

**ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF DONOR-FUNDED CONSERVATION
PROJECTS ON COMMUNITY WELFARE IN THE SERENGETI
ECOSYSTEMS; A CASE OF THE SERENGETI DISTRICT**

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and hereby recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania, a dissertation entitled “**Analysis of the Influence of Donor-Funded Conservation Projects on Community Welfare in The Serengeti Ecosystems. A Case of Serengeti District**” in partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts in Project Management of the Open University of Tanzania



Dr. Asha Katamba

(Supervisor)

14th November 2024

.....
Date

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DECLARATION

I, **Lazaro Elibariki Nnko**, declare that the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to other Universities or Institutions. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Project Management.

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Signature

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Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, the late Mr. Elibariki Mirisho Nnko, and my mother, Elinansha Lazaro Pallangyo, for their best care and the great ambition they built in me. They laid a strong foundation for my education.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

This research was carried out to assess donor-funded projects' influence on the welfare of the Serengeti Ecosystems specifically in the villages near the Serengeti National Park. Specifically, the research assessed changes in income, employment, health services, and conservation capacity building. To attain the results, the study was conducted in four villages: Misseke, Parknyigoti, Rwamchanga, and Robanda. To achieve these objectives, the sample size of 390 households was given a questionnaire using a village register as a sampling frame. Simple linear regression was used to study the relationship between the Donor-funded projects and the social welfare of the local community. Research findings showed that there was a statistically significance difference between the donor conservation funds and community welfare. The availability of donor-funded projects has positively influenced the improvement of the community's welfare around the ecosystems in all aspects including community income improvement, Employment opportunities have increased, health services have been improved, and community conservation capacity building has been improved. From the findings, the research concluded that the availability of these initiatives has contributed to sustainable livelihoods, reduced dependence on harmful environmental practices, and fostered a greater sense of ownership and responsibility toward conservation efforts among residents. The study finally recommended that integrating sustainable practices, fostering community resilience, and promoting inclusive governance, efforts can ensure a thriving future for both people and wildlife in the region.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DFP	Donor Funded Project
ERB	Emergency and Recovery Support for Biodiversity
HWC	Human-Wildlife Conflict
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
SCIP	Support for Community Initiated Project
SECP	Serengeti Ecosystems Conservation Project
SEDCP	Serengeti Ecosystems Development Conservation Project
TANAPA	Tanzania National Parks

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

The Serengeti District which is one of the districts lying in the Serengeti Ecosystem hosts a vast expanse of natural beauty and ecological significance in East Africa, has long been the focus of international attention due to its unparalleled biodiversity and the intricate relationship between its resident wildlife and Indigenous human communities (Heinen & Shrivastava, 2009). Situated across northern Tanzania and southwestern Kenya, this region has been the backdrop for numerous donor-funded projects (DFP) that seek to strike a delicate balance between the conservation of its unique natural heritage and the enhancement of the well-being of local communities (Kideghesho, Røskoft & Kaltenborn, 2007). The analysis of these donor-funded initiatives and their influence on community welfare within the Serengeti District represents an imperative endeavor, one that encapsulates the complex interplay between ecological preservation, sustainable development, and socio-economic empowerment (Nuraeni, Mulyati, Putri, Rangkuti, Pratomo, Ak, Ab, Soly, Wijaya, Operasi, Ukuran, Terhadap, Sihaloho, Pratomo, Nurhandono, Amrie, Fauzia, Sukarmanto & Partha, 2017).

The Ecosystem in the Serengeti district is not just a geographical expanse, it is a living testament to the harmonious coexistence of diverse life forms (Kideghesho et al., 2007). Its sprawling savannahs, lush woodlands, and iconic grasslands are home to an awe-inspiring array of wildlife. This ecosystem, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, remains vital to the conservation of these magnificent creatures

and countless other species, all of which contribute to the ecological health of our planet (Sinclair & Mduma, 2002).

However, this pristine wilderness is not devoid of human presence. Indigenous and pastoralist communities, such as the Maasai, have inhabited these lands for generations, forging a unique relationship with the environment and the wildlife that roam freely within it (Kideghesho et al., 2007). These communities have faced their own set of challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The often-tenuous coexistence of people and wildlife has led to complex issues, such as human-wildlife conflict and habitat degradation (Seppey Ridde, Touré & Coulibaly, 2017).

In response to these multifaceted challenges, donor-funded projects have emerged as a crucial mechanism for addressing both conservation imperatives and community welfare enhancement within the Serengeti district (Matsa, Dzawanda, Mupepi, & Hove, 2023). This analysis delves into the intricacies of these donor-funded projects, seeking to understand the socio-economic ramifications, and assessing how they have influenced the livelihoods of local communities, from economic empowerment to improved access to essential services. This examination extends to the realm of sustainability, scrutinizing the long-term viability of these initiatives and their capacity to empower communities to become stewards of their future.

Moreover, this analysis recognizes the nuanced challenges and trade-offs inherent in donor-funded projects, where the noble goals of conservation may sometimes

intersect with the pressing needs of local development. It underscores the importance of community engagement, policy frameworks, and governance structures in shaping the outcomes of these endeavors. In the heart of the Serengeti, where the rhythm of nature's cycles intertwines with the aspirations of communities, the analysis of donor-funded projects takes on a profound significance. It is a journey into the heart of conservation, development, and the coexistence of humanity and the wild. It is an exploration of the delicate dance between preserving a natural wonder and nurturing the well-being of those who call it home.

1.2 Problem Statement

The Serengeti Ecosystem is renowned for its unparalleled biodiversity and cultural significance and has been a focal point for donor-funded projects aimed at balancing conservation efforts with community welfare enhancement (Kideghesho et al., 2007). These initiatives have been potentially addressing pressing issues related to ecological preservation and socio-economic development. There is challenges in achieving a harmonious coexistence between preserving biodiversity and enhancing community livelihoods (Berkes, 2004). Berkes, 2004 pointed out that there is need to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the influence of donor-funded projects on community welfare. Analysis is prompted to present the complex and delicate interplay between conservation goals and the well-being of indigenous communities. While donor-funded projects often emphasize conservation outcomes, there is a need for rigorous evaluation of their influence on community welfare. A crucial aspect of the problem statement revolves around evaluating the extent to which these projects have contributed to socio-economic empowerment among local communities. This

encompasses assessing income-generating opportunities, and the overall quality of life improvement. In many cases, there is limited data available to assess the influence of donor-funded projects comprehensively. This lack of data hinders an accurate evaluation of project outcomes and their implications for community welfare.

1.3 Objectives

To examine the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on community welfare in Serengeti Ecosystems

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

- i. To examine the role of donor-funded conservation projects on local community income.
- ii. To determine the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on improving employment opportunities.
- iii. To examine the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on the accessibility of health services.
- iv. To determine the influence of donor-funded conservation projects in improving conservation capacity building.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on local community income?

- ii. What is the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on improving employment opportunities?
- iii. What is the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on the accessibility of health services?
- iv. What is influences of donor-funded conservation projects in conservation capacity building?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Understanding the influence of donor-funded projects is crucial for safeguarding this pristine wilderness, which has global significance for biodiversity conservation. This study provide insights into how donor-funded projects can mitigate conflicts while ensuring the welfare of both communities and wildlife, offering valuable lessons for other regions facing similar issues (Labonne & Chase, 2011). The analysis shows how donor-funded projects can support sustainable development by enhancing local livelihoods, alleviating poverty, and promoting economic diversification. These lessons can inform development strategies in other ecologically sensitive areas. Assessing the influence on community welfare highlights the importance of community engagement in development initiatives. It underscores the need to involve local communities in decision-making processes and prioritize their well-being. The Serengeti ecosystems attract international attention and funding. Studying donor-funded projects exemplifies effective collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, and international donors, demonstrating the potential of global partnerships in addressing complex environmental and societal challenges. The findings inform policymakers about the strengths and weaknesses of

existing policies related to conservation and community development. This knowledge guides the creation of more effective regulations and governance frameworks. The analysis contributes to scientific knowledge in fields such as conservation biology, ecology, and sustainable development. It provides real-world data and case studies that researchers can use to develop and refine theories and practices. Tourism is a major driver of the economy in the Serengeti region. Understanding the influence of projects on community welfare led to better tourism management strategies, benefiting local economies and job creation. The significance of studying the influence of donor-funded projects in the Serengeti district extends beyond its boundaries. It offers lessons and insights that can inform global efforts to address the intricate challenges of conserving biodiversity, fostering sustainable development, and ensuring the coexistence of humans and wildlife in ecologically sensitive regions worldwide.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter describes the Donor-funded conservation projects in detail showing how different authors describe their influence on community welfare. The Chapter also shows some hypotheses on each subtitle which covers the specific objectives.

2.2 Overview of Donor Funded Project in Serengeti

2.2.1 Support for Community Initiated Projects (SCIP Projects)

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) has been actively supporting community-initiated projects in the Serengeti region to foster sustainable development and conservation efforts. These initiatives are part of TANAPA's broader strategy to engage local communities in conservation while improving their livelihoods. TANAPA's support for community-initiated projects in the Serengeti is a comprehensive approach that addresses both conservation and community development. By fostering a symbiotic relationship between the park and the local people, TANAPA is helping to ensure the preservation of the Serengeti's unique ecosystem while improving the quality of life for those who live in and around the park.

2.2.2 Serengeti Ecosystems Development Conservation Project (SEDCP Project)

The Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project (SEDCP) is a comprehensive initiative aimed at preserving the Serengeti's unique biodiversity

while promoting sustainable development for local communities. This project integrates various strategies to address the environmental and socio-economic challenges in the region. This project represents a holistic approach to conservation and development. By addressing both environmental and socio-economic aspects, the SEDCP aims to create a sustainable future for the Serengeti and its inhabitants. This project exemplifies the interconnectedness of human well-being and environmental health, demonstrating that conservation efforts can lead to substantial benefits for local communities and biodiversity alike. The project is implemented by FZS and TANAPA.

2.2.3 Human Wildlife Conflict Project (HWC Project)

The Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Project is a targeted initiative designed to mitigate conflicts between local communities and wildlife in the Serengeti region. This project seeks to address the challenges posed by the proximity of human settlements to wildlife habitats, which often lead to crop damage, livestock predation, and threats to human safety. Project is a crucial initiative that addresses the delicate balance between wildlife conservation and human development. By implementing a combination of preventive measures, compensation schemes, community engagement, livelihood diversification, and research, the HWC Project aims to create a sustainable coexistence framework. This project not only protects wildlife but also ensures the well-being and prosperity of local communities, fostering a harmonious relationship between humans and nature in the Serengeti region. This project is implemented by FZS.

2.2.4 Emergency and Recovery Support for Biodiversity in Tanzania Project (ERB Project)

The Emergency and Recovery Support for Biodiversity in Tanzania Project in the Serengeti is an initiative aimed at addressing urgent threats to biodiversity and fostering the recovery of ecosystems affected by natural and human-induced disturbances. This project is crucial for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Serengeti, which is home to some of the most iconic wildlife species in the world. Project in the Serengeti is a vital initiative to protect and restore the region's biodiversity. By addressing immediate threats, facilitating ecosystem recovery, engaging local communities, and strengthening conservation infrastructure, this project aims to ensure the long-term health and resilience of the Serengeti's ecosystems. It exemplifies a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation, integrating emergency response with sustainable development and community empowerment. This is implemented by TANAPA in collaboration with FZS.

2.3 Definition of Key Terms

2.3.1 Donor-Funded Project

DFP refer to initiatives or programs implemented that are financially supported by external organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or individuals (Alalwan Yogesh, Nripendra, & Williams, 2016). These projects are typically aimed at achieving specific goals, such as conservation, community development, or both, and are funded by entities other than the local government or community.

2.3.2 Community Welfare

Community welfare encompasses the overall well-being and quality of life of the local communities residing within and around a particular area. It includes various aspects such as access to basic services such as healthcare, education, clean water, income levels, employment opportunities, social cohesion, and cultural preservation (McKinnon Cheng, Dupre, Edmond, Garside, Glew, Holland, Levine, Masuda, Miller, Oliveira, Revenaz, Roe, Shamer, Wilkie, Wongbusarakum, & Woodhouse, 2016).

2.3.3 Serengeti Ecosystem

The Serengeti Ecosystem refers to the vast geographical region spanning northern Tanzania and southwestern Kenya, characterized by diverse landscapes, including savannahs, woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands (Kideghesho et al., 2007).

2.3.4 Conservation

Conservation refers to the protection and sustainable management of the natural environment, including wildlife, ecosystems, and biodiversity. In the context of the Serengeti Ecosystem, conservation aims to safeguard the region's ecological integrity and prevent the loss of biodiversity (McShane, Hirsch, Trung, Songorwa, Kinzig, Monteferri, Mutekanga, Thang, Van, Dammert, Pulgar-Vidal, Welch-Devine, Peter Brosius, Coppolillo, & O'Connor, 2011).

2.3.5 Employment Opportunity

Employment opportunity refers to the chance or possibility for an individual to gain

employment or a job (Boman, Kjellberg, Danermark, & Boman, 2015). It encompasses the availability of job openings or positions that individuals can apply for, with the potential for being hired or employed. When people refer to seeking employment opportunities, they are typically looking for job openings that align with their skills, qualifications, and career goals (Muganda, Sahli, & Smith, 2010). Employers or organizations create these opportunities when they need an additional workforce, whether due to growth, replacement of departing employees, or the creation of new positions. The term is commonly used in the context of job searches, career planning, and discussions about the labor market.

2.3.6 Capacity Building

Capacity building refers to the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, resources, and structures of individuals, organizations, and communities to effectively achieve their goals and objectives (O'Connell, Nasirwa, Carter, Farmer, .., Appleton, Arinaitwe, Bhanderi, Chimwaza, Copsey, Dodoo, Duthie, Gachanja, Hunter, Karanja, Komu, Kosgei, Kuria, Magero, Manten, & Wilson, 2019). It is a long-term and sustainable approach to enhancing the capacity and capabilities of entities to address challenges, improve performance, and adapt to changes. Capacity building can occur in various sectors, including education, healthcare, business, government, and nonprofit organizations (Mumaw, Maller, & Bekessy, 2019). The focus is on empowering individuals and groups to acquire new knowledge, skills, and attitudes, as well as improving the overall infrastructure and systems that support their work.

2.3.7 Accessibility to Health Care

Accessibility to health services refers to the ease with which individuals can obtain timely and affordable healthcare when needed (Wan, Colfer, & Powell, 2011) It encompasses various factors that influence a person's ability to reach and use healthcare services effectively. Accessibility is a critical component of healthcare systems and is essential for promoting equitable health outcomes (Webb, Jennings, & Minovet, 2018). Improving accessibility to health services is a fundamental goal for healthcare systems and policymakers to ensure that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, geographic location, or cultural background, can receive the healthcare they need. Achieving greater accessibility contributes to better population health and reduces health disparities (Baldus, R. D. & Cauldwell, 2013).

2.4 Theoretical Review

This framework provides a lens through which to assess the degree to which donor-funded projects in the Serengeti involve and benefit local communities, either through decision-making, capacity-building, or revenue-sharing mechanisms. Donor conservation projects are often aimed at protecting wildlife and natural resources, but they also intersect with local communities' welfare. Understanding this influence is essential, given the ongoing discussions about sustainable development, conservation, and local community well-being. Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) theory advocates for involving local communities in the management of natural resources. It holds that empowering communities to participate actively in conservation activities can yield better outcomes for both conservation and community welfare.

Social Exchange Theory explains human behavior through the lens of cost-benefit analysis, proposing that individuals and groups are likely to support actions that maximize benefits and minimize costs. Applied to conservation projects, this theory suggests that local communities will engage in conservation efforts if they perceive the benefits such as employment, income from tourism, or improved infrastructure outweigh the costs, like restricted access to natural resources. This theory helps assess community attitudes towards donor-funded conservation projects based on their perceived tangible benefits or burdens.

2.5 Empirical review

2.5.1 Donor-Funded Conservation Projects on the Local Community Income

DFP in the Serengeti have demonstrated notable success in protecting wildlife and their habitats. Coad, Campbell, Miles, & Humphries, (2008) indicate that these initiatives have contributed to reducing poaching and ensuring the survival of iconic species such as lions, elephants, and rhinos. Moreover, they have helped maintain the delicate balance of ecosystems, benefiting both wildlife and local communities (Njuguna, 2016). The Serengeti's local communities, primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock herding, have often faced challenges arising from conservation efforts (Nkonya et al., 2012). Donor-funded conservation projects have potentially contributed to the economic development of local communities through tourism revenue, job creation, infrastructure development, and community engagement (Ferraro & Hanauer, 2011). The Serengeti is a significant tourist attraction, drawing visitors from around the world. Donor-funded projects have contributed to the growth of tourism, generating substantial revenue. Income from

lodges, safaris, and park fees has the potential to improve the local economy (Gjertsen, 2005). Conservation projects create job opportunities for residents, including roles in park management, guiding, and hospitality (Labonne & Chase, 2011). These jobs can enhance livelihoods and reduce dependence on agriculture (Salafsky & Wollenberg, 2000). To address tensions between conservation and local livelihoods, some projects have adopted community-based conservation models. These initiatives involve local communities in decision-making and revenue-sharing, aiming to align conservation goals with economic development. These livelihoods can reduce dependency on agriculture and alleviate poverty (Berkes, 2004).

H1; Donor-funded conservation projects positively influence the improvement of local community income.

2.5.2 Donor Fund Conservation Project and the Employment Opportunity

There is a relationship between conservation efforts and local community employment opportunities. Conservation projects aim to protect its unique biodiversity while also considering their influence on the employment opportunities for local communities (Ntuli, 2019). Through livelihood diversification, empowerment, and cultural preservation, these projects contribute positively to the lives of community members (McKinnon et al., 2016). Though, challenges related to resettlement, resource access, and governance conservation projects ensure that conservation efforts truly enhance employment opportunities while safeguarding the region's biodiversity (Mahajan & Daw, 2016). Many projects invest in education and awareness programs for local communities. These initiatives aim to increase environmental literacy, promote conservation ethics, and empower community

members to participate in sustainable conservation (Lhomme, Michez, Christmann, Scheuchl, Abdouni, Hamroud, Ihsane, Sentil, Smaili, Schwarz, Dathe, Straka, Pauly, Schmid-Egger, Patiny, Terzo, Müller, Praz, Risch & Rasmont, 2020). Job opportunities in ecotourism, conservation-related employment, and handicraft production provide alternative sources of income for community members, reducing dependence on agriculture (Njuguna, 2016).

H2; Donor-funded conservation projects positively influence employment opportunities.

2.5.3 Donor-funded Conservation Projects for the Health Services

Donor-funded Conservation projects often focus on improving the physical infrastructure of health facilities (Berkes, 2004). This may involve constructing new hospitals and clinics or upgrading existing facilities to meet modern health standards. Capacity building is a critical aspect of health projects. Some of the Donors fund training programs for healthcare professionals to enhance their skills and knowledge. This helps in improving the overall quality of health service. Community-based health programs that focus on health education, awareness, and preventive measures are also supported in various areas. These programs often aim to empower local communities to take an active role in maintaining their health while implementing conservation (Ltumbesi & Okech, 2016). According to Nuraeni et al.(2017) in some cases, conservation projects have supported the development of healthcare facilities and infrastructure in local communities. Improved access to healthcare services enhances the availability of healthcare.

H3; Donor-funded conservation projects positively influence the accessibility of health services.

2.5.4 Donor-funded Projects and Capacity Building for the Local Community

Conservation efforts in the region have increasingly recognized the importance of involving local communities in the management of these projects (Sinclaira, Collinsa, and Spalingb, 2011). The participation of local communities in the management of conservation in the Serengeti has shown promise in achieving conservation goals while improving the well-being of community members. Community-based conservation models, stakeholder engagement, and participatory research methods have facilitated capacity-building (Berkes, 2004). Capacity building in the management of conservation projects varies in scope and depth (Kuria & Wanyoiki, 2016). The capacity of local communities in conservation management in different conservation areas has demonstrated several positive influence (Berkes, 2004). Research suggests that projects with capacitated communities tend to achieve better conservation outcomes, including reduced poaching, habitat preservation, and enhanced ecosystem health. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and participation among community members (Sinclaira et al., 2011). Local communities may require capacity-building support to effectively participate in conservation management (He, Yang, & Min, 2020). Conflicts may arise between conservation goals and community interests. Effective conflict resolution mechanisms are needed to address these issues (Warner, 1997). Some projects adopt community-based conservation models, involving local communities in decision-making processes. This require capacity building in project planning foe effective conservation projects engagement (Hofisi & Chizimba, 2013).

H4; Donor funded conservation project has positive influence on the conservation capacity building.

2.6 Research Variables

In research, variables might be characteristics, ideas, phenomena, or social phenomena that are measured (Kothari, 2008). There are two categories of variables: independent and dependent. In this study the dependent variables include local community income, Employment opportunity, access to health care, Capacity building. Meanwhile, the independent variables are donor funded conservation projects.

2.7 Research Gap

The literature on conservation projects and their socio-economic benefits is expanding, but there aren't many in-depth studies that particularly examine donor-funded conservation projects in the Serengeti District and their effects on community welfare, both directly and indirectly. Understanding the complex dynamics and results of such projects within the distinct socio-cultural and environmental setting of the Serengeti District is greatly hampered by the fact that most existing research is either sectoral or regional in scope. Previous research frequently falls short of providing a thorough analysis of the complex aspects of community welfare in the Serengeti District within the framework of donor-funded conservation projects. One issue that needs more research is the fair allocation of expenses and benefits among various community groups, particularly those that are most vulnerable. Some research just looks at the short-term consequences of projects, not the long-term

implications on community welfare. A research gap exists in the systematic comparison of different initiatives to derive lessons that can be applied to achieve successful community welfare results. It is debatable whether results from larger studies can be applied to the distinct socio-cultural and environmental context of the Serengeti District. Research on developing context-specific information that can direct the creation and application of successful conservation methods according to the requirements and goals of the surrounding communities is lacking.

Addressing these research gaps contribute significantly to the development of evidence-based strategies for optimizing the positive influence of donor-funded conservation projects on the welfare of communities in the Serengeti District

2.8 Conceptual Framework of the study

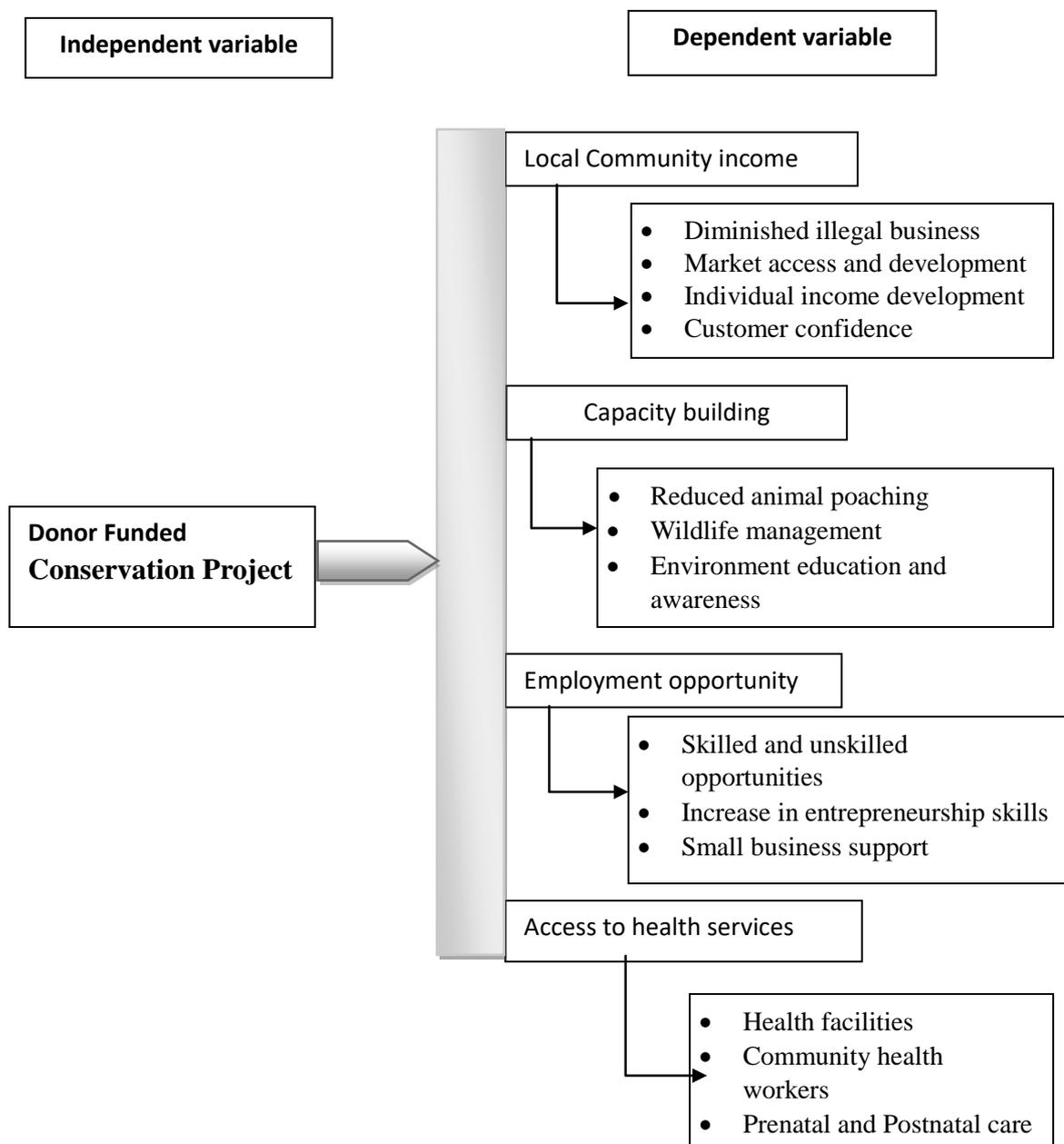


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter describes the research topic, reconnaissance survey research. Sampling Procedure and sample size determination that the study used to address the research objectives in Chapter 1. The purpose of the research design was to validate the conceptual framework of the study to test the hypothesis proposed in Chapter 2. As a result, this chapter explains sample size and sampling procedures, research variables, measurement scale reliability, data collection process, and data analysis techniques. The chapter concludes with procedures for ethical consideration.

3.2 Research Philosophy

This study applied positivism as its guiding principle and conducted quantitative research (Park, Konge, L., & Artino., 2020). The study was characterized by a belief in the scientific method and the idea that knowledge is derived from empirical observation and measurable phenomena. Positivism emphasizes the importance of facts, evidence, and the scientific method in understanding the world.

3.3 Research Approach

The research approach for this study was Quantitative since it involved collecting and analyzing numerical data to uncover patterns, test theories, and make predictions (Cherney, Head, Boreham, Povey, & Ferguson, 2012). Moreover, the Quantitative research is often associated with the use of structured tools, questionnaires which were in this case used (Cherney et al., 2012).

3.4 Research Design

Based on the research concept, descriptive design was adopted for this investigation. This is because descriptive design focus on observing, describing, and documenting aspects of a situation or phenomenon without influencing it (Stadtländer, 2009). Furthermore, the descriptive design excels in examining the connections between variables.

3.5 Study Area

The study was conducted in the Serengeti district which occupies the largest part of the Mara region. The main part of Serengeti is occupied by Serengeti ecosystem; therefore, the district is left with little arable land (Mwaseba & Kigoda, 2017). The study involved four villages with proximity to the Serengeti ecosystem as well as the presence of ongoing donor projects in the village.

3.6 Population of the Study

The researcher aimed to generalize the findings of the investigation. Population stands for a distinct group of individuals out of a large population chosen to respond to questions regarding the whole population, where the researcher preferred to collect data. Typically, the target population exhibits a range of characteristics. The targeted wards were Ikoma ward with 6,223 and Manchira ward with 8,960 population (URT, 2022). The selected ward was due to their proximity to Serengeti National Park and several donor projects implemented, to which the findings generalized to Serengeti Ecosystem.

3.7 Reconnaissance Survey

A pre-visit as well as pre-testing of questionnaires and checklists for clarity, comprehensiveness, redundancy, and meaningfulness was conducted to enable the researcher to be familiar with the study area. During the survey, two households from each of the identified villages were randomly selected and interviewed to pre-test the questionnaire to check the reliability and validity of the questions. Some corrections were made to meet the research objectives.

3.8 Research Scope

To accurately depict the ecosystems of the Serengeti, this study exclusively concentrated on local populations inside the Serengeti district. This is because the Serengeti District is the largest populous area inside the Serengeti Ecosystem and a large portion of the items utilized in the Serengeti National Park originate there as well (Kideghesho et al., 2007). Additionally, the Serengeti Ecosystem's adjacent Serengeti District is the hub of economic development and several donor projects have been implemented in the area as well (Magige, 2001). Therefore, this study involved the local community actively participating in the implementation of donor projects in the village as well as village leaders. It was crucial to choose the Serengeti district as the study location because of these characteristics.

3.9 Sampling Frame

This term refers to a list of all the constituents of the population from which the samples were taken (Kothari, 2008). The frame is necessary to ensure that every member of the population is identified and has an equal chance of being chosen as a subject or element. The sampling frame of the study was the village register.

3.10 Sample Size Determination

According to (Kothari C, 2008), Sample size is the act of selecting the number of respondents to represent the whole. It is an important item in a study to make interpretations about a particular population. A researcher used Slovin's formula to obtain a sample from a targeted population. The formula is shown below (Nuraeni et al., 2017; Rono, 2018).

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N(e^2))}$$

Where:

n is the required sample size.

N is the total population size.

e is the margin of error (Desirable error was 0.05)

$$n = \frac{15183}{(1 + 15183(0.05^2))}$$

$$n=390$$

Therefore, the sample size was 390.

3.11 Sampling Procedure

This adopted Random sampling to select wards with donor-funded projects and a simple random sampling (SRS) technique to select respondents. In simple random sampling, each sampling unit of a population had an equal chance of being included in the sample. All units in the survey population were listed and given numbers generated by a researcher.

3.12 Data Collection

Questionnaires were used for data collection. The sampled individuals were requested to respond to a questionnaire and the responses were recorded for analysis (Nuraeni et al., 2017). This method was chosen because it is very economical and fairly accurate.

3.13 Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics mainly frequency was used to in the analysis of the information acquired from respondents (Maravelakis, 2019). On the other hand, the linear regression model was used to test the hypothesis and the results on whether to reject or accept the null hypothesis (Petrucci, 2009). The linear regression analysis was used in this study because the study had one independent variable and one dependent variable in each objective (Petrucci, 2009) hence providing a more comprehensive understanding of the relationships between variables, allowing researchers to explore how different aspects of a dependent variable may be influenced by a single independent variable.

3.14 Ethical Consideration

So many ethical concerns were considered, including acquiring a letter of approval from the University to collect the data, The data collection forms were also submitted to the supervisor for approval, as well as the postgraduate office, which issued the clearance letter. This approval process protected both the communities and the researchers in Serengeti Ecosystems. Also, during the data collection process, communities were informed that participation was voluntary and that no one would

force them to provide data on the Donor-funded projects. Similarly, communities' information would be kept strictly confidential.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the study grounded in the study's objectives expressed in Chapter 1. The study sought to determine the influence of donor-funded conservation projects on the improvement of local community income, Employment opportunities, health services, and the awareness of conservation education in Serengeti Districts. The chapter included descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics consist of the response rate of the questionnaire on demographic profile of the respondents. Also, simple linear regression and correlation analysis was carried out to check out the relation between the variables.

4.2 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Questions were designed to generate data on the characteristics of the respondents to this study. The information was essential in determining the characteristics and nature of the study population. Overall respondents were requested to indicate their sex, age, educational background, and involvement in the donor-funded projects.

Table 4.1: Demographic Profile of the Respondent

Variable	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	267	68.5
Female	123	31.5
Total	390	100
Education		
Primary	71	18.2
Secondary incomplete	21	5.4
Secondary complete	188	48.2
College	93	23.8
University	17	4.4
Total	390	100.0
Involvement in DFP		
Frequently	155	39.8
Occasionally	132	33.7
Rarely	81	20.8
Never	22	5.6
Total	390	100.0
Age group		
21-30	109.0	27.9
31-40	193.0	49.5
41-50	49.0	12.6
Over 50 years	39.0	10.0

As seen in Table 1, the male-female proportion of the participants appears to be different, male respondents seemed to be more than the female. This considerably indicates that majority of the households are headed by male. Regarding the age group of respondents, the first group had a frequency of 109 (27.9%) respondents were within the age category of 21–30 years of age. The second group had 193 (49.5%) respondents within the age category of 31–40 years. The third group was 49

(12.6 %) respondents within the age category of 41–50 years, and the last was 39 (10.0%) respondents within the age category of over 50 years. In sum, most of the respondents were within the age category of 31–40 years, which implies that most of the respondents were young and, at the dynamic age level needed projects. Regarding educational background, a large number of respondents, 188 (48.2 %), had secondary education, followed by those with a college education, 93 (23.8%), while those with a degree, primary and secondary incomplete were 4.4% ,5.4 % and 18% respectively. This shows that most of the respondents had secondary education and found it convenient to carry out the data collection. Concerning involvement in the donor conservation project 39.7% of the respondents were involved in donor projects while 33% occasionally were involved. This indicates that most of the respondents have a wide range of experience in donor-fund conservation project work.

4.3 Inferential Statistics

To study and investigate the relationship between donor conservation initiatives (an independent variable) and societal welfare (a dependent variable), simple linear regression analysis is used. Regression analysis determines the effect of one variable on another. A simple linear regression was used in this investigation to validate the link between independent and dependent variables. However, before running the regression model, a researcher conducted model diagnostics to test the fundamental assumptions of regression. These include linearity tests, distribution normality, and the dependability of the link between the independent and dependent variables.

4.3.1 Linearity

Testing for linearity is an essential step in validating the assumptions of a linear regression model. Linearity means that the relationship between the independent variables (predictors) and the dependent variable (response) is linear. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient (often simply called Pearson's correlation coefficient) is a measure of the linear relationship between two variables. It ranges from -1 to 1. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient is a valuable measure for quantifying the linear relationship between two variables. It provides both the strength and direction of the relationship and, when combined with p-values, offers a statistical significance measure of this relationship.

The linearity test aims to determine whether the relationship between a dependent variable and independent variables is linear or not (Arai, 2016). If the linear significance value is < 0.05 , a linear relationship is found. For this study, the test shows that the significance value of the independent variable against each dependent variable is less than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a linear relationship between Donor funded project (an independent variable) and each dependent variable, as presented in (Table 2).

Table 4.2 : Person's Correlation

		Correlations			
		Local income	Employment Opportunity	Health services	Conservation education
Local income	Pearson Correlation	1	.474**	.362**	.417**
	Sig. (2- tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	390	390	390	390
Employment opportunity	Pearson Correlation	.474**	1	.357**	.498**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	390	390	390	390
Health services	Pearson Correlation	.362**	.357**	1	.285**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	390	390	390	390
Conservation education	Pearson Correlation	.417**	.498**	.285**	1
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	390	390	390	390

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.3.2 Normality Distribution Test

Regression analyses need the independent variable to be normally distributed. Skewness and kurtosis are statistical tools that can enable us to check if the data is normally distributed or not. Skewness assesses the extent to which a variable's distribution is symmetrical (Hair et al., 2022). On the other hand, kurtosis refers to a measure of whether the data are heavy-tailed or light-tailed relative to a normal distribution. When both skewness and kurtosis are close to zero, the pattern of responses is considered a normal distribution (George & Mallery, 2016). For this

study, the skewness and kurtosis test results are close to zero, and it can be concluded that the data for all variables are normally distributed (Table 3).

Table 3: Normality Distribution Test

Dependent variables	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Local income	390	-.721	.124	.865	.247
Employment opportunity	390	.961	.124	-.009	.247
Health services	390	-.767	.124	-.497	.247
Conservation education	390	.884	.124	.671	.247

4.3.3 Reliability

Reliability is defined as the degree to which the scores in a specific sample are free from random measurement error (Pallant, 2007). The most common measure of reliability is the Cronbach's alpha. It is recommended that Alpha values of .70 and above show acceptable internal consistency of the measurement scale (Field, 2013). The values for Cronbach Alpha are as shown in Table 4 below for all dependent variables. From the reliability results was revealed that the values Cronbach Alpha was .713, (Table 4) which is regarded highly reliable of data (Hair et al. 2010).

Table 4.4: Reliability Test

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.713	4

4.4 Donor Funding Projects on improving the Local Community Income

The results show that there is a statistically significant between donor funding and the improvement of the local community income ($P < 0.05$) Table 6. The correlation coefficient value, $r = .70$, shows that Donor funding is a good predictor of project local community income improvement. Moreover, $R^2 = .54$ suggests that 54% of the variation in the local income is explained by the presence of a donor-funded project. This implies that 46% is explained by other factors that were not included in the model. This is well summarized in Table 5.

Table 4.5: Model Summary of Donor Projects on Local Community Income

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.70 ^a	.54	.48	.07126

a. Predictors: (Constant), Donor funded projects

The F-test result and the P-value presented in the ANOVA Table 3 below show whether the overall regression model is a good predictor and the probability that this result occurred by chance or not. In this regard, the F-test result is 3.892, with a significance of less than 0.05. This means the probability that those results occur by chance is < 0.05 . This implies that 95 times out of 100, the estimate will reflect the true population characteristic. And it can be concluded that the overall regression model is significant: $F(1, 388) = 3.892$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 54\%$ (that is, the regression model is good enough to fit the data). Therefore, a significant and positive improvement in the local community income is influenced by the presence of donor-funded projects. In other words, independent variables significantly predict the dependent variable hence the results fail to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 4.6: Analysis of Variance for Donor Projects on Local Income

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	.020	1	.020	3.892	.049 ^b
Residual	1.970	388	.005		
Total	1.990	389			

a. Dependent Variable: Income
b. Predictors: (Constant), Donor projects

Table 4.7: Linear Regression Coefficients of Donor Projects on Local Income

Coefficients					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	3.984	.011		353.846	0.000
Experience with Donor projects	.005	.002	.100	1.973	.049

a. Dependent Variable: Income

The interpretation of the table above (Table 7) shows that the independent variable (Donor projects) positively influences the dependent variable (Local community income) by .005 (Beta coefficient) and the relationship was significant at .000. Various donor projects implemented in the village have provided legal business training and financial assistance. This kind of support helps communities transition from illegal practices to sustainable and legal businesses (Bitariho, Emmanuel, Akampurira, & Mugerwa, 2022). During the study, the community agreed that Donor projects frequently help develop markets for local products and services through market access. The community revealed that market access is always developed by

creating supply chains, facilitating market linkages, and promoting local goods to wider audiences. With better market access, businesses sell products at higher prices and to larger customer bases, boosting revenues. Donor projects have also focused on creating and strengthening market linkages.

Study Matsa, Dzawanda, Mupepi, & Hove, (2023) indicates that establishing cooperatives and associations, local producers can pool resources, share knowledge, and collectively market their products. These organizations often can facilitate direct connections with buyers and reduce the reliance on intermediaries, ensuring that producers receive fair prices for their goods. Donor projects often provide essential capital and resources that local entrepreneurs and businesses might otherwise lack. This includes funding for startup costs, infrastructure improvements, and procurement of necessary equipment (Santy, Loffeld, Paterson, Copsey, Bakarr, Rainer, Rehse, Bjorgvinsdottir, Scholfield, Kiragu Mwangi, & Christen, (2022). These investments have significantly enhanced the productivity and profitability of local enterprises. The introduction of microfinance services has played a critical role in individual income development. Similar study by Holmern, Muya, & Røskaft, (2007) indicate that small loans and grants enable entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses, purchase necessary equipment, and invest in better production techniques. Access to financial resources has been pivotal in breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering economic independence (Mcdowell, 2012). Donor-funded projects have promoted the diversification of income sources by encouraging sustainable economic activities such as eco-tourism, beekeeping, handicrafts, and organic farming. This diversification reduces reliance on a single income stream,

making individuals less vulnerable to economic shocks and seasonal variations. The local also revealed that the availability of donor-funded projects has led to investments in infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, and energy supply can reduce operational costs and increase efficiency. Improved infrastructure facilitates better transportation of goods, access to information, and overall smoother business operations, leading to an increase of customers' confidence in purchasing. Key to market access is the improvement of infrastructure Donor projects have funded the construction and renovation of roads, bridges, and transportation networks (Lewis, Young, Gibbons, & Jones.,, 2018). These enhancements have significantly reduced transportation costs and time, enabling local producers to deliver goods to markets more efficiently and reliably. Improved infrastructure also facilitates better access to essential services and resources, further supporting economic activities.

4.5 Donor Funding Projects on Employment Opportunity

The results show that there is a statistically significant difference between donor funding and the employment opportunities income ($P < 0.05$) Table 9. The correlation coefficient value, $r = .83$, shows that Donor funding is a good predictor of employment opportunity. Moreover, $R^2 = .61$ suggests that 61% of the variation in the employment opportunity is explained by the presence of donor-funded projects. This implies that 39% is explained by other factors that were not included in the model. This is well summarized in Table 8.

Table 4.8: Model Summary of Donor Projects on Employment Opportunity

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.83 ^a	.61	.011	.56982

a. Predictors: (Constant), Donor projects

The F-test result and the P-value presented in the ANOVA Table 9 below show whether the overall regression model is a good predictor and the probability that this result occurred by chance or not. In this regard, the F-test result is 5.42, with a significance of less than 0.05. This means the probability that those results occur by chance is < 0.05 . This implies that, 95 times out of 100, the estimate will reflect the true population characteristic. And it can be concluded that the overall regression model is significant: $F(1, 388) = 5.42, P < 0.05, R^2 = .61\%$ (that is, the regression model is good enough to fit the data). Therefore, there is significant evidence that employment opportunities are influenced by the presence of donor-funded projects. In other words, independent variables significantly predict the dependent variable hence the results fail to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 4.9: Analysis of Variance for Donor Projects on Employment Opportunities

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.763	1	1.763	5.428	.020 ^b
	Residual	125.981	388	.325		
	Total	127.744	389			

a. Dependent Variable: Employment opportunities
b. Predictors: (Constant), Donor projects

Table 4.10: Linear Regression Coefficients of Donor Projects on Employment

opportunity

		Coefficients				
		Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
Model		B		Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.776	.090		41.933	.000
	Donor projects	.045	.019	.117	2.330	.020

a. Dependent Variable: Employment opportunities

The interpretation of the table above (Table 10) shows that the independent variable (Donor projects) positively affects the dependent variable (employment opportunities) by .045 (Beta coefficient) and the relationship was significant at .000. In this study the local community agrees that the presence of donor projects has increased the availability of skilled and unskilled opportunities in the village. Study by Labonne & Chase, 2011 indicate that donor projects have also focused on improving education services, leading to employment opportunities for teachers and educational administrators. Enhanced education systems contribute to long-term economic growth by building a more educated workforce. Many donor-funded projects involve the construction of schools, healthcare facilities, and roads. These projects provide numerous unskilled labor opportunities, offering immediate employment for residents (Ferraro & Hanauer, 2011). Such jobs are crucial for those without formal education or specialized skills. On the other hand, respondents showed that entrepreneurship has increased in the village due to the presence of donor projects that build capacity for ecotourism initiatives. Some donor-funded

projects focus on promoting eco-tourism, which require guides, hospitality staff, drivers, cooks, maintenance workers, and administrative personnel. By attracting more tourists, these projects generate employment in tourism-related services. Projects promoting local crafts and artisanal products have provided unskilled employment opportunities. Residents can create and sell traditional handicrafts, benefiting from training that enhances their skills and market access. Sustainable agriculture projects have created numerous unskilled job opportunities (Kiambi & Mugambi, 2019).

The presence of small businesses has been supported by donor-funded projects in various ways. This often includes components that provide microloans, grants, and training to support small business development. This financial and educational support enables individuals to start and expand their businesses, thereby creating self-employment opportunities and potentially hiring others as their businesses grow. On the other hand, Donor initiatives frequently support sustainable agricultural practices and handicraft production. Training and resources provided through these projects enable locals to engage in farming, animal husbandry, and craft-making, thereby creating new jobs and enhancing income. Donor-funded projects have offered extensive training programs focused on business management, financial literacy, marketing, and technical skills relevant to various industries (Matsa et al., 2023). These capacity-building efforts empower local entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to run their businesses effectively, increase productivity, and improve the quality of their products and services (Muganda et al., 2010).

4.6 Donor Funding Projects on Health Services

The results show that there is a statistically significant between donor funding and the improvement of health facilities ($P < 0.05$) Table 12. From the model summary the correlation coefficient value, $r = .73$, shows that Donor funding is a good predictor of health facility improvement. Moreover, $R^2 = .68$ suggests that 68% of the variation in the health facilities is explained by the presence of a donor-funded project. This implies that 32.0% is explained by other factors that were not included in the model. This is well summarized in Table 11.

Table 4.11: Model Summary of Donor Projects on Employment Opportunity

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.73 ^a	.68	.009	.58977

a. Predictors: (Constant) Donor projects

The F-test result and the P-value presented in the ANOVA Table 12 below show whether the overall regression model is a good predictor and the probability that this result occurred by chance or not. In this regard, the F-test result is 4.64, with a significance of less than 0.05. This means the probability that those results occur by chance is < 0.05 . This implies that, 95 times out of 100, the estimate will reflect the true population characteristic. And it can be concluded that the overall regression model is significant: $F(1, 388) = 4.630$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 68\%$ (that is, the regression model is good enough to fit the data). Therefore, a significant improvement in the local health facilities is influenced by the presence of donor-funded projects. In other

words, independent variables significantly predict the dependent variable hence the results fail to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 4.12: Analysis of Variance for Donor Projects on Health Services

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1.610	1	1.610	4.630	.032 ^b
Residual	134.956	388	.348		
Total	136.567	389			

a. Dependent Variable: Health services
b. Predictors: (Constant), Donor projects

Table 4.13: Linear Regression Coefficients of Donor Projects on Health Services

Coefficients					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	3.777	.093		40.526	.000
Donor projects	.043	.020	.109	2.152	.032

a. Dependent Variable: Health services

The interpretation of the table above (Table 13) Shows that keeping other factors constant the independent variable (Donor funded projects) positively affects the dependent variable (Health services) by .045 (Beta coefficient) and the relationship was significant at .000. Donor-funding projects focused on the development of health services in the villages surrounding Serengeti National Park have significantly improved healthcare access and outcomes. The majority of the local community agreed during the study that health facilities have been supported by donor projects in the villages. Donor funds have been used to build new health clinics and renovate

existing facilities. This includes equipping clinics with essential medical equipment, clean water supplies, and reliable electricity. Study by Webb et al., 2018 indicate that the construction and renovation of health clinics and hospitals have made healthcare services more accessible to communities. New facilities located within or near the communities, can allow individuals to receive timely medical attention, reducing the risk of complications and mortality (Ltumbesi & Okech, 2016).

During the study, respondents agreed that the availability of different donor projects has often influenced the provision of health education. The donor-funded projects have often included community outreach and education programs that focus on hygiene, nutrition, family planning, and preventing communicable diseases. These campaigns empower individuals with the knowledge to make healthier choices. Some initiatives target schools, providing health education to students and regular health check-ups to ensure early detection and treatment of health issues. The presence of more health facilities has facilitated increased health education and preventive care initiatives. Health professionals can conduct community outreach programs to educate residents on hygiene, nutrition, disease prevention, and family planning (Chapman, Van Bavel, Boodman, Ghai, Gogarten, Hartter, Mechak, Omeja, , Poonawala, Tuli, & Goldberg, 2015). These efforts help prevent the onset of diseases and promote healthier lifestyles.

With better access to healthcare services, there has been a noticeable reduction in both mortality and morbidity rates. Improved maternal and child health services have significantly decreased maternal and infant mortality rates. Effective management of

diseases and health conditions has also led to lower morbidity rates, enhancing the quality of life for many residents (Chapman et al., 2015).

4.7 Donor Funding Projects on Conservation Capacity Building

The results show that there is a statistical difference between donor funding and the improvement of the local community income ($P < 0.05$) Table 15. The correlation coefficient value, $r = .83$, shows that Donor funding is a good predictor of projecting local community income improvement. Moreover, $R^2 = .56$ suggests that 56% of the variation in the local income is explained by the presence of donor-funded projects. This implies that 44% is explained by other factors that were not included in the model. This is well summarized in Table 14.

Table 4.14: Model Summary of Donor Projects on Conservation Capacity Building

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.83 ^a	.56	.009	.55260

a. Predictors: (Constant) Donor projects

The F-test result and the P-value presented in the ANOVA Table 15 below show whether the overall regression model is a good predictor and the probability that this result occurred by chance or not. In this regard, the F-test result is 4.434, with a significance of less than 0.05. This means the probability that those results occur by chance is < 0.05 . This implies that, 95 times out of 100, the estimate will reflect the true population characteristic. And it can be concluded that the overall regression model is significant: $F(1, 388) = 4.434$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 56\%$ (that is, the regression

model is good enough to fit the data). Therefore, a significant and positive improvement in the local community income is influenced by the presence of donor-funded projects. In other words, independent variables significantly predict the dependent variable hence the results fail to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 4.15: Analysis of Variance for Donor Projects on Conservation Capacity Building

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1.354	1	1.354	4.434	.036 ^b
Residual	118.482	388	.305		
Total	119.836	389			

a. Dependent Variable: Conservation capacity building

b. Predictors: (Constant), Donor projects

Table 4.16: Linear Regression Coefficients of Donor Projects on Conservation Capacity Building

Coefficients					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	3.805	.087		43.579	.000
Donor projects	.039	.019	.106	2.106	.036

a. Dependent Variable: Conservation capacity building

The interpretation of the table above (Table 16) shows that if other factors remain constant the independent variable (Donor funded project) positively affects the dependent variable (Conservation capacity building) by .039 (Beta coefficient) and the relationship was significant at .000.

During the survey, the study revealed that the presence of donor-funded projects has led to a reduction in the poaching rate which is a sign of conservation awareness. Donor-funded projects supplied necessary equipment and tools for conservation activities, including vehicles for patrolling, communication devices, and field gear for rangers to fight against animal poaching. Bitariho et al., (2022) indicates that providing viable economic alternatives has been instrumental in reducing reliance on illegal activities..

These initiatives not only offer new income sources but also align economic interests with conservation goals (Holmern et al., 2007). The rise in households participating in legal business ventures reflects the success of these programs in creating economic resilience and reducing poverty (Sinclair et al., 2011). During this study, respondents show the availability of donor-funded projects related to conservation has provided ownership to locals. Projects aimed at conservation and wildlife protection often hire locals as park rangers, conservation officers, and community scouts. These roles are crucial for monitoring wildlife, preventing poaching, and educating the community about conservation efforts. One of the most successful approaches has been the integration of community-based conservation strategies. By involving local residents in wildlife management, donor projects have fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility towards natural resources (He et al., 2020). Training and employing community members as wildlife rangers and guides have not only created job opportunities but also ensured that conservation efforts are culturally appropriate and locally accepted (Hofisi & Chizimba, 2013). Donor-funded initiatives have focused on mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, which are common in areas

adjacent to protected parks. Measures such as the construction of predator-proof bomas (livestock enclosures), the introduction of early warning systems, and the establishment of compensation schemes for crops and livestock losses have significantly reduced conflicts. These efforts help protect both wildlife and the livelihoods of local farmers (Warner, 1997).

Initiatives like environmental education programs in schools to instill conservation values in young students ensure that future generations are aware of and committed to conservation efforts. Education campaigns funded by donors plays a crucial role in shifting local perceptions and behaviors. Gjertsen, (2005) shows that by raising awareness about the ecological and economic influences of illegal activities, led to greater sense of stewardship among community members. The improved understanding of conservation benefits has led to stronger community support for legal and sustainable practices (Heinen & Shrivastava, 2009).

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATION

5.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter summarizes the research findings and concludes that the study derived from the findings. The conclusion contains short answers to the research questions posed in Chapter 1 based on the findings. The chapter ends with recommendations and further studies.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This research titled Analysis of the Influence of Donor-Funded Conservation Projects on Community Welfare in the Serengeti Ecosystems intended to determine how changes in local income, employment opportunities, Health services, and conservation capacity building as a result of donor-funded projects affect the lives of beneficiaries. Summaries for all objectives are explained hereunder.

5.3 Donor-funded Projects on the Local Income Improvement

Donor-funded projects have played a crucial role in improving the local community income in the villages surrounding Serengeti National Park. The study found that these projects have introduced and supported various sustainable economic activities, leading to reduction of illegal business, development of individual capital, market access and increase of customer confidence. Through capacity building, access to resources, and market linkages, these initiatives have enabled communities to develop skills, increase productivity, and gain better access to markets. Consequently, there has been a notable increase in household incomes, reduced poverty levels, and

improved overall economic stability in the region. These positive outcomes highlight the significant influence of donor-funded projects on enhancing the economic well-being of Serengeti villages, while also promoting sustainable development and conservation.

5.4 Donor Funding Projects on Employment Opportunity

Donor-funded projects have significantly increased employment opportunities in the villages surrounding Serengeti National Park. By investing in various sectors such as infrastructure development, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and community-based conservation, these projects have created numerous jobs for residents. The establishment of new businesses and the support for existing ones have further contributed to job creation, fostering economic growth and stability in the region. Overall, donor funding has not only improved the livelihoods of individuals through direct employment but has also strengthened the economic resilience of entire communities, leading to a more sustainable and prosperous future for the Serengeti villages.

5.5 Donor Funding Projects on Health Services

Donor-funded projects have markedly improved health services in the villages surrounding Serengeti National Park. By investing in healthcare infrastructure, such as building and renovating clinics, and providing essential medical equipment and supplies, these projects have enhanced the availability and quality of healthcare. Additionally, initiatives focusing on maternal and child health, disease prevention, and community health education have significantly contributed to better health

outcomes. These improvements have led to reduced mortality rates, improved overall health, and increased awareness of health practices among residents. The positive influence of donor-funded projects on health services underscores their critical role in promoting the well-being and resilience of the Serengeti villages.

5.6 Donor Funding Projects on Conservation Capacity Building

Donor-funded projects have significantly enhanced conservation capacity building in the villages surrounding Serengeti National Park. By providing education and training, these projects have empowered local communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in effective conservation practices. Initiatives promoting community-based natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods have fostered a collaborative approach to conservation, ensuring that local residents are active participants in protecting their environment. These efforts have not only improved biodiversity preservation but have also created economic opportunities, thereby aligning conservation goals with community welfare. Overall, donor-funded projects have played a pivotal role in building robust conservation capacities, leading to more sustainable and resilient Serengeti villages.

5.7 General Conclusion

"Analysis of the Influence of Donor-Funded Conservation Projects on Community Welfare in the Serengeti Ecosystems" reveals significant positive influence on local communities. Donor-funded projects have substantially improved community welfare through enhanced healthcare services, increased employment opportunities, and strengthened conservation capacity. These initiatives have contributed to

sustainable livelihoods, reduced dependence on harmful environmental practices, and fostered a greater sense of ownership and responsibility towards conservation efforts among residents. However, challenges such as dependency on donor funds and the need for continuous community engagement and capacity building remain.

5.8 Recommendations

Based on the study "Analysis of the Influence of Donor-Funded Conservation Projects on Community Welfare in the Serengeti Ecosystems," the following recommendations are proposed to further enhance the influence of donor-funded conservation projects.

- i. **Sustainability and Self-Reliance:** Future donor-funded projects should incorporate strategies for long-term sustainability and self-reliance. This includes training local communities in project management and securing alternative funding sources to reduce dependency on donor support.
- ii. **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Increase efforts to involve local communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of conservation projects. This ensures that initiatives are culturally appropriate and address the specific needs and priorities of the communities.
- iii. **Capacity Building:** Continuously invest in the education and training of local residents, focusing on skills that promote sustainable practices and conservation. This includes advanced training for healthcare workers, conservation officers, and individuals involved in sustainable enterprises.
- iv. **Diversification of Livelihoods:** Expand the range of income-generating activities supported by donor projects. Promoting a variety of sustainable

enterprises such as organic farming, and artisanal crafts can provide more stable and diverse economic opportunities for local communities.

- v. **Policy and Advocacy:** Strengthen advocacy efforts to ensure supportive policies and regulations at local, regional, and national levels. These policies should protect community rights, promote sustainable resource use, and support conservation initiatives.
- vi. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of donor-funded projects regularly. This allows for adaptive management, ensuring that projects remain effective and responsive to changing conditions and community needs.
- vii. **Integrating Conservation and Development Goals:** Align conservation goals with broader development objectives to ensure that environmental and socio-economic benefits are mutually reinforcing. This holistic approach can lead to more resilient and thriving communities in the Serengeti ecosystems.

Implementing these recommendations will not only enhance the effectiveness of donor-funded conservation projects in the Serengeti ecosystems but also contribute to the holistic development and well-being of local communities. By integrating sustainable practices, fostering community resilience, and promoting inclusive governance, these efforts can ensure a thriving future for both people and wildlife in the region.

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APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix I Questionnaire

Section A: Introduction

1. Personal Identification

This section is to be completed for each respondent who visited.

1.1 Name of District _____

1.2 Division Name _____

1.3 Location Name _____

1.4 Sub-Location Name _____

1.5 Interviewer number _____

2.0: Demographic Information

2.1. Gender

A. Male

B . Female

2.2 What is Your Current Age?

A. 21-25 Years

B. 26-30 Years

C. 31-35 Years

D. 36-40 Years

E. 41-45 Years

F. 46-50 Years

2.3. What is your education level?

A. None

B. Primary

C. Secondary incomplete

D. Secondary complete

E. Tertiary / college

F. University

3.0: Experience of in donor funded conservation projects

1. Have you ever worked in a donor funded conservation project that impact the welfare of the local community welfare?

Yes

No

2. Have you ever been involved in donor funded conservation project?

Frequently, I am involved in on a regular basis

Occasionally, I have been involved in several projects, but it is not a regular part of my work.

Rarely, I have been involved in very few projects in the past.

Never, I have never been involved in any project.

3. What is your experience of involvement in donor funded conservation projects?

Less than a year

1-3 years

3-5 years

5-10 years

More than 10 years

Section B: Impact Donor fund projects on Income

(i) Local Income

Please tick (✓) the extent you believe that Donor projects in this village has affected your Income.

	Indicators	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Local Income	1	2	3	4	5
LI 1	It has been easy for me to stop illegal business					
LI 2	My Net profit has continued to increase					
LI 3	I have successfully managed to improve my income					
LI 4	Customer confidence on my products has increased					

(ii) Employment opportunity

Please place a tick (✓) below on how you believe Donor-funded projects have contributed to employment opportunities.

	Indicators	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Employment Opportunity (EO)	1	2	3	4	5
EO 1	Donor projects have increased the skilled employment opportunity					
EO 2	More unskilled/Casual opportunities have increased					
EO 3	Entrepreneurship and small business have increased					
EO 4	Small business has been supported					

EO 5	Networking and collaboration between local and organizations managing funds increased					
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(iii) Health Services performance

Please place a tick (√) on how you believe a donor-funded project has affected access to health services.

	Indicators	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Health Services (HS)	1	2	3	4	5
HS 1	Donor projects have influenced the availability of health facilities					
HS 2	Donor funds have reduced the use of local medics					
HS 3	The community has become empowered to access health services					
HS 4	Maternal health improvement					

(iv) Capacity Building

Please tick (√) on the following items how you believe Donor funded project has affected Capacity Building in conservation matters.

	Indicators	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Capacity Building in Conservation (CBC)	1	2	3	4	5
CBC 1	Donor projects have reduced the rate of poaching					
CBC 2	Donor project has promoted long-term sustainability					

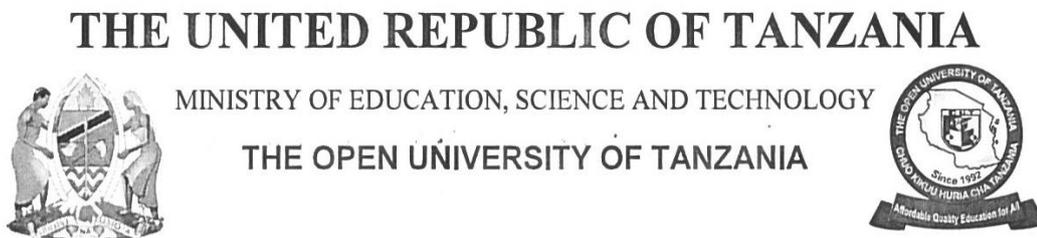
CBC 3	Donor Project has promoted wildlife management in the community					
CBC 4	The donor project has raised environmental awareness					

6.2 Appendix II Data analysis

Analysis of demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	267	68.5
Female	123	31.5
Total	390	100
Education		
Primary	71	18.2
Secondary incomplete	21	5.4
Secondary complete	188	48.2
College	93	23.8
University	17	4.4
Total	390	100
Involvement in DFP		
Frequently	155	39.8
Occasionally	132	33.7
Rarely	81	20.8
Never	22	5.6
Total	390	100
Age group		
21-30	109	27.9
31-40	193	49.5
41-50	49	12.6
Over 50 years	39	10

Research Clearance Letter



Ref. No OUT/PG201701409

5th March, 2024

District Executive Director,
 Serengeti District Council,
 P.O Box 176,
MARA.

Dear Director

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MR. LAZARO E NNKO REG NO: PG2021701409

2. The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1st March 1993 by public notice No.55 in the official Gazette. The Act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania Charter of 2005, which became operational on 1st January 2007. In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

3. To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you **Mr. Lazaro E.Nnko Reg. No PG201701409**), pursuing **Master of Project Management (MPM)**. We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **"Analysis of Donor-funded Conservation**

Projects in the Serengeti District and their Impact on Community Welfare”. He will collect his data at your area from 6th March 2024 to 6th April 2024.

4. In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O.Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820. We lastly thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA



Prof. Magreth S. Bushesha

For: **VICE CHANCELLOR**



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
 PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
 REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 SERENGETI DISTRICT COUNCIL



In Reply Quote:

Ref. No.SDC/T.40/26

Date : 11. 03. 2024

The Open University of Tanzania,
 Deputy Vice Chancellor,
 P.O.BOX. 23409,
DAR ES SALAAM.

REF: RESEARCH CLEARANCE PERMIT FOR MR. LAZARO E. NNKO

Refer to your letter with reference No. OUT/PG201701409 dated 5th March, 2024 requesting a research clearance for Mr. Lazaro E. Nnko Reg No. 2021701409.

2. I would like to notify you that, a request to collect the data for the research titled "Analysis of Donor-funded Conservation Project in Serengeti District and their impact on Community Welfare" as from 6th April 2024 to 6th May 2024 as per requirements for his programme has been accepted.
3. The Office will not cover any cost throughout the research and also it's advised that, the student should adhere the rules and regulations of the Institution while practicing his research.
4. Thank you in advance.


 Nyora C. Elias

FOR: DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 FOR DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
 DIRECTOR
 SERENGETI