

Tourism Profile

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Overview of the Sector	3
2.1 Global Trends in the Tour and Travel Industry	4
2.2 Tourism in Uganda	4
2.3 The Hotel Industry	4
2.4 Recent Performance of the Tourism Sector in Uganda	5
2.5 Tourism's Contribution to national GDP	6
3.0 Government Policy	7
3.1 The Integrated Tourism Development Master Plan	7
3.2 Privatization/ Liberalization	7
4.0 Institutional Framework	8
4.1 Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry	8
4.2 Uganda Tourist Board	8
4.3 Uganda Wildlife Authority	8
4.4 Industry Associations and Support Institutions	8
4.5 Hotel and Catering Association of Uganda (HCAU)	8
4.6 Major Private Sector Players in the Tourism Sector	8
5.0 Uganda's Tourism Resources	8
5.1 Tourist Attractions	9
5.1.1 National Parks	11
5.1.2 The Uganda Wildlife Education Center	11
5.1.3 People and Culture	11
5.1.4 Lakes and Rivers	11
5.1.5 Flora and Fauna	11
5.1.6 Bird life	11
5.1.7 Ssesse Islands	11
6.0 Supporting Infrastructure and Services	12
6.1 Tourist Accommodation	12
6.2 Air Travel Links (International, Regional and Domestic)	12
6.2.1 International Air Travel	13
6.2.2 Domestic Air Travel	13
6.3 Rail Transport	13
6.4 Water Transport	13
6.5 Road Transport	13
6.6 Financial Services	13
7.0 Investment Opportunities	13
7.1 Tour Operators	14
7.2 Water Sports and other related activities	14
7.3 Accommodation	14
7.4 Conferences and Incentives Travel	16
7.5 National Park Concessions	17
7.6 Privatization	18
7.7 Joint Ventures	18
8.0 Incentives	18
9.0 Investment Procedures	18
10.0 Useful Addresses	20
11.0 References	21
Appendices	22

1.0 Introduction

Uganda is a comparative newcomer to today's international tourism scene, which has benefited both the country's natural environment and the tourism experience it offers. The country has avoided the trap of courting the mass market and instead has followed the path of eco-tourism, which ensures that any growth in the visitor numbers is sustainable and that development is not detrimental to Uganda's natural environment and local culture.

Uganda boasts some of the most stunning scenery on the continent from shimmering lakes, lofty mountains, mysterious forests and game parks teeming with game. National parks contain a wide range of habitats, while the private sector is setting up new safari lodges, sympathetically built to blend in with the surrounding scenery.

The traditional hospitality of the Ugandan people is another important draw-card. The country's population is united in providing a warm welcome to foreign guests, so even in the smallest of villages local people will go out of their way to make tourists feel at home.

The attractions of Uganda were identified by Sir Winston Churchill, in his book "My African Journey", who wrote of the country: **'For magnificence, for variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life – plant, bird, insect, reptile, beast – for vast scale... Uganda is truly the pearl of**

This profile is intended to provide the potential investor with an overview of Uganda's tourism sector, the existing attractions, Government plans and policy for the sector, the level of exploitation and the potential investment opportunities that exist. While the information, provided therein may not be entirely exhaustive, additional sources have been provided at the end of the profile for further reference (See section on Useful Addresses).

2.0 Overview of the Sector

2.1 Global Trends in the Tour and Travel Industry

Travel and tourism is the world's largest industry. Its size and scope dwarf many other industries, which are commonly viewed as significant. According to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), receipts from international tourism climbed to US\$476 billion in 2000, an increase of 4.5 per cent over the previous year. World tourism grew by an estimated 7.4 per cent in 2000-its highest growth rate in nearly a decade and almost double the increase of 1999. Nearly 50 million more international trips were made in 2000-the same number of new tourists as a major country such as Spain or the United States receive in the entire year-bringing the total number of international arrivals to a record 698 million, according to preliminary results released by the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

It is estimated that tourism and related activities employed an estimated 200 million persons worldwide in 1999, which is 8% of the total global employment. Tourism is expected to generate 5.5 million new jobs per year until 2010. As an economic force, tourism constitutes an estimated 11% of world GDP. Africa's share of world tourism remains small and the continent's tourism growth rate in 2000 stood at 1.5%. While Kenya, Zambia, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria all enjoyed strong growth, two of Africa's biggest destinations stagnated or suffered-South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Top Destinations in Africa	Arrivals in 2000	% Change
South Africa	6,108,000	+1.4*
Tunisia	5,057,000	+4.7
Morocco	4,100,000	+7.4
Kenya	1,226,000	+30.0*
Algeria	859,000	+13.8
Zimbabwe	840,000	-60.0*
Mauritius	636,000	+10.1*
Zambia	574,000	+25.9

* Full year projections made by WTO based on partial year reports.

A growth rate of 4.1 per cent is forecast for global tourism in 2001. The economic slowdown in the United States could well affect consumer confidence, resulting in fewer visitors going abroad. Outbound travel from Europe and the East Asia/Pacific region will not be impacted as much,

especially if the euro continues to strengthen throughout the year. The experiences of the past decade have proven that people continue to travel even in less prosperous economic times. According to WTO's long-term forecast Tourism: 2020 Vision, international tourist arrivals will top one billion by 2010 and reach 1.56 billion by 2020.

2.2 Tourism in Uganda

Tourism to Uganda began in earnest in the 1950s with the gazettement of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Murchison Falls National Park and Kidepo National Park. The principal attractions were the superabundance of animals and the incredible diversity of scenery. By the 1970s, there were hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers flooding into Uganda and the country was an integral part of the then famous East African Tourist Circuit, which also covered Kenya and Tanzania.

During the 1960s tourism was the third largest foreign exchange earner in Uganda, after the traditional cash crops cotton and coffee, grossing up to US\$ 19 million in 1970. The sector as with other sectors of the economy, however, suffered tremendously from the years of political turmoil in the period 1970 to 1986. This period saw a major deterioration in the services offered by hotels, neglect of game parks and reserves in addition to the incessant political turmoil, a deterrent to tourism.

Today, animal populations are no longer what they were but these have shown a remarkable recovery rate. Though still not as highly competitive in the market segment catering to the Long Haul tourists seeking the "big five" Uganda has repositioned itself to focus on new markets and attractions. This strategy is being coordinated by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry and implemented by Uganda Tourist Board. As part of the regional cooperation efforts through the East African Cooperation, players in the sector have also launched efforts to market the region to enable tourists benefit from the biodiversity offered by each of the three countries/

2.3 The Hotel Industry

Uganda's hotel industry development was mainly tailored to the tourist industry and the greatest expansion of the industry occurred at the peak of the tourism industry in the mid and late 1960s.

Tourist geared hotels developed along the 'southern tourist circuit' from the two international entry points at Entebbe Airport with Lake Victoria Hotel and Rock Hotel at the Kenya-Uganda border at Tororo. The circuit continued through Jinja with Owen Falls Dam and Source of the Nile attractions, through Kampala, Masaka, Mbarara to the Kigezi Highlands centered on White Horse Inn at Kabale. The circuit further extended southwest to Kasese with the Mweya Safari Lodge and Magherita Hotel at Kasese serving the game rich Queen Elizabeth National Park and ending at Fort Portal on the foot of the 'Mountains of the Moon', Rwenzori. Kampala provided the radiation and transit center to further reach these two major circuits as well as having tourist attractions of its own.

The development of hotels in Uganda was spearheaded initially by Government under the Uganda Development Corporation. Later, the various government owned hotels were run under the Uganda Hotels Corporation. Private participation in the sector was very limited until the post 1986 era. With the privatization process, these hotels have been sold off to private investors who have undertaken major renovations and upgrading of these facilities. At the same time private companies have also invested heavily in building new hotels, resorts, lodges and other tourist accommodation.

2.4 Recent Performance of the Tourism Sector in Uganda

From 1987 to 1991, the government's focus was on rehabilitation of the existing tourism facilities including hotels, lodges and national parks. The government also set up projects aimed at tourism development for example, by establishing hotels and tourism training institutes. The number of tourist arrivals during the period increased from under 25,000 in 1985 to approximately 60,000 tourists in 1991. In 1992, Government launched its 'Integrated Tourism Development Master Plan', which henceforth has been the main policy document driving government's intervention in the tourism sector.

**Table 1 - Visitor Arrivals (Numbers) – Non-Ugandan Non Residents by Continent
Over the Period 1998 – 2001 – (Through Busia and Malaba Posts)**

Continent	1998	1999	2000	2001
Western Europe	5,389	4,714	3,525	2,743
Other Europe	94	166	67	99
North America	2,033	1,653	1,394	1,164
P.T.A.	74,598	72,790	67,153	70,688
Other Africa	6,298	6,682	3,818	3,068
Other	5,047	4,018	2,874	20,403
Total	93,459	90,023	78,831	98,165

Sources: Immigration Department, Civil Aviation Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Statistical Abstract – 2002)

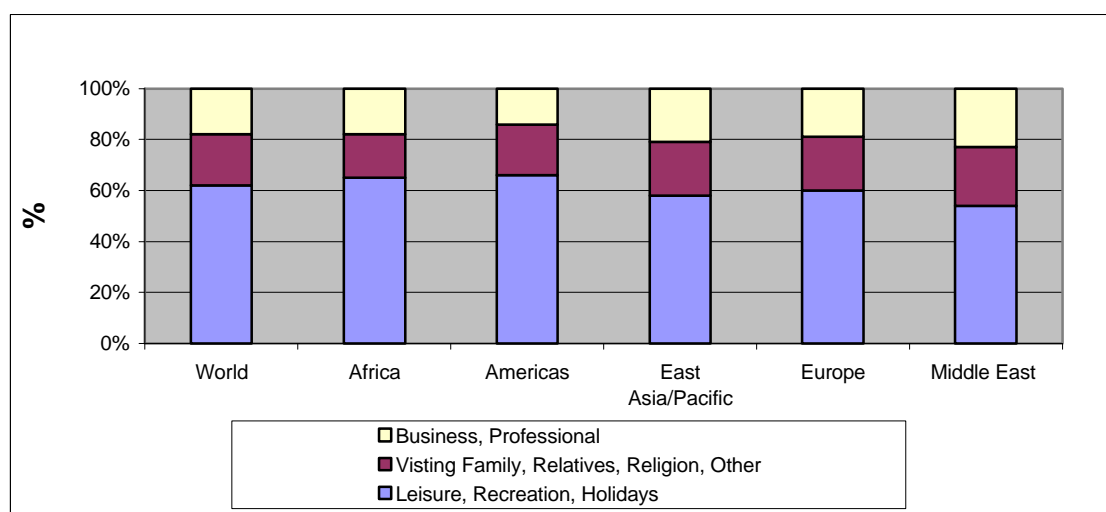
Table 2 - Visitor Arrivals (Numbers) – Non-Ugandan Non Residents by Continent Over the Period 1998 – 2001 – (Through Entebbe)

Continent	1998	1999	2000	2001
Western Europe	31,515	29,350	25,154	26,033
Other Europe	422	526	387	392
North America	11,857	10,660	10,374	11,383
P.T.A.	27,780	27,554	22,843	22,580
Other Africa	12,365	13,708	12,261	12,516
Other	12,996	12,535	10,399	14,056
Total	96,935	94,333	81,418	86,960

Sources: Immigration Department, Civil Aviation Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Statistical Abstract – 2002)

Visitors to Uganda are classified under four major categories, namely; holidays/tourist, visiting friends or relatives, business/official, transit and other. The purpose of travel is indicative of the average stay in Uganda and the period especially in the case of holiday visitors. Tables 1 and 2 above show the number of arrivals for visitors who are both non-resident and non-Ugandan. This category comprises mostly tourists (holiday visitors) and business travelers and accounts for the bulk of so-called tourist arrivals in the country. The United Kingdom, Norway, India and the USA account for the bulk of tourists who come to Uganda from outside Africa.

Figure 1 – International Tourism by Purpose of Visit, 1998



Source: WTO Data – 2000

Table 3 Tourist Arrivals by Country of Usual Residence, 1997 -2001

Contry of Residence	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Africa	100,225	116,683	116,980	132,240	144,257
Egypt	616	836	773	533	546
Ethiopia	1,544	1,879	1,704	1,300	1,348
Kenya	59,078	65,501	68,167	60,900	64,933
Sudan	631	758	931	760	2,994
Tanzania	13,902	22,318	20,780	14,375	16,863
D. R. Congo	7,668	4,006	7,552	7,957	5,974
Other Africa	8,179	10,801	9,780	10,354	12,002
America	13,857	14,550	12,898	11,947	12,919
Canada	3,333	2,831	2,539	2,053	1,863
USA	10,097	11,263	9,802	9,593	10,550
Other America	427	456	557	301	499
Asia	10,061	19,166	10,493	8,368	8,163
China	880	881	1,127	945	1,025
India	5,597	7,107	6,206	4,810	4,588
Japan	961	1,054	1,062	773	539
Pakistan	959	843	842	728	926
Other Asia	1,294	1,293	1,256	1,112	1,085
Europe	43,656	45,720	43,133	36,050	36,592
Austria	718	526	442	249	168
Belgium	2,062	1,798	1,649	1,446	1,407
Czechoslovakia	46	57	49	28	43
Denmark	2,171	2,205	2,299	1,654	1,401
Finland	304	296	204	178	133
France	1,960	1,677	1,650	1,320	1,351
Germany	3,324	2,971	3,304	2,497	2,920
Ireland	751	835	765	707	700
Italy	2,036	2,236	2,128	1,560	2,080
Netherlands	2,028	2,236	2,278	2,203	2,111
Norway	7,126	8,554	8,642	6,717	7,090
Russia	159	165	221	139	235
Sweden	2,000	1,813	1,470	1,496	1,257
Switzerland	1,217	1,288	1,001	891	1,087
United Kingdom	16,451	17,603	15,744	13,954	13,626
Yugoslavia	103	44	64	44	70
Other Europe	1,200	1,279	1,223	967	915
Middle East	3,635	2,778	2,410	11,479	1,248
Oceania	2,972	3,510	2,678	2,069	1,325
Australia	2,093	2,562	1,916	1,550	1,068
New Zealand	879	948	762	519	257
Others not stated	667	371	755	602	783
Total	175,073	194,790	189,348	192,755	205,287

Source, Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2001 Statistical Abstract , June 2001

2.5 Tourism Sector's contribution to National GDP

Uganda has attracted over 200,000 tourists in 2001 who earned the country over US\$ 163 million in foreign exchange and it projected that by 2006 the number will have grown to half a million tourists per year. Correspondingly, tourism has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy with an annual growth rate of 21% over the years 1992 – 2000. Tourism is emerging as Uganda's main foreign exchange earners having overtaken Coffee which has traditional been the key foreign exchange earner in Uganda. Although the general trend remains positive, the tourism sector has suffered major setbacks over the last years resulting from the political instability in the Great Lakes Region. In spite of this, visitor numbers have remained steady (see tables 1 and 2).

The tourism sector is one of the key sectors being promoted by the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA). From 1991 to 2002 UIA has licenced 156 projects with over US \$ 300 million in planned investment. This translates into about 6% of total planned investment for the years 1991 to 2002. In 2002 alone 12 projects worth US \$ 38.4 million were licenced.

Investments in tourism have been primarily directed to the expansion of the capacity needed to meet the growing tourist influx. These include hotels, lodges, tented camps, serviced apartments, tour operators, casinos, cinemas, restaurants, and white water rafting companies.

3.0 Government Policy

Investment in the tourism sector is guided by a number of policies, of which the most important are discussed briefly below.

The major regulations and legislation governing the tourism industry include: -

- a) The Tourist Agents (Licensing) Act, 1968
- b) The Tourist Agents (Licensing) Regulations, 1972
- c) The Hotel Act, 1964

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry has published operational guidelines for tour and travel operators and travel agents, 1995, which sets strict regulations to be adhered to by travel and tour operators. These regulations aim at standardization and harmonization of the activities of various actors in the tourism industry. Some of the aspects considered under these regulations include: location, staff and qualifications, capital requirements, the necessary logistical resources and annual licensing fees.

3.1 The Integrated Tourism Development Master Plan

In 1992, the Government of Uganda launched the Integrated Tourism Development Master Plan, a policy document that is supposed to define the role of Government and other stakeholders in the development of tourism. The Master Plan provided for a number of actions both at institutional and operational level. An inter-ministerial committee was set up to coordinate Governmental interventions that were defined in the plan. The key actions set out in the Master Plan include: -

- a) Setting up of the Uganda Tourist Board to promote the tourism industry of Uganda both in and outside the country.
- b) Setting up of the Uganda Wildlife Authority to conserve the wildlife and other resource of natural scenic and scientific value in those areas under its jurisdiction. The Uganda Wildlife Authority is a merger of Uganda National Parks and the Game Department.
- c) Formation of the Wildlife Training College
- d) Restructuring of the Ministry
- e) Setting up of the Hotel and Tourism Training Institute.

3.2 Privatization

Since 1991, the Government of Uganda has been committed to a policy of liberalization. Government's strategy is to modernize the economy through relying on markets and the efforts of private investors as the basis for efficient and productive economic activity, while government itself provides the necessary legal and policy framework and physical infrastructure for private investment to flourish. Government launched its privatization program in 1993, under which most government owned enterprises were to be privatized including all hotels and tourist facilities. In line with this strategy, Government has divested its interests in all hotel and related facilities. Currently, 90% of all accommodation facilities in Uganda are owned by the private sector. Nile Hotel International is the last of the big hotels due to be privatized.

4.0 Institutional Framework

4.1 Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry

The overall planning and development of Uganda's tourism industry is the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. This is done either directly at the Ministry or indirectly through parastatals and subsidiary bodies established by statute under the ministry.

4.2 Uganda Tourist Board

Established through an Act of Parliament in November 1994, Uganda Tourist Board has the primary mandate of being the tourism promotion arm of Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Trade

and Industry. This function has traditionally been directed through international trade shows where UTB has joined with the private sector in promoting Uganda as a destination.

4.3 Uganda Wildlife Authority

The objectives of the Uganda Wildlife Authority are: -

- a) To conserve the wildlife and other resources of natural scenic and scientific value in those areas within its jurisdiction.
- b) To ensure that the integrity of such areas is properly maintained.
- c) To identify areas which should be designated and gazetted as protected areas so as to ensure adequate protection of Uganda's major eco-system, nature habitat and biodiversity.
- d) Explore the possibilities of increasing benefits to local communities living within or adjacent to protected areas.
- e) To exploit wildlife potentials to generate revenue for individuals and government.

4.4 Industry Associations and Support Institutions

There are also a number of associations established by the private sector to promote business and also to develop professionalism in the tourism industry. These include the Uganda Tourist Association (UTA), the Hotel and Catering Association of Uganda (HCAU), Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO), Uganda Association of Tourism Training Institutions (UATTI), Private Sector Foundation (PSF) and the Uganda Association of Travel Agents (TUGATA).

4.5 Hotel Training and Tourism Institute (HTTI)

The institution was established at the former Crested Crane Hotel, Jinja. The institute provides training for hotel and catering staff.

4.6 Major Private Sector Players in the Tourism Sector

Private firms involved in the tourism industry fall under four broad categories:

- **Hotel and accommodation services:** Currently 90% of all accommodation services in the country are owned by private investors.
- **Tour and Travel Operators:** There is currently over 140 tour and travel operators in the country, including international names such as AberCombie and Kent, Afritours and Travel and Volcanoes.
- **Tourism Auxiliary Service Providers:** This category includes producers of promotional materials for example Uganda Tourist Board, organisers of international and internal travel markets and trade fairs. Local craft shops have also sprung up, selling items from the various cultural groups of the country.
- Airlines and overland transport service providers.

5.0 Uganda's Tourism Resources

The distinctive attraction of Uganda as a tourist destination arises out of the variety of its game stock and its unspoilt scenic beauty. Within a space of 235,796 square kilometers, Uganda offers an interesting contrast to the wide East African plains, with terrain ranging from the open Savannah to impenetrable mountain rain forest. Uganda generally has substantial natural resources for tourism with a variety of landscape and ecosystems, climates and cultures. Some of its features are outstanding by international standards such as the sheer variety of bird species, while others are unique. Uganda's eco-systems and cultural diversity are unaltered and unspoilt by modern commercial influences. Numbers of visitors are small and therefore the Ugandan experience has novelty and rarity values not easily found elsewhere in Africa.

The focus of Uganda's tourism drive in recent years has been the rare mountain gorilla. This has been very successful with the demand for viewing permits currently far in excess of existing supply. This over reliance on the mountain gorilla leaves Uganda's tourism industry susceptible to political factors as was the case with the 1999 Bwindi Massacre.

The response of Government has been to initiate the development and promotion of alternative tourist products. The Uganda Tourist Board, with the assistance of the European Union, is leading this effort and has already identified several tourist products that it is felt can attract visitors to Uganda in their own right. These include: -

- Avi-tourism (bird watching)
- Sport fishing
- Boating
- Primate tracking (Gorillas, Chimps and others)
- Game Viewing
- Walking and trekking
- Mountaineering
- White water rafting

5.1 Tourist Attractions

5.1.1 National Parks

Most of Uganda's wildlife is concentrated in its protected areas, of which there are three main categories: National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, and Forest Reserves. The conservation and management of these areas falls under two principal agencies, the Uganda Wildlife Authority under the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry and the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources. Uganda has established 10 National Parks, enabling tourists to enjoy the pristine wilderness environment.

- a) ***Murchison Falls National Park*** – This is the largest National Park in Uganda – covering 3,877 sq km – and one of the most spectacular in Africa. At the Murchison Falls, the river Nile plunges through a narrow crevice and over a 40-metre drop. In the eastern sector of the park, before the Murchison Falls themselves, are the Karuma Falls, where the Nile cascades over a breathtaking 23 km of rapids, creating some of the most exciting white-water rafting opportunities in Africa. A cruise upstream the Nile to the Falls is an unforgettable experience. On the banks, prolific wildlife including elephant, crocodile, hippopotamus, lion, giraffe, buffalo, and countless antelopes and birds can be observed.
- b) ***Queen Elizabeth National Park*** – The Queen Elizabeth National Park has been designated a Biosphere Reserve for Humanity under UNESCO auspices. The park, in the western arm of the Great East African Rift Valley, covers 2,056 sq. km and includes a remarkable variety of ecosystems, from semi-deciduous tropical forest to green meadows, savannah and swamps. It is the home of the famous tree-climbing lion as well as the Uganda Kob, other antelope species, elephant, baboons, hippos, buffalo and chimpanzees. Over 500 species of birds have been recorded, making the park a magnet for bird watchers. The bird species include the black bee-eater, 11 types of king fisher, Shoebill storks and several species of falcons, eagles and other raptors. In the crater lakes to the north, flocks of flamingoes can be found. A favourite way to view the game is by launch trip on the Kazinga Channel between Lakes George and Edward.
- c) ***Bwindi Impenetrable Forest*** – The park with its dense ground cover of vines and shrubs is home to the world famous mountain gorillas, of which they are less than 600 still left in the entire world. Gorilla permits are required for tracking the gorillas and it is, therefore, advisable to make reservations at least three months in advance. Bwindi is one of the richest areas for flora in Eastern Africa. The forest is also sanctuary for colobus monkeys, chimpanzees and many bird types including some endangered species.
- d) ***Mgahinga Gorilla*** – This is yet another haven for the persecuted mountain gorilla. Located on the slopes of the Virunga Mountains, in the extreme southwest corner of Uganda, the park has been set aside to provide a secure habitat for the gorillas. However, besides the gorillas, other wildlife may also be viewed including the leopard, giant forest hog, bushbuck, buffalo, and golden monkey. The summit of Mount Muhavura (4,127 m) has a small crater lake.
- e) ***Kibale Forest National Park*** – The rainforest is situated to the north-east of Queen Elizabeth National Park. In addition to forest, there are also areas of grassland and swamp. The park is noted for its primate population – 13 different species inhabit the park including many families of chimpanzees and several types of colubus monkeys. Bushbuck, waterbuck, duiker and giant forest hog may also be seen. The forests and the grasslands support abundant bird life – almost 300 species have been identified and 144 types of butterfly.

- f) **Kidepo National Park** – The Park is located in North East Uganda and covers 1,436 sq. km. It is inhabited by various wildlife including elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe, various antelope species, baboon, bushbaby and over 200 species of bird. Two game viewing routes connect the rest camp with the prime wildlife areas near the Winwing River and the rock escarpment to the southwest. On the park's northern borders are the Kananorok Hot Springs.
- g) **Mount Elgon** – This is an extinct volcano located on Uganda's eastern border. The mountain boasts numerous interesting features including gorges, ancient caves, water falls and hot springs. Birdlife is abundant on the mountain although various wildlife may also be encountered.
- h) **Semuliki National Park** – This is the only park in Uganda to be composed primarily of tropical lowland forest. The forest is very dense and quite flat, creating a startling contrast to the rugged Rwenzori Mountains nearby. The Semliki River attracts many animals. The park is home to eight species of primate, 400 birds and 300 butterfly species. Elephant, buffalo, leopard, civet, bushbaby and flying squirrels are also found.
- i) **Lake Mburo National Park** – Situated between the towns of Masaka and Mbarara, this comparatively small park (371 sq. km) is composed primarily of grassland, wetland and acacia woodland. At the center lies the Lake Mburo, which together with 14 other lakes, forms part of an extensive wetland area. Animals to be found in the park include the impala, eland, rock hyrax, zebra, waterbuck, buffalo, warthog, leopard, civet, hyena, hippo, and crocodile. There are also over 357 species of birds including the marabou stock and the crowned crane.
- j) **Rwenzori Mountains** –The mist-shrouded peaks of the Mountains of the Moon provide a stunning backdrop to this magnificent park, located on Uganda's western border. In the center of the range, some of the peaks are permanently covered in snow and glaciers, while the lower slopes are covered with dense forests. Here is the third highest mountain in Africa, Mt. Magherita, which rises to 5,100 metres above sea level. Walking tours in the foothills are a feature, although only the experienced and fit should attempt an ascent on the peaks, which rival the Alps in difficulty. Some of the wildlife to be found in the mountains include the chimpanzees, along with the blue monkey, hyrax, giant forest hog and many unique bird species such as the Rwenzori touraco, the francolin and the olive pigeon.

Table 4 - Five Year Visitor Statistics for National Parks

National Park	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Murchison Falls National Park	12,099	12,713	23,169	20,284	34,241
Queen Elizabeth National Park	8,349	8,073	8,743	14,855	27,814
Kidepo Vally National Park	1,840	1,501	2,285	2,470	1,443
Lake Mburo National Park	8,182	8,552	8,443	9,616	10,800
Rwenzori Mountains National Park	0	0	0	117	268
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	3,437	2,100	3,983	4,517	5,075
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	2,698	1,741	2,517	2,205	1,485
Semuliki National Park	0	0	0	77	802
Kibale Forest National Park	2,003	955	1,149	1,839	4,899
Mt. Elgon National Park	1,231	1,308	1,872	2,024	3,234
TOTAL	39,839	36,943	52,161	58,004	90,061

Source: Uganda Wildlife Authority (2002)

The visitor numbers include all categories of visitors i.e. non residents, residents and citizens

5.1.2 The Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC)

The Uganda Wildlife Education Center in Entebbe was created by the Government of Uganda with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Center in New York. The Center has grown considerably in recent years and hosts a variety of wildlife. UWEC is not a zoo as the center environment has been designed to be as close as possible to the wild. At the center, visitors are able to observe many of the

indigenous species to be found in Uganda and also to receive comprehensive information on the species, their natural habitats and the complex ecologies of Uganda.

5.1.3 People and Culture

Ugandan society is still predominantly rural with 80% of the population living in rural areas. Traditional customs and lifestyles are still alive in many parts of the country, which adds spice to the tourist experience. Ugandans generally have a reputation for openness, and a friendly attitude to visitors. There are various peoples that make up Uganda and each group have their own traditional customs and ways of life. These customs are kept alive by many colourful ceremonies marking specific historical events or celebrating the seasons of the year. Spontaneous dancing and music are typical of life in Uganda and visitors are often welcome to observe these ceremonies – although as a courtesy, tourists should always seek permission before taking photographs. In addition to the rich cultural experiences, tourists can choose souvenirs from countless local traditional art pieces and handcrafts. These are sold in most villages, along the roadsides, and also at specific tourist curio shops within the capital.

Besides, there are also a number of cultural sites, which tourists will be able to visit. These include the Kasubi Royal Tombs and a host of other historical sites in many different parts of the country.

5.1.4 Lakes and Rivers

Uganda has been called a land of lakes because almost a third of the country is covered by water. Lake Victoria, the largest in Africa, dominates the southern border of the country while Lakes Edward and Albert lie to the west. Linked to Lake Edward is the Kazinga Channel, Lake Mburo, 230 km to the west of Kampala, is the only lake entirely within a National Park. In the center of Uganda, Lakes Kwanaia and Kyoga are fed by the waters of the River Nile. Other lakes include Lake Bunyonyi near Kabale and Lake Bisina in the shadow of Mt. Elgon, as well as tiny crater lakes high in the mountains. Uganda's fresh water lakes offer opportunities for water activities and sports. An example is white water rafting, pioneered by Adrift, which has caught on as a popular tourist activity, especially on the River Nile. The country now attracts 500 rafters every month. Lake Victoria is now also being increasingly used for lake cruises. Other popular activities include sport fishing and sailing.

5.1.5 Flora and Fauna

Uganda is a country of exceptional diversity. It lies at the overlap between tropical East African savannah and the West African rainforest zones. Seven of Africa's 18 plant kingdoms are represented in Uganda, which is more than any other country on the continent. The tropical rain forests of Western Uganda have unique flora and fauna, some of which are endangered species. As part of the emphasis on eco-tourism and in response to increasing demand from tourists, new nature trails have been developed in virtually every protected area. These trails offer an unhurried way of exploring the wilderness and getting near to nature.

5.1.6 Bird Life

The birding opportunities in Uganda are impressive. With over 1,000 recorded already, Uganda has almost half the species known on the African continent and over 10% of those on record throughout the entire world. Uganda's equatorial location, combined with the altitude and great variety of terrain types provide an overwhelming array of opportunities for keen birders. The Queen Elizabeth National Park alone has 550 avian species.

5.1.7 The Ssese Islands

Consisting of 84 islands in the north-western section of Lake Victoria, the Ssese Islands have, for a long time, only been visited by local people and campers because of lack of tourist facilities. Now three campsites have been opened which can be booked through local tour operators. Nevertheless, many of the islands are uninhabited except for a few fishermen so their forests and swamps are ideal habitats for birds. The wildlife on the islands includes hippos, crocodile, waterbuck, sitatunga antelope, chimpanzees and monkeys. The islands can be reached by a nine-hour steamer trip from Port Bell or a 45-minute ferry trip from Bukakata.

6.0 Supporting Infrastructure and Services

The Government of Uganda has put major emphasis on the rehabilitation of the country's physical and essential basic social infrastructure. The major achievements of this programme have been the repair of the country's main trunk road network and improvement of the quality and range of medical

services. In the tourism sector, this program included the renovation and refurbishment of three large four-star hotels, the Sheraton and the Nile Hotels in Kampala and the Lake Victoria Hotel in Entebbe as well as the International Airport at Entebbe.

6.1 Tourist Accommodation

Almost 80% of the accommodation of tourist standard is concentrated in and around Kampala, with 430 beds being distributed among the various up-country tourist zones. Initially, most of the hotels in Uganda were under a government owned parastatal, Uganda Hotels Limited but all have been privatized. The Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry in its Integrated Tourism Development Master Plan, recognizes the need to create additional capacity, particularly in the National Parks. Almost 80 percent of the accommodation of tourist standard is concentrated in and around Kampala, with 430 beds being distributed among the various up country tourist zones. The Sheraton Kampala Hotel, Nile Hotel International, Grand Imperial Hotel, Hotel Equatorial and Hotel Africana are some of the key hotels in Kampala, offering 4-5 star services. Many smaller but modern hotels have also been set up, to cope with the growing demand for cheaper but decent accommodation. The table below is a synopsis of available rooms and beds in major hotels around the country.

6.2 Air Travel Links (International, Regional and Domestic)

6.2.1 International Air Travel

A number of international scheduled airlines call at Entebbe International Airport easing communication with Europe, Middle East and the regional markets. Weekly flights direct to Europe, Asia and other destinations are also available through Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Dubai and Cairo.

Table 6 - Scheduled Flights at Entebbe International Airport by Operator, Destination, Aircraft Type, Cargo Capacity and Weekly Frequency

Operator	Destination	Aircraft Type	Frequency
1. British Airways	London, Heathrow	B767	3
2. Ethiopian Airways	Dar-es-Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Nairobi, Lilongwe, Addis Ababa	B737, B757	8
3. Kenya Airways	Nairobi	B737-3, B737-2	28
4. Emirates	Nairobi, Dubai	B777	3
5. Air France	Lusaka, Paris	B737-F(cargo)	1
6. South African Airways	Johannesburg	B737	3
7. Rwanda Air	Kigali	DASH8	6
8. Africa One	Dar-es-Salaam, Djibouti, Dubai, Kilimanjaro	DC9 -51	4
9. Egypt Air	Cairo, Dar-es-Salaam	A321	2
10. TMK Air Commuter	Goma	DH6	2
11. SN Brussels	Nairobi, Brussels	A330	4
12. East African Airlines	Johannesburg, Nairobi, Bujumbura, Kigali	B737-2	12

Source: Civil Aviation Authority, 2002

Non –Scheduled Carriers Operating At Entebbe International Airport

Operator	Service
13. United Airlines	PAX
14. Mission Aviation Fellowship	PAX (NGO)
15. Air Service / Reliance Air	PAX
16. Eagle Air	PAX
17. Premier Safaries	PAX Cargo
18. Dairo Air Services	Cargo

19. Aim Air	PAX
20. DHL Aviation	Mail
21. Kampala Aero Clubs & Flight Training Centre	PAX
22. MKA	Cargo
23. AURIC Air Services Ltd	PAX

6.2.2 Domestic Air Travel

There are 13 airfields spread all over the country; these include Arua, Gulu, Moroto, Kasese, Masindi, Mbarara, Jinja, Soroti, Pakuba, Tororo, Lira, Naguru, and Kisoro. All airfields are operational except Tororo and Lira.

6.3 Rail Transport

Uganda's rail network is composed of an east-west branch line, which connects the country with the East Coast of Mombasa, Nairobi and extends to Kasese close to the Congo-Zaire border. Only the Nairobi – Mombasa link is currently operational.

6.4 Water Transport

Uganda Railways Corporation operates three ferries on Lake Victoria between Port Bell, Jinja, Kisumu (Kenya) and Mwanza (Tanzania). These services are mainly used for freight, although some passenger capacity also exists, with scope for upgrading to provide cabin accommodation. Connection between the islands on Lake Victoria is by small boats owned by fishermen. Water transport on other lakes and rivers, whether for recreation or other purposes, remains undeveloped. Opportunities exist for game fishing, ornithology and entomology on the secluded islands.

6.5 Road Transport

Road transport plays a big role in the tourism sector. Tourists who enter the country through Busia, Malaba and Mpondwe and other border crossings, constitute about 50% of Uganda's tourist arrivals. This indicates the importance of road transport to the tourism sector. All the major transport and feeder roads in the country have been rehabilitated. Uganda's excellent road system is well linked to its principal trading partners, Kenya and Tanzania.

6.6 Financial Services

There are numerous foreign exchange bureaus in Kampala, where tourists can freely buy and sell their foreign currency. Most international currencies are accepted. Payments for all services is normally in local currency although internationally recognized credit cards such as American Express, Visa, MasterCard are accepted at most hotels and up-scale restaurants and shopping malls.

7.0 Investment Opportunities

In line with Uganda's changed tourism focus, the type of investment opportunities that exist have more to do with the new tourism products that the country offers. The following opportunities are available for private investors: -

7.1 Tour Operators

There are many opportunities for new and innovative tour operators who have international contacts and are able to market Uganda internationally as a new destination based on the special attractions currently being promoted by Uganda Tourist Board. These include: -

- a) Adventure Holidays
- b) Sport Fishing
- c) Eco-tourism
- d) Avi-Tourism (Bird Watching)

Uganda is emerging as a long-haul destination, especially for specialty tours. Uganda is increasingly seen as an up-scale tourist destination with a mix of ecological flavour and limited adventure. This is an area where future growth is expected. Continued growth will depend on strengthening links with tour operators servicing the regional market so as to develop and exploit multi-destination packages, for which Uganda has unique inputs like the rare mountain gorilla.

Why Invest in Uganda's Tourism Sector

- Uganda has unique untapped potential in the form of eco-tourism, bird life, contrasting scenery and substantial game populations.
- Uganda's tourism resources are modestly exploited and less commercialized than Kenya, South Africa or Tanzania thus giving the tourist a true African safari without the disruption of too many other tourists.
- The competition among players in the sector is less intense than in other countries.
- Uganda with its unique attractions can be marketed both as a long-haul destination or as part of a regional package including other East African countries.

7.2 Water Sports and other related Activities

Lake Victoria and other water bodies have been underused as a potential tourist attraction. Opportunities abound to take advantage of Uganda's considerable water bodies including the launch of luxury boat cruises on L. Albert and L. Victoria. Currently, this is an area that is still largely unexploited. Investors able to invest in boating services on the lakes and rivers of Uganda would create a unique tourist experience, more especially if such services extended across the popular water bodies such as the River Nile and Lake Victoria. Potential routes include multi-destination tours such as the Mwanza/Port Bell route or the Port Bell/Kisumu route. Water sports such as white water rafting, skiing, boat racing are also potential opportunities.

7.3 Accommodation

In the 3-5 star hotel category, there is an almost 50% bed capacity deficit. Given the present and anticipated hotel bed capacity demand growth, a supply response is necessary to harness this market. Average annual occupancy levels at the leading hotels are over 60% per annum and are expected to rise even more with the increasing numbers of tourist arrivals.

Selected Accommodation Facilities in Uganda, 2001

Town / Location	Name of Hotel	Grade	No. of Rooms	No. of Beds
Arua	White Rhino	***	21	37
Entebbe	Botanical Beach Hotel		80	134
	Windsor Lake Victoria Hotel	****	99	198
	Sophie's Motel		6	12
	Entebbe Flight Motel			
Gulu	Acholi Inn	**	21	35
Fort Portal	Mt. of the Moon	**	20	36
	Wooden Hotel	**	38	52
Jinja	Annesworth Hotel		10	15
	Crested Crane Hotel	**	33	66
	Daniel Hotel		11	19
	Hotel Triangle		50	71
	Sunset Hotel		36	60
	Tim Tom Hotel		10	19
	Jinja Nile Resort Hotel	***		
Kabale	Highland Hotel	**	29	53
	Victoria Inn		17	24
	White Horse Inn	**	40	80
Kampala	Antlers Inn		14	21
	Calendar House		20	45
	College Inn		26	49
	Fairway Hotel	**	105	280
	Fang Fang Hotel			
	Grand Imperial Hotel	****	103	161
	Havana Hotel			
	Hotel Africana			
	Hotel Equatoria	***	89	149
	Hotel International		15	29
Hotel Rena		40	42	
Kings + Guest House		10	12	

	Nile Hotel	****	85	170
	Ranch on the Lake Hotel			
	Shanghai Hotel		12	14
	Sheraton Hotel	****	264	528
	Speke Hotel	**	50	80
	Tourist Hotel			
Kasese	Hotel Margherita	**	35	71
	Saad	**	20	40
Kidepo	Apoka Rest Camp	**	16	32
Kisoro	Kisoro Travellers' Inn	**	10	17
	Mubano Hotel	**	30	60
Lira	Lira Hotel	**	30	60
Masindi	Masindi Hotel	**	22	38
Mbale	Mbale Hotel	**	16	32
	Mt. Elgon Hotel			
Mbarara	Andrew Inn		10	15
	Katatumba Resort Hotel	**	30	56
	Lake View Regency Hotel	**	70	140
	Agip Motel	***		
	Pelican Hotel		24	44
	Riheka Guest House		15	21
Moroto	Moroto Hotel	**	21	42
Mukono	Colline Hotel	**	61	90
Soroti	Soroti Hotel	**	21	42
Tororo	Crystal Hotel		14	28

Accommodation in Game Parks

Protected Area	Accommodation Type.	Capacity.	Target.
Murchison Falls National Park.	Paraa Rest Camp. Nile safari Camp. Sambiya River Lodge. Paraa Safari Lodge.	34 persons 30 persons. 52 persons. 87 persons.	Budget Tourists. Budget Tourists. Up market. Up market
Katonga Wildlife Reserve.	Tented Camping.	64 persons.	Budget Tourists.
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.	Travellers Rest Hotel. Sky Blue. Mt Gahinga Rest Camp. Virunga Hotel. Mgahinga Safari Lodge. Rugigana Camp Site. Mubano Hotel. Tourist Hotel. Community Camp Ground at the Park. Amajabere Wachu Community Bandas.	16 persons. 18 persons. 68 persons. 20 persons. 20 persons. 80 persons. 20 persons. 16 persons. 12 persons	Budget Tourists. Budget Tourist. Budget Tourists. Budget Tourists. Budget Tourists. Budget Tourists. Budget tourists. Budget Tourists.
Mt Elgon National Park.	Student Centre. Camping within the National Park. Mt Elgon Forest Cottages.	32 persons. 8 persons.	Students. Budget Tourists. Budget Tourists.
Lake Mburo National Park.	Mantana Tented Conservation Education Centre. Campsites at Rwonyo Bandas Tented Camps.	18 persons. 40 persons. 16 persons 10 persons	Up market. Students. Budget tourists Budget tourists Budget Tourists.
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.	Local Community Bandas- Buhoma. Mantana Tented Camps. Gorilla Forest Camp	22 persons 16persons. 16 persons	Budget Tourists. Up market. Up market
Kidepo National Park.	Apoka Rest Camp. Camp sites. Bandas.	16 persons. 10 persons	Up market. Budget tourist Budget Tourists.

Queen Elizabeth National Park.	Jacaana Safari Lodge. QENP Hostel. Ishasha bandas Students centre Mweya Lodge	24 persons. 20 persons. 5 persons 48 persons	Up market. Budget Tourists. Budget tourists Students Up market Tourists
Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve.	Semliki Safari Lodge.	16 persons.	Up market Tourists.
Semuliki National Park.	Camping Sites available in the Park.		Budget Tourists.
Kibale National Park.	Mantana. Bandas(5bandas.) Ndali Lodge. Campsites within the National Park. CVK. Mantana Tented Camp. Sebitoli Tourists centre Mainaro guest house	12persons. 12 persons 16 persons 24 persons 6 persons	Up market. Budget Tourists. Up market. Budget Tourists. Up market. Budget tourists Budget tourists
Rwenzori Mountains National Park.	Camping.		All.

Note: The bed capacity records may need reconfirmation

Serviced Apartments

There are a number of serviced apartments within Kampala City. These offer both daily and monthly accommodation at fairly cheaper rates than traditional hotel accommodation facilities. The serviced apartments include: -

- Hillview Apartments
- Salaama Springs Apartments
- Dolphine Suites
- Mosa Courts Apartments
- Speke Apartments
- Golf Course Apartments

Opportunities still exist in this area.

7.4 Conferences and Incentives Travel

Although Uganda's natural resource endowment favours the promotion of resource based tourist packages, there is a risk in overly relying on natural resources alone. The non-resource based tourist market is also growing significantly and should be targeted as a means to diversify Uganda's tourist appeal. Studies show that on average business travelers stay twice as long and spend three times as much as regular tourists. This points to the potential attractiveness of the conferences and incentives travel sector as a tourist product. Currently, the regional conference and incentive travel sector is dominated by Zimbabwe, South Africa and to a lesser extent Ethiopia and Kenya. On the whole, however, the international conference market is still largely underserved in this part of the world.

Uganda is presently constrained by a lack of adequate facilities both in terms of accommodation and also in terms of event and exhibition facilities. The country does not have a single recognized exhibition center of international standards. The Nile Hotel International Conference Centre is the only existing facility of its kind, with other hotels like the Sheraton and Botanical Beach Hotel offering much smaller facilities. Currently the main center for conferences is the Nile Hotel International Conference Centre. The main conference room can accommodate up to 1,700 delegates and three committee rooms each with capacities for 200 people. Another room, specially for press conferences, will hold between 50 and 70 journalists. Simultaneous translation services are provided. There is space for exhibitions, a document center and 20 well-equipped offices, as well as a business bureau, foreign exchange desk, and duty free shop.

Other major hotels in both Kampala and Entebbe have facilities for meetings and conferences of up to 450 delegates while several of the larger lodges provide an ideal setting for a 'meeting in the bush.' Another existing facility is the Nelson Mandela Stadium at Nambole. This 40,000-seater stadium is a

potential venue for international music and entertainment festivals. The opportunities in this area for investors include the establishment of world-class accommodation and exhibition facilities that can attract major international conferences and events, the establishment of event planning operations/companies to run such events etc...

7.5 National Park Concessions

There are still a number of opportunities to secure long-term concessions in Uganda's National Parks, either through the rehabilitation of existing facilities or through the construction of new service in both the old and newly designated parks. There are a substantial number of contracts expected for the rehabilitation and refurbishment of various tourist properties in the parks. The Uganda Wild Life Authority has awarded over 10 concessions to companies, which operate rest camps, and lodges inside the national parks. For more information on the status of concessions please contact the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

CONCESSION INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY PROTECTED AREAS – MARCH 21 2003

Protected Area	Concession Type	Required Developments	Capacity	Prospects
Queen Elizabeth National Park	Expansion and Renovation of Mweya Marina on Kazinga Channel	Expand Channel Ferry	-	Not yet advertised
		2 Launches @ 40 seater	40 seater	
		4 Motor Boats @ 8 seater	32 seater	
		Marina Station Marina Maintenance Unit		
	Self Catering Units at Mweya	Adaptive use of 4 UWA senior staff houses – to be vacated after relocation of park HQ	30 beds	Will depend on the relocation of the HQ functions
	A Permanent Tented Camp in Ishasha	15 tents @ 2 beds	30 beds	Not yet advertised
Kyambura Wildlife Reserve	A new Marina Complex at Kashaka	4 Overnight Houseboats @ 8 tourists	32 tourists	Not yet advertised
		4 day- use Motor Boats attached to Houseboats @ 8 tourists	32 seater	
		4- day- use Rental Motor Boats @ 8 seater	32 seater	
		A new Lodge and/or Permanent Tented camp at Lake Bagusa	Lodge and / or Tented Camp	50 beds
Lake Mburo National Park	New Banda Accommodation near Lake Mburo, across the Lakeside track	6 self contained bandas @ 2 beds	12 beds	To be advertised
		2 self contained / self catering bandas @ 4 beds	8 beds	
Murchison Falls National Park	Pakuba accommodation to replace the existing relict structures. Facility to be located on a new nearby site	Not yet worked out	-	The existing concession has to be formally cancelled
	Sport Fishing concessions along the Nile at Kiba and Ayago	Not yet set	-	To be advertised after guidelines for sport fishing have been formulated
Karuma and Bugungu Wildlife Reserves	Concession to manage the 2 reserves with possible sport hunting option	Not yet set	-	To be advertised after UWA has identified alternative forms of management and guidelines

7.6 Privatization

Although the Government of Uganda has privatized most hotels, the Nile Hotel and International Conference Center is one hotel that is still yet to be privatized. The hotel comprises a 4-star hotel and conference center of international standards. The complex is set in extensive grounds of 17 acres. It has 40 executive suites and 45 double rooms. It has several bars and restaurants.

The conference center has a conference hall for 1,500 people, press gallery, 2 large committee rooms that can hold 150 people, 10 shops, 15 offices, and small committee room accommodating 100 people.

Details on the privatization of the hotel can be obtained from the Privatization Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

7.7 Joint Ventures

Uganda Investment Authority maintains a database of local and foreign companies seeking joint ventures in tourism and other sectors. Interested investors may contact the Investor Facilitation and Aftercare Division, UIA.

8.0 Incentives

Uganda's incentive package provides generous capital recovery terms, particularly for investors whose projects entail significant investment in plant and machinery and whose investments are likely to yield profits over longer term. The rights and incentives package includes:

- Zero rate of tax on imports of plant machinery and equipment.
- 7% Import duty on specialized tourist vehicles.
- VAT Deferral facility for plant, machinery and specialized tourist vehicles
- Guaranteed repatriation of profits and dividends.
- Guarantee against non-commercial risks through the multi-lateral investment guarantee agency (MIGA) of the World Bank.
- Up to 100% foreign ownership of investments allowed,
- Capital allowances of 50% on plant and machinery for projects located in Kampala, Entebbe, Namanve, Jinja and Njeru. Outside these areas the deductible allowance is 75%.
- Start up costs allowance spread over the first 4 years at 25% p.a.
- 100% allowance on scientific research expenditure and training expenditure also deductible once from the company's income.
- There is deductible annual allowance on depreciable assets, which are specified in 4 classes (sixth schedule) under declining balance method.

Class 1: Computers and data handling equipment	40%
Class 2: Plant and machinery, vehicles	30%
Class 3: Furniture, fixture	20%
Class 4: Industrial buildings, hotels and hospitals	5%.
- A nominal corporate tax of 30%, which is among the lowest in Africa and the world, and
- Duty draw back/refund for exporters.

9.0 Investment Procedures

The tourism sector is subject to the same general licensing procedures that relate to any business operation. However, depending on the specific tourism activity, additional special licenses may be required from the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. In order to license a project in the tourism industry, an investor will go through the following stages: -

- a) Registration of Company with the Registrar of Companies
- b) Application for Investment License from Uganda Investment Authority (for a foreign investor)
- c) Opening of office, recruitment of staff, acquisition of equipment in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (see above)
- d) Application for Required License (attaching certificate of incorporation and memorandum and articles of association)
- e) Wait for inspection team from the Ministry of Tourism to visit office premise, after which Tourism Licensing Committee sits to consider application and award license or not.

Table 7 - Summary of the special licenses that may be required is provided below: -

Sub Sector	License Required	Procedures/Requirements
Tour Operations	Tour Operator's License (Annual Licensing Fee is Ushs 50,000).	Tour operators must complete the 'Schedule 2' application form, which is obtained from the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. Attached to the application should be the memorandum and articles

		<p>of association of the company, details of the vehicles to be used, a copy of the trading license, and proof of membership in the Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO).</p> <p>Once the Ministry has received the application, the premises will be inspected to examine its attractiveness and accessibility. Operational guidelines have been issued, which tourism businesses are expected to comply with. These include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A model staff structure including managing director, tour manager, reservations officer, accounts officer, secretary, at least two trained guides, and at least two skilled drivers. Minimum staff qualifications for each of the above positions are detailed in the guidelines. • All vehicles intended for tour operations must be registered with the Ministry and should preferably have sliding roofs. • Each operating company should have a minimum share capital of Ushs 20 million.
Travel Agents	Travel Agent's License <i>(Annual Licensing Fee is Ushs 50,000. If a firm operates both as a tour operator and travel agent, the fee is Ushs 100,000 annually).</i>	<p>The application process for travel agents is similar to that for tour operators. Applicants fill the same form and should provide the same attachments. Once the application has been submitted, a Ministry official will visit the office. Operational guidelines include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The model staff structure should consist of a managing director, reservations/ ticket officer, accounts manager, and office messenger. • Each travel agent must have one vehicle for administrative duties, which should be clearly marked with the company's name. • Each travel agent should have a minimum authorized capital of Ushs 10 million. • All travel agents are required to be members of TUGATA.
Game Ranching	Game Ranching License	Because hunting of any kind is banned in Uganda, special approval is required for any game ranch activities. The guidelines for licensing these activities are still being established. At present, there is no set application form, process or fee. The fees and conditions are negotiable directly with the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry.
Hotels	a) Hotel License <i>(Annual Fee is levied based on the number of rooms and grade of the hotel. The licenses are valid for one year and universally expire on December 31st).</i>	<p>Just before a hotel commences operations, it must complete the 'application for a hotel license'. A copy of the plans and proof of membership in the Uganda Hotel and Catering Association is required. The law requires that all hotels be graded by the Ministry and each hotel is inspected.</p> <p>Operational Requirements: Hotels are required to complete a report entitled the 'Monthly Reporting Form for Accommodation establishments. This form is to be mailed or hand-delivered to the Ministry on or before the fifth day of the following month.</p>
	b) Hotel Manager's License	All hotel managers – both foreign and local – must be registered with the Ministry. Applicants must complete the 'Application for License or Renewal of License to Manage a Hotel.' The applicant must provide proof of qualifications and pay an annual fee, which is minimal.
National Park Concessions	Concession <i>(Licensing fee varies and depends on the size and type of facility. Annual Fees start at US\$2000 plus a percentage of the revenue, typically 5% of gross profits – amount is negotiable).</i>	The Uganda Wildlife Authority is responsible for granting htoel and lodge concessions in protected areas such as national parks. To obtain a concession in a protected area, the potential investor must make a request by letter to the Authority. Before the license can be granted, a feasibility study, architectural and engineering plans, an an environmental impact assessment must be conducted. Construction must begin within one year of the issuance of the license.

10.0 Useful Addresses

- a) Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
Farmers House
Plot 6/8 Parliament Avenue
P.O.Box 7103 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 343947, 256395

Fax:
E-mail:

- b) Uganda Tourist Board
Plot 13/15 Kimathi Avenue, Impala House
P.O.Box 7211 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 342196/7
Fax: 342188
E-mail: utb@starcom.co.ug
[Http://www.visituganda.com](http://www.visituganda.com)
- c) Uganda Wildlife Authority
Plot 3 Kintu Road
P.O.Box 3530 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 346287/8/9, 346290,346651
Fax: + 256 41 346291
E-mail: uwa@uwa.or.ug
Website: www.uwa.org.ug
- d) Uganda Investment Authority
Plot 28 Kampala Road
P.O.Box 7418 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 251562-5, 234105
Fax: 342903
E-mail: info@ugandainvest.com
[Http://www.ugandainvest.com](http://www.ugandainvest.com)
- e) IPA-PAMSU Project
Tourism Database Unit
Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
5th Floor, Farmers House
Plot 6/8 Parliament Avenue
P.O.Box 7103 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 254827, 233548, 233562
Fax: 234054, 342011
E-mail: pamsu@imul.com or pcu-mtti@imul.com
- f) Civil Aviation Authority
P.O.Box 5536 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 320516, 320519, 320555
Fax: 321401
e-mail: caa@starcom.co.ug

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Fees Structure for visits to the Various National Parks/Protected Areas

a) Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Visitation Fees

		Non-Residents (US Dollars)	East African Residents (Uganda Shillings)	Uganda Citizens (Uganda Shillings)
<i>Category A</i> Mruchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth Bwindi, Mgahinga, Kibale	Adult	1 day / night \$ 20 2 nights \$ 30 3nights & over \$ 50	1 day / night \$ 8 2 nights \$ 15 3nights & over \$ 25	1 day / night Ushs 5,000 2 nights UShs 7,500 3nights & over UShs 10,000
	Children 5 – 15 years	1 day / night \$ 10 2nights \$ 15 3 nights & over \$ 25	1 day / night \$ 4 2nights \$ 7 3 nights & over \$ 12	1 day / night UShs 2,500 2nights UShs 3,500 3 nights & over UShs 5,000
<i>Category B</i> All other protected areas in the UWA System	Adult	\$ 10 per day /night	\$ 5 per day /night	Ushs. 3,000 per day / night
	Children 5 – 15 years	\$ 5 per day / night	\$ 2 per day /night	Ushs. 1,500 per day / night
<i>Category C</i> Special passes to all protected areas for Ugandan residents and citizens only.	Individual		\$ 60 per annum	Ushs. 25,000 per annum
	Couples		\$ 150 per annum	Ushs. 50,000 per annum
	Family up to 4 children (up to age 15 years		\$ 100 per annum	Ush. 40,000 per annum

The following groups will receive free admission to protected areas:

- All children under five years
- Ugandan students on educational trips
- People living in the vicinity of the protected are who have permission from the Chief Warden.
- Registered disabled Ugandan Citizens

b) Vehicle Entry Fees All Pas except Bwindi, Mgahinga, Rwenzori, Mt Elgon and Kibale.

Category	Foreign Registered (US Dollars)	Ugandan Registered (Uganda Shillings)
Motor-cycles	\$ 10	Ush. 5,000
Saloon Cars	\$ 20	Ushs. 10,000
Minibuses - Private	\$ 30	Ushs. 15,000
Pick-ups and 4WD cars -Private	\$ 40	Ushs. 20,000
Tour Company Vehicles (cars and minibuses)	\$50	Ushs. 10,000
Buses, lorries and trucks	\$ 100	Ushs. 50,000

c) Transport Hire

Motor-boat hire	Ushs 40,000 per first hour Ushs 15,000 per additional hour or part thereof.
Bicycle hire	Prices available on request
Vehicle hire	Ushs 800 per kilometer

NB: all subject to availability

d) Aircraft Landing Fees (per landing)

Ushs. 5,000 per person per landing, plus entrace fee

e) Special Activities

Game Tracking	Non-Resident	East African Residents	Ugandan
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	US\$275 advance	US\$210 advance	Ushs 80,000
*US\$30 non refundable booking fee for advance booking 6 months to one year			
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	US\$220	US\$180	Ushs 70,000
*US\$50 deposit fee for 2 months advance booking			
Chimpanzee Tracking	Non-Resident	East African Residents	Ugandan
Kyambura George	US\$20	US\$15	Ushs 10,000
Primate Walk	Non-Resident	East African Residenst	Ugandan
Kibale National Park	US\$20	US\$15	Ushs 10,000

f) Accommodation

Bandas	Single UShs	Double UShs	Triple UShs	Extra Bed UShs
Category A: en suite (MFNP, KVNP)	20,000	30,000	40,000	10,000
Category B: basic/traditional	10,000	15,000	20,000	5,000

NB: Advance booking requires 50% non-refundable advance payment.

Student Centers

QENP, MFNP, MNEP-Kapkwai

Hostel at Queen Elizabeth National Park

Dormitory-style accommodation - Ushs 5,000 per person per night

Campsites

Category A: Exclusive (Maximum – 20 persons)	Ushs 20,000 per person per night Maximum charge per campsite – Ushs 300,000 per night
Category B: Pit latrine/firewood/rubbish pit/water/ fireplace/ thatched shelter	Ushs 10,000 per person per night Tents may be hired at Ushs 10,000 per night

g) Ranger Guides for Game Drives per Vehicle (Day/Night)

Park/Reserve	Half day (up to 4 hours)	Full day (over 4 hours)
Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, Kidepo Valley and Lake Mburo National Parks, Kyambura and Semliki Game Reserves	Ushs. 10,000 per Ranger per vehicle	Ushs 15,000 per Ranger per vehicle

h) Sport Fishing

	Day Permit	Up to 4 days	Annual Permit
Murchison Falls National Park	US\$50 per person	US \$ 75 per Person	US\$300 per person

i) Ferry Crossing (Murchison Falls National Park) – Vehicle with driver (one way fare)

Vehicle Type	Price for Scheduled Crossing**	Price for vehicles carrying visitors resident in the park ***
Light Vehicles less than 2 tonnes (saloon cars, 4WDs Mini-buses, pick-ups)	Ushs 20,000	Ushs 20,000
Medium vehicles 2 to 5 tonnes (Pick ups, small lorries and omni buses)	Ushs 30,000	Ushs 30,000
Heavy vehicles over 5 tonnes buses and lorries)	Ushs 60,000	Ushs 60,000
Passengers (per person)	Ushs 1,500	Ushs 1,500

* Price for both Ugandan and Foreign registered Vehicles

** The Paraa Ferry operates daily at the following scheduled times: 7:00 a.m., 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. 2:00p.m. 3:00p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:00p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m.

j) Launch Cruise/ Boat Trip

	Adults	Children 5-15 years
Queen Elizabeth National Park / Murchison Falls National Park	Ushs. 15,000 Ushs. 20,000	Ushs 7,500 Ushs. 10,000
Murchison Falls National Park Motor Boat / Mamba Motor Boat / Shoebill	Ushs. 150,000 per half day (maximum 6 hrs)	
Lake Mburo National Park boat trip	Ushs 10,000 per person (minimum of Ushs 30,000 per trip)	
Katonga Wildlife Reserve - Canoe	Ushs 15,000 per trip	
Exclusive/minimum charge per cruise (QENP & MFNP)	Ushs. 150,000	

k) Guided Nature Walk

All Protected Areas	Ushs 10,000 oer person
	Students Ushs 10,000 half day per group long distance trails walk will be charged at full day rate

l) Mountaineering

	Non Residents	East African Residents	Ugandan Citizens
Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Central Cercuit 7days /6nights) * Includes visitation fees, guide, 2 porters, accommodation, basic rescue and fuel fees	US\$480 per person	US \$ 365	Ushs 350,000 per person
Mount Elgon National Park * includes park visitation fees, camping fees and ranger escort fees.	US\$90 per person		US\$10 per ever extra day

m) Virunga Volcano Climb

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	US\$30 per person
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Note: Includes park visitation fees.

Cave Visit:

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	None Residents / Residents	Ugandan Citizens
	US \$ 25 per person per day	Ushs. 10,000 per person per day

n) Commercial Filming

All Protected Areas except Bwindi and Mgahinga	Ushs 100,000 per day
Bwindi and Mgahinga	Ushs 150,000 per day

Note:

- Fees include per person visitation fee, camping fees and all film fees
- One must obtain a filming permit from Uganda Wildlife Authority Headquarters before proceeding to film in the Protected Areas.

Appendix 2 - Summary of Status of Concessions related to accommodation facilities within Uganda Wildlife Protected Areas March 25 2003

Park/Reserve	Concessionaire	Investment	Bed Capacity	Status
Murchison Falls National Park	Muljibhai Madhvani & Company Limited	Paraa Safari Lodge	87	Operational
	Muljibhai Madhvani & Company Limited	Rehabilitation of former Chobe Safari Lodge	70	Not Operational
	Afri Tours and Travel Limited	Sambiya River Lodge	52	Operational
Kidepo Valley National Park	The Uganda Safaris Company Ltd	Apoka Rest Camp	16	New Concession agreement being negotiated
Queen Elizabeth National Park	Muljibhai Madhvani & Company Limited	Mweya Safari Lodge		Operational
	Inns of Uganda Limited	Jacana Safari Lodge	24	Operational
Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park	Abercombie and Kent	Gorilla Forest Camp	16	Operational
Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Rwenzori Mountaineering Services	Mountain huts and mountaineering Services	12 huts	Operational
Lake Mburo National Park	Mantana African Safaris	Mantana Luxury Tented Camp	18	Operational
Toro/Semliki Wildlife Reserve	The Uganda Safaris Company Ltd. (formally Green Wilderness)	Semliki Safari Lodge	16	Operational

Note: The bed Capacity records may need reconfirmation