



Murchison Falls: A New Dawn

Uganda – Murchison Falls National Park







'The Recovery Programme's impact on the profitability of local poaching has been dramatic'

CDC: Project Appraisal, Nov 2017 (Photograph: ©UCF/WillClark)





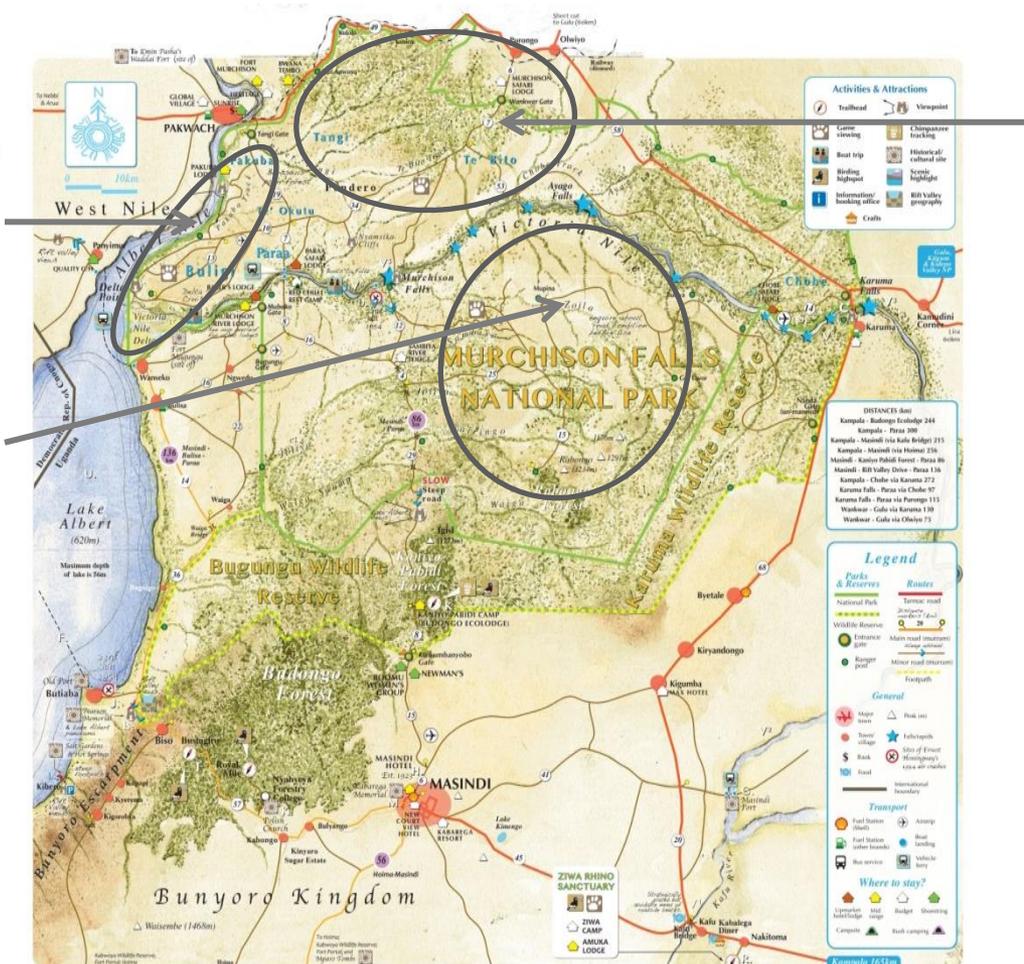
Phase 1: Recovery of Murchison Falls

1. The Delta.

Where all game tracks and oil are. Critical habitat for lion, Rothschild Giraffe and elephant.

2. The Heart of Murchison

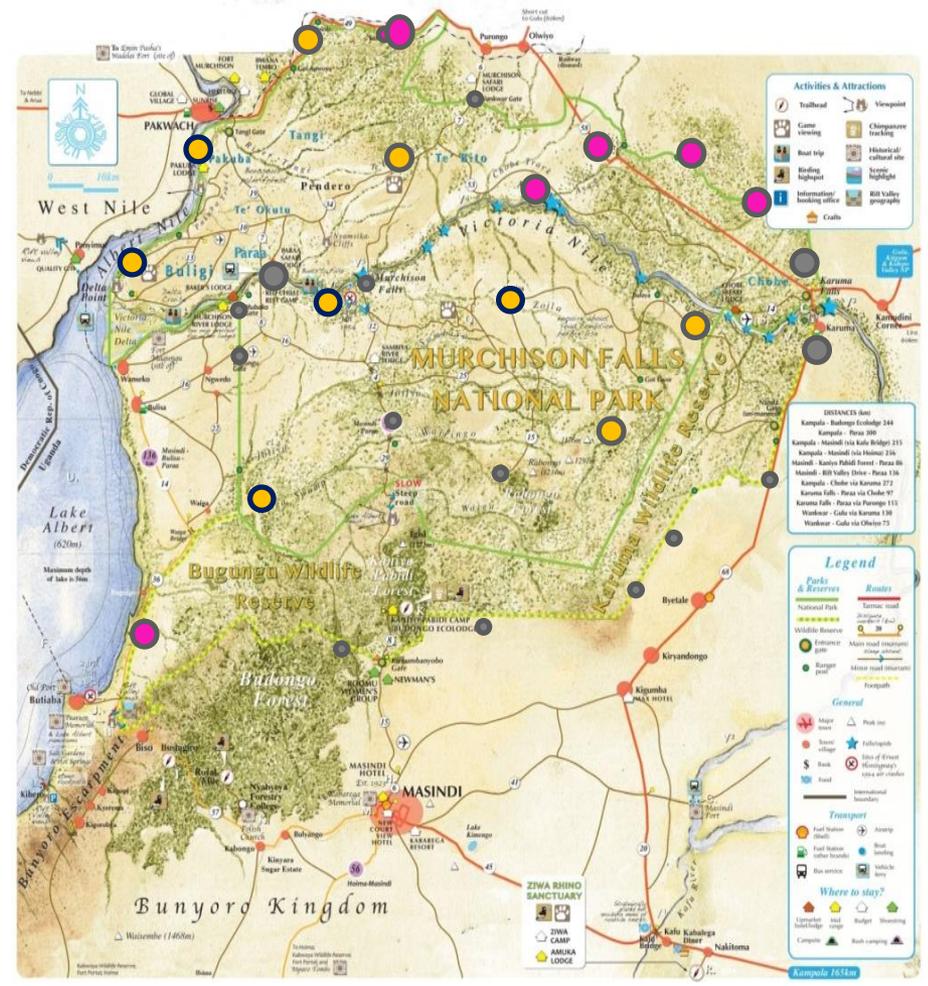
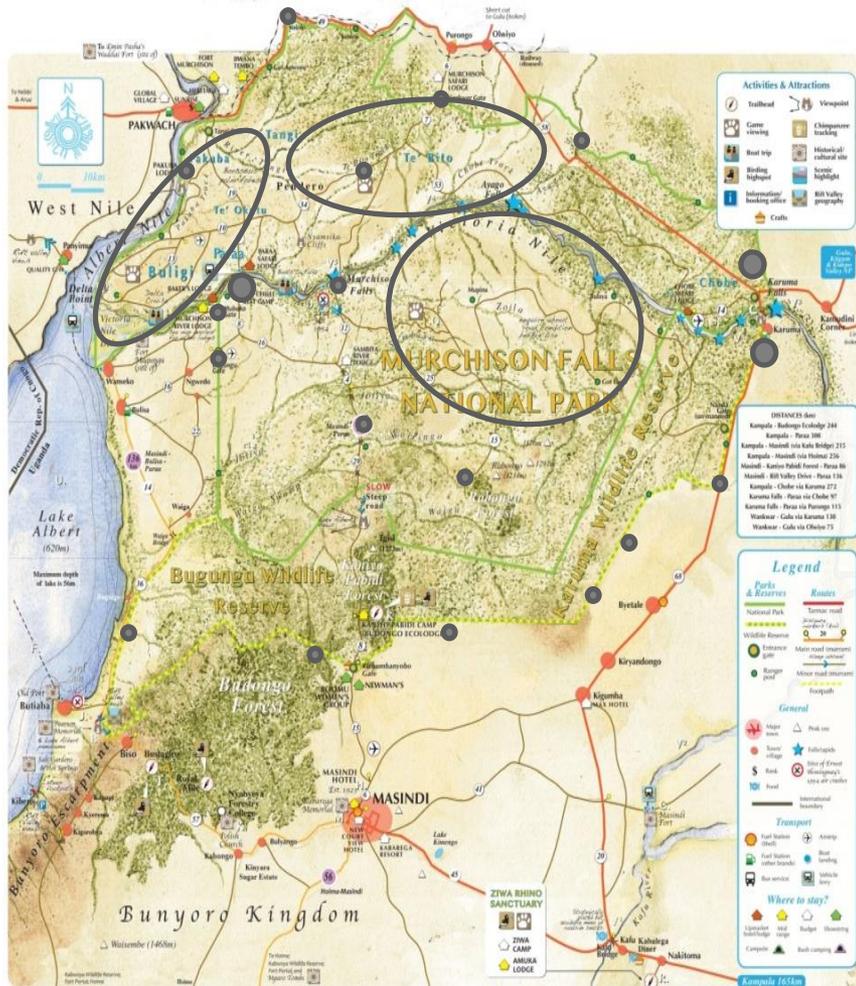
Southern MF is 3000km², has one track and poaching was uncontested for five decades. Barely any investment has reached the region, there is no tourism. No permanently based rangers stationed in the region.



3. Tangi Valley and Wankwar Valley

No tourism, but is connected to all main park access routes. Tourism can easily grow into this region. Heavily poached by well armed gangs.

UWA was not capable of responding to park requirements; we picked three key areas



Between UWA & UCF 15 Ranger Posts – building capabilities for the long term

Area 1: The Delta: tourism & wildlife hotspot

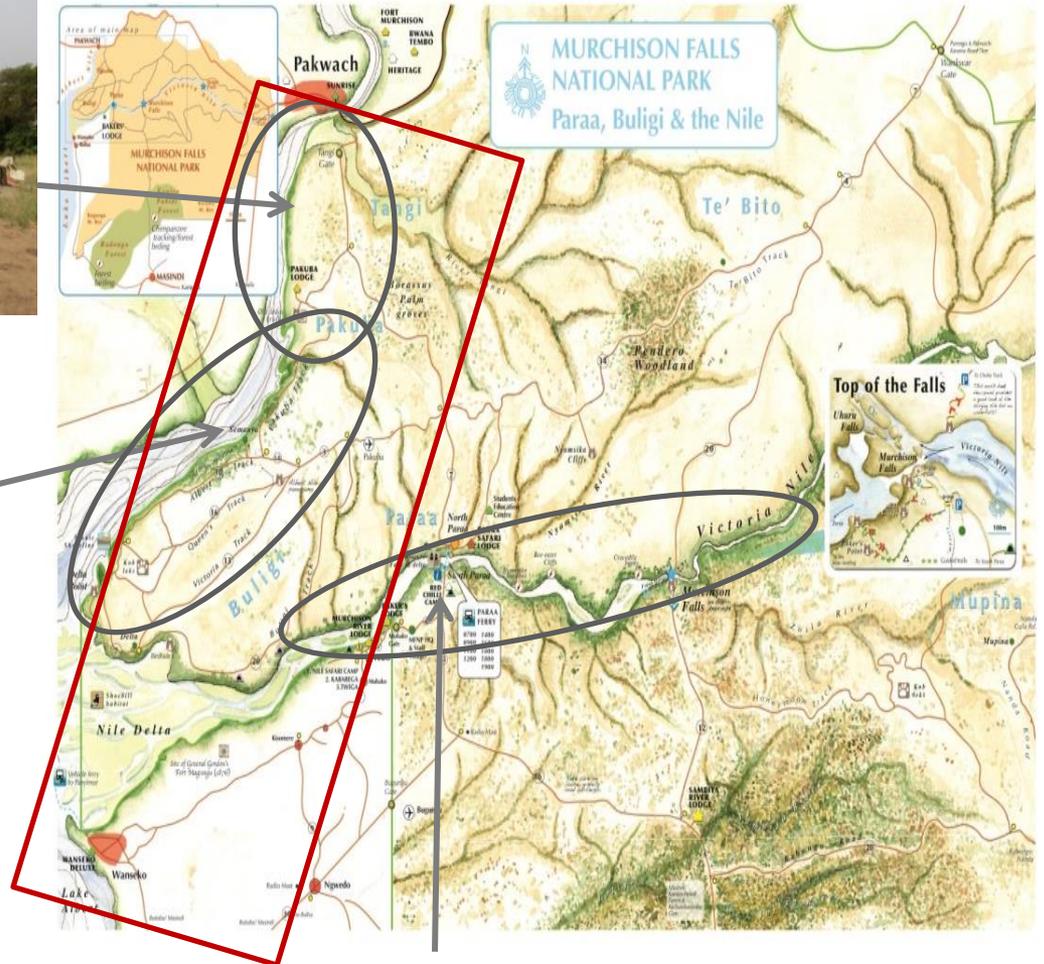
Kabim Marine Ranger Station

- 4 man ranger post
- Shower & lavatory
- Marine Unit and boat cage
 - Boat & Engine
- Trained Marine Rangers



Semanya Ranger Post & Marine Ranger Station

6 man ranger post, shower & lavatory, accommodation for Mobile Ranger Unit, Marine Unit and boat cage, patrol boat and engine, life jackets, spares and trained Marine Rangers.



Paraa Marine Ranger Station

Marine Unit and boat cage, two patrol boats and engines. Life Jackets, spares and trained Marine Rangers.

Area 1: The UWA Marine Ranger Unit



- 3 Boats, 5 engines and two trailers donated by UCF, 1 boat and engine by the Murchison Falls Invitation Fishing Competition
- 40 Rangers in Murchison trained in boat operations, safety rescue techniques and engine maintenance
- Life jackets, spare parts and SMART phones donated to each team
- Three Marine Ranger Stations established – Semanya, Kabim and Paraa
- Trained by Poole Harbour Sea Survival Ltd, UK (all to Royal Yachting Association standards).



Area 2: The Heart of Murchison Falls – distributing capability



Mupiina Ranger Post
4 man ranger post
Shower & lavatory



Got Labwor Ranger Post
8 man ranger post
Shower & lavatory
Command Post for southern MF



Bulaya Ranger Post
4 man ranger post with additional mobile
ranger unit accommodation
Shower & lavatory





Not an easy place to operate in and is dangerous – one tiny and often impassable track.
For 50 years has been ignored, yet was one of Murchison's strong holds for wildlife.
Now has 16 rangers permanently deployed in the region, and accommodation for the mobile ranger force.
Wildlife is visibly bouncing back – and the Honeymoon tracks are already open!



Area 3: Wankwar – establishing capability



**Kololo Ranger Post – Command Ranger Post (8 man post) in the North: Anti-poaching & Community Conservation
Punu Rii RP was built in 2015, 8 man ranger post with Mobile Ranger Unit accommodation: Anti-poaching.**



Creating the Veterinary Response Unit, Lab and Legal Dept.







Weapons security



Weapons security – stores weapons, ammunition, ivory, confiscated poaching traps and snares.
Every Ranger post now has a gun cabinet too.



Law Enforcement Impact & Legal Unit

- WILD LEO (Wildlife Intelligence Leadership Development for Law Enforcement Officers).
- Prosecution Warden Working with regional magistrates
- Legal & Analytics / Forensics rooms in the Vet Lab building – integrity of information
- Safe storage of evidence
- Crime Scene Management and continue prosecutor training - (UK IWT Challenge Fund)
- Intelligence Management & Interpretation
- Warden in Charge of Law Enforcement – Diploma in Law (achieved a 1st), now doing a degree.
- Offender Management Database

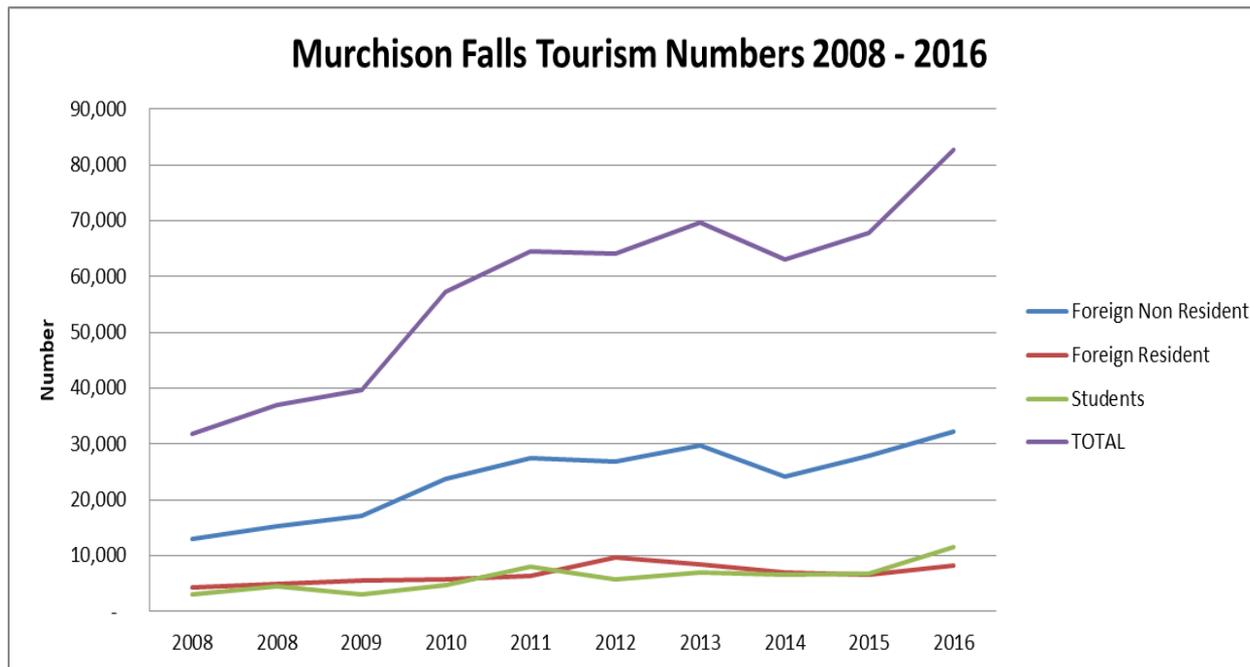
Murchison Falls, A New Dawn





WILD
FRONTIERS

Strategic Theme 2: Protect and grow existing tourism

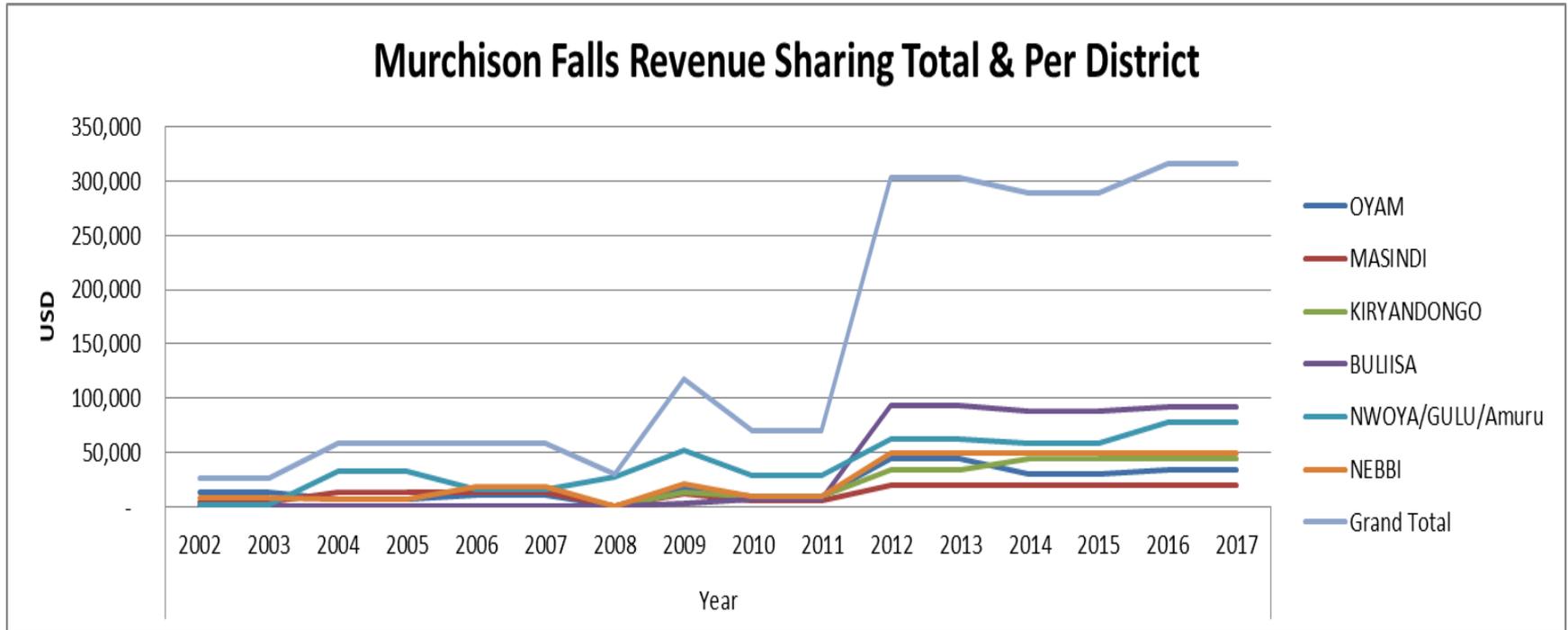


- Murchison Falls is now Uganda's most visited savanna National Park and contributes the most to GDP.
- Regionally, Murchison Falls is core to the economy attracting 90,000 tourists a year and growing at 15% pa.
- Uganda's tourism has been recognised as the fastest growing in the world.
- Murchison currently has five lodges within the park and twelve outside the park.



Strategic Theme 3: Our role in regional development

We've achieved our 'Recovery Plan goal' of building a foundation for significant income to share with local government and community projects, now a minimum of \$300,000pa.



We need to:

- improve reaching target communities, critical projects and partners to help leverage greater impact
- develop our Community Conservation dept and partnerships
- Establish community development programmes with partners in all surrounding areas

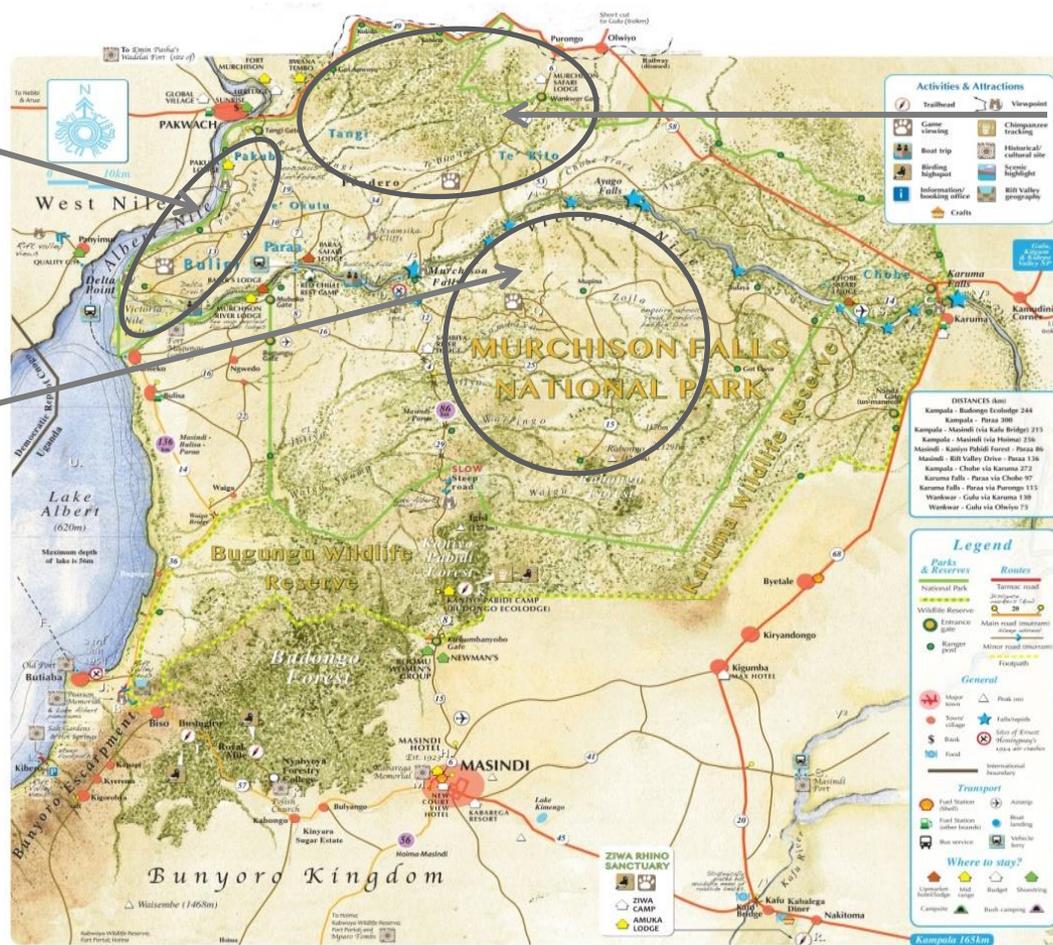


Strategic Theme 4: Grow economic generation from park tourism from 3% to 30%.

1. The Delta

2. The Heart of Murchison

3. Tangi Valley and Wankwar Valley



Improvement of additional areas:

- conservation
- infrastructure
- offer concessions for tourism lodges (expanding from 5 concessionaires to 10 within five years)
- open up new safari tracks – such as we have done in southern Murchison Falls – The Honey Moon Track

Strategic Theme 5: Sustainability and quality of management

- **Complete Phase 1: The Recovery of Murchison Falls Programme**
 - four more ranger posts and required access
 - equip all capabilities (as per RMF Programme Progress Appraisal recommendations)
 - digital radio platform across the park, including solar power and control room (UCF)
 - operations' mobility (vehicles, motorbikes, boats & engines)
 - first aid kits in all ranger posts
- Significant training required (legal, law enforcement, marine rangers, tourism, medical, leadership and management)
- Complete the development of Standard Operating Procedures and Human Resource Management Policy
- Expand on the effectiveness of our inter-agency partnerships
- Ensure all community projects involve UWA Community Conservation staff



Strategic Theme 6: Culture Change



Our immediate impact:

- Wildlife numbers are increasing dramatically
- Tourism numbers are growing at 15% per annum
- For the first time ever, UWA is now able to generate and disperse community development funding from revenue sharing at a minimum of \$300,000 pa
- Prosecution rates are at 97% - the highest in Africa
- Poaching in many areas is down by over 70%
- UWA's Wardens & Rangers are motivated and getting the recognition they deserve
- Phase 2: Development is underway with the UK IWT Challenge Fund supporting community food gardens and community scouts to reduce of crop raiding around Parongo, Nwoya
- The park is once again recognised as one of the top 10 in Africa



Phase 2: The Development of Murchison Falls



The Importance of Tourism to Uganda

Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Park are Uganda's premier savanna protected areas.

In the 1960s Murchison Falls was Africa's most visited park and Uganda was a one of the most popular African safari destinations. By then gorilla tourism did not exist. The collapse of the parks and a lack of investment over five decades is now history.

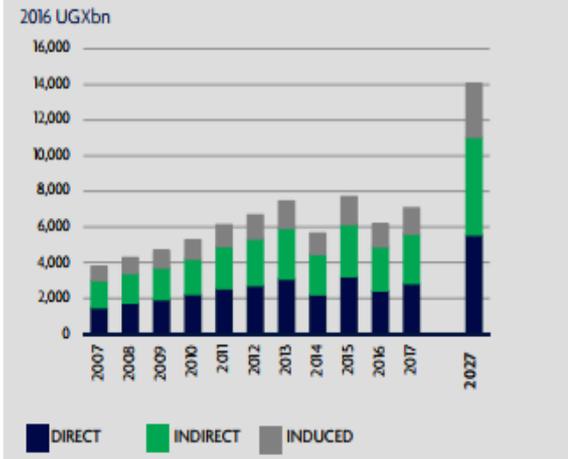
In 2017 Uganda's tourism industry was recognised as contributing:

WORLD RANKING (OUT OF 185 COUNTRIES):

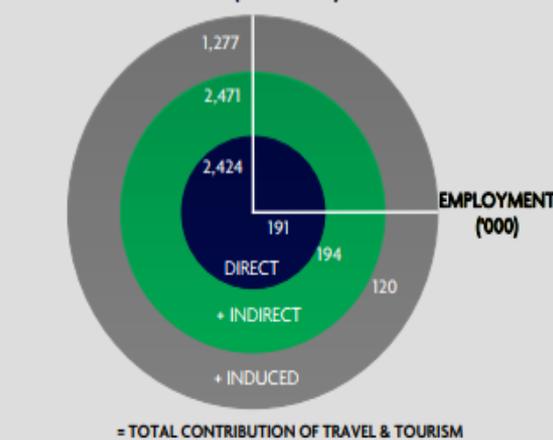
Relative importance of Travel & Tourism's total contribution to GDP



TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM TO GDP



BREAKDOWN OF TRAVEL & TOURISM'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO GDP AND EMPLOYMENT 2016



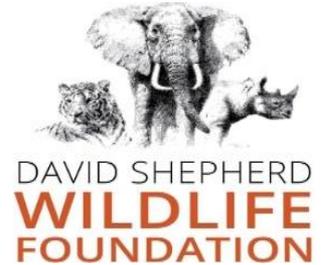
- Total contribution to GDP 6.6% (\$1.8BN), with a growth forecast rise of 14.5% expected in 2017.
- Employment in Uganda: 504,000 people, directly and indirectly, with a forecast rise of 12.8% in 2017 to 568,500, and 930,000pa by 2027.
- FDI – 2016 \$0.3bn, at a rise of 6.8% growth in 2017, to \$0.6bn by 2027.

All indicators are upward, and this is with only 3% of the parks being available for tourism.

World Tourism & Travel Council.

<https://www.wttc.org/-/media/files/reports/economic-impact-research/countries-2017/uganda2017.pdf>





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