



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: S7

Nature Tourism in Africa: Value for Nature, Livelihoods and Economic Investment

Hosts:

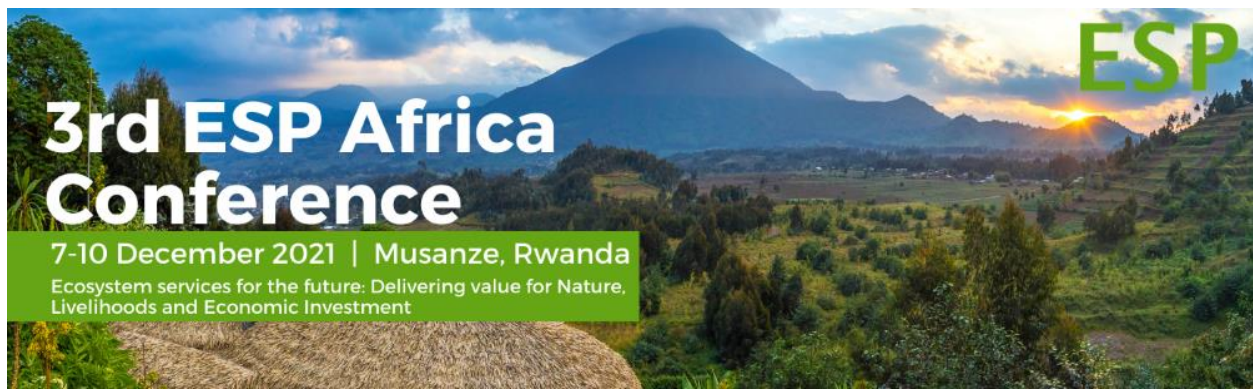
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Host:		Jan Philipp Schägner	BIOPAMA, JRC, European Commission	philipp.schaegner@gmail.com
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### Abstract:

Before the Covid-19 crisis about 60 million tourists travelled to Africa each year and contributed about 10% to African GDP and employment. The tourism sector was one of the fastest growing sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. And, a large part of these tourists visit Africa to enjoy its exceptional nature and wildlife. The contribution of nature tourism to employment and income showcases how the value of nature can translate into direct and substantial economic benefits for local communities. Thereby, the economic contribution of nature tourism can be used as a strong argument in favour of nature conservation. If protected areas are perceived as a source of income, they may benefit from higher acceptance among local communities and thereby pressures on protected areas may be reduced.

Now, with the availability of new vaccines in sight, the end of the Covid-19 crisis appears on the horizon. We therefore believe that it is time to re-build the wildlife economy in Africa in a more robust and sustainable way. Although Africa is home to most of the globally remaining megafauna, exceptional natural and iconic landscapes, it still received only a small amount of global tourism arrivals and the domestic tourism sector was still underdeveloped. Both facts point at the great potential in developing the African wildlife economy.

But what “knowledge and information” can steer and accommodate a responsible nature-based tourism? What “knowledge and information” exist and how can it be used by local to national level decision makers in the public and private sector?



We welcome all contributions that shed light and share experiences on knowledge and information related to nature-based tourism and recreation in Africa, including the mapping and assessment of its natural potential, its supply and its demand, its management and monitoring, its monetary economic and non-monetary valuation and/or its business development. Contributions that concern the threats associated with nature-tourism and its development are also welcome.

#### Goals and objectives of the session:

We aim at bringing together the key expertise in the African wildlife economy to strengthen the network, establish new collaborations, discuss the research agenda, and make a contribution to the development of the sustainable African wildlife economy.

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

A position paper on the African priorities in nature tourism research.

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

#### Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Sectoral Working Groups: SWG 7 – ES in \(eco\) Tourism](#)