1. SESSION DESCRIPTION

**ID: S7**

**Title of session:**

Nature-based Tourism & Recreation in Africa for Sustainable Development

**Hosts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><a href="mailto:jnkariithi@gmail.com">jnkariithi@gmail.com</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:**

Annually, approximately 60 million tourists travel to Africa and contribute about 10% to African GDP and employment. The tourism sector is one of the fastest growing sector in Southern Africa. A large part of tourists visit Africa to enjoy its exceptional nature and wildlife. If protected areas are well managed they may act as substantial source of income and employment for local communities (accommodation, guides, entry permits, transportation, local craft and artwork etc.).

Besides its contribution to the economic development, nature tourism can be used as a strong argument in favour of nature conservation. If protected areas are perceived as a source of income, they may benefit from higher acceptance among local communities and thereby, pressures on protected areas may be reduced.

On the other hand, nature-based tourism itself may present a pressure on natural ecosystem. Visitor flows and hunting tours may threaten wildlife. The development of tourist accommodation and traffic infrastructure may increase pressure on local resources such as water and energy and may stir further economic developments resulting in additional ecosystem pressures.

To exploit the opportunities of nature-based tourism for sustainable development, it needs to be developed and managed with caution. It is said that decisions need to be based on best available knowledge and information.

But what “knowledge and information” can steer and accommodate a responsible nature-based tourism, what “knowledge and information” exist and how can it be used by local to national level decision makers in the public and private sector?

We welcome all contributions that shed light and share experiences on knowledge and information related to nature-based tourism and recreation in Africa, including the mapping...
of its natural potential, its supply and its demand as well as its management and monitoring, its monetary economic and non-monetary value, data and assessments of the number of recreational visitors and their spending and its economic impact. Contributions that concern the threats associated with nature-tourism and its development are also welcome.

**Goals and objectives of the session:**

The objective of the session is to bring together researchers from all over the world, who focus on recreational ecosystem services and nature tourism in Africa. Thereby we aim at stimulating the exchange of ideas and knowledge as well as the establishment of new networks and research collaborations.

**Planned output / Deliverables:**

The planned output is an established ESP network among involved researchers that serves as a basis for future collaborations. Knowledge on past and recent research activities is to be exchanged and accumulated. In the aftermath of the conference, a journal publication on the state of the art in recreational ecosystems service and nature-tourism research in region may be considered.

**Voluntary contributions accepted:** YES

2. **SESSION PROGRAM**

**Date of session:** Thursday, November 24, 2016

**Time of session:** 13:30–16:30
### Timetable speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Title of presentation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Jacqueline</td>
<td>Kariithi</td>
<td>Kenyatta University</td>
<td>Landscape approaches for conservation and nature–based tourism development, Mt Elgon region of Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Florian</td>
<td>Carius</td>
<td>BfN</td>
<td>Tourism–induced contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals: insights from Jozani – Chwaka Bay National Park and Biosphere Reserve, Zanzibar/Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Dick</td>
<td>CEH</td>
<td>Comparing the utility of ecosystem service methods to aid management of national parks: Case study in Kakamega Forest National Park, Kenya and Cairngorms National Park, Scotland</td>
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3. ABSTRACTS

Note: the abstracts are arranged alphabetically, in order of last name

Type of submission: Abstract: voluntary contribution

S7 Sector-oriented sessions

Tourism-induced contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals: insights from Jozani – Chwaka Bay National Park and Biosphere Reserve, Zanzibar/Tanzania

First author(s): Florian, Carius
Affiliation: BfN
Email: Florian.Carius@BfN.de

Jozani – Chwaka Bay in Zanzibar was gazetted as National Park in 2004 and designated as Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2016. Jozani Forest attracted more than 38,000 visitors in 2015 generating 200,000 € entrance fees. These tourism revenues are shared equally between the regional government and local communities, enabling the operation of the National Park and providing both individual and collective benefits to residents of the Biosphere Reserve. Recent field research in August 2016 involved qualitative interviews with key informants from all benefitting parties as well as observations on site to analyse governance, management and the sustainability of the shared tourism revenues.

Findings indicate that the sharing structures and processes established qualify as good governance, given their transparency, accountability, democracy and cooperation. Respondents identified a broad variety of tangible and intangible benefits from the protected area to the local communities, ranging from direct employment over social capital to ecosystem services. The study revealed that nature conservation mainly through shared tourism revenues contributes to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals in multiple ways.

Benefit sharing from successful tourism development played a strategic role in mitigating land use conflicts leading to increased acceptance of nature conservation among residents and reduced pressures on the ecosystem, thus making the case a success story after 30 years of dedicated efforts. This presentation makes a strong case for community empowerment and demonstrates how tourism can harness the values of nature by providing various benefits while compensating for the costs of conservation. Jozani – Chwaka Bay National Park and Biosphere Reserve showcases the synergies between these two overlapping types of protected areas and constitutes a model of good practice that could be adopted by other sites with similar conditions.

Sharing relevant experiences will be useful for decision-makers, academia and tourism professionals at various levels in different areas.
Comparing the utility of ecosystem service methods to aid management of national parks: Case study in Kakamega Forest National Park, Kenya and Cairngorms National Park, Scotland

First author(s): Jan, Dick
Co-author(s): David Odee, Chris Andrews
Affiliation: CEH
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There is an increasing interest in the ecosystem-based approach to nature-based tourism and recreation which requires cost-effective methods for assessing ecosystem services. When focusing on intangible ecosystem services, such as cultural ecosystem services, it is particularly challenging to assess both the capacity of ecosystems to provide them and the extent of their use by people. Decision-makers, for example National Park managers, have limited access to quantitative indicators of cultural ecosystem services which restricts planning knowledge.

One innovative approach for addressing this need in a cost-effective manner is to explore the potential of crowdsourcing geospatial data. Such data is growing with advances in web technology and the emergent accessibility to internet and mobile devices, allowing the acquisition of an increasing amount of worldwide distributed data. In this paper we show one example of using geo-tagged photographs uploaded to the social media site Flickr to identify hot spots of cultural ecosystem services. The advantages and disadvantages of the approach in these contrasting socio-economic environments to identify how cultural ecosystem services beneficiaries interact with their environment and natural settings is discussed. The utility of this approach is compared between a National park in Kenya and Scotland. The Scottish case study is also a Long-term social and ecology research (LTSER) platform. The value of creating such an institution to help manage visitor experiences to an area will also be discussed.

Keywords: Social media, knowledge integration, ecosystem service tools
Protected areas can be important sources of income through tourism, but for people living around these protected areas, they can be viewed as a source of conflict. The Mount Elgon region is a transboundary ecosystem straddling the Kenya–Uganda border is an area with several protected areas within its diverse landscape. The ecosystem is also inhabited by populations of indigenous communities, agricultural and industrial communities whose livelihoods revolve around its natural resources and biodiversity. There region has a variable ethno-cultural composition of communities that engage in different livelihood activities whilst competing for limited resources.

The research aim is to pursue landscape approaches to create linkages between cultural heritage, biodiversity conservation and nature based tourism in a multi-functional landscape with divergent land uses by communities found in and around the protected areas of Mount Elgon ecosystem. These landscapes are endowed with numerous historic, natural and cultural qualities hence nature based tourism has been encouraged and is currently being developed to and combine with livelihood activities such as bee-keeping, harvesting of medicinal plants and farming. The research will carry out a detailed case study on the communities living within the Mt Elgon forest ecosystem and analyse how their livelihoods activities can be complemented by nature based tourism development. The relationship between the diverse landscape features, multiple livelihood activities, and competing ethno-cultural elements will be interrogated in this study. The research aim will be achieved through developing a comparative analysis of two key stakeholder groups in the Mt Elgon ecosystem and their land-uses in relation to current impacts and perceived effects of tourism development. These stakeholder groups are the agriculturalists and indigenous communities. The primary output will be to create a model that integrates conservation, culture and community livelihoods with nature based tourism development within the ecological, economic and cultural dimensions of the landscape.

**Keywords:** Nature based tourism, diverse landscape, protected areas, stakeholders, livelihoods
S. Sector–oriented sessions

Type of submission: Abstract: voluntary contribution

S7 Sector–oriented sessions

Nature–based Tourism & Recreation in Africa for Sustainable Development: A Global Database on Recreational Visitor Monitoring Studies

First author(s): Jan Philipp, Schaegner
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Annually, approximately 60 million tourists travel to Africa and contribute about 10% to African GDP and employment. The tourism sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in Southern Africa. Many tourists visit Africa to enjoy its exceptional nature and wildlife. If protected and nature areas are well managed, they may constitute a substantial recreational value and a significant source of income and employment. On the other hand, nature–based tourism may present a threat to natural ecosystem and biodiversity.

To evaluate the impact of nature tourism and to explore strategies to optimize its benefits while limiting its negative side effect, reliable, consistent and comparable data on those impacts is required. Unfortunately, such data is so far limited to single case studies and to some regional or national data repertories. However, globally, we do not know how many people visit nature areas, how long they stay, what they do, how they benefit from the trip, how much they spend, to what extent they stimulate local economies and how they affect biodiversity and ecosystem change.

In collaboration with the TAPAS (Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist) group, we undertake efforts to construct a global open–access geo–database on case studies evaluating nature tourism and its impacts. At the core of the impact–analysis and at the starting point of our database, we locate visitor use data. Thereafter, we extend the database stepwise to include economic, social and environmental impact assessments. For evaluating the quality of the studies and different data–collection methods, a focus is set on comprehensive methodological reporting. The database allows synthesising research findings, exploring spatial and temporal trends, conducting meta–analysis and evaluating data collection methods.

We invite everyone to report the results of their visitor monitoring case studies online and contribute to the global database via the online data submission form.