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## **EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN TANZANIA; A CASE STUDY OF ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK**

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## **Abstract**

*The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the global disasters that has affected people and businesses. The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of Covid-19 in tourism attractions in Tanzania. The study adopted a case study research design. The case study design was considered as best fit for this study as the researcher chose a single site which was Arusha national park. The population of this study was 120. Primary data was collected from fifty (50) respondents through interviewing of employees, members of management and tour operators at Arusha national park while secondary data was collected from various sources including published and unpublished sources, journal articles, research reports and internet materials. The study used purposive sampling. Qualitative data was analysed by content analysis. The study found out that the Covid-19 pandemic has negative effects on tourism attractions in economic, social and psychological areas. Some of the negative effects include the closure of businesses, loss of revenues due to closing down of international borders, airports and banning of flights, loss of employment, loss of livelihood due to illness, depression and mental illness. The study recommends for government stimulus in order to provide relief on the major issues including decreased revenue, increased expenditures and unemployment. Moreover, the government needs to evaluate the effect of Covid-19 on tourism during different stages of the pandemic in order to provide the required assistance. Lastly, the study suggests for tourism restructuring specifically, the park and companies to diversify targeted markets.*

**Key words:** Research, pandemic Tourist Attraction

## **1. 0 INTRODUCTION**

Corona virus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by newly discovered corona virus. The first case of pneumonia was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. On 31 December 2019 more cases were reported to WHO by the national authorities in China. WHO has consequently declared it a global pandemic (WHO 2019). The disease has massively spread across the continents by January 2021, confirmed cases approached 99 million with over 2 million deaths in over 200 countries (ECDP 2021).

Africa reported its first Covid case on 14 February 2020 with a confirmed case in Egypt. As of January 29, 2021, African region has reported 3,515,047 Covid-19 cases in all 54 countries, with 88,993 deaths and 2,990,890 recoveries (WHO 2021). The first confirmed case in sub-Saharan Africa was announced in Nigeria at the end of February (ACDC 2021). Since then the infections have been gradually increasing around the region.

Tanzania received the first imported Covid-19 case in 16 March 2020 from a Tanzanian national traveller who flew back to Arusha, Tanzania from Belgium. Through the Health Minister the government instituted various preventive measures with a goal to limit the spread of virus in the country. Arusha reported the first case of Covid-19 in March 2020 by the Health Minister who further warned the spread of the virus. Henceforth the country has observed a massive increase of covid-19 cases. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 covid-19 cases were 509 with 21 deaths and 183 recoveries (WHO 2020). The government stressed on the application of nonpharmaceutical medicine particularly inhaling steam from a mixture of traditional herbs, famously known as 'nyungu' as a therapy against the virus. Since the covid-19 pandemic is novel few studies have been conducted of which mostly concentrates on economic and global impact of covid-19 in the industry. However, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, the context of Tanzanian national parks, undertaken with a view to broadly examine into the internal and external operations of a tourism in Tanzania, had not been studied. An in-depth investigation into the operations of a specific tourist attraction is needed to investigate the effects of covid-19 in tourism attractions specific in Arusha national park.

The scope of the study was limited to Arusha National Park in Arusha region. Arusha is the safari capital of the country. Therefore, most of tour operators are located within the city. It is the ideal location near the major national parks in Tanzania. The researcher believed that Arusha national park was a perfect sample for the study as it is the closest national park to Arusha city many visitors prefer a day trip for relaxation before getting on long safari, it was also easy for a researcher to make a day trip to obtain the information.

Therefore, this study sought to investigate the effect of covid-19 on tourism attractions in Tanzania. More specifically this study sought to identify the effect of Covid-19 on tourism attractions in Arusha national park and the measures that should be taken to address the effects.

The findings from the study will help the government to make appropriate decisions in providing the required measures and support to tourism attractions in the country. Besides, the study expected to find out the damages caused by the pandemic and proposing alternative ways to recovery.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Several researchers made studies on the effects of covid-19 in tourism attractions worldwide. The results of these studies have had different and some similar results. A study done by Jaipuria, Ray (2020) analysed the effect of Covid-19 in tourism sector in India. The study found out that the foreign exchange earnings (FEE) and regional developments have been affected by the pandemic. They also predicted foreign tourists' arrival in India and FEE using artificial neural networks (ANN). They proposed for the various stakeholders of the tourism industry to help recover the sector from the current scenario. On the other hand, UNDP (2020) assessed the impact of covid-19 in Tanzania. The study analysed the impact on tourism and hospitality industry. The reduced number of tourists implies depressed hotel activities and closure of most of tourist hotels and decreased economic activities and fall in income. Tourism has been a major source of foreign exchange earnings, which also has severely affected as result of the sudden decline of tourist arrivals and low hotel occupancy rates.

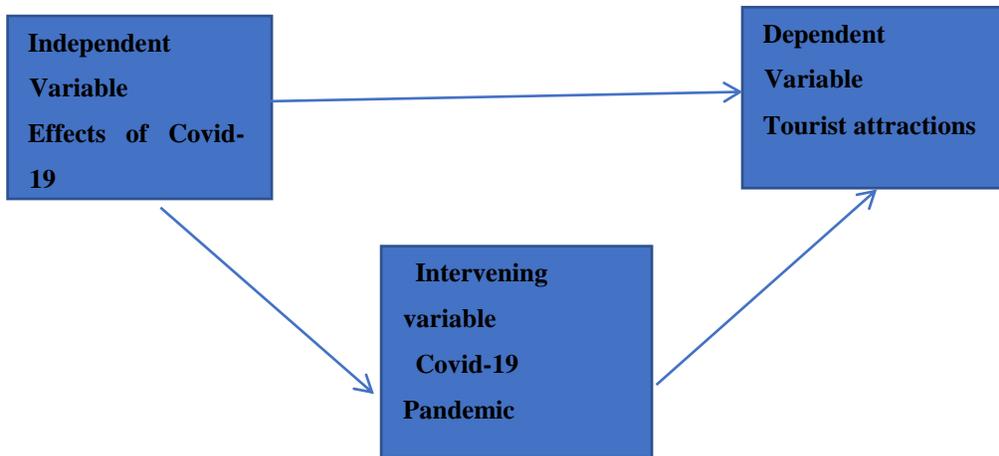
UN (2020) assessed the implications of the COVID-19 crisis on the tourism sector depending on the duration of the global lockdown. The paper estimates the direct and indirect costs of the shutdown for 65 individual countries and regions and 65 sectors, covering the global economy. The researcher suggested that some countries, unemployment could rise by more than 20 percentage points and some sectors could nearly be wiped out if the duration of the tourism standstill is up to one year. Further the paper puts forward policy recommendations for governments to avert the worst effects and facilitate recovery.

Researcher has observed that while a considerable amount of work has been done on global impact of covid-19 on tourism industry, and in protected areas in particular. Despite the abundance of publications on the matter, studies on the link between covid-19 and tourism in Arusha national park in Arusha region has not been conducted. The lack of research on the effect of the pandemic in tourism attractions has delayed the country from taking necessary measures to confront the problem.

Conceptual framework defined by Maxwell (2012) as the visual or written product, one that explains either graphically or narrative form, the main things to be studied the key factors, concepts or variable

and the presumed relationship among them. It also describes the relationship between variables and help the reader to visualize their relationship (Bougie and Sekaran2010).

Figure 1: Conceptual framework



**Source:** Author (2021)

Figure 1.1 shows the dependent variable of the study, which is tourism attractions, independent variable of the study which are effects of Covid-19 and intervening variable which is Covid-19 pandemic. A Dependent variable is what happens as a result of the independent variable NLM (2017). Thus, for the case of this work it refers to tourism attractions. Independent variable is a variable that stand on its own and is not affected by anything, but it affects other variables for this case effects of Covid-19 is the independent variable. The effects of Covid19 will determine the fate of tourism attractions. The activities in tourism attractions will depend upon the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. When the effects of Covid-19 are negative there will be no tourism activities that will take place in tourism attractions compare to when there was no Covid-19. An intervening variable is a hypothetical variable used to explain causal links between other variables (Boston University 2021). An intervening variable Covid-19 pandemic is a control variable that follows an independent variable but precedes the dependent variable . Intervening aspects such as travel restrictions, social distancing and closing of countries borders that once there is a change is these aspects result to change in the dependent factor.

This study was guided by Ajzen and Fishbein **theory of planned behaviour (TPB)**. The theory was designed to predict human decisions and behaviours. The theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) started as the theory of reasoned action in 1980 to predict an individual's intention to engage in a behaviour at a specific time and place. The theory was intended to explain all behaviours over which people could exert self-control. The key component to this model is behavioural intent; behavioural intentions are influenced by the attitude about the likelihood that the behaviour will have the expected outcome and the subjective evaluation of the risks and benefits of that outcome (BUSPH 2019).

In tourism the theory has been used to shed light on the decision-making process leading to destination choice (Lam & Hsu 2006), the differential impact of risk and uncertainty on decision-making about trips (Quintal et al 2010). Societies change their awareness of risks in daily life, including individual decisions about traveling. The theory has been proven to be helpful to explain travellers' decision-making for safe tourism destination.

The perception of covid-19 risk has affected traveller's decisions to travel into tourist destinations. The outbreak of covid19 has limited the number of tourists since tourist are avoiding the risk of losing their lives from covid-19 contamination.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted at Arusha national park in Arusha region, Tanzania. Arusha is the safari capital of the country, most of tour operators are located within the city. It is the ideal location near the major national parks in Tanzania. The researcher believes that Arusha national park is a perfect area for the study as it is the closest national park to Arusha city. Many visitors prefer a day trip for relaxation before getting on long safari. It is was easy for a researcher to make a day trip to obtain the information which helped the researcher to work in budget. Conducting a study in this area enabled the researcher to gain an insight and more deep understanding on the current situation of tourism attractions in the country.

This research adopted a case study research design. Case study explores a research topic or phenomenon within its context (Yen 2009). Case study design is considered as best fit for this study as the researcher chose a single site where the study was conducted which for this case was Arusha national park. This study applied a qualitative approach since the study aimed to provide deeper understanding of social phenomenon. Qualitative data was collected by using interviews, recording and documented information. This helped a researcher to truly capture experience on the effect of Covid-19. The population of this study was an estimation of 120 since the availability of people at the park depend mostly on the availability of activities at the park. It included employees in tourism section the management and tour operators doing business at Arusha national park. The selection of population based on researcher's accessibility to respective organization. The sample size for this research was 50 respondents to represent the entire population. The researcher selected a sample size purposely. Participants were selected purposely by choosing only those elements which-were believed to deliver the required data. Purposive sampling allows us to choose a case because it illustrates some feature or process in which we are interested. It seeks out groups, settings and individuals where the process being studied are most likely to occur Silverman (2011).

The collection of primary data was through interviews. A semi structured interview is a qualitative method of inquiry that combines a pre-determined set of open questions. These interviews do not have pre-determined pattern but are free-flowing and open-ended as in qualitative research (Silverman 2011). Semi structured interviews were conducted to obtain information on the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on tourism attractions in Arusha national park. In this study interviews were used to collect data in which management team and employees in tourism department at Arusha national park and tour operators doing

business in Arusha national park were interviewed due to their direct involvement with the COVID-19 situation in tourism industry. Secondary data was collected from various sources included both printed and electronic published and unpublished sources, journal articles, research reports and internet materials. After data collection, the open-ended questions in the interview were arranged accordingly and analysed by content analysis. According to University of Georgia (2021) content analysis is a research technique used to make replicable and valid inferences by interpreting and coding textual material. By systematically evaluating texts (e.g., documents, oral communication, and graphics). The researcher has selected content analysis since it is a direct and transparent research method. The coding scheme and then sampling procedures can also be clearly set out so that replication and follow up study are feasible. Validity always relates to the extent to which the research data as well as the methods for finding the data are accurate, honest and on target. Silverman (2011) define validity as simply truth while Sounders (2012) define validity as concerned with the extent to which your research measures actually measure what you intend them to assess. To ensure validity of this study, the researcher ensured careful planning of interview questions in order to get relevant information, clearly related to research objectives and collected from the individuals who were willing to provide the information. Besides, the researcher used documented data from the park

Reliability refers to the statement used to measure the consistency of the research findings. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), reliability of measurement is established by examining the stability and consistency of the data. In order to ensure the reliability of the research findings, the researcher prepared the interview guide in a simple short format, to avoid respondents' confusion. The researcher identified the limitations of the study and how to address them via conducting a pilot study before the actual research. The researcher tried to control biasness by obtaining multiple viewpoints from other literatures. Finally, the researcher used actual quotations from participants.

Confidentiality and freedom against bias was observed in this study. The respondents were not asked for their names during the interviews and confidentiality was observed. In addition to that researcher in obeying with ethical issues acknowledged all the works of others used in this study. Besides, the respondent interviews will be kept under the researcher custody.

#### **4.0 FINDINGS**

When asked about positive effects of the pandemic in Arusha national park during the interviews, the respondents had different negative reactions to this question. One of the participants laughed ironically and said:

*...“How can you think of any positivity from this pandemic are you mad ?, we have lost our money, our family members and a friend we even lost trust from our wives how can you talk about the benefits from this evil thing ”... (Employee-16)*

However, there were a few participants who agreed that Covid-19 had positive effects on tourism attractions. One more participant reported that:

*...The Covid-19 has opened our eyes in many ways, I personal have learned to be careful on my spending. I have learnt to have a plan B, not to depend on single source of income, not to depend on my salary and allowances because anything can happen at any time. I have learned to invest my money so I can be covered in time of uncertainty.... (Employee-2).*

A separate participant who was tour operator commented that he learnt what to do with his money...

*“...In future I will try to invest in other businesses for stability from the time I stopped receiving the visitors I have never been financially stable like how I used to be. If I had another source, I would have not struggled...”* (Tour operator-1).

The responses from the participants led to the conclusion that Covid-19 had negative effects on tourism attractions in Arusha national park. Moreover, during the discussions with the participants three major areas were identified as negatively affected by the Covid-19: economic effect, social effect and psychological effects.

#### *Economic effect of Covid-19*

Most of the respondents grieved that they were mostly affected by the pandemic in terms of revenues. The implementation of social distance, closing down of international borders and cancellation of aircraft transport caused significance losses due to reduction in travel. It limited the number of foreign visitors. One of the employees reported that:

*... “Most of the revenues are coming from the entry fee, specifically from foreign visitors who are charged in foreign currency. The shortage of visitors has caused massively dropping of revenues from 2020 to 2021 especially in foreign currency earning when Covid-19 become a global pandemic” ...* (Employee-18)

One member of the management commented that the COVID-19 pandemic caused direct impacts on income due to untimely death of one of the workers who lost his life because of the pandemic. Workplace absenteeism caused by the fear and sickness leave reduced productivity. He further explained that with the absence of visitors, salary payments were delayed. Moreover, employee’s allowances were cut off and some of temporary employees who worked in temporary basis were released to accommodate the changes...

*... “The organization has failed to generate income in 2020 we were lucky that the park is in government plan, we receive budget direct from the government to cover the expenses or else we would have not been able to survive” ...* (Management-3)

The management member was referring to the annual ministerial budget they were receiving from the government. It was helping them to cover for operations expenses. Otherwise they would not have managed to keep the organization going.

According to one of the tour operators, new tariffs were introduced in 2019 and put into practice in August 2020 whereby park fee was increased from USD 45 to USD 50 for a foreigner which was quite contrary to what they expected from the government. He said:

*“...We were hoping for tariff relief during this hard time, there are no business operations at all however things have turned out different we are now required to pay more dollars for our guests”...* (Tour operator-20)

Further, it was revealed in the interviews that tour operators were hoping for the tariffs to be lowered since the number of visitors was low due to the pandemic. Another Tour operator mentioned a list of tariffs like VAT, park entry fee, concession fee, and tourism development fee to conclude that the tariffs are too many to be accommodated at this time. In addition to business, closure the Tour operator expressed his sentiments on how he had to sell his cars to avoid spare damages for not been on road for a long time.

The tour operator reported that the effects of pandemic affected both sides; the tour operators and customers. He stressed that everyone is suffering while referring to the job loss, unproductive businesses due to staying at home and shutting down orders faced by customers which caused them to change their spending behaviour.

During interview, one of Employees explained on how the pandemic affected the residents within the park. Not only was the organization affected but also the residents. The employee proceeded:

*... Most of the villagers are depending on visitors to generate their income. They are the ones who owns shops and are main food supplies. The villagers have been main supplier of chicken, eggs and other food products for the hotels and rest houses in the park ever since they stopped coming, they no longer got customers for their food and goods, they even stopped farming.... (Employee-16 )*

The employee-16 went on to mention that the park management has stopped giving back to the community since they have no enough revenue to contribute for community development.

#### *Social effect of Covid-19*

During the interview with one member of Management, it was pointed out how the park was generating jobs for the porters and hoteliers. He spoke about massively loss of jobs for hotel employees and porters which had brought impact in their livelihoods.

*“...These people depend on their jobs to feed their families and now they are just at home struggling on how to support their families, they cannot afford to buy them food or pay for their children school fees”... (Management-4)*

He further explained that due to many job losses most of the employees failed to find means to provide support for their families which caused life hardship and family separations as most of wives were not willing to live in hardship. Another tour operator commented that he had to put the children out of English medium schools and enrolled them in government schools since he could not afford to pay for their school fees. The situation was a disgrace to the family members

When they were asked about social distance. Overall, respondents expressed concern about their social life since most of them had to change their social behaviours to avoid catching the virus. Loneliness, worries when using public transport, feeling unsafe, communication difficulties and increased staff absence caused by fear and illness were some of the things brought by pandemic. Distractions and uneasiness due to wearing of face mask were also mentioned as the effects of the pandemic. One participant said:

*“...We were driven by fear we did not know who was safe or affected you sometimes find the reason for not coming to work, due to old age my husband did not even allow me to use office transport to work you can now see how the pandemic has separated us”... (Employee- 14)*

Give the finding (here) which is supported by the following quotation)

*“...We were so used of doing things together as office staff but now it is not possible any more mentioned though we are trying to live as normal but sometimes there is this inside fear of getting infected that is keeping us distance”... (Employee-15)*

#### *Psychological effects of Covid-19*

During the interviews, the respondents explained that psychological effects of the pandemic were caused by the fear of being infected by the virus, isolation and death. They were consumed with fear of separation from loved ones, loss of independence, doubt about the progress of the disease, and the feeling of powerlessness. These aspects caused depression and distress to them. Together with these were the feeling of anger and abandonment. The situation became worse at the park when they realized that they had one case of infected colleagues. The fear and anxiety among employees were exaggerated.

#### **Measures taken to address the effect of Covid-19**

On the issue of measures taken by the government to address the effects of Covid-19 in Arusha national park, the respondents had different perceptions regarding the situation. Majorities of the respondent were

concerned about the tariffs that have been imposed by the government amid the pandemic as a way to say that the government did not put enough efforts to address the problem. One of the interviewees stated that:

*.... Although travelling restrictions have been lifted in some countries which has led to increase of visitors, we are still facing struggles to come back into business. On top of several other fees, the government has imposed new fees. Take a look of the entry fee here in Arusha national park it has increased from usd 45 to usd 50 per tourist entering the park. Tariffs have been burdening particularly in profitability context. The government should reduce the tariffs to allow the tourism industry to recover. The government should learn from neighbouring country Kenya which has created favourable environment to her tour operators by removing 50% of tax during covid-19, provide up keeping and stimulus money to tour operators so they can get back into the business....*  
(Tour operator- 1)

The interviewee was referring to new tariffs introduced by the government during the pandemic. The tour operators were expecting for the government to put on hold the implantation of new tariffs until the Covid-19 situation loosen up

Another respondent reported that

*.... The fee is like rubbing salt into a fresh wound as it would make Tanzania an expensive destination in the outcome of the Covid-19 crisis while other destinations are cutting cost as measures to attract tourist in the post Covid -19 crisis. The government should have stopped the enforcement of the new fees for a while to support the recovery of the tourism activities in order to protect jobs and businesses in the face of covid-19 pandemic. Look on long term goal, instead of looking for immediate profit now they should invest to tour operators now by removing the tariffs obvious the country will become less expensive destination which will bring more visitors and they can benefit letter from the operators....* (Tour operator-20)

The interviewee was stressing on the long-term effects of tariffs incremental since most of countries around the globe have determined to attract more tourist as a recovery strategy. The government of Tanzania should aim the same through reducing the tariffs

One more tour operator also reported,

*....There was no government awareness on the existence of Covid-19. Over one year the government has been denying the presence of Covid-19 in the country. There was no way that the same government could provide any measures for Covid-19 awareness. We became a laughingstock, attacked by International organizations for holding information on the number of Covid-19 cases. Denying the truth was a major blow in tourism. We had lost trust from the visitors, and we were label as unsafe tourism destination. These actions have definitely worsened tourism. Kenya had many cases and tourism numbers is growing, but the government has been transparent and has shown their efforts to ensure that visitors stay safe, and are not freighted....*(Tour operator-19)

The responded was referring to government actions denying the presence of Covid-19 in the country. He explained on the importance of creating safe environment and transparency in order to attract more tourist to the country.

However, there were other respondents who recognized the measures that have been taken by the government to address the pandemic. It was reported by a separate member of management during the interview that the government has created the standards operating procedures (SOPS) to manage Covid-19 in tourism business as documented below.

*“...In recognition of the importance of health, safety and security of tourists and the general public, Tanzania’s tourism industry is presenting detailed protocols regarding control measures and procedures towards preventing the spread of COVID-19. The protocols referred to as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have to be adopted and customized by all tourism entities (companies, authorities and other related service providers dealing with tourists) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Government institutions, tourism business operators and other stakeholders are under instructions to continuously monitor on advisories issued by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC)....” (SOP for opening tourism 2020)*

The quoted document shows government efforts to prevent further spreading of the pandemic with in tourism sector by developing the standard operating procedures which has been implemented in Arusha national park and other tourist attractions within the country. Another member of the management reported that

*....There has been improvement of public health awareness in the park. The government has enforced measures to contain the disease in the park. Some of the measures are maintained cleanness through hand washing, sanitation and maintenance of social distance by reducing unnecessary population in the park including stopping field work student and temporary employees.... (management-1)*

The interviewee explained that the safety protocols developed by the government were implemented in the park. A different management member commented on the introduction of vaccination as the way of bringing back the trust to our country which was blacklisted across the nations

*....The introduction of Covid-19 vaccination, covid-19 test and rapid test for travellers have given us opportunity to revive again. It has sent a message to the world that Tanzania is now complying to the world standards. This has brought back our international image as a safe country also brought back trust from our visitors which we have lost. Visitors have confidence to travel to Tanzania. Moreover, the government has prioritized tourism industry as essential mandating those in tourism business to be vaccinated.... (Management-3).*

## **5.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The results of this study show that Covid-19 pandemic brought negative effect in Arusha national park. The pandemic affected the organization in three areas which are economic, social and psychological. It affected the psychological health of the employees and tour operators in relation to social relations with the concerning of contracting the virus within the workplace and fear of death. Most of participants said that they had no desire to socialize with others since the pandemic. This is in line with findings from a previous study by Williams et al (2020). Employees will not be able to produce effectively if they are worried of their wellbeing. This imply that the fear of infections will be influencing organizations productivity since work productivity is measured by availability of employees. Depression may lead to mental problems which interfere with employees’ judgements and sometime death. The participants indicated that the pandemic was the cause of their financial problems through reduction of revenues and unemployment.

UN (2020) assessed the implications of Covid-19 crisis on the tourism activities depending on the duration of the global lockdown. The researcher suggested that to some countries, unemployment could rise by more than 20 percentage. This imply that the longer time that the pandemic is going to stay is an

extension of financial challenges in tourism sector. Some sectors could nearly be wiped out if the duration of the tourism standstill could go up to one year. Moreover, tourism attractions are major sources of foreign exchange earnings which was also severely affected as result of the sudden decline of tourism arrivals as suggested by (Vivas Eugui and Contreras 2020) who argued that it disrupted the collection of tax revenues and sources of foreign exchange. This indicate that the decline in number of visitors has damaged the demand as a result of reduced tourism activities leading to unemployment, and loss of income for potential tourist and employees in tourism sector.

Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has contributed significantly to the bad performance of Arusha national park such as reduction in tourist activities decreased the general revenues which were expected to stimulate economic growth in the country. This can be linked with the study done by (UNDP 2020) which analysed the impact on tourism and hospitality industry. The reduced number of tourists implies depressed hotel activities and closure of most of tourist hotels and decreased economic activities and fall in income. This suggest that the lack of income decrease livelihood standards of people as economic growth depend much on availability and circulation of money. Reduced revenues only meant lack of employments and social services which threatened community development and led to poverty.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The study provides some useful insights on the current situation of tourism attractions in Arusha national park. Based on finding the effects of Covid-19 in Arusha national park were quite severe due to the strong link between the park and livelihood. The findings of the study showed that business profit significantly decreased, the number of visitors decreased which forced the organization to cut down expenditures and some of the tour companies to reduce number of employees and close down the businesses. Further the pandemic led to the decrease of revenues, loss of lives and mental depression among employees and tour operators. The pandemic has put tourism sector in difficult position. However, the pandemic has also paved the way to reform tourism sector for sustainable development.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study recommends for government stimulus in order to provide relief on the major issues including decreased revenue, increased expenditures and unemployment. The government and tourism policymakers should make effort to support tourism firms by providing stimulus plan in form of low interest loans or no interest to raise income which will facilitate the operations. In general, the government needs to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 on tourism during different stages of the pandemic in order to provide the required assistance. Furthermore, the study suggests for tourism restructuring specifically, the park and companies to diversify targeted markets. Since the country has no restrictions to local visitors, they should target the local market.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES**

This study gives a room for further studies. Since qualitative research method has been employed, future studies should collect quantitative data to investigate the effects of Covid-19 on tourism attractions. Due to the newness of the virus future research should develop theoretical frameworks related to the Covid-19 on tourism attractions other national parks can be investigated. Lastly the sample can be extended to other tourism sectors like the hotels.

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