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Grace Mbabazi Aulo
Ag. Director Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda

Sustainable growth and development
Role of tourism in development: A case for Uganda

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Sustainable growth and development - Role of Tourism in Development- A case for UGANDA



Presented by;
Grace Mbabazi Aulo
Ag. Director Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
Email: gmaulo@tourism.go.ug,
aulograce@yahoo.com
Mob: +25675388575



Sustainable development:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”



Sustainable Tourism

‘Sustainable tourism -meets the needs of present tourists and host destinations while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. Thus management of resources through fulfilling economic, social, and aesthetic needs while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity, and life support systems’



Tourism contributes to sustainable development in DC's

- Tourism is a viable tool in alleviating poverty.
- International tourism industry can generate economic and other benefits for the country and communities through responsible and sustainable tourism development and
- Can serve as an instrument to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) –



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- “Tourism, as job creator and a lead export sector, can play a significant role in the achievement of:
 - ❖ MDG₁ – eradication of poverty,
 - ❖ MDG₃ – gender equality,
 - ❖ MDG₇ – environmental sustainability
- Responsible and sustainable tourism allows destinations and companies to minimize the negative impacts of tourism on the environment
- ❖ MDG₈ – global partnerships for development.



Sustainable tourism: three major elements

1. The holistic approach – environment, economy and society/culture
2. The time dimension – long term
3. Include all stakeholders



CORE 1 – THE HOLISTIC APPROACH

Sustainable tourism development sustainable in terms of –

1. Economy
2. Environment
3. Society and culture

Tourism that is: Environmentally, Economically, Socio-culturally viable thus sustainable



CORE 2 – TIME DEMENSION

- **Time dimension** – long lasting (**inter-generational equity**)
- *‘Tourism ...viable over an indefinite period and does not degrade or alter the environment (human and physical)’*
- Ensure that productivity is sustained into the **long term future**



CORE 3 - INCLUDE ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- **Holistic** – includes all aspects and **stakeholders**
- **Cooperation, partnerships and compromises**
- Facilitate and engage **public participation**



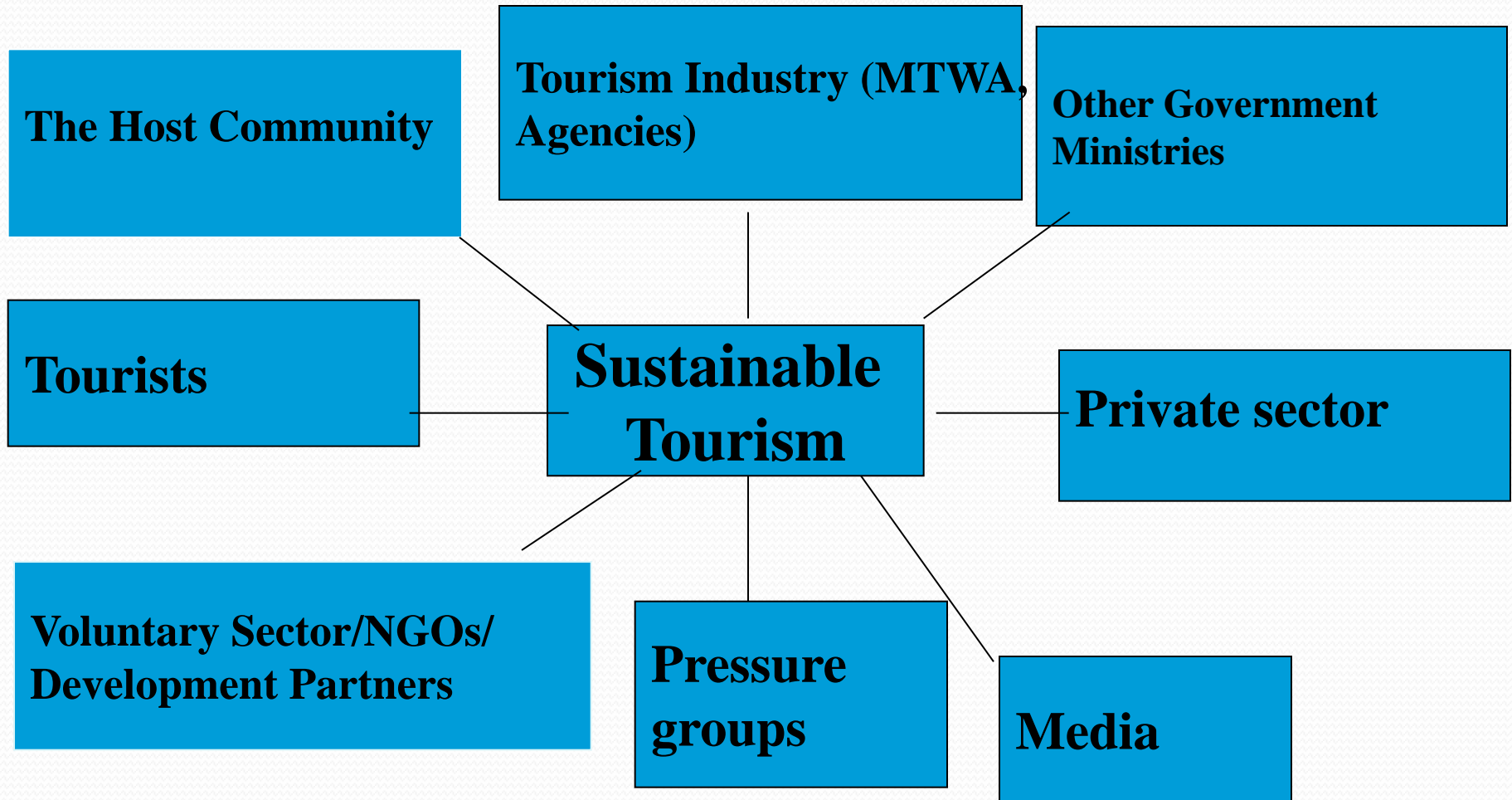
WHAT CAN BE DONE:

Promotion of viable local linkages through domestic entrepreneurship

- **Participation:** all interest groups are involved in the decision making process.
- ❖ For example the **Tourism Sector Working Group** with its committees.
- ❖ **Tourism Coordination Committee (TCC)** with representation from both public and private sector AUTO, TUGATA, USAGA, UHOA, and other related Ministries and agencies.
- ❖ **Tourism Clusters.**
- ❖ **Private sector Associations-** Forum through which pertinent issues by private are articulated e.g. investment incentives, regulatory issues, financing and promotion etc.



Key stakeholders involved sustainable tourism in Uganda





Regional integration in tourism development through the East African Community (EAC)

- Promotion of EAC as a single tourism destination.
- Introduction of a single tourist visa (electronic, on arrival etc)
- Harmonisation of tourism and wildlife policies.
- Harmonisation of standards of facilities and services to deliver quality services.
- Common market protocol will facilitate free movement of people, skills, goods and services to enhance tourism
- Tourism private sector forum.



Investment promotion

Liberal policy environment (for both domestic and foreign investment)

- Implementation of the investment code – 1991
- Privatization of public enterprises
- Reduction of import tariffs (100% tax waiver on tourist vehicles)
- Flexibility of licensing requirements
- Harmonization of tariffs within the East African Community
- Investment incentives specific to the sector



Other important approaches

- Policy on community empowerment (20% gate fees given to communities around protected areas). And pro poor approach designed to unlock opportunities for the poor.
- Promotion of community based tourism (thru' mobilisation, training, sensitisation etc) to provide homestays, hospitality, guides, etc.
- Strong private sector support.
- Improvement on security (tourism police etc)
- Infrastructure amelioration
- Skills development to improve service delivery



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- Promotion and Marketing (media, trade fairs, development of informative websites, PR firms, representations in source markets etc)
- Conservation of tourism resources e.g.. wildlife and cultural resources.
- Gazettement of cultural resources.
- Government direct participation in Diversification of tourism offers for long stays, enjoyment and more spending



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- Improve business environment and develop guidelines to reassure investors.
- Increase air connectivity
- Develop regulations to ensure sustainable development of the sector.
- Improve on coordination and involve all stakeholders in the sector



HOW tourism contributes to sustainable growth and development- Uganda's case

- Tourist arrivals (2011) was 1,151,356 making 17% increase from previous year.
- Visitors to wildlife protected areas were 207994, making 9.4% increase from previous year.
- ❖ Total contribution of travel and Tourism to **GDP** in Uganda (2011) US\$ 1,734million making **9.0%**
- ❖ Tourism foreign exchange earnings(2011),US\$ **805m** contributing to 19.2 % of the total export earnings
- ❖ **Formal employment** (2010/2011) was 154,167 and 14% of the total labour force.
- ❖ **Informal employment** (2009/10) 220,190, constituting 21% of the total informal sector



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- ❖ **Creation of businesses** – hotels, restaurants, personal businesses, recreation centres in 2010/11 were over 64,000 making 14% of registered businesses.
- ❖ **Wealth creation**
- ❖ **Infrastructure development**
- ❖ **Environmental protection.**

Challenges

- ❖ Land tenure system
- ❖ Inadequate infrastructure.
- ❖ Inadequate local capacity
- ❖ Inadequate funding
- ❖ Accessibility
- ❖ Low product development etc.



Conclusion

Issues that are essential in making tourism development contribute to sustainable growth and development include:

- Public and private sector/community participation in tourism planning and management.
- Improve investment climate
- Development of policies, regulations and strategies that support tourism development.
- Increased financing.

THANK YOU !

