford per day



Research revealed that about 58% could at least afford two meals per day, 28.3% could avail themselves with at least one meal a day, while a total of 13.3% of the respondents afforded three meals a day and none sometimes missed a meal in a day.

How ever those homes which could afford the two meals had food stores, gardens of food crops, or were developing entrepreneurs within the study area, while others had little or no any dependant in their homes hence having the chance to save much more food.

Almost 28% of the respondents revealed that, in most cases they could afford only one meal per day. This type of respondents were characterized of no food stores, no any food crop garden, usually depended on rewards got from working in other peoples gardens, and they preferred to ready cooked food from the restaurants and even neighbors.

Additionally, research on accessibility to food revealed that 13% of the respondents could afford three meals per day and described the number of meals as breakfast, lunch, and supper. Such respondents were either well developed farmers, entrepreneurs, or civil servants as an addition to manageable families.

Interestingly, there was no finding in research on the respondents who could sometimes live without a meal in a day. This could imply that however much accessibility to food may be a challenge to the members in the research area, at least every individual could afford a meal every day.

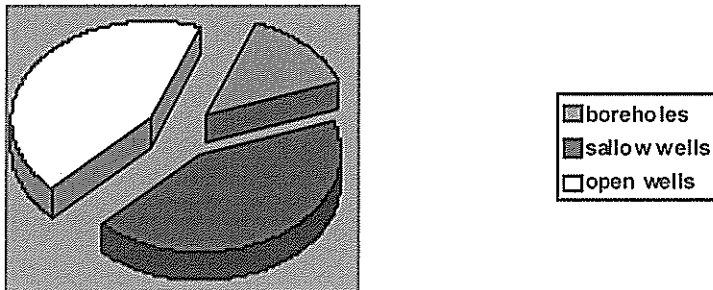
Research on the sources of water for home use.

Research conducted on the sources of water for home use in the study areas revealed information as shown in table 5.

Table 5: Shows the respondents' sources of water.

Source of water	Frequency	Percentage
Boreholes	10	13.6
Shallow wells	25	41.7
Open wells	25	41.7
Total	60	100

Figure 6: Shows the respondents' sources of water.



Unlike other sub-counties in the district of study like Bweyale, Kiryandongo and Kigumba, Mutunda sub-county, had no piped water, and as the result, 41.7% of the respondents got their water for home use from shallow wells, 41.7 respondents got it from open wells and 10% of the respondents got home water from boreholes.

The researcher physically reached one of the boreholes at a primary school in Kichwabugingo parish and discovered that it was very difficult to get about 80 liters of water with ease because the machine was too stiff to operate yet it took about 2 minutes on constant pumping for the to water to come out, the source served part of the 13.6 % of the respondents and the school of about 300 students and staff. To the researcher, this population was too much to be saved by a single water source per day, however, the researcher could not reach the other boreholes were the rest of the community members

got their water for home use, though sources revealed that there were not more than three operational boreholes by the time of research in the entire study area.

Research reveals that 41.7% of the respondents got water for home use in shallow wells; the shallow wells were commonly located close to swamps because of the closeness of the water in areas around swamps to the earth surfaces. Respondents revealed that there was over six shallow wells by the time of research which provided relatively enough water during wet seasons but dried up during a prolonged dry season. Sources revealed that some respondents preferred shallow wells to boreholes because of the ease of pumping and accessibility in regardless to quality of the water.

On the same note, 41.7% responded that they got water for their domestic use from open wells, proudly claiming that, they had no problem with open wells because water was fetched freely while other water sources involved monthly contributions of about 1000/= as maintenance fee, while others claimed that open wells had been in existence for over 100 years while other source of water were introduced within 30 years from today, therefore, no reason for abandoning their ancestral source of water. However, some respondents complained of an upcoming behavior of some animal keepers especially cattle grazers who illegally used the same source of water for the survival of their animals hence making the water unsafe for home consumption. To the researcher, the alleged open well provided unsafe water for home use and could be breeding places for mosquitoes which spread the malarial virus.

1.5 Health standards.

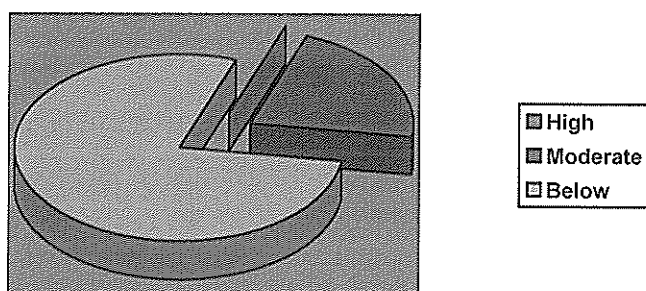
The quality of health services and facilities in the study areas

Research was conducted to establish the health standards of the areas in study since health is one of the determinants of good quality community livelihoods according to WHO and the results were as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Indicates the ranking of the quality of the healthy services

Rating	Frequency	Percentage
Bellow standard	47	78.3
Moderate standard	13	21.7
High standards	0	0
Total	60	100

Figure 7: Indicates the ranking of the quality of the healthy services



From the findings, it was established that the health standards were not as expected by all the respondents. 78.3% of the respondents recommended the health services as being below standards, while 21.7% recommended the health services positively.

The 21.7% of the respondents claimed that the health standards had averagely improved due to much efforts being put foreword by various governmental and non governmental organizations like religions, radio programs, healthy unites, politicians, among others. The respondents added that the attempt of the government to provide free health services and facilities like mosquito nets, immunization programs, and safe male circumcsions among others greatly improved on the healthy standards of the communities in study. Healthy practices promoted in religious organizations involved; faithfulness, condemning drug abuse, alcoholism, murder, defilement, rape among others, a respondent revealed.

Unfortunately, up to about 78% of the respondents urged that the healthy standards of the areas of study were below their expected standard. They claimed that the available healthy unites were always crowded by patients due to inadequate health providers, insufficient

health equipments to be used to provide efficient health services, shortage of drugs, especially for the rampant diseases affecting the community members like malaria, cough, HIV Aids, cancer among others. Some respondents stated that the available referral hospital usually recommended the patients to private clinics for drugs, and other complex health services, yet the clinics charged them a lot of money, a factor that in most cases ended up claiming off their beloved ones. For that matter, some respondents concluded that they preferred to traditional services for healings due to loss of hope in the effectiveness and efficiency of the current healthy facilities of the area sighting a Chigagi juice (a plant herb) to cure malaria, fever, stomach disorder, wounds, amongst others.

4.2 Relationships between WLC and the communities living around the PA's.

This section gathered information about the relationship between the communities of Kichwabugingo and Chopelower parishes of Mutunda sub-county, in Kiryandongo district and MFNP managements. The results were as elaborated below.

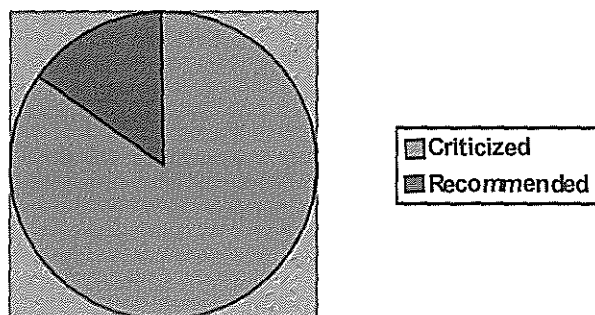
4.2.1 The communities position about the values of WLC.

Research conducted on the above topic yielded to the information shown in table 7 below;

Table 7: Shows the communities position in regard to the values of WLC in their community

Position	Frequency	Percentage
Acknowledged	09	15
Criticized	51	85
Total	60	100

Figure 8: Shows the communities position in regard to the values of WLC in their community.



Research showed that 15% of the respondents valued the role of WLC practices while 85%; (the majority) never appreciated the values of WLC to the communities of study

Some of the 15% claimed that it was because of WLC that they had got an employment opportunity. Others submitted in that the PA's could be reserved land for feature important developments, and as well protect valuable resources. The respondents sited the valuable recourse to include but not limited to plant species like mahogany, as well as musuzi trees, animals in included antelopes, and wild pigs of various kinds that were on demand by the community for shelter and business and food respectively. One of the ladies among the respondents said that she expected benefits of neighboring the PA's such as infrastructural and urbanization developments as the government attempts to develop the PA's, adding that all that is required is patience and hope along side prayers.

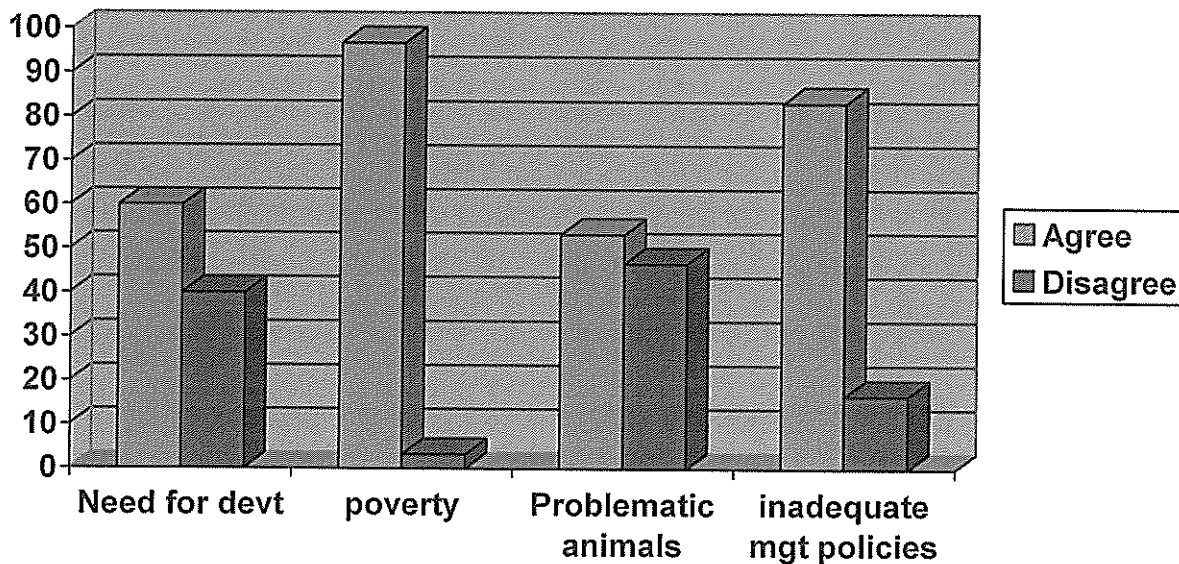
However, the majority of the respondents totaling to 85% strongly criticized the values of wildlife to their communities. They complained that they occasionally witnessed there recourses like valuable trees, grass and animals growing, dying and decomposing in their presence, the soils seamed to be fertile but prohibited from any activity like farming, settlement. The respondents continued complaining that the protected areas around their homes harbored dangerous and problematic animals like snakes, crop grazers, harmful people like robbers, drug dealers, rapists among others. The respondents also submitted in that it is because of PA's that social ammonites like schools, hospitals, water points, trading centers, among others were distantly and unevenly located in fever of the wildlife.

4.2.2 Research on the factors fueling the WLC conflicts with the communities of study discovered the following issues shown in table 8.

Table 8: Indicates some of the reasons why conflicts exist between WLC and the communities around the PA's.

Issues	Agree		Disagree		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Need for development	37	60	23	40	60	100
Poverty	58	96.7	02	3.3	60	100
Problematic animals	32	53.3	28	46.6	60	100
Poor management policies	50	83.3	10	16.6	60	100

Figure 9: Indicates some of the reasons why conflicts exist between WLC and the communities around the PA's.



During the research, it was revealed that 60% of the respondents conflicted with WLC because of need for development, 53.3 conflicted because of problematic animals, while 83.3% submitted in the reason as being poor management policies, while 96.7 (the majority) addressed poverty as the leading cause of conflicts in the research areas.

The need for development more especially in agro-business, industrialization and settlement continuously caused the conflicts. A member of the respondents stated that some investors in 2011 had reached an extent of constructing a golf course within the PA's

of MFNP how ever; no other detailed information had been gathered concerning the alleged investors.

The majority of the respondents represented by almost 97% claimed that it was all about poverty that caused the conflicts. They explained that the need for resources for their daily survival like; fuel in form of firewood and charcoal, poles/timber, game meat, land for farming, among others for both personal and commercial purposes usually caused the conflicts.

Additionally, 53% of the respondents pointed out the problematic animals especially crop grazers like antelopes, wild pigs, and premeds that occasionally attacked the communities' crops to be one of the leading causes of WLC conflicts with the neighboring communities. Some respondents confessed that it was because of the problem animals that traps were laid in the boundaries to trap the problem animals while other people mobilized themselves to hunt and kill the problem animals in favour of their crops.

To add on problematic animals, was the poor management polices to be among the causes of conflicts according to respondents represented by about 83%. They explained that were never involved in any decision making or implementation, that most community families never had clear land boundaries with land titles, the respondents argued that it was necessary for the to WLC managements to promote the coexistence of both wildlife and the communities involved as is the case in Kabale were the communities affected by Mgahinga national game park have been neglected by the management. More efforts were required by the legislative systems to coup up with the advancing complicity of human behaviors such as armed poachers, land encroachers, criminals hiding in the PA's like the robbers. Respondents revealed.

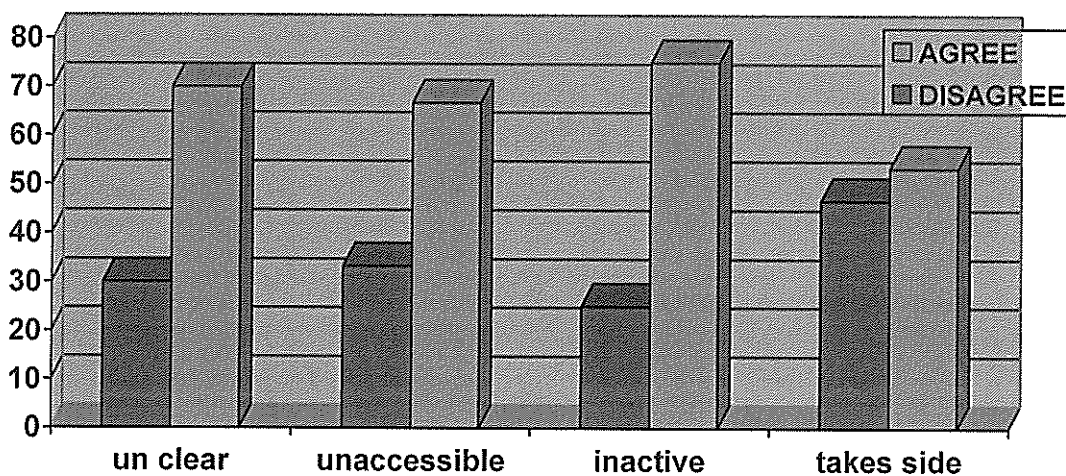
4.2.3 The competence of the legislation dealing with the conflicts between WLC and the communities of study.

The findings were as tabled in table 9 below.

Table 9: Represents the respondents' opinion in regards to the legislation systems dealing with conflicts in the researched areas

Views	Agree		Disagree		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Legislation takes side	32	53.3	28	47.7	60	100
Legislation takes long to act	45	75	15	25	60	100
Legislation is an accessible	40	66.7	20	33.3	60	100
Legislation is not clear	42	70	18	30	60	100

Figure 10: represents the respondents' opinion in regards to the legislation systems dealing with conflicts in the researched areas



Research indicates that 53.3% of the respondents argued that the legislation seemed not to be fair, 75% stated that legislation took longer time to act appropriately, while 66.7% said legislation was inaccessible and 70% stated that they did not know what legislation was for.

Sources revealed that legislation was not fair when dealing with wildlife conflicts, because it seemed to be siding whenever it solved conflicts between members of the community and WLC management. A respondent stressfully stated that “you can never win a case against WLC management even though you have satisfactory evidence unless you have enough money to continue following the case in terms of transport, facilitating lawyers and witnesses”, while another one stated that legislators quickly reacted to WLC management issues even though issues arising from the community emerged first.

Besides that, 75% of the respondents accused legislators for usually taking long to act, submitting in that issues especially concerning crop destruction by the problem animals may never be responded to within the season of massive crop infestation. On several cases, the respondents claimed that they unwillingly abandoned cases concerning WLC because of time lag.

Farther more, a total of about 67% of the respondents agreed that legislators were not easily accessible. The above respondents claimed that it could take a lot of time for a complainant to travel from the villages in either Kichwabugingo or Chopelower to the respective offices for a case. As well as on successfully reaching the offices, could sometimes be bounced and or referred to another day for attending to them.

Research revealed that 70% of the respondents did not know the roles and values of the legislation, while other respondents submitted in that personal complications could cause a community member to fail to address his/her personal issues or to comply to the management policies. Such complications included; language barrier, illiteracy, physical disability, inferiority complex, poverty, selfishness among others.

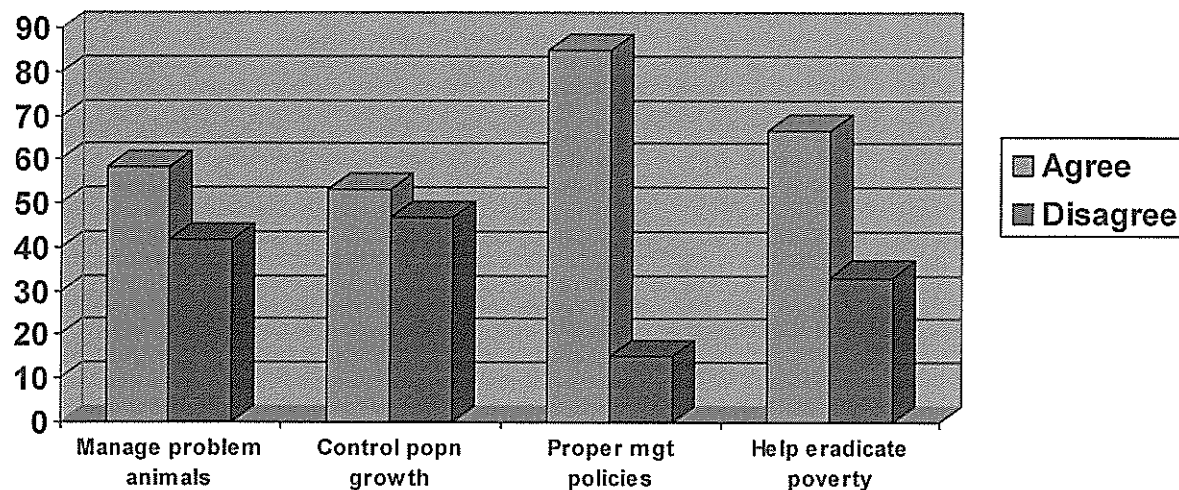
4.2.4 Possible solutions to minimize conflicts between WLC and the communities in the study areas.

The responses were as recorded in table 10 below

Table 10: Identifies the solutions put forward to conflicts between the two parties in study.

Solutions	Agree		Disagree		total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Manage problem animals	35	58.3	25	41.7	60	100
Control population growth	32	53.7	28	46.7	60	100
Revise management polices	51	85	09	15	60	100
Eradicate poverty	40	66.7	20	33.3	60	100

Figure 11: Identifies the solutions put forward to conflicts between the two parties in study.



According to the solutions put forward, 85% of the respondents suggested the management policies be revised, 66.7% advocated for the fight against poverty, 53.7% suggested that population growth be controlled, while 58.3% of the respondents suggested the problem animals be controlled first.

Sources revealed that if the implementation policies or laws involved community participation in decision making, and implementation, then their would be no chances for

conflicts to arise between the two parties since both would agree on what to do, when to do it, why and how to implement it effectively.

About 67% of the respondents suggested that priority be given to eradicating poverty. Revelers added that it is because of poverty that the community could not do without encroaching on the PA's for resource collection like fuel, constricting materials, commercial hunting, settlement, and farming. Therefore, there was need to influence members on saving skills, extend lending facilities or donors to the communities in topic, and extend other sources of fuel, and construction facilities to the communities.

Another solution put forward by 58% of the respondents to fight conflicts in the areas of study was to manage problem animals which on occasional basis attacked the community's crops. To the revelers, these animals included pyramids especially monkeys, and baboons, that feed on the communities crops, crops like maize, ground nuts, cassava, sweet potatoes, among others and hence creating conflicts between the WLC management and the communities affected.

And a total of 54% of the respondents considered the control of population growth to be an over role position. The respondents argued that many women could not control their rate of pregnancies, cases of early child birth were high and as the result, the offspring normally created pressure and competed with the community for resource hence encroaching on the protected areas.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the summary, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for future research about the relationship between household poverty and WLC conflicts.

5.1 Summary of the findings

From the findings in figure 4.1, gender imbalances toward community participation was detected because males dominated the females in the research samples.

Demographic information;

There was unequal balance between female and male participations in communal activities like; meetings, services, information dissemination, among others. The high numbers of dependants in the most homes was a clear sign of poor family planning and rapid population growth in the community of study. Hence could hinder the homes to have better livelihoods. The adopted children as claimed by some respondents could imply poor healthy standards especially to the expectant mothers.

The household economic findings

Quoting the research findings on household's daily savings, research revealed that the majority of the community members (70%) could not save a US dollar per day. This indicates absolute poverty according to the UN, since UN requires that every mature individual earns at least a dollar per day, an approximately 2500/= Ugandan shillings by the time of research.

Accessibility to food and safe water

The fact that at least every individual in the study area can afford a meal per day, a few of the members could afford the three essential meals in a day as described in chapter four. In summary, research describes that the communities in research did not have enough food and hence requires more food security to ensure that every community member can afford food as necessarily required by the member.

The communities in the studied areas depend on untreated water from boreholes, shallow wells and open wells for their home consumption. Some community members could not tell the difference in the quality of water got from their available sources, some opted for the easiest way of obtaining water in regardless of the healthy factors involved, while others were culturally sensitive.

Healthy standards

Basing on respondents feedback in regard to standards of health services, in the study areas, health services were below expected standards by community members. For the good livelihood of the community, the researcher adds that access to timely health services under minimum costs is mandatory to every community member. However, the researcher appreciated the efforts put in by various organizations to improve on the health services of the study areas.

The relationship between WLC and the neighboring communities

The researcher concluded that; the community did not know the values of WLC hence their encroachment activities into the PA's to create conflicts was out of ignorance.

Research revealed that the community had negative responses in regard to legislation dealing with conflicts arising between the two parties, accusing the legislation for not being clear, inaccessible, uncreative, and seeming to be one sided in solving conflicts according to the respondents.

Conflicts emerged due to the need for development, poverty, inadequate management policies and problem animals. The attempts by the community members to cover those necessities usually lead to conflicts between the WLC management and the communities concerned.

The probable solutions to solve WLC conflicts between WLC management and the communities in research, respondents revealed that, eradicating poverty, controlling population growth, managing the problem animals, and establishing proper management

policies like involving the communities in decision making and implementation could be an effective solution to the alleged conflicts.

5.2 Conclusions

Basing on the earlier description of household poverty, the lack of access to enough and effective physiological need like food, health services, clean water, security, among others. Research revealed that the members in the communities of study live in poverty lines.

The levels of conflicts between WLC and the communities involved was high, and required immediate solutions in order for the wildlife and communities involved to live and co-exist in harmony.

The researcher concluded that there was a relationship between household poverty and WLC conflicts in communities around the protected areas.

5.3 Recommendations

On summarizing the findings and drawing conclusions of the findings, the researcher recommended that in order to eradicate household poverty and the conflicting relationship between WLC and the communities involved, there was need to;

Strengthen the relationship between the communities living around the PA's and WLC management by enabling the sustainable use of wildlife resources because wildlife and the communities in topic lived together from time of creation, the community depending on wildlife therefore unrealistic trying to prohibit community encroachment on wildlife.

Developing food security mechanisms by adapting to better farming activates which could lead to high yields but yet conserve wildlife, by encouraging every household to possess food stores to keep their harvested food for use when in scarcity instead of selling it off, adopting to quality plants of high yielding and tolerating abilities to unfavorable conditions, could be an effective solution to both food security and the corresponding conflicts that could arise. This could include but not limited to; agro forestry, fish farming, poultry farming and inter cropping.

The researcher recommends that there should be a balance between food and cash crop production. Growing more cash crop than food crop would result into food shortage, while growing more food crops than cash crops would result into limited income generations. To add on that, quality domestic animals like goats, poultry, pigs, sheep among others, be kept to supplement on diet and income generations. To add on that, Treated water systems be extended to the communities of study in the interest of protecting their health and simplifying their usual livelihoods at no or minimal expense, sensitize them masses on the dangers of using un treated water and how to treat it and the dangers involved in shearing water sources with animals.

The researcher recommends that legislators exercise justice when solving any arising WLC conflict. The role and duties of legislators have to be introduced to the community members. Legislation has to extend its services to the commonest member in the community without him spending unnecessarily in attempt of seeking for justice.

Extending renewable or substitute resources that the community could adapt to easily instead of harvesting resources from the PA's, such as electricity extension, industrial development, project developments that have employment opportunities could help to reduce the community's dependency on wildlife for their day to day livelihoods.

Promoting educational programs aimed at changing the communities attitudes on WLC towards a sustainable coexistence of the two parties could help to fight the alleged conflicts. Educational programmers could be through radio stations, seminars, in collages/institutions, community adult education, door to door sermons, mention it all.

5.4 Suggestions for future research

This research aimed at assessing the relationship between household poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts. The researcher suggests that more studies be conducted on the effect of the conflicting relationship between wildlife conservation and its neighboring communities to tourism development in Uganda.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Check list

I Nkasiima Emmanuel, a tourism student from Kampala International University conducting research. The purpose of this study is to fulfill my academic requirements. Therefore I kindly request you to answer for me the following questions.

Please, say either the correct answer or that which appropriately apply for the following objectives.

SECTION A

Demographic information

1) Sex,

(a) Male (b) female

2) Number of children and or dependants.

(a) 0-4 (c) 10-15

(b) 5-9 (d) above fifteen

SECTION B

Household economic information

3) Average daily savings in Ugandan shillings

(a) 0- 2000 (c) 5001- 10000

(b) 2001- 5000 (b) 10001-and above

Information on accessibility to food and safe water

4) Number of meals attained in a home per day

a) 3 and above c) Only 1

b) At least 2

5) Do you have an easy access to safe water for domestic use?

(a) Yes (b) No

6) What is your major source of water for home use?

a) Open wells

b) Shallow wells

c) Boreholes

SECTION C

Information on health standards

7) Do you have access to a healthy unite or healthy services,

- (a) Yes (b) No

State what they experience from the healthy units or services,

- (a) High standard
- (b) Moderate standard
- (c) Below standard

Appendix B
Interview guide

8) What is the relationship between the community of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district and Murchison Falls National Park conservation policies

9) What do you think are the factors fueling the problem of WLC conflicts with the communities of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district?

10) Do you think there are sufficient legislations dealing with WLC conflicts with the communities of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district?

11) What do you think are the possible solutions to deal with the problem of WLC conflicts with the communities of Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district?

The end

Thank you!

Appendix C
Research budget

This research costed 550.000/= arrived at as elaborated below

item	Cost (Ugandan currency)
Stationery and other related materials	130.000
transport	100.000
communication	60.000
photocopy	70.000
Typesetting and binding	50.000
Internet	15.000
Subsistence	25.000
miscellaneous	100.000
Total	550.000



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OFFICE OF THE DEAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

11th. 06. 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: REQUEST FOR NKASIIMA EMMANNEL, REG.NO: BTM/40307/91/DU
TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN YOUR ORGANIZATION**

The above mentioned is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelors of Tourism and Hotel Management.

He is currently conducting a field research of which the title is "*The Relationship between Household Poverty and wildlife conservation conflicts. a case of Murchison Falls National Park*" Your organization has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to his research project. The purpose of this letter is to request you to avail him with the pertinent information he may need.

Any information shared with him from your organization shall be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Any assistance rendered to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,

For
Dr. OLUTAYO K. OSUNSAN
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CEMS