

The people and the park:

People living near Kibale National Park typically affiliate with one of two tribes: The Batoro around the northern edge of the park and the Bakiga around the southern boundary. The Batoro settled the area about 200 years ago, displacing the Banyoro tribe. The Bakiga have been moving up from the southern region of Kigezi since the 1930s in search of employment and land to cultivate. However, with 11 additional tribal affiliations recorded in various local household surveys, the ethnic and linguistic diversity around the park is quite varied. Over 55% of household heads moved to the area bordering the park from other locations; some from as far away as Kenya, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Households vary in size and composition but typically have a male household head with one to six wives and two to 20 dependents. Subsistence agriculture is the principle source of livelihoods in the area, with approximately 30% of adults in paid employment. Over 52% of the population around the park are under the age of 15, projecting a rapid growth in the already high local human population density (varying from 70 to 600 per km²), and a need for more land resources and sources of employment. Household cultivation already extends to the border of the park leading to inevitable human-wildlife conflict resulting in losses of crops and livestock, as well as human injury. Crop raiding by park protected animals has been increasing with most losses due to frequent raids by baboons. Elephant raiding is less frequent but far more damaging when it occurs. However, local residents do also benefit from the existence of the park. Many state that living next to the park provides a better climate and crop yield, others benefit from employment in tourist facilities, carbon sequestration operations, and with researchers at MUBFS. UWA policy requires that 20% of Kibale National Park gate revenues go to assist local communities, and non-governmental support activities, many initiated or supported by long term researchers, MUBFS, and UWA, have improved primary schools, access to medical services, agro-forestry, and adult literacy.

The history and continuing opportunities for social research around Kibale National Park:

Initially, social research focused on areas near MUBFS, and the tourist area of Bigodi. Studies assessed crop raiding, community conservation, revenue sharing, zoonotic disease transmission, land use change, and natural resource usage, both legal and illegal. Over the last 20 years, studies have included more of the communities around the park, increasing the spatial extent of our understanding of the social and cultural landscape, and highlighting the spatial inequity of many of the park-based benefits such as employment and charitable support. Coordination between social researchers working at MUBFS has resulted in some consistency of data gathering over the years, allowing longitudinal analysis to be conducted. However, many new opportunities for social research exist near Kibale National Park. These include, but are not limited to: quantifying ecosystem service benefits of the park, economic benefit/loss analysis to trade-off these ecosystem service benefits against crop and livestock losses, assessing changes to UWA policies, especially the revenue sharing program, understanding local sentiment towards the park, UWA, and government policies, determining why primary school completion rates are low, understanding the market forces behind tree and animal poaching from the park, and assessing alternate livelihood strategies and crop raiding defenses.

Many papers have documented the social research done around Kibale National Park. A few examples that provide additional insight into the local human landscape include:

Hartter, J., Ryan, S.J., MacKenzie, C.A., Goldman, A., Dowhaniuk, N., Palace, M.W., Diem, J.E. & Chapman, C.A. (2015). Now There is No Land: A Story of Ethnic Migration in a Protected Area Landscape in Western Uganda. *Population and Environment* 36: 452-479 DOI: 10.1007/s11111-014-0227-y

MacKenzie, C.A., Salerno, J., Hartter, J., Chapman, C.A., Reyna, R., Tumusiime, D. M. & Drake, M. (2017) Changing perceptions of protected area benefits and problems around Kibale National Park, Uganda. *The Journal of Environmental Management* 200, 217-228. DOI:10.1016/j.jenvman.2017.05.078.

Mackenzie, C.A., Moffatt, S.P., Ogwang, J., Ahabyona, P. & Sengupta, R.R. (2017) Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Enrolment and Exam Achievement in Rural Uganda. *Children's Geographies* 15(3), 334-348. DOI:10.1080/14733285.2016.1244603