MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES

ANALYTICAL REPORT ON VISITATION TO UGANDA’S NATIONAL PARKS IN CY2020 AND CY2021
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uganda has ten (10) National Parks and twelve (12) Game Reserves. These offer a wide range of tourism products including Gorilla tracking, nature guided walks, village walks, butterfly and bird watching, rare fauna and flora species.

VISITATION TO NATIONAL PARKS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Foreign Non-Resident visitors to Uganda’s National Parks doubled in the first three months of CY2021 (January to March 2021) compared to the last three months of CY2020 (October to December 2020). The Foreign Non-residents increased from 3,577 visitors to 7,318 visitors.

Similarly, with the opening of Education institutions, National Park Visits by students tripled in the same period increasing by 834 visitors in the first three months of CY2021.

Likewise, revenue collections recorded by the Uganda Wildlife Authority doubled in the first three months of CY2021 (January to March 2021) compared to the last three months of CY2020 (October to December 2020) increasing from UGX 3 billion at the end of December 2020 to UGX 6 billion at the end of March 2021.

On the Contrary, visits by Ugandan nationals have declined in the period of reference with the overall visitation to National Parks declining by 12 percent in the first quarter of CY2021 compared to the last three months of CY2020.
### National Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Visitors</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 2020 (Q2)</th>
<th>CY2020 Q3 (Jan-Mar)</th>
<th>Q2-Q3 Difference</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Visitors</td>
<td>22,846</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>-104.6%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East African Residents</td>
<td>3,392</td>
<td>2,243</td>
<td>-33.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Residents</td>
<td>20,887</td>
<td>13,987</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>-64.6%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (Transit, VIPs)</td>
<td>1,457</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>-25.4%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>22,846</td>
<td>22,846</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Visitation to Uganda’s National Parks in CY2021
## Kidepo Valley National Park

- Jan-Mar: 1,806
- Oct-Dec: 1,786
- Change: -7.1%
- Percent Change: 11.9%
- Share: 2,986
- Age Share: 3,354
- Difference: 209
- Percent Difference: 1.28%

## Murchison Falls National Park

- Jan-Mar: 9,000
- Oct-Dec: 6,779
- Change: -24.7%
- Percent Change: 27.1%
- Share: 10,069
- Age Share: 3,866
- Difference: -2,221
- Percent Difference: -17.2%

## Queen Elizabeth National Park

- Jan-Mar: 7,787
- Oct-Dec: 5,266
- Change: -21.0%
- Percent Change: 21.0%
- Share: 10,69
- Age Share: 5,266
- Difference: -2,521
- Percent Difference: -16.2%

## Kibale National Park

- Jan-Mar: 556
- Oct-Dec: 1,069
- Change: 92.3%
- Percent Change: 92.3%
- Share: 6,779
- Age Share: 9,000
- Difference: 513
- Percent Difference: 17.7%

## Mount Elgon National Park

- Jan-Mar: 175
- Oct-Dec: 206
- Change: 0.8%
- Percent Change: 0.8%
- Share: 6,779
- Age Share: 9,000
- Difference: 31
- Percent Difference: 17.7%

## Rwenzori Mountains National Park

- Jan-Mar: 203
- Oct-Dec: 243
- Change: 1.0%
- Percent Change: 1.0%
- Share: 6,779
- Age Share: 9,000
- Difference: 40
- Percent Difference: 19.7%

## Semliki National Park

- Jan-Mar: 3,866
- Oct-Dec: 3,209
- Change: -17.0%
- Percent Change: 17.0%
- Share: 6,779
- Age Share: 9,000
- Difference: 657
- Percent Difference: 24.7%

## Lake Mburo National Park

- Jan-Mar: 3,354
- Oct-Dec: 3,093
- Change: -11.0%
- Percent Change: 11.0%
- Share: 6,779
- Age Share: 9,000
- Difference: 360
- Percent Difference: 11.0%

## Categories

- G3 (Apr-June) Compared with Jan-Mar G3 (Apr-June) Compared with Jan-Mar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total National Parks</th>
<th>Katonga Wildlife Reserve</th>
<th>Muhinga Gorilla National Park</th>
<th>Toro Semliki Wildlife Reserve</th>
<th>Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve</th>
<th>Katonga - Wildlife Reserve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>178.8%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Harvesting</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested (ha)</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Harvesting</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>109.8%</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>109.8%</td>
<td>122.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Comparing visitation park by park, visits to Bwindi impenetrable National park more than doubled in the first three months of CY2021 (January to March 2021) compared to the last three months of CY2020 (October to December 2020) increasing from 1,079 to 2,536 by end of March 2021. This park is most notable for the Bwindi gorillas, colobus monkeys, chimpanzees and variety of birds.

Similarly, Kibale National Park visits increased by two folds rising from 556 to 1,069 visitors in the first three months of CY2021. Visits to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park also increased by 42 percent in the first three months of CY2021.

As a result of increased visits to Bwindi impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National parks, revenues recorded from gorillas increased sevenfold in the first three months of CY2021 compared to the last three months of 2020 rising from UGX 183m to UGX 1.2 billion.

Mount Elgon National Park and Rwenzori Mountains National Park also recorded increases in visitation in the first three months of CY2021 (increases of 17.7% and 19.7% respectively).

### 1.2 VISITATION TO NATIONAL PARKS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Uganda’s National Parks experienced a sharp drop in visitation from 323,861 in calendar year 2019 to only 101,331 visitors (about one third of CY2019 visitation) in CY 2020. This implies that Uganda’s National Parks lost revenues from over 220,000 potential visitors in CY2020. This performance was largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that ravaged the whole world in CY2020 and is the lowest ever recorded number of visitors to National Parks since 2002.

The Foreign Non-Residents who form the largest share of visitors to National Parks declined by 72.2 percent in CY2020 while the East African Residents including Ugandans and Students declined
by 42.2 percent and 95.1 percent respectively. The almost 100% decline in student visitation is largely explained by the closure of all Education institutions as a measure to curb COVID-19.

Visitation to all National Parks decreased sharply with the highest declines in visitation being recorded in Rwenzori Mountain National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Declines of 81% and 73% respectively).
### Table 2: Analytical Comparison of Visitation to Uganda’s National Parks, 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Visitors</th>
<th>CY2020-Jan-Dec</th>
<th>CY2019-Jan-Dec</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Jan-Dec CY2020 compared with Jan-Dec CY2019</th>
<th>% Age Share</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Jan-Dec CY2020 compared with Jan-Dec CY2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Category of Visitors</strong></td>
<td>323,861</td>
<td>101,331</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>222,530</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Non Residents</strong></td>
<td>153,911</td>
<td>42,714</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>111,197</td>
<td>-72.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Residents</strong></td>
<td>11,492</td>
<td>8,611</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>2,881</td>
<td>-25.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East African Residents</strong></td>
<td>77,105</td>
<td>44,581</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>32,524</td>
<td>-42.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students</strong></td>
<td>77,799</td>
<td>3,829</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>73,970</td>
<td>-95.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others (Transit, VIPs)</strong></td>
<td>3,554</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1,958</td>
<td>-55.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bwindi Impenetrable National Park</strong></td>
<td>193,639</td>
<td>53,963</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>139,676</td>
<td>-72.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Queen Elizabeth National Park</strong></td>
<td>24,362</td>
<td>77,995</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>53,632</td>
<td>-68.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Murchison Falls National Park</strong></td>
<td>33,149</td>
<td>103,665</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>70,516</td>
<td>-68.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kidepo Valley National Park</strong></td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>12,648</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>7,848</td>
<td>-61.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kibale National Park</strong></td>
<td>9,829</td>
<td>36,341</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>26,512</td>
<td>-73.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kidepo Impenetrable National Park</strong></td>
<td>3,829</td>
<td>11,492</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7,663</td>
<td>-25.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 100% refers to the total number of visitors to Uganda’s national parks in CY2020 compared with CY2019.
- % Change indicates the percentage change from CY2019 to CY2020.
- % Age Share indicates the proportion of each category within total visitors.
### Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ParkName</th>
<th>Jan-Dec '22 ('23)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>100% CY2019</th>
<th>100% CY2020</th>
<th>323<em>3</em>3</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mount Elgon National Park</td>
<td>3,519</td>
<td>-6.8% -7.7%</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>-71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwenzori Mountains National Park</td>
<td>6,043</td>
<td>-68.3%</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>-81.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semliki National Park</td>
<td>22,577</td>
<td>-67.7%</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,322</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>-67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Mburo National Park</td>
<td>33,188</td>
<td>-67.0%</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,727</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>-67.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgahinga Gorilla National Park</td>
<td>7,593</td>
<td>-67.6%</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,409</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>-68.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toro Semliki Wildlife Reserve</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>-33.3%</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katumba Wildlife Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total National Parks and Wildlife Reserves</td>
<td>323,861</td>
<td>-68.7% -69.9%</td>
<td>6,562</td>
<td>6,562</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,013,311</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-68.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

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Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

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