



STATISTICAL BULLETIN

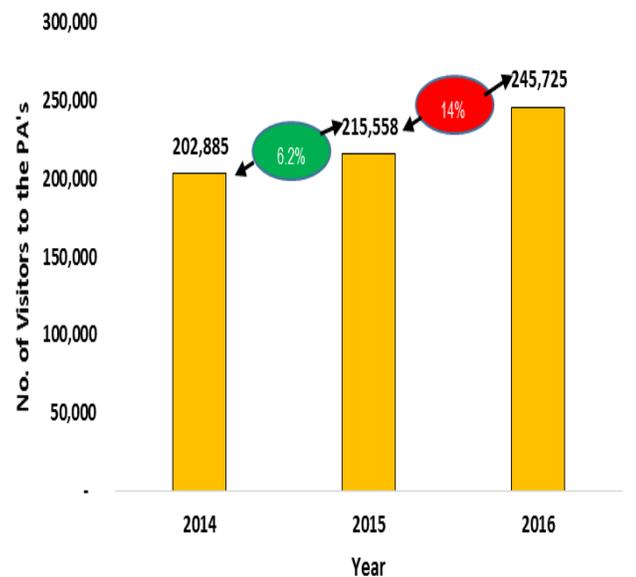
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Visitation to Uganda's National Parks increases by 14% in 2016

Performance of National Parks

Number of Visitors to the National Parks, 2014-2016



According to UWA, visitation to the National Parks grew by 14% in 2016 to reach 245,725. This increase was largely attributed to the aggressive marketing by government and the private sector. The Private Sector continues to supplement government efforts to market the destination. The category of Foreign Non-residents contributed most to this performance having grown from 77,206 in 2015 to 95,949 visitors in 2016.

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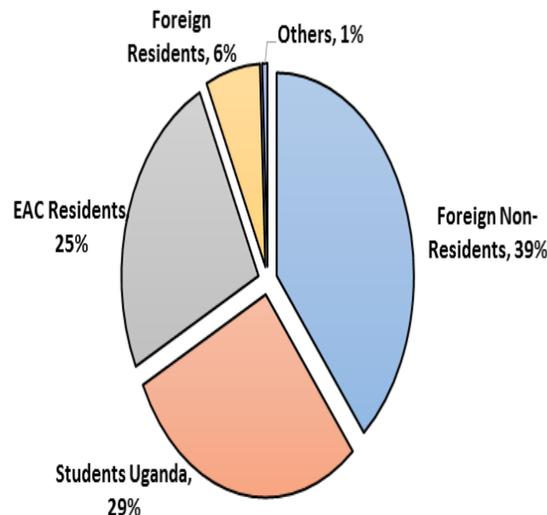


'ROLE OF IT IN TOURISM'
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Visitors to National Parks by Category

Just like it was in 2014 and 2015, the Foreign Non-Residents contributed most to visitation to National Parks in 2016 followed by Students and East African residents.

Percentage share of Visitors to National Parks by Category, 2016



COMMERCIAL PLANT EXPORTS

Ugandan farmers chopping money from an endangered plant species

Prunus africana is an endangered tree species widely found in and outside protected areas in Uganda. The Plant species is sustainably managed under existing legal framework to generate revenue for rural small holder farmers in Uganda who take the initiative to culti-





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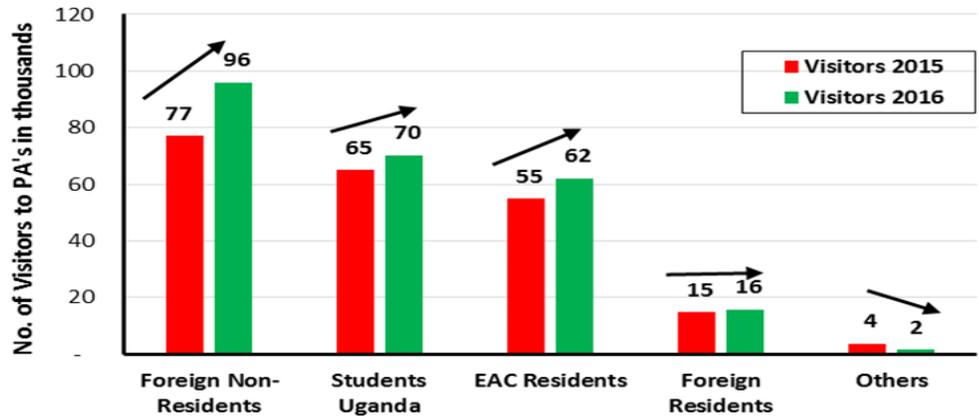
Comparison of Visitors Arrivals by Category: 2016 Vs 2015

All categories of visitors increased in numbers with sharp increases in excess of 10% coming from Foreign Non-residents (+24%) and EAC residents (+13.5%).

Students and Foreign residents saw smaller increases of 8% and 6.8% respectively.

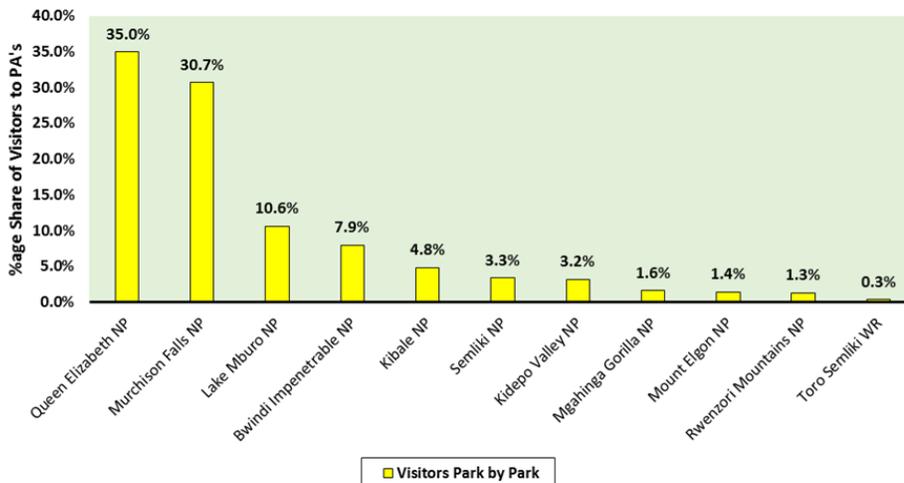
The only category that recorded a decline was Others (Transit and VIP/UWA)

Visitors to National Parks by category



Visitors Park by Park

Percentage share in Visitation in each Park



For the last two years (2015 and 2016), Queen Elizabeth National Park has dominated the visitation to National parks in Uganda. Particularly in 2016, the Park received 85,905 visitors translating into 35% of total visitation to all National parks.

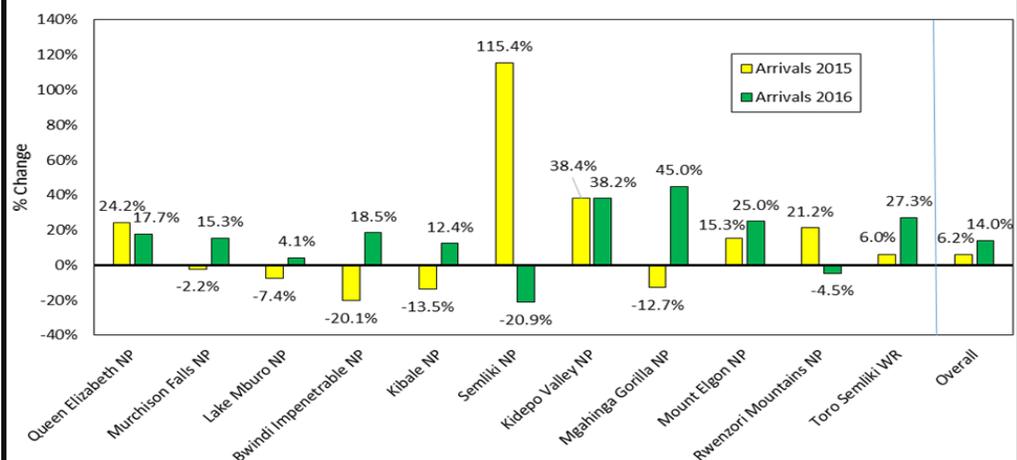
The other major contributors are Murchison Falls National Park with 75,360 visitors and Lake Mburo National Park with 26,012 visitors in 2016.

Growth rates of Visitors at National Parks

All National Parks in 2016 registered improvement except for Semliki and Rwenzori Mountains National Parks. These two parks registered declines of 20.9% and 4.5% respectively.

It's also important to note that all the National Parks that registered declines in visitation in 2015 improved in 2016.

Growth in Visitation park by park: 2016 Vs 2015





MTWA takes a step towards the establishment of a Tourism Information Management System (TIMS)

Being able to demonstrate the role and impact of tourism and to facilitate optimal decision making depends on valid and reliable information and statistics. The System of Tourism Information (STI), including the System of Tourism Statistics (STS) is a planned system of the collecting, processing, storing and disseminating data in the form of information needed to carry out the functions of management. In Uganda, it is currently not well coordinated and coherent and data and statistics do not meet international best practice standards. There are also gaps in the scope of information being collected.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities with funding from Competitive Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) secured services of a consultant to undertake the assessment of Tourism Information Management System that began on 9th January 2017.

Why the needs assessment for a Tourism Information Management System

In a number of meetings where Tourism statistics are presented, they are contested for example when you look at visitors in the National Parks and arrivals at Border posts, the data has issues and also when you look at other areas, the data may be lacking therefore Ministry of Tourism under CEDP hired a consultant to carry out a needs assessment. The needs assessment

will facilitate the design of the Tourism Information Management System. The TIMS was seen as a very important aspect in facilitating the growth but also the planning and monitoring of the Tourism Sector.

The Purpose of the needs assessment was to try to understand how the data process is currently being managed ie understand who is doing what or who is generating what and who is using what but also find out how data is being generated, analyzed and disseminated.

Purpose of the needs assessment for TIMS

The overall aim was to conduct a rapid review and assessment of the tourism statistical collection and dissemination system and to recommend actions for improvement, which will inform and guide the upgrading and modernization of Uganda's tourism sector information management system. More specifically, the objectives are to:

- Carry out an audit and review of the existing tourism information management practices of the Ministry and other related public sector institutions
- Establish and define the information needs at local and national level
- Prioritize action plans for the improvement and development of STI at national and local level
- Prepare Terms of Reference for procuring execution of the proposed action plan ³



Dr. Mike Fabricous, Mr Alex Asiimwe in one of the Consultative meetings with the private sector.

How it was carried out?

The review and assessment of the tourism statistical collection and dissemination system was carried out through consultative meetings with various stakeholders. These included; UTB, UWA, UWEC, UBOS, AUTO, UHOA, USAGA, MIA, CAA, URSB, UTA, MUK, HTTI, BOU and MTWA among others.

The consultant has already drafted and submitted an inception report. He is also expected to produce a preliminary report indicating gaps identified, key strategies and actions to address these and main resource implications as agreed with stakeholder participation.



He will then proceed to draft terms of reference for implementation. The draft Terms of Reference will be prepared for procuring capacity to implement the priority recommendations contained in the final report. The final report is expected to be ready by mid March.

Ugandan farmers chopping money from an endangered plant species



James Kimani Njuguna, a traditional healer, harvests *Prunus africana* bark

Prunus africana, also known by common names Red stinkwood, African cherry or Iron wood is an endangered plant species listed under appendix II under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

It is locally known as Entasesa or Ngwabuzito in Luganda or Engote in Rutooro. The plant is widely propagated in a number of districts in Uganda which include Mukono, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Masindi, Hoima and Kapchorwa among others.

What government is doing for sustainability of trade in the tree?

To ensure sustainability of trade in this tree, Government of Uganda has in accordance with CITES established a robust regulatory framework to guarantee that trade does not further endanger the already endangered plant.

What is CITES?

CITES is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Export Procedures

For one to trade in the species, clearance must be obtained by the Ministry responsibility for forestry in Uganda. It is on this basis that the CITES Management Authority for Uganda/ Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities issues an export permit. For example, Cudwell industries (U) ltd is already exporting plant bark and earning foreign exchange from selling the tree bark.

Some good news for farmers

Local farmers are now able to reap



Prunus africana Seedling



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direct revenue from sustainable utilization of the plant that is propagated on their private lands. The farmers have now planted more trees of *Prunus* following realization of benefits.

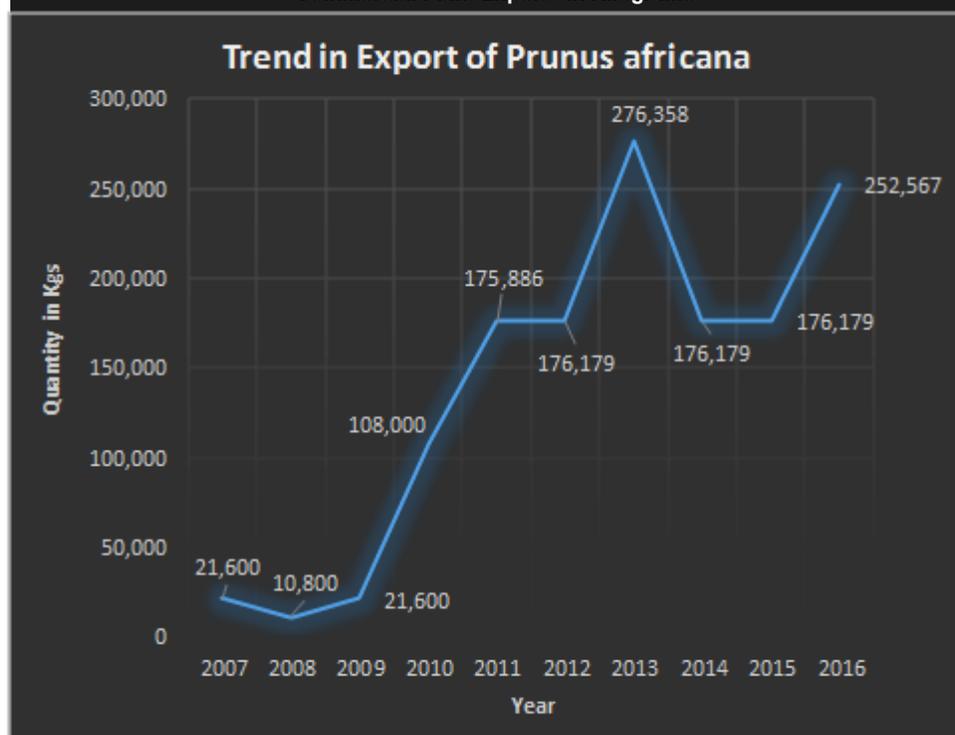
The global community on the other hand benefits from the various uses of the plant which range from the use of Pygeum, the bark extract of the plant as a herbal remedy used to treat Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) to other traditional medicinal uses in treating malaria, wounds, poison, stomach pain, mental illness, kidney failure, appetite loss and gonorrhoea.

Export of *Prunus africana*

Commercial plant exports from Uganda are mainly European bound. The Figure shows that the quantities of the plant exports have increased over the last 10 years from 21,600kgs in 2007 to 252,567kgs in 2016.

The increase in trade volumes is evidence of levels of sustainable plant propagation and demand of the species.

Commercial Plant Exports in Kilograms



Contact Us

Policy Analysis and Planning Division

Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities.

2nd floor, Rwenzori Towers
P. O Box 4241
Kampala, Uganda

Phone: +256 414 561 700

Visit us on the web at
www.tourism.go.ug.com