

The slide features abstract green geometric shapes on the left and right sides. On the left, a single green triangle points downwards. On the right, a series of overlapping green triangles and polygons of various shades (from light lime to dark forest green) create a dynamic, layered effect. A thin white line runs diagonally across the right side, intersecting the green shapes.

Sustainable Environmental Conservation and Eco-Tourism: a tool for community economic benefit

Presented by: Richard Tooro

Who is Richard Tooro?



- ▶ Richard Tooro was born 64 years ago in Kyobutale village in Kimuhonde stop over village - a walking trade route of natural salt known as Muhonde.
- ▶ A Primary School Teacher turned Tour Operator in 1992, and founder of KABAROLE TOURS & SAFARIS LTD.
- ▶ I was introduced to Tourism in 1991 by a German Doctor

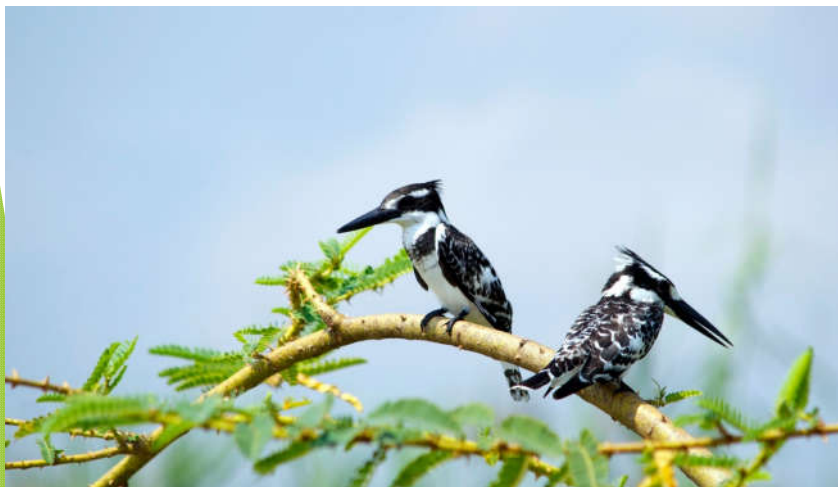
Eco-Tourism - Must Involve Local People

- ▶ I was most Interested in the Local activities around the Fort Portal area, the Rwenzori Mountains, the Crater Lakes, the Forests and Swamps.
- ▶ I realized that **Tourism could not be implemented without the involvement of local people**, the locals know their territory, the trails, the local stories, foods, attractions
- ▶ **Real Eco-Tourism must have meaning + social and economic importance for local people**

Ornithology in Tourism

Involves identifying:

- ▶ Bird species loved most by tourists
- ▶ Bird species that are commonly seen
- ▶ Bird species that are rarely seen
- ▶ Bird species of economic importance
- ▶ Bird species with cultural value



Eco-Tourism Supports Environmental Conservation

Specifically by:

- ▶ Promoting the conservation of forests and wetlands like the Kihingami Wetland
- ▶ Conservation of bodies of water - like Crater Lakes
- ▶ Conservation of biodiversity and defence of species - in particular the habitat of the spotted flufftail and the papyrus Goney that is under threat

Kabarole Tours offers mystical treks with great views of the Rift Valley, Crater Lakes, the Semuliki River and National Park and Congo



Community Benefits of Eco-Tourism


- ▶ Guiding a Tourist from Kazingo to Bungibugyo through the Bwamba Pass, this is a 7/8 hour trek I met a young Teacher and interested him in Tourism
- ▶ This led to the formation of a Community Organization called Abanyarwenzori Mountaineering Association bringing numerous benefits to the Community



Community Benefits of Eco-Tourism

- ▶ Kabarole Tours hiking trails and camp sites have local guides
- ▶ Visitors stay in the communities growing coffee, cocoa, vanilla and local foods
 - ▶ generates extra income for community
 - ▶ a women's tailoring group make cloth from local fabric and export to Sweden
 - ▶ a savings & credit



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Thank you very much for
offering me the opportunity to
tell my story to this important
forum.

RICHARD TOORO.