

# Participatory documenting of tourist attractions and activities in selected protected areas in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe: Stories, journeys and challenges

Innocent Mahakata<sup>1\*</sup>, Oswell Rusinga<sup>2</sup> and Prudence Gonhi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Scientific Services Unit, Mutare, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup> Great Zimbabwe University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Masvingo, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

E-mail: [powerecowarrior@gmail.com](mailto:powerecowarrior@gmail.com), ORCID: 0009-0002-7205-3307

---

## Abstract

The paper seeks to document different tourist attractions, related activities and the associated historical and climatic conditions in the Chimanimani National Park, Vumba Botanical Garden and Bunga Botanical Reserve. In this survey data was collected through document analysis (Printed and electronic literature), key stakeholders' engagement (face-to-face with local tourism players and guides) and through field surveys which were conducted between 30 March 2023 and 31 July 2024. Quantitative data collected was analysed using statistical methods in Microsoft Excel and presented as tables and graphs. Several attractions and related activities were recorded, and include endemic species, rock climbing, hiking, rock paintings, cultural/sacred sites, waterfalls and springs, caves and cave exploration, camping and picnicking and guided walks. Gardens and wedding venues were found in Vumba while rock climbing and hiking activities dominate in Chimanimani. The three protected areas provide a unique micro-climate different from the rest of the country and are favourable for outdoor activities. There is need to improve connectivity and update information about the attractions as well as directional arrows to each attraction site for clients' convenience.

**Keywords:** Attractions, Accessibility, Challenges, Zimbabwe

---

## 1. Introduction

In this article, our aim was to explore how the interface of the environment, climate and culture shapes the ways humans give meanings to the natural landscape through participatory documentation of tourist attractions and activities in selected protected areas (PAs) located in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. The creation of PAs in Zimbabwe informed designations of various natural landscapes as national parks, sanctuaries, botanical gardens and botanical reserves, among others (Sibanda *et al.*, 2020; Wolmer, 2007). Within these PAs, there are sites which largely serve as preservation or conservation of wild fauna and flora, and they also act as tourist

destinations. In Zimbabwe, PAs which are famous tourist destinations include Hwange, Victoria Falls, Mana Pools, Nyanga, Matusadona, Chimanimani National Park (Chimanimani NP), Bunga Botanical Reserve (Bunga), and Vumba Botanical Garden (Vumba), among others.

The promotion of PAs as tourist attractions is bound up with the idea of conserving the wilderness in its pristine state. This article focuses on tourist attractions and activities which partly explains the plurality of conservation approaches in PAs (Zimbabwe Tourism Investors' Guide, 2021, Normah *et al.*, 2020). In this context, the role of human agency in the making of PAs has molded the landscape for conservation or regeneration of fauna and flora species in their natural habitat and also consisted of the promotion of a range of tourist attractions and activities. In addition, sustainability leverages innovative strategies for engagement in fostering partnerships which ensure that all relevant stakeholders contribute to wildlife management. The designation of PAs represents the functional dependence between social and ecological processes in the environment which tourists see, perceive, experience and interpret. PAs also function as geographical regions which are understood by tourists as unique entities with a political and legislative framework for tourism marketing and planning (Buhalis, 2000).

Tourism related research in PAs of Zimbabwe had been focusing on branding, challenges, development, marketing and policy (Kabote *et al.*, 2019, Kuguyo and Gandiwa, 2022). However, little documentation exists that seeks to provide detailed information about available attractions and related activities to inform tourists' choices. Limited information is available pertaining to attractions that influence tourist decisions. An inventory of available attractions and associated activities undertaken in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga can provide information to the general public and for visitors' options in selecting destinations. Therefore, it is imperative that potential tourists have the information for their option in selecting suitable tourism destinations and prepare accordingly while guides and accompanying staff have information pertaining to each existing attraction at a destination. Participatory documentation of attractions advances tourism research by generating knowledge about authentic tourism experiences by centering the perspectives of local communities and key stakeholders. It therefore leads to a deeper understanding of local knowledge, cultural heritage, and social impacts, which in turn helps in creating and managing more authentic products and mitigating negative effects like over-tourism.

There are several factors that influence tourist arrivals at a destination and these include natural, cultural, climate, scenic environments, facilities and services offered. Prior to travelling, tourists consider several options on the potential of the destination of their choice. Tourists undertake search of travel information in order to plan their travel and make decisions about available options like choice of destination and activities (Hyde, 2009). Provision of information relating to tourist destination areas to the public is key to potential tourists to understand type of activities done, attractions available and to decide suitable time to visit their preferred area. The following specific objectives prompted the study; (i) to identify attractions and related activities undertaken at various PAs, (ii) to identify key tourism hotspots, (iii) to establish connectivity routes to the identified tourist attractions, (iv) to document climatic conditions that prevails, and (v) to establish current challenges relating to tourism activities within the sighted attraction area in Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga. In view of the importance of tourism destination development, it is imperative to conduct inventory of available attractions and respective tourism activities currently conducted in Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga. This process serves to provide important

information to the general public and investors as underpinned in the investment promotion (Zimbabwe Tourism Investors' Guide, 2021 Edition) and for the benefit of potential visitors.

## **2. Literature Review**

Several studies conducted have established that participatory documenting of tourist attractions is crucial for promoting sustainability, authenticity, and local benefits by empowering communities and stakeholders to share their knowledge and stories (for example, Setokoe and Ramukumba 2019, Chan *et al.*, 2021, and Solomon *et al.*, 2022). Participatory documenting helps gather enough data about an attraction through leveraging diverse perspectives and enhancing data quality (Mackellar, 2013, Vaughn and Jacquez 2020, and Spadaro *et al.*, 2023). This process fosters a deeper connection between visitors and the destination, helps preserve cultural heritage, and supports local involvement in planning and management (Kanoksilpatham *et al.*, 2023, Wattimena *et al.*, 2024, Usmaedi *et al.*, 2024, Lemunge *et al.*, 2025). Integrating stakeholder involvement from the start is crucial for sustainable development, using techniques such as storytelling and augmented reality (AR), examining existing studies, and use of face to face interviews to create engaging and authentic experiences that use a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (Heath *et al.*, 2018, Oranga 2025, and Satish 2025). These different data gathering methods in participatory documentation of attraction data is crucial for triangulation, which enhances the validity and reliability of findings, and for providing a comprehensive, nuanced understanding of complex phenomena that a single method cannot achieve alone (Decrop 1999, Moon 2019, Meydan and Akkas 2024).

### **2. 1. Theoretical Framework**

This study finds anchorage in two theories on participatory documentation of destination attractions and activities: Theory of Social Capital (TSC) and the Theory of Collaboration (TC) which can be integrated with Destination Management Theory. This two theories conceptualizes participation as an ongoing process that builds social capital, leading to greater collaboration between key stakeholders and communities in documenting attractions and activities. Documentation of attractions and activities is then analysed through the 6 A's framework (Attractions, Activities, Accessibility, Amenities, Ancillary Services, and Available Packages) and assessed using models that incorporate cognitive, affective, and conative dimensions of destination image. Therefore, TSC posits that social networks, trust, and shared norms facilitate collective action, resource and information sharing. Community members and tourists can build social capital through participatory documentation, which fosters trust and mutual benefit. TC provides a framework for understanding how stakeholders, including tourists and local communities, can work together to document, manage, and promote destinations, ensuring that participatory decision is achieved. Therefore these theories affords us the ability to identify and record information relating to existing attractions and activities in Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga.

## **3. Methodology**

### **3.1. Description of Study Area**

We carried out the study in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, targeting three PAs, that is, Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga. Chimanimani NP is in Chimanimani District of Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe. The three PAs are under administration of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Chimanimani NP is known as one of the country's PAs with pristine beauty characterised by steep and precipitous mountains locally known as *Mawenje*. The altitude in Chimanimani NP varies from just over 400m at the confluence of Haroni and Mukurupini Rivers to 2436m at the highest point of Mt. Binga. Climatic conditions are highly varied, with low lying areas relatively hot and dry while high altitude areas are markedly cool and moist. Vumba and Bunga are also located within the montane forest of the Eastern Highlands. Annual rainfall amount received in the areas (both low lying and mountainous areas) is above 1000mm while seasonal rains for summer, autumn, winter, also vary. The areas are of afro-montane ecosystems and the dominant vegetation types include miombo, montane woodlands and grasslands (Timberlake *et al.*, 2020). The altitude range between 1320m and 1620m in the Vumba area while in Bunga is between 1315m and 1720m. Common attractions in Chimanimani NP include pristine wilderness, high altitude mountains, waterfalls and walking trails. In Vumba, there are camping and picnic sites, walking trails, lodges, a wedding venue and an ornamental dam. Bunga Botanical Reserve is known by its undisturbed wilderness, walking trails, unique vegetation and endemic mammal species such as sun squirrel and samango monkey. Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga are recognized as tourism development zones in Manicaland province as provided for in the Tourism Act (Chapter 14: 20). These areas offer an amalgam of tourism products and services, which need to be marketed and developed.

### **3.2. Study Design**

We undertook a participatory documentation of tourist attractions and activities in Chimanimani NP, Bunga and Vumba. The process included use of both quantitative and qualitative methods in gathering primary and secondary data on existing attractions. The first author and third author undertook a participatory process, which undergirded the methodology, consisting of stakeholder engagement, recruitment of participants and data collection. In this study, the first and third authors were responsible for coordinating stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders were drawn from PA staff, local tourism associations, private tourist players, local communities and guides who are involved in escorting tourists. Being insiders, the first author and third author were able to identify key stakeholders who worked closely with tourists and staff from the nearby PAs and who participate in different forums relating to local tourism in the area. By connecting with participants with whom we shared cultural understanding increased trust from participants, and a more natural flow of interaction within the research setting. This allowed deeper engagement and collection of more nuanced data (Liu and Burnett 2022, Bukamal 2022). It also leveraged the process of identifying stakeholders as well as easy buy-in by the stakeholders to the participatory documentation of tourist attractions in the selected PAs. Data collection in each PA was done before moving to the next one. The PAs were visited in the following order: Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga. The study was conducted between the 30 March 2023 and 30 July 2024. Involvement of key stakeholders and document analysis were done a month prior to field surveys to get an appreciation of existing attractions and related activities in the selected PAs.

### **3.3. Data Collection Methods**

In this study, we considered primary and secondary data sources to identify existing tourist attractions, related activities, climatic conditions as well as current challenges affecting tourism activities in each PA. Primary data

was gathered through face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders, photovoice, and field surveys. Documentary analysis was done to identify relevant literature.

### **3.3.1. Document Analysis**

Document analysis was employed to review both printed and electronic literature on tourist attractions and activities in each PA. The aim was to assemble a body of information that could benefit both researchers and the public on the main attractions and activities available in the PAs. Secondary data relevant to tourism activities and attractions was also used to identify tourist hotspots. Secondary data was retrieved from Parks and Wildlife Management Authority office in Chimanimani Village and Vumba Administration office. This was done to establish recorded tourist activities as well as to understand client feedback. This stage also covered aspects of climate data at each site, biodiversity status and other environmental variables that aids to the site's attractions such as topography, weather variables and seasonal accessibility.

### **3.3.2. Face-to-face interviews**

Face-to-face interviews were done with stakeholders from Chimanimani Tourism Association representatives (9), Friends of Vumba (3), park managers (4), rangers (16) and guides (4). Key stakeholders were engaged to solicit information about sites, attractions and activities in the selected PAs. The interviews also focused on stakeholders' understanding of the history of the sites, available attractions and their understanding of key challenges affecting tourism activities in the area. Involvement of stakeholders to participate in the study offered several advantages, including increased relevance and validity of research findings by incorporating local knowledge and perspectives, greater community engagement and ownership of research outcomes (Vallely *et al.*, 2007).

### **3.3.3. Field Surveys**

Field surveys were done in each study areas and it involved visiting all tourist attractions listed during face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders and from literature. New sites identified during the survey were added on the list. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for each attraction were captured using Garmin-Etrex-10-device. During field surveys, we utilised knowledge of local volunteers in identifying sites of tourist attractions and activities within the each PA. Notes were also taken by the research team on information important to the study. A volunteer from the local community who was familiar with the area visited accompanied the research team and gave guidance for culturally sensitive conduct.

### **3.3.4. Photovoice**

Data collection was also done using photovoice. Participants were asked to represent their views through photos which gave them greater control over what and how they interpret the tourist attractions and activities in the selected PA. The research team audio recorded descriptions of tourist attractions by guides and rangers using smartphone.

### **3.3.5. Feedback Meetings with Key Stakeholders**

After field surveys, a validation exercise was done with key stakeholders to verify the data collected. Validation exercise was done through phone calls and WhatsApp platform with all stakeholders who were involved in this study. This stage involved discussion on the recorded activities, attractions and whether the data collected fully covered all relevant data for documentation purposes. During the exercise, names of attractions and other sites were double checked and those which were mis-captured were corrected. Photographs taken during field surveys

were verified and acknowledged. The key stakeholders were also asked to identify all tourist attractions and activities listed whether they tallied with what was provided on the respective sites.

### **3.4. Ethical Considerations**

The first author and third author had free access to the three PAs which are under Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks). These two authors are ecologists in the Scientific Services Section, hence no further permission was required for ethical approval. The study was conducted in strict accordance with the Helsinki ethical principles and was approved by Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Research Committee [Internal Review Board]. The study procedures were determined to be low risk in accordance with ethical guidelines, and informed consent was obtained from all participants. Participants were fully informed of the study's nature, risks, and benefits, understood their voluntary involvement and right to withdraw, and provided their consent for participation and publication of their data/images. All participants were also informed that all data collected during the study will be treated with the strictest confidence and used solely for the purpose of this research project. To ensure confidentiality and anonymity, all personally identifiable information (e.g., names, specific locations, unique job titles) will be removed or pseudonymized before analysis and storage. The first author and third author were part of the original research team and ensured adherence to ethical protocols throughout all stages of this project. The researchers conducting the interviews were trained in ethical research practices and data collection techniques.

### **3.5. Data Analysis**

Data collected through document analysis of printed and online literature was examined and interpreted to elicit the meanings underlying the tourist attractions and activities. Information about visitor arrivals recorded at Chimanimani and Vumba Tourist offices was used to establish major activities and in identifying tourist hotspot areas. Interview data was used to describe different sites, sacred and cultural understanding of established sites. Qualitative data was presented as images, direct quotes and descriptions of the experiences associated with the identified tourist attractions and activities at each PA. GPS coordinates collected during field surveys were used to map distribution of attractions in each PA. GPS points of tourist attractions were imported and overlaid on respective vector maps in QGIS-3.28.2-GIS Software. In each PA, attractions and related sites were grouped based on type, location and activities undertaken.

## **4. Results and Discussion**

### **4.1. Tourist Attractions and Activities**

Tourist attractions and activities documented during the fieldwork were grouped by PA (**Table 1-2**). The attractions include endemic species of plants and animals, waterfalls, pools and springs, rock paintings, sacred sites, caves and general scenic. Common activities recorded were rock climbing, mountain hiking, weddings and family parties, guided walks along designated trails, camping, picnicking, and scenic viewing. Chimanimani NP

offered the best sites for rock climbing and mountain hiking. Weddings and family parties were the major activities in Vumba. Camping was offered in all the three study areas.

**Table 1:** List of adventure-based activities and others recorded in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga areas

Activity	Site		
	Chimanimani	Vumba	Bunga
Camping and picnic	Bridal Veil camping site, Corner camp, Base camp, Red wall cave, North cave, Digby's cave, Peter house, Rufuse cave, Poacher cave, Refuge Hut and SU cave	Caravan park, Old camping site, Jah picnic site, picnic site 1, picnic site 2	--
Guided walks areas/Walking trails	Mbira, Wizzard, Bridal-Porkpie, Porkpie-Chitera, Muhohwa, Hadange (Mudzimundiringe), Banana Groove, Bailey's Folly, Galiva, Razor-wire, Tilbury, Madongonda, Heaven campsite-Bridal waterfalls, Skeleton pass loop, Frog and fern-Bridal veil falls	Foot paths 1-6	Foot paths 1-10.
Wedding venues and private family functions	Bridal Veil falls ground, Corner camp site	Caravan park and ornamental garden lake	--
Mountain hiking	Chimanimani gap, Mawenje range, Dombi mountains, Turret towers, Manewe range, Dragon's tooth, Peza (Ben Nevis), Kweza (Mount Binga)	Mountain climbing	Bunga and Gorge's place
Rock climbing	Evil eye, Alien safari, White cliff, Bailey's folly, Bergie valley, The in-between, Lower desolation, desolation valley, Wave, Final approach, Hut, North hill, Water hole.	--	--
Accommodation facilities	--	Azalea and hydrangea lodge	

(Source: Field work, 2024)

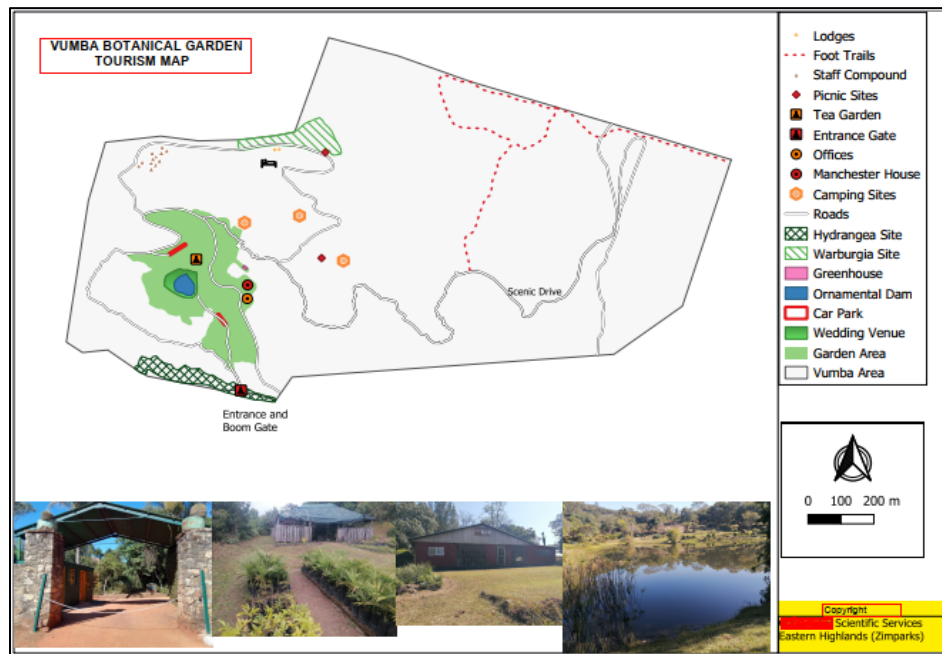
**Table 2:** Identified attractions in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga areas

Category	Attraction	Site		
		Chimanimani	Vumba	Bunga
Ecological	Endemic species	Cave squeaker, Red squirrel, Samango monkey, Chimanimani flat lizard, Mozambique agama,	Samango monkey, Mozambique	Red squirrel, Samango monkey, Chimanimani flat lizard,

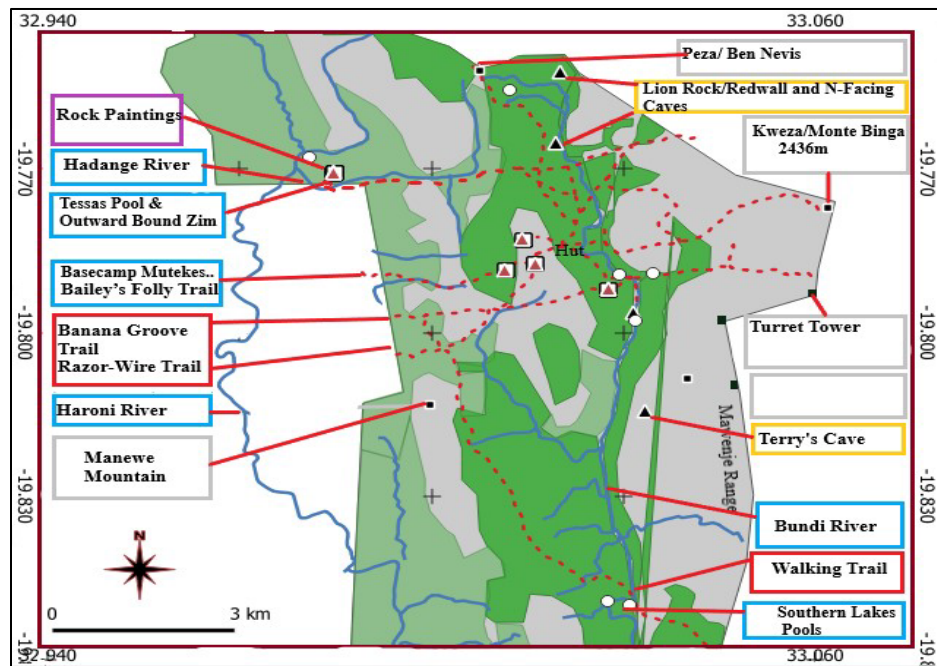
		Boulenger's skink, Mozambique girdled lizard, Swynnerton's worm-lizard	agama, Boulenger's skink, Mozambique girdled lizard	Mozambique agama, Boulenger's skink, Mozambique girdled lizard.
Cultural	Rock paintings	SU rock paintings, Muhohwa rock paintings, Digby's rock paintings, Mountain Hut area Rock paintings, Museruseru spring rock paintings, Bako rarufuse Rock paintings, Chikukwa gap rock paintings, OBZ rock paintings, Corner Camp Rock paintings (39 sites of rock paintings unnamed in Corner camp area)	--	--
	Sacred sites	22 springs including Museruseru spring, Mutiracha spring, Nyakwaa forest, Mangoma area, Mukurupini forest, Chitera ruins, Nhuka sacred area	--	--
Natural	Waterfalls, pools and springs	Ben Nevis waterfall, Digby's falls, Yellow rock falls, Raygon falls, Bridal Veil falls, Muhohwa falls, Mukurupini falls, Southern lake pools, Paradise pool, Peter pool and fall, Mermaid pool, Secret valley pool, Tessa pool (OBZ), Nyakwaa, Bundi, Rusitu, Mukurupini, Musapa, Nyahode, Haroni, Bundi river with nine unnamed small water falls	Corner falls and garden falls. Ornamental lake, Nyamarombo, Manchester river	Bunga falls, Bunga river, Unnamed river
	Caves	Red wall cave, North cave, Digby's cave, Peter house, Rufuse cave, Poacher cave, Refuge Hut caves, and SU cave	--	--

(Source: Field work, 2024)

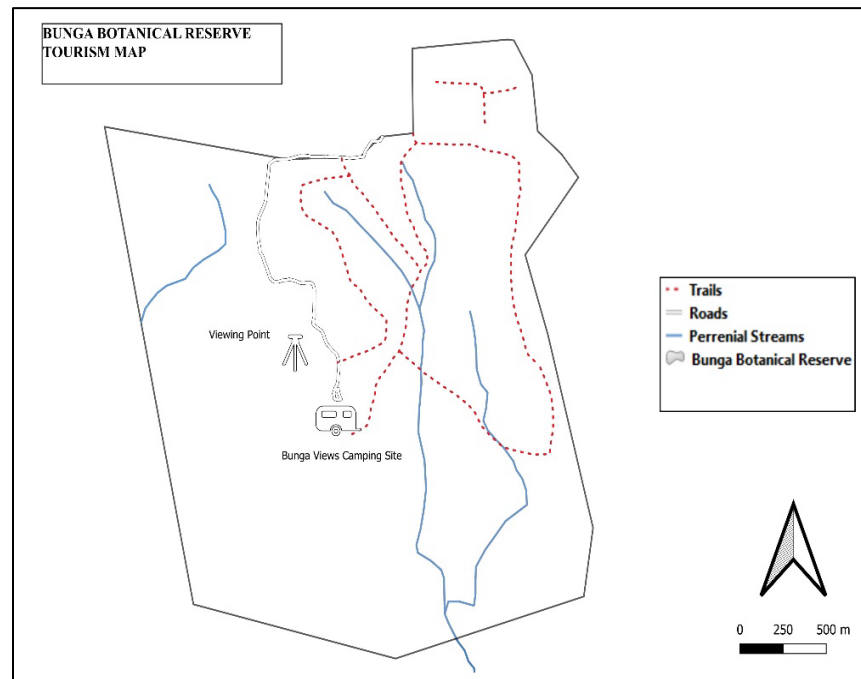
Different attractions and related activities are found at varying location in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga protected areas (**Figure 1-3**).



**Figure 1:** Location of attractions and facilities in Vumba Botanical Garden (Done by Mahakata and Gonhi, 2024).



**Figure 2:** Location of trails, and attraction sites in the Central part of the Chimanimani mountains (Done by Mahakata and Gonhi, 2024).



**Figure 3:** Map of Bunga Botanical Reserve attraction sites and trails (Done by Mahakata and Gonhi, 2024).

#### 4.2. Major Tourist Hotspots in the Selected Protected Areas

In Chimanimani NP, the hotspots are Mount Binga, Peza and Dombi. In Vumba, recreational activities hotspot areas are campsites and caravan-park. These hotspots mostly hosts visitors of varying group sizes including individuals, families and weddings parties. In Vumba, over 50 groups of people are recorded every year. However, Bunga areas has no specific hotspot attractions and related activities that draws large groups of people. Knowledge about existing hotspots in PAs is useful in increasing awareness of attractions and activities among tourists thereby saving time on deciding the destination of choice (Wall-Reinius and Fredman 2007). More so, it helps tourists to prepare adequately and promotes the destination through storytelling (Solomon *et al.*, 2022). Ngwira and Kankhuni (2018) emphasized that what attracts tourists to a destination are existing attractions and their popularity. Documenting existing hotspots in the three selected PAs provides a range of options for visitors to choose from depending on their preferences.

#### 4.3. Accessibility and Tourist Attractions

**(a) Chimanimani NP**

Base Camp is located at the foothills of the western side of Chimanimani mountains. The site provides basic catering facilities to the self-sufficient explorer and maintains a low carbon footprints management style. There are seven fireplaces/stands and one ablution facility with 4 rooms each for ladies and gents at the site. However, visitors must bring their camping equipment, toiletry, cooking utensils and food stuff. The site also offers secure place for car park where visitors who would go for mountain hiking leave their vehicles (**Figure 4**).



**Figure 4:** Camping sites located in the miombo woodlands at Base camp. (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

From Base Camp, mountain hiking is quite demanding but absolutely worth the effort. For the first timers to Refuge Hut, where fully equipped hikers can stay, they need to consider taking about two-to-three hours on this hike. The Refuge Hut is located at 1630m above sea level. Its area is mostly steep and the views, as visitors ascend, become increasingly spectacular. To reach the Refuge Hut, visitors follow a well-known path, either the less steep but longer Banana grove or the steeper and shorter Bailey's Folly route. The Bailey's Folly is the harder route, but it is mostly easy going with occasional places where some crawling or climbing is required.

Other less known trails into the Chimanimani mountains from the foothills include Mudzimundiringe (also known as the Hadange trail) which starts at the private-owned Outward-Bound Zimbabwe camp and can also link to the Refuge Hut. The Banana Grove, Galiva and Razor-Wire routes link Digby and Southern Lakes areas as well as Saddle area. Besides Base Camp, Tilbury and Madongonda trails can be used to access the Chimanimani mountains top to areas like the Dragon's Teeth, Mukurupini River, Aerodrome and Mazhanje areas. Midway up the mountain, Long-gully trails join Banana Grove and Bailey's Folly. Visitors can spend a night at Refuge hut before they proceed to explore further afield or for the hike back to Base Camp. There are numerous streams and

pools to cool off after a hard day's work. Also are the nature's wonderful creations, the birds and the butterflies, that can be easily seen on the paths through cedar and yellowwood trees.

The Refuge Hut is a well-known site for camping in the Chimanimani mountains and was built by John Ball. Rocks were used to construct the walls while the building material was carried up by porters and donkeys. The final building is solidly built of stone and concrete. It has two dormitories which can accommodate up to twenty-four people, a central communal room to the front with a large fireplace and a kitchen to the rear. Where the Refuge Hut is situated, it offers a commanding view over the valley floor below and it is an excellent base from which to explore the mountain range (**Figure 5**).



**Figure 5:** View of Refuge Hut in Chimanimani mountains. (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

Mountain Caves are eight caves found from the Refuge Hut area. Visitors from the Refuge Hut have the option of spending the night at either the man-made Terry's or Peter's caves. Near Peter's cave is a spectacular waterfall where visitors can leap the seven metres into the icy water below. The Peter's cave is located near Bundi River. Downstream, the river, water tumbles down into a large deep pool. The falling water is named the Peterhouse Falls. It is a natural cliff jump and where people can swim into a deep pool. Other caves include the Poachers cave, Lion Rock cave, Red-Wall cave, North cave, Digby's cave and Rufuse cave. Red-Wall cave, North-Facing cave and Lion Rock cave are located on the northern side of Chimanimani mountains. North-Facing cave is hidden close to Bundi Falls. The Lion Rock cave is located behind Peza mountain and most usable during rainy season. Red-Wall cave and Lion Rock cave can accommodate maximum of fifteen people and the North Facing cave can accommodate at most five people. All the caves in the north part of Chimanimani mountains area are easily accessible from Outward Bound camp through the Hangande trail. These caves can be utilised during rainy season as no running water can enter or flow in, even during heavy downpours.

Skeleton Pass is another attraction named after the narrow canyons that can be quite a scrape to get through. This section passes well over the border into Mozambique. The Skeleton Pass valley is marshy and there is a small

waterfall to enjoy the cool waters at the natural pool. The Skeleton Pass can be linked from Chikukwa using the Wizzard trail or from the Refuge Hut walking through the vleis via the Chumuseruseru spring.

Mount Binga another famous attraction and one of the most challenging mountains to hike in the Chimanimani, where some very capable hikers do head up to the mountain top on a long day. Climbing Mount Binga is challenging, and visitors often brought multiple water bottles because at the top there is no water especially during dry season. The mountain is rocky and slippery and with exhausted legs from the haul up to the peak, coming down the mountain can be just as challenging as climbing up. The mountain can be accessible from the Refuge Hut using a well-established trail. The mountain straddles the border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique (**Figure 6**). At the summit of the mountain, it is the Mozambique's highest mountain and Zimbabwe's second highest after Mount Nyangani. On a clear day one can see the Indian Ocean through Mozambique from the highest point.



**Figure 6:** Views and hiking trails to Mount Binga. (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

Other hiking Areas and Waterfalls tourists have option to view are Mount Peza, the Sphinx, Mawenje range, Manewe range and Dragon's tooth and/or other small but challenging mountains. Tourists also have options to several waterfalls including Bundi falls, Tessa's pool and Waterfalls, Ragon falls, Southern lakes and Mukurupini falls. Tessa's pool is one of the famous pools located at the edge of the Outward-Bound Property. It is named after Tessa Ball, the daughter of a famous botanist Mr John Ball. The pool and waterfall have some rocky beach and palm trees around. These waterfalls have long been regarded as popular tourist attractions, and they provide opportunities for a wide range of outdoor relaxation in the mountain. High slope and steep topography which cause the formation of waterfalls, creates a visually attractive view for enjoyment (**Figure 7**).



**Figure 7:** Some waterfalls, springs and lakes in Chimanimani mountains. (*Photo taken by Praymore tour guide, 2023*)

Chimanimani is also famous of its sacred and cultural sites. Most sacred sites in the Chimanimani mountains were named after traditional healers from Mozambique. These sites include Kweza, Peza and Dombi and Museruseru. The famous traditional healers used to gather by the Museruseru spring for spiritual-cultural purposes. The spring is said to be one of the might and most sacred place to visit and is found on the northern central area of the mountain range. Today, it is still believed, the waters of the Museruseru spring are used for traditional purposes and people go there to get water in small containers which they will use later. Moreso, the area is still sacred and the bubbling water can be seen. According to Chimanimani Tourism Association representatives, when the gold rush started in early 2000s, some artisanal miners camped at Museruseru spring and decided to syphon the water using waterpumps, but the spring could not be drained. Later, when the water was about to finish, a large fish emerged from the spring and was so big to an extent that it could not fit into the draining pipes resulting in blockage disrupting the process and upon realising this, the artisanal miners ran for their lives leaving everything there because they understood the spring hold no fish.

Corner Camp is another camping area which is located at the boundary with Chikukwa community.. Visitors can enjoy their stay at the Muhohwa falls (**Figure 8**) which is located near Corner Camp camping site. It is a place also known for its myth and sacred cultural stories. The Corner Camp is accessed by road, a drive of about thirty-kilometres (one-hour) from the Chimanimani Village. The road requires a 4x4-wheeler due to terrain. Visitors to the Muhohwa falls can stay at the Corner camp which accommodates at most ten groups of people with a capacity of 50 individuals in total. The camp has an ablution and ten fireplaces/stands. Several interesting features make Corner Camp one of the most tourist attractions in the Chimanimani NP. Visitors can camp free of charge anywhere in the area including at Scripture Union cave. Scripture Union cave has a capacity of accommodating up to sixty people at any given time. However, there are no ablutions near the cave.



**Figure 8:** Muhohwa falls in Chikukwa area of Corner camp. (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

Corner Camp area is also known because of its famous rock painting sites. At least thirty-five rock painting sites are known in the area and are scattered all over in clusters or as a single painting. The rock paintings are commonly attributed to the Bushmen. One of the park managers interviewed said:

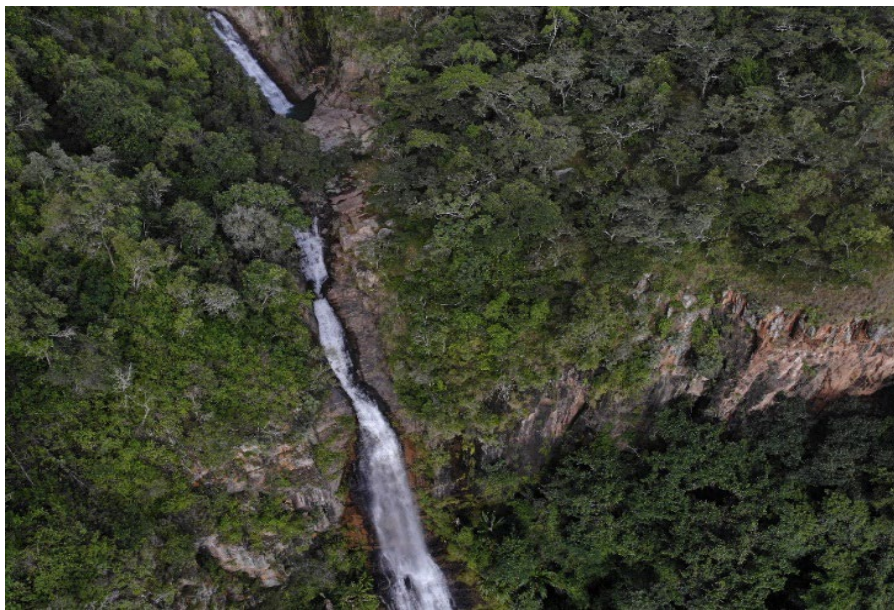
*“They lived here, they saw elephants, buffaloes, elands, reedbucks and other smaller animals; they hunted and killed these animals; they danced, draw the blood from the dead animal and mix with Muwore ashes and do the rock paintings”.*

From Corner Camp, visitors can easily access Chimanimani Gap. Chimanimani Gap is where the district derived its name. The name “Chimanimani” is an idiophone meaning “to be squeezed together” and it describes the narrow pass in the mountain range through which the Musapa River pass through (Timberlake *et al.*, 2020). The name recalls the towering peaks of mountains, pondering waterfalls, enchanted forests and deep and echoing caves. It is a place of undiscovered secrets, breath-taking beauty and hidden depths flushed with fresh greens, crisp blues, and the hidden earth tones (**Figure 9**). In a granite world of grey-blue rock, there is a unique remnant of the water-deposited frontier system. Around Chimanimani gap, there are trails which are today being used by local residents who visit their relatives in Mozambique.



**Figure 9: View of the Chimanimani Gap from Corner area.** (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

Far away from the Chimanimani Mountains is Eland Sanctuary which is located close to the Chimanimani Village. Attractions in the Eland Sanctuary area include Porkpie (locally known as Nyamuzure), Bridal Veil Falls (**Figure 10**), a sacred forest, and monuments at Chitera site. It takes about fifteen minutes to drive from Chimanimani Village to Bridal Veil Falls and the Porkpie View and the areas are just five kilometres away. The Porkpie viewpoint, 1900m above sea level, offer spectacular views of the far-east Chimanimani mountains and the Chimanimani Resort town.



**Figure. 10: An aerial view of Bridal Veil Falls in Eland Sanctuary, Chimanimani NP.** (*Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2023*)

The Eland Sanctuary has two known sacred areas where traditional practices are periodically practised to appease the local ancestors. Before visiting these sacred sites, one must first seek permission from the local traditional leadership who must first perform some rituals. Taking photos is forbidden in these two sacred sites. Sacred sites serve to promote cultural tourism. Cultural tourism is concerned with an area's culture, specifically the lifestyle of the people in those geographical areas, the history of those peoples, their art, architecture, religion(s), and other elements that helped shape their way of life according to the Audiences London (2010). These attractions relate to a set of distinctive material, intellectual, spiritual and emotional features of a society that encompass architecture, historical and cultural heritage, culinary heritage, literature, value systems, beliefs, and traditions of local people (Axrorjon o'g'li, 2021). Okharedia (2020) pointed out that cultural tourism generates a lively interest that sits well with the rising need to preserve and promote national and sub-regional identities.

### **(b) Vumba Botanical Garden**

The name Vumba means “mist” in the local Manyika language. Vumba is located some 32km south-east of Mutare City. The gardens are popular for botany lovers, retreat destination, and weddings. The gardens are built around perennial streams which flow into a small lake (**Figure. 11**). Vumba is endowed with indigenous orchids and ferns dotted by a network of footpaths and trails for visitor to navigate all the corners of the garden. The driveways and trails to private homes are marked with flower beds of hydrangeas. There are sheltered walks between the stately indigenous tree ferns and azaleas. Strategically positioned flower beds are encountered as visitor wanders through the gardens.



**Figure 11:** The ornamental lake surrounded by the wedding venue, Vumba Botanical Gardens. (*Photo taken by Gonhi from fieldwork, 2024*)

The garden also has areas of natural forests and developed footpaths enable visitors to explore the natural woodland on the eastern slopes of the mountains. At least nine foot trails are active in the wilderness area of the garden. Several species of birds are recorded in this wilderness part. Also, samango monkeys, endemic to the Eastern Highlands, are common. There are two self-catering lodges (*Hydrangea* and *Azalea*) in the gardens (**Figure 12**).



**Figure 12:** Vumba lodges (Hydrangea and Azalea) for visitor accommodation. (*Photo taken by Gonhi from fieldwork, 2024*)

### **(c) Bunga Botanical Reserve**

The area is a forest characterised by indigenous trees undisturbed fauna and flora along the southern slopes of the Bvumba area. History has it that the reserve is on land that once belonged to the late Honourable Lionel Cripps, who was one of the founding members of the Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics. The reserve was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2008 under the cultural category. The reserve has narrow pathways through the deep heart of the forest (**Figure 13**). The trails eventually lead to the Bunga Views, also known as Gorge's place. There are some cliffs and *Brachystegia* woodland overlooking the lower parts of the forest and Burma Valley. The vegetation and altitude of the Bunga forest resonate with the gradual shift in the weather pattern, providing a cool breeze to a cold front from the temperate warmth of Mutare. The area is home to several rare animals including the sun squirrel, samango monkey, marshalls leaf chamelion, arnold's skink, white browed robin chat, African pied wagtail, miombo double collard sunbird, African yellow white eye, jameson's fire finch, yellow bellied waxbill, and streaky headed canary.



**Figure 13:** The “Mist” forest and the well-defined walking trails in the Bunga BR. (Photo taken by Mahakata from fieldwork, 2024)

This study managed to document information about existing attractions and related activities in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga areas. The findings addresses the existing information gaps about available attractions and activities which is key to visitor satisfaction. The process provides data for effective, inclusive planning that balances economic, social, and environmental objectives while providing actionable insights for tourism authorities to improve information about their attractions and management strategies. Destinations can enhance their service quality and better align their offerings with what visitors truly seek by focusing on infrastructure, enhancing information accessibility relating to existing attractions and updating records of new attractions and activities. A lack of understanding of the unique attributes of a destination due to limited information can lead to a failure to attract target audiences (Mulunch *et al.*, 2022). The destination attributes such as information on the location of attractions, weather and local culture and customs are important pulls for visitors (Oosthuizen and Ferreira 2019). For instance visitors make their decision to visit a place when they have enough information about the place such as available attractions, status of disease outbreaks and safety and security (Ariya *et al.*, 2017). A study by Abel *et al.*, (2013) noted that tourism is an export product consumed at the source, hence key to growth is the need to ensure information about existing attractions and activities.

The Eastern Highlands areas has been experiencing climate change related disasters, especially cyclones. Since 2000, there has been an increase in number of cyclones which battered the most parts of the region. Cyclone Eline in 2000 and Cyclone Idai in 2019 were the most devastating disasters. These cyclones are mostly associated with flooding which damage roads, bridges, infrastructure and attractions (Mahakata, 2024). Damages to infrastructure affects accessibility to attractions as well raises safety concerns although awareness and predictions from the appropriate ministries are shared from time to time for tourist preparedness. Tourism status at a destination can be affected by lack of detailed information on environmental conditions, attractions, and activities. Provision of information in tourism ranges from basic safety messages, directions to complex explanations of the cultural or evolutionary history of a place (Zhou, 2018). Limited documented information on attractions and activities may turn away potential visitors. For instance, visitors make their decision to visit a place when they have enough

information about the place such as available attractions, availability of ancillary services and safety and security (Ariya *et al.*, 2017). Currently, there are no adequate tourism facilities, support infrastructure and some advanced digital ancillary services like internet connections in the three study areas. Albayrak and Caber (2016) found that infrastructure and accommodation facilities are exciting factors in the eyes of tourists. Limited camping areas and poor road connectivity to Rusitu, Bunga and Haroni Botanical Reserves may derail tourists' destination decision to visit. Most tourists are rich and they can afford to visit different areas but poor in terms of time. Such visitors favor places which are well linked with good roads, railway lines and air transport. A study by Abel *et al.*, (2013) noted that tourism is an export product consumed at source, hence key to growth is the need to ensure accessibility by improving both air and road connectivity. However, tourism development threshold may also limit development in a PA to maintain pristine of the destination.

#### **4.5. Theoretical Contribution**

Participatory mapping and documenting attractions and activities in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga PAs contributes to theoretical frameworks of community-based ecotourism and participatory governance by enhancing local empowerment, sustainability, and conservation. Understanding and documenting information about each attraction also enhanced knowledge about available information for visitor satisfaction while providing literature in the public domain. This approach moves beyond a top-down model by integrating local knowledge to create a more authentic and equitable tourism experience that fosters community ownership and resilience, while also contributing to the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

#### **4.6. Practical Contribution**

This process of participatory documenting information about existing attractions and activities builds trust, incorporates local knowledge and supports conservation efforts. It also provides practical benefits like resolving conflicts, promoting sustainability, and enhancing community engagement. It creates a visual tool for shared understanding of the stories and enhancing the visitor experience. The findings also help guide tourists to minimize their impact on sensitive and sacred areas, provides a foundation for developing sustainable tourism products while giving visitors clear, navigable information about what the area offers.

#### **4.7. Limitations and Future Research Recommendations**

The study focused more on participatory documenting of attractions in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga PAs. However, information gathered through interviews can be subjective, reflecting participants' personal experiences. It may not always be generalizable or scientifically rigorous without extensive verification considering there are no historical written documents about these attractions. The process of identifying certain attractions created conflicts of interest and social tensions within the community because of traditional beliefs and myth which prevents locals from commenting about sacred sites there local customs and culture. Further, only key stakeholders were targeted because of difficulties to scale face-to-face interviews for a large study population. This could have limited the overall sample size and potentially individuals with more historical information about cultural sites. Existing documents which were analysed might be incomplete, out of date, or not specifically tailored to the research questions relating to participatory documentation, hence leading to information gaps. Further, documents may reflect the perspectives of dominant stakeholders and ignore the knowledge of marginalized groups and traditional leaders around these PAs. Although these limitations were

acknowledged, the study managed to document some of the existing attractions and current activities in Chimanimani, Vumba and Bunga PAs. There is need to continuously collect data using different platforms in order to address information gaps about these attractions. Destinations also need to continuously update information relating to attraction and introduced activities to help visitors understand what to bring and how to navigate to different attractions.

## 5. Conclusions

This paper documented tourist attractions and activities in Chimanimani NP, Vumba and Bunga located. The three areas have comparative advantage as one of the most desirable places to visit because of its diverse scenery, from rock cliffs to waterfalls and hiking trails. A tourist is always in search of authentic cultures, mysteries, magic, and interesting landscapes. However, there are some connectivity challenges to the identified attractions and this are mostly linked to information gaps and communication channels. Due to limited or unavailability of some services, mostly ancillary, tourists need to bring with them comfortable hiking backpack, food for lunch, dinner and breakfast, Sleeping bag and pillow, good size water bottle among other camping equipment. Some small items for tourists who wish to camp anywhere in the park such as toiletry; spare socks; rain jacket; warm layers in winter; swimsuit for the waterfalls; small towels, rain-cover are also necessary.

## Acknowledgements

Appreciation to The Director General of Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Zimbabwe for permission to carry out the research within the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority PAs. The authors thank all the participants from Vumba, Chimanimani NP, Chikukwa community, Chimanimani Tourist Association, Freelance guides, Friends of Vumba and others who take part during the survey to contribute information relating to tourism in the respective PAs. The authors are also grateful for the valuable comments and suggestions on the document by anonymous reviewers.

**Funding:** The work received no funding  
**Data availability:** Data will be provided upon reasonable request.  
**Conflicts of interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.  
**Consent to Publishing:** All authors read and agree to publish the work and all its content  
**Clinical Trial Number:** Not Applicable

**Ethical Considerations:** The study primarily relies on data that is already in the public domain including reports and publications. While some data originates from research involving community participation, this component was conducted with full ethical considerations in its original data collection.

**Authors' contributions:** **I.M.** initiated and shared the research idea, drafted the concept, data collection, sorting and analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. **O.R.** assessed the draft concept of the manuscript, data collection, sorting and analysis, and made critical intellectual adjustments on the first manuscript to make it a clear scientifically and logically drafted manuscript. **P.G.** Assessed the draft concept of the manuscript, made

conceptual guidance to collect right data and made critical intellectual adjustments on the writing the final manuscript.

All authors assessed and approved the final copy of the manuscript for submission

## References

Abel, S., Nyamadzawo, J., Nyaruwata, S., & Carlton Moyo, C. (2013). USAID Strategies Research & Analysis-Zimbabwe (SERA). Positioning the Zimbabwe tourism sector for growth: Issues and Challenges. USAID/Zimbabwe.

Albayrak, T. & Caber, M. (2016). Destination attributes effect on rock climbing tourist satisfaction; an Asymmetric Impact-Performance Analysis. *Tourism Geographies*. DOI: 10:1080/14616688.2016.1172663.

Ariya, G., Wishitemi, B., & Sitati, N. (2017). Tourism destination attractiveness as perceived by tourists visiting Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya. *International Journal of Research in Tourism and Hospitality (IJRTH)*. 3(4)1-13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2455-0043.0304001>.

Ariya, G., Wishitemi, B., & Sitati, N. (2017). Tourism destination attractiveness as perceived by tourists visiting Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya. *International Journal of Research in Tourism and Hospitality (IJRTH)*. 3(4)1-13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2455-0043.0304001>

Audiences London (2010). How to define and approach cultural tourism. The Audience Agency, London.

Axrrojjon o'g'li, I.O. (2021). Cultural Tourism. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* 10 (2).

Buhalis, D. (2000) Marketing the Competitive Destination of the Future. *Tourism Management*, 21, 97-116. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0261-5177\(99\)00095-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0261-5177(99)00095-3)

Bukamal, H. (2022). Deconstructing insider–outsider researcher positionality. *British Journal of Education*, 49(3): 321-505. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8578.12426>.

Chan, J. K. L., Marzuki, K. M., & Mohtar, T. M. (2021). Local Community Participation and Responsible Tourism Practices in Ecotourism Destination: A Case of Lower Kinabatangan, Sabah. *Sustainability*, 13(23), 13302. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132313302>

Decrop, A. (1999). Triangulation in qualitative tourism research. *Tourism Management*. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0261-5177\(98\)00102-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0261-5177(98)00102-2)

Heath, J., Williamson, H., Williams, L., Harcourt, D. (2018). “It's just more personal”: Using multiple methods of qualitative data collection to facilitate participation in research focusing on sensitive subjects, *Applied Nursing Research*, (43):30-35, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apnr.2018.06.015>.

Hyde, F. (2009). *Tourist Information Search*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, New York, Taylor and Francis, USA.

- Kabote, F., Mamimine, P.W., & Muranda, Z. (2019) A situational analysis of Zimbabwe's domestic tourists' travel trends. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 5:1, 1658350, DOI: [10.1080/23311886.2019.1658350](https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2019.1658350).
- Kanoksilapatham, B., Kachachiva, J., Chumdee, N., Suwanpakdee, S., & Phetluan, P. (2023). Tourist attraction-based cultural identity and local participation propelling sustainable cultural tourism in northern Thailand. *Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Studies*, 23(3), 478–490.
- Kuguyo, T. T., & Gandiwa, E. (2022). The influence of linking wildlife and non-wildlife tourist attractions on tourism marketing and performance in Zimbabwe. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2044125>.
- Lemunge, H. D., Kiwango, W. A., & Mwanyoka, I. R. (2025). Community-based tourism in Africa: a systematic review of the status and emerging opportunities. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2025.2461741>
- Liu, X., & Burnett, D. (2022). Insider-outsider: Methodological reflections on collaborative intercultural research. *Humanity Social Science and Communication* 9, 314. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01336-9>.
- Mackellar, J. (2013). Participant observation at events: Theory, practice and potential. *International Journal of Event and Festival Management*. 4. [10.1108/17582951311307511](https://doi.org/10.1108/17582951311307511).
- Mahakata, I. (2024). Successive Cyclone Idai Disaster and Covid-19 Pandemic Negatively Affected Tourist Arrivals in Chimanimani National Park, Zimbabwe. *American Journal of Tourism and Hospitality* 2(1): 56-61. <https://doi.org/10.54536/ajth.v2i1.2587>.
- Meydan, C. and Akkas, H. (2024). The Role of Triangulation in Qualitative Research: Converging Perspectives. *10.4018/979-8-3693-3306-8.ch006*.
- Moon, M. (2019). Triangulation: A Method to Increase Validity, Reliability, and Legitimation in Clinical Research. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*. 45. 103-105. [10.1016/j.jen.2018.11.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jen.2018.11.004).
- Mulunch, D.W., Chiriko, A.Y. & Taye, T.T. (2022). Tourism Destination Marketing Challenges and Prospects: The Case of the Southern Route of Ethiopia. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 11(1):294-309. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46222/ajhtl.19770720.226>.
- Ngwira, C., & Kankhuni, Z (2018). What attracts tourists to a destination? Is it attractions? *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 7(1).
- Normah, A. L., Mastura, J., Azizan, M., Kamand, R., & Umzarulazijo, U. M. (2020). Spectacle of Conservation and Tourism in Protected Areas: Analysis of Management, Issues and Tourist Satisfaction. *Planning Malaysia*. 18. 478-498. [10.21837/pm.v18i14.847](https://doi.org/10.21837/pm.v18i14.847).
- Okharedia, A. A. (2020). The concept of cultural tourism and its significance in developing economies. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 9(2) 1-8.
- Oosthuizen, N & Ferreira, D. (2019). Destination Enhancers Influencing Tourism Demand. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 8 (4).

Oranga, J. (2025). Mixed methods research: merits, applications and challenges. *International Journal of Social Science*. 5. 233-238. [10.53625/ijss.v5i2.11034](https://doi.org/10.53625/ijss.v5i2.11034).

Satish. C. (2025). Methods of Data Collection in Qualitative Research: Interviews, Focus Groups, Observations, and Document Analysis. *Advances in Educational Research and Evaluation*. 6. 303-317. [10.25082/AERE.2025.01.001](https://doi.org/10.25082/AERE.2025.01.001).

Setokoe, T. J. and Ramukumba, T. (2019). The importance community participation in tourism development to ensure sustainable rural development. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 8.

Sibanda, L., van der Meer, E., Hughes, C., Macdonald, E. A., Hunt, J. E., Parry, R. H., Dlodlo, B., Macdonald, D.W., & Loveridge, A. J. (2020). Exploring perceptions of subsistence farmers in northwestern Zimbabwe towards the African Lion (*Panthera leo*) in the context of local conservation actions. *African Journal of Wildlife Research*, 50(1), 102 - 118. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3957/056.050.0102>.

Solomon, E., & Adu-Debrah, L., and Braimah, M. (2022). Promoting Tourism Destinations through Storytelling. [10.4018/978-1-6684-3436-9.ch007](https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-3436-9.ch007).

Spadaro, I., Pirlone, F., Bruno, F., Saba, G., Poggio, B., & Bruzzone, S. (2023). Stakeholder Participation in Planning of a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Destination: The Genoa Integrated Action Plan. *Sustainability*, 15(6), 5005. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15065005>

Timberlake, J., Ballings, P., Vidal Jr, J. D., Wursten, B., Hyde, M., Mapaura, A., Childes, S., Palgrave, M. C., & Clark, V. R. (2020). Mountains of the Mist: A first plant checklist for the Bvumba Mountains, Manica Highlands (Zimbabwe-Mozambique). *PhytoKeys* 145: 93-129. <https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.145.49257>.

Usmaedi, L., Muhammad, S., Anung, G., Iman, A., & Fakhry, D. (2024). Cultural heritage preservation through community engagement a new paradigm for social sustainability. *Indonesian Journal of Studies on Humanities, Social Sciences and Education*. 1. 50-59. [10.54783/cv5q0011](https://doi.org/10.54783/cv5q0011).

Vallely, A., Shagi, C., Kasindi, S. et al. (2007). The benefits of participatory methodologies to develop effective community dialogue in the context of a microbicide trial feasibility study in Mwanza, Tanzania. *BMC Public Health* 7, 133. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-7-133>.

Vaughn, L. M., & Jacquez, F. (2020). Participatory Research Methods – Choice Points in the Research Process. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.35844/001c.13244>

Wall-Reinius, S & Fredman, P. (2007). Protected areas as attractions. *Annals of Tourism Research*. 34. 839-854. [10.1016/j.annals.2007.03.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2007.03.011).

Wattimena, M.A., Surijadi, H., Amin, M., Musa, M. N. D., & Hatuwe, R. S. M. (2024). Implementation of Participatory Community Tourism Development Model. *Journal of Business Application*, 3(1), 32 – 43 DOI <https://doi.org/10.51135/jba.v1.i1.p1-10>

Wolmer, W. (2007). From Wilderness Vision to Farm Invasions: Conservation & Development in Zimbabwe's South-east Lowveld. Harare: Weaver Press.

Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA), Zimbabwe Tourism Investors' Guide (2021 Edition). Harare, Zimbabwe.