

Expectations and Attitudes of local  
communities Towards Tourism Around  
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park,  
Uganda

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# Introduction



- Gazetted to protect its rich biodiversity:
  - poaching of wildlife
  - mining
  - logging
  - collection of craft materials

# Changes in Management

- 1932 Forest reserve
- 1961 managed as both game and forest reserves
- 1991 acquired its national park status:  
resentment of local communities
- 1993 start gorilla tourism  
(4 groups for tourism, 1 research group)

# Impacts of Gorilla Tourism

- Potential of disease transmission
- Changing gorilla behaviour
- Crop raiding
- The future of the habituated gorillas
- social-economics Impacts



# Aims of the study

- To assess local communities' attitudes and expectations of tourism and gorilla conservation in general
- To understand the perceived costs and benefits of tourism
- To assess how local communities wish to see tourism being managed

# Study area



# Methods

- Data were collected using semi-structured interviews
- Twenty household individuals were interviewed from each of the 4 sites
- 10 group discussions of the same interest groups
- Data analysis

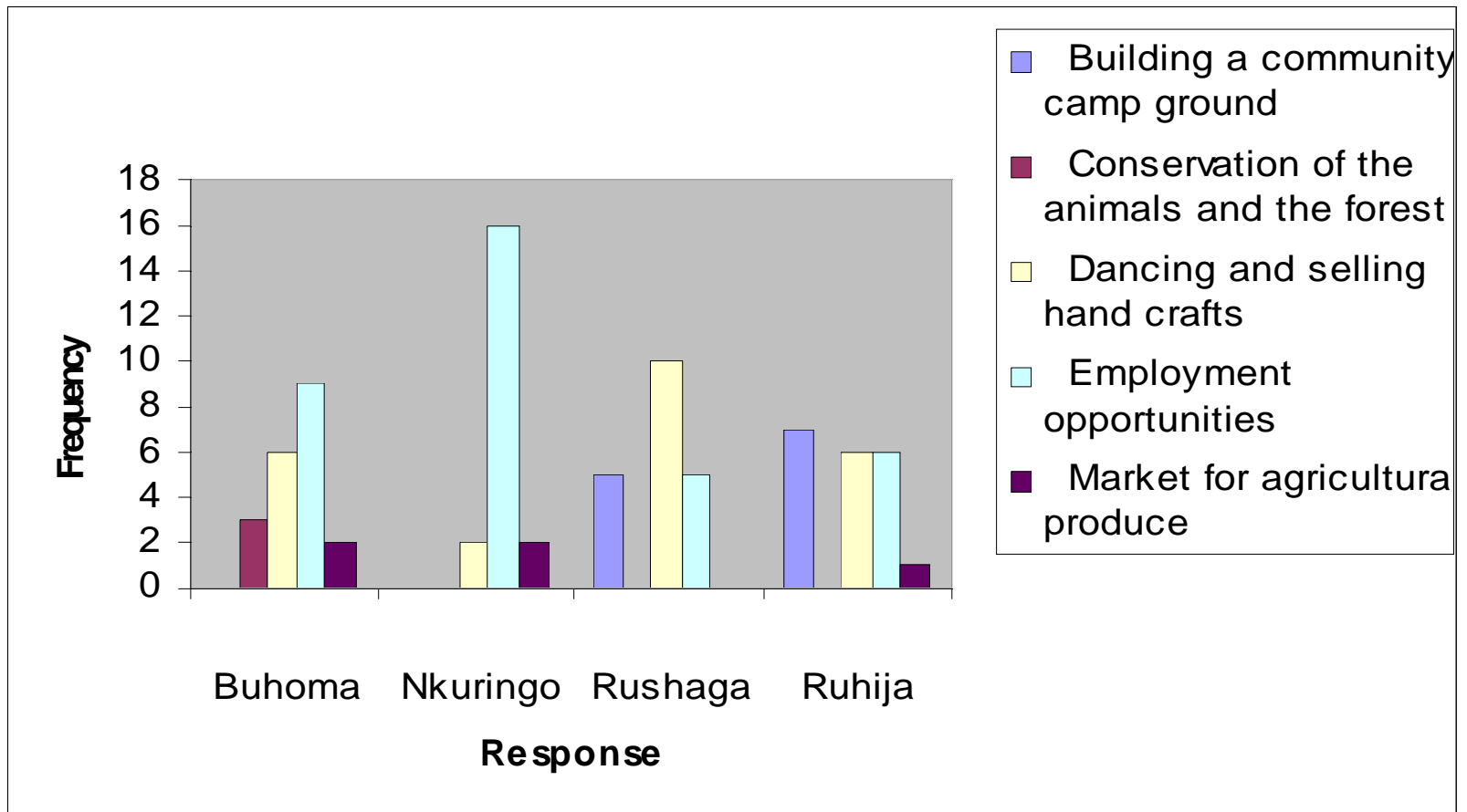
# Results and Discussion

- Expectations



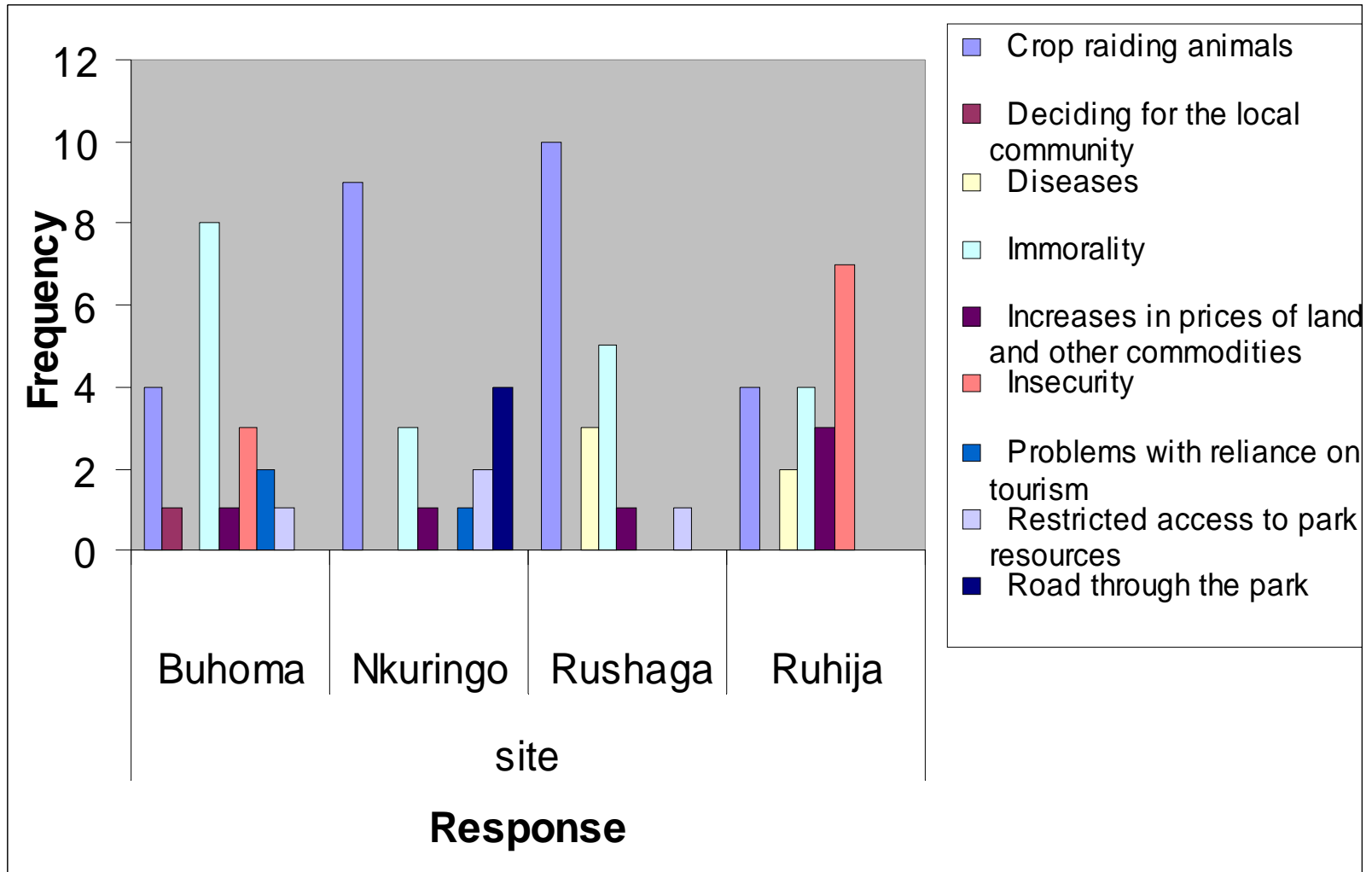
# Perceived benefits

## *first response*



# Perceived costs

## *first response*



# Attitude

- There is a general positive attitude towards tourism
- The suspicion of why the forest was gazetted has changed- the “green gold”

# **How the respondents wished to see tourism being managed**

- Technical advice in agriculture
- Social services and infrastructure
- Planting trees
- Crop raiding problems
- Reserve gorilla permits to the community camp ground in Buhoma

# Conclusion

- The expectations are high and Attitudes have changed:  
    communities now collaborate with  
    park authorities
- However care must be taken as demand to have more gorillas habituated continues.

# Recommendation

- ***Minimize persuasion for habituation***
  - ***diversifying tourism activities***
  - ***sensitize the local communities***
- ***Benefits from tourism need to be linked to conservation through environmental awareness/ecosystem services***

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## **Appendix 1: interview questions for sites with tourism**

### Background Information

**Name:**

**Sex:**

**Education:**

**Date:**

**Age:**

**Employment:**

1. For how long have you live in this area?
2. What do you understand by the word tourism?
3. What is your experience with tourism?
4. What were your expecta tions of tourism?
5. What do you think are the benefits from tourism?
6. What do you think are the negative impacts of tourism?
7. Did you expect to get any negative impacts?
8. How are you trying to minimize the negative impacts?
9. What is your feeling about the protection of the park?
10. What's your feeling about the resources in the park?
11. Do you think the forest should be maintained?
12. Do you think tourism should be maintained?
13. Why should tourism be maintained?
14. Why should tourism not be maintained?
15. How would you wish to see tourism managed?

**For group discussions, respondents were asked to rank benefits and costs in accordance with what is most beneficial and negative respectively.**

## Appendix 2: Interview questions for sites without tourism

### Background Information

**Name:**

**Sex:**

**Education:**

**Date:**

**Age:**

**Employment:**

1. For how long have you lived in this area?
2. What do you understand by the word tourism?
3. What is your experience of tourism (or that of your neighbours)?
4. Do you think there are any benefits from tourism?
5. What negative impacts do you think tourism will bring to this community?
6. Would you like to get involved in tourism...how?
7. What is your experience of living next to the park?
8. What is your feeling about the protection of the park and its resources?
9. Do you think the forest should be maintained?
10. Do you think the park should bring tourism to this area?
11. If you disagree why do you think tourism should not be brought to the area?
12. Do you think gorillas play a role in tourism?
13. How would you wish to see tourism managed?

**For group discussions, respondents were asked to rank benefits and costs in accordance with what is most beneficial and negative respectively.**