

**The Contribution of Kilimanjaro National Park in Improving the Livelihoods of
Adjacent Communities
A Case of Lyasongoro, Mbahe and Mshiri Villages
By
Peter E. Megiroo
Master of Arts in Co-operative and Community Development, Sokoine University
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The study aimed to show the contribution of KINAPA in improving the livelihoods of adjacent communities of Lyasongoro, Mshiri, and Mbahe, what benefits the community is getting from this protected area for their survival in terms of employment, business, tourism and mutual relationship. Lastly but not the least their attitudes towards KINAPA. The objective of this study was to assess the contribution of KINAPA in improving the livelihoods of adjacent communities. This included identification of various opportunities (social, cultural and economic gains) resulting from wildlife conservation and which directly or indirectly contribute to the community livelihoods and ecological sustainability.

The study employed a case study research design. Data were collected through semi structured interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), documentary reviews, questionnaire surveys and observation and the data analyzed using Microsoft Excel and simple descriptive statistics.

The findings of the study indicated there is awareness of the contribution of KINAPA to the community livelihoods through tourism, employment opportunities, training, environmental conservation, business opportunities, source of water and social services like schools, dispensaries, and firewood from the forest. The study concluded that there is a positive relationship between KINAPA and adjacent community and the contribution of KINAPA to the studied community is appreciated for what they are getting.

The study recommended communication as an important tool of maintaining relationship between partners in the process of development. Also, in order to reduce the demand for wood and wood products from the montane forest on Mt. Kilimanjaro, an extensive afforestation programme should be developed and the government should try to harmonize conflicting development policies.