



# Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda

*A project funded by the UK Government*

## Accounting for nature for tourism in Uganda's post-COVID-19 recovery

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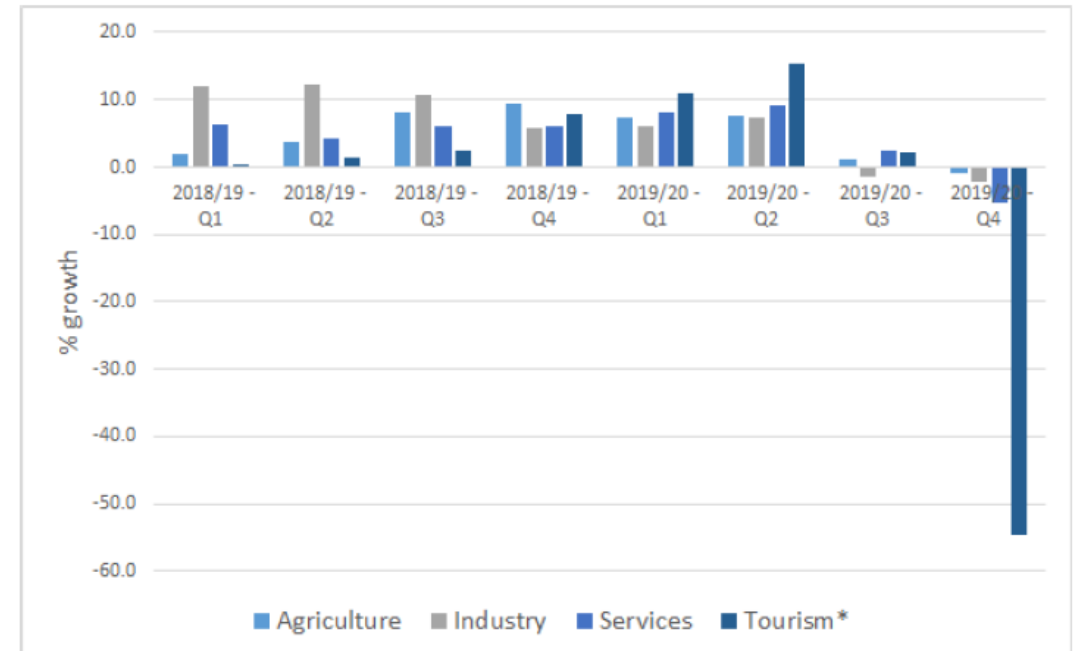
5<sup>th</sup> Policy Forum on NCA for Better Decision-Making – Greening the Recovery – September 2021



# Importance of natural capital to green recovery of the tourism sector in Uganda



- Tourism is a key sector for growth, foreign exchange and employment
- The sector has been the hardest hit by COVID-19
- Uganda's rich biodiversity, natural ecosystems and iconic species are a key tourist draw
- Conservation, enhancement and sustainable exploitation of this natural capital is essential if wildlife watching tourism is to catalyse recovery in the sector



Source: Ahebwa & English (2021) based on UboS data.

<https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ahebwa-and-English-2021-Final-report.pdf>



# Biodiversity and Tourism Accounts Produced

## Tourism Statistics 2019

(associated with visits to 12 protected areas)

**323,322**

Visits to national parks

**US\$10.4 Million**

Total park entrance revenues

**US\$35.2 Million**

total expenditure on gorilla tracking and other wildlife watching activities organised by the Uganda Wildlife Authority

**US\$29.6 Million**

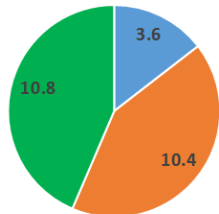
expenditure by international tourists on hotels, meals, shopping, travel and other related services

Integrated accounts produced for 12 key protected areas:

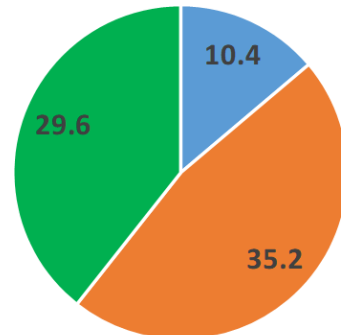
- Natural Ecosystem Extent
- Iconic Species (Medium to Large Mammal Abundance)
- Ecosystem Services (Visitors as a proxy)
- Extended SNA Supply & Use (Value of wildlife watching tourism expenditures)

### Total expenditure associated with Protected Area visits (USD Millions)

2012 (USD 24.8 Million)



2019 (USD 75.1 Million)

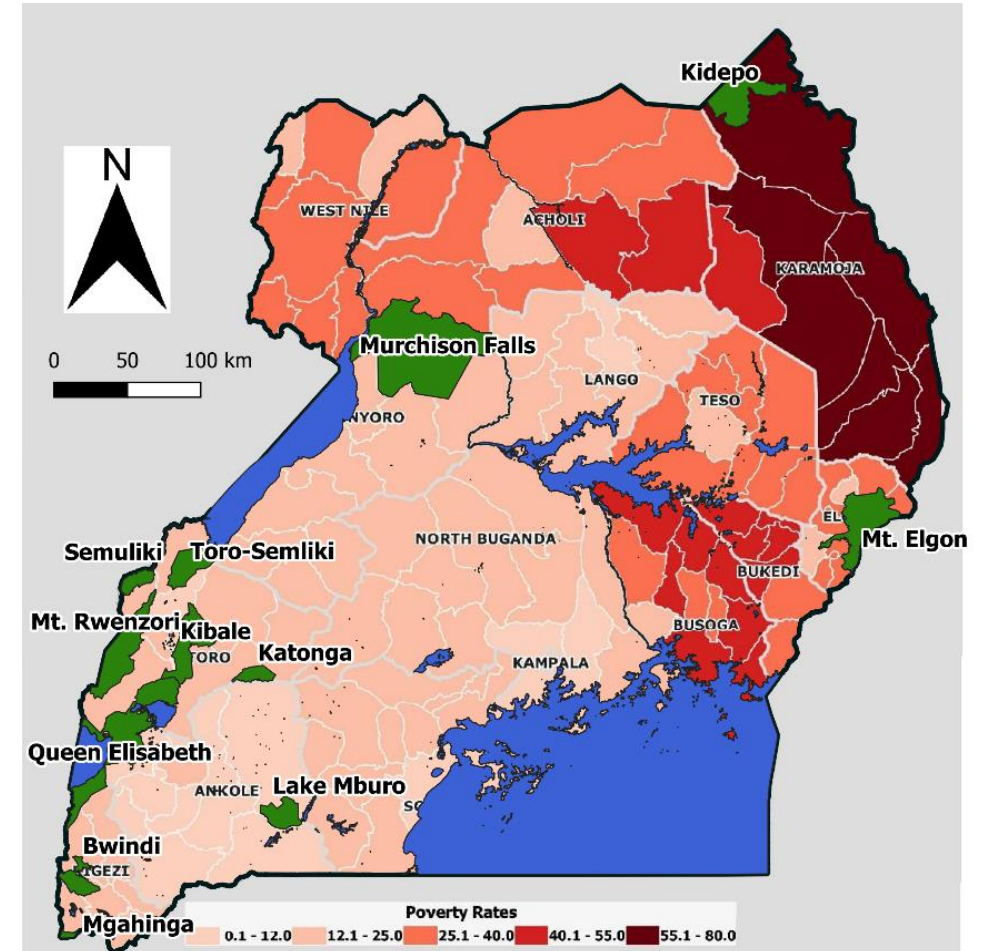


■ Park Entrance Expenditure    ■ UWA Activities    ■ Other Expenditure (International tourists)

# Using the accounts for Green Recovery



- Economic case for continuing investing in conservation of natural ecosystems and species
- Informing investment options for innovative tourism packages in less visited protected areas:
  - Tropical mountain forest in Mount Rwenzori National Park for adventure tourism
  - Iconic species that can support more tourism in Kidepo Valley National Park
- Linking investment to decent job creation and poverty alleviation (e.g., Kidepo)



# Progress made and next steps



- Biodiversity and Tourism; Fisheries Resources; and, Land and Soil Improvement accounts complete
- Roadmaps for institutionalizing the compilation and use of the accounts
- Green growth options paper
- All will be available at: <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/nca-in-Uganda>
- Many extensions to consider: Additional protected areas; ecosystem services; accounting for birds as iconic species; information on domestic tourism





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## Thank you for listening!

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