

The Impact of Tourism Leakages on Local Economies: A Case Study of Nyanga District, Zimbabwe

**Leonard I. Chirenje¹, Joseline Chitotombe², Simbarashe Gukurume³, Bernard Chazovachii⁴ and
Leonard Chitongo⁵**

*¹Department of Social Ecology, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
Mobile: +263777317205, E-mail: leonchirenje@yahoo.com*

²Department of Social Ecology, Great Zimbabwe University,

³Department of Social Anthropology, Great Zimbabwe University,

⁴Department of Rural and Urban Development, Great Zimbabwe University,

⁵Department of Rural and Urban Development, Great Zimbabwe University

KEYWORDS Poverty Alleviation. Rural Livelihoods. Tourism Leakages. Tourism Employment. Community Participation

ABSTRACT This paper examines the impact of tourism leakages on the local economies. It draws results from a survey done in Nyanga District in Zimbabwe. Data were collected using questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The quantitative analyses were employed to evaluate the level of leakages and its impact on local economies using monetary values. Content analysis was used to summarize community perception of tourism contribution to local economies. Results revealed that the most dominant type of leakage noted in the study area was internal/import leakage followed by external leakage and pre-leakage. Out of USD \$187 that is spent by each tourist in Nyanga per day, the locals only get USD \$24 which is 12.83% and the rest, 87.17% goes to the service providers which are not owned by the local people. The leakage of money out of the country was however relatively low. The paper concludes that the low leakage out of the country is a result of limited number of international tourists. Reduction of leakages can only be achieved through the creation of strong and sustainable linkages of ecotourism with the other livelihood options, training local communities and strong local community participation in ecotourism activities.