

The changing contribution of different forms of tourism to local livelihoods during a period of crisis:

case study of Southern Kenya

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INTRODUCTION

- Tourism is widely used as a tool to deliver poverty reduction from natural ecosystems
- But: often criticized for being a volatile industry that can collapse
- Few studies have looked at how such a collapse affects local livelihoods, wellbeing and resource use.

- Tourism sector is one of the most important income earner in Kenya after agriculture.
- 2014, Kenya experienced tourism slump in terms of reduction international arrivals, triggered by terrorist attacks and subsequent travel advisories
- Affected the study area for Sustainable Poverty Alleviation from Coastal Ecosystem Services (SPACES) project – created new research opportunity

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

State of
Ecosystems



How it
makes people's
lives better



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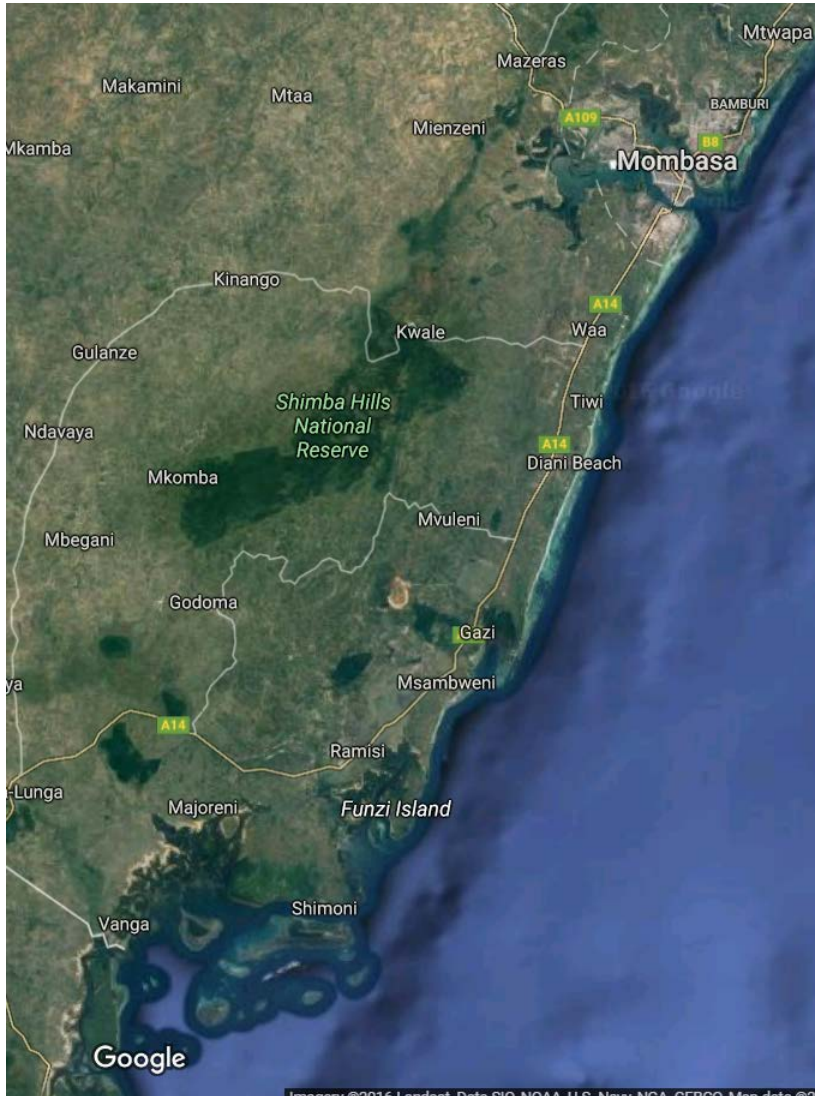
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1. What are the impacts of the tourism slump on local livelihoods and wellbeing?
2. What were the local coping strategies that were adopted?
3. How do these new strategies impact natural resource use?

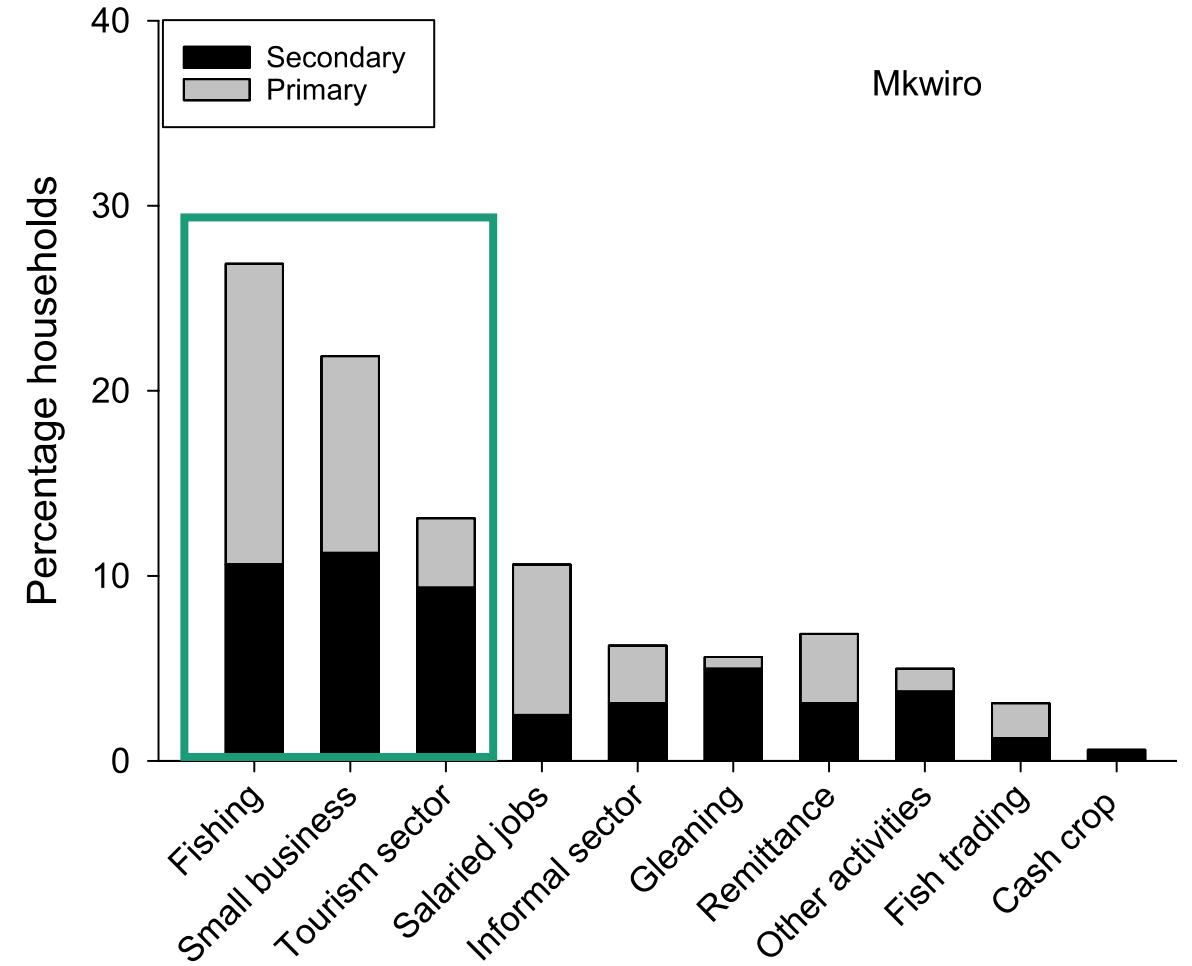
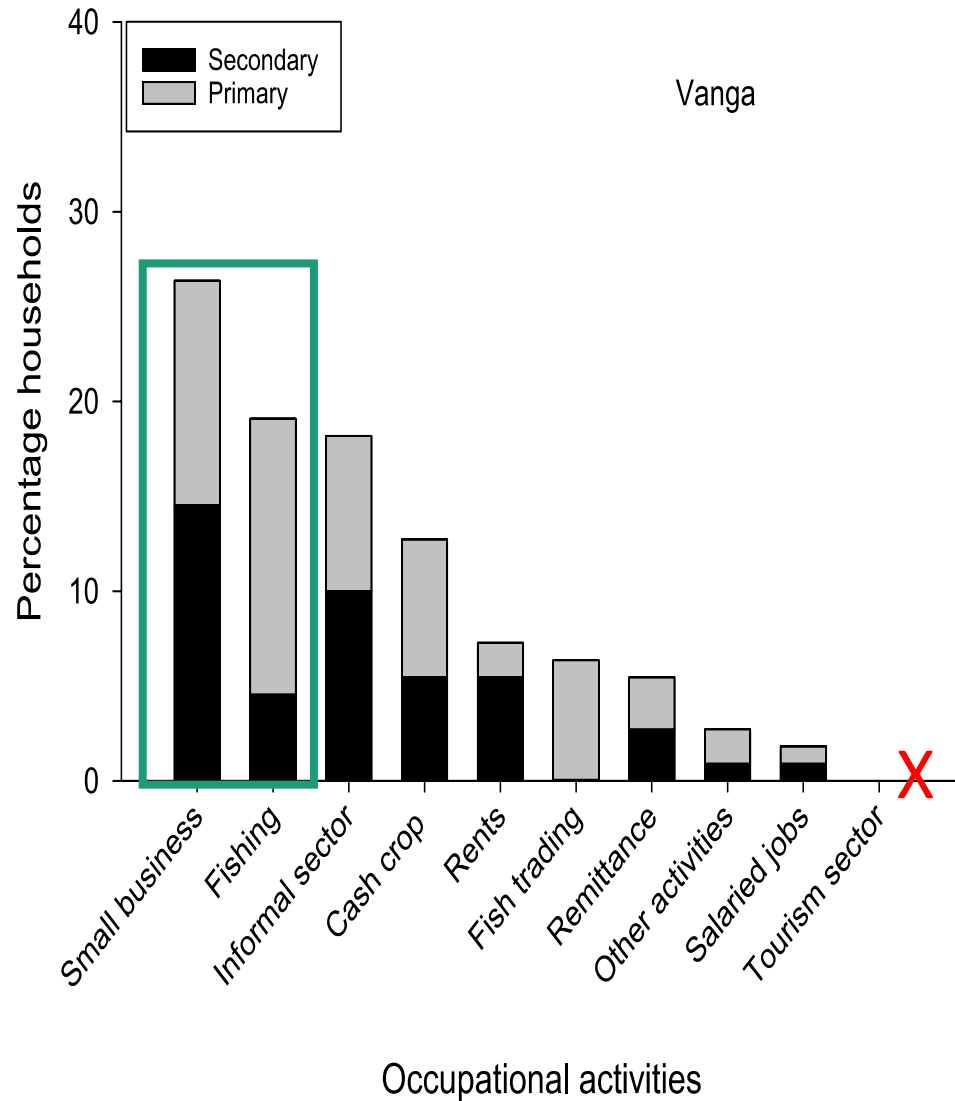
- Note: These are preliminary results

STUDY AREA

- Focused on Vanga and Mkwiro
- Mkwiro heavily involved in tourism
- Mostly snorkeling in KWS controlled marine park
- Vanga control site with no tourism



Site Characteristics



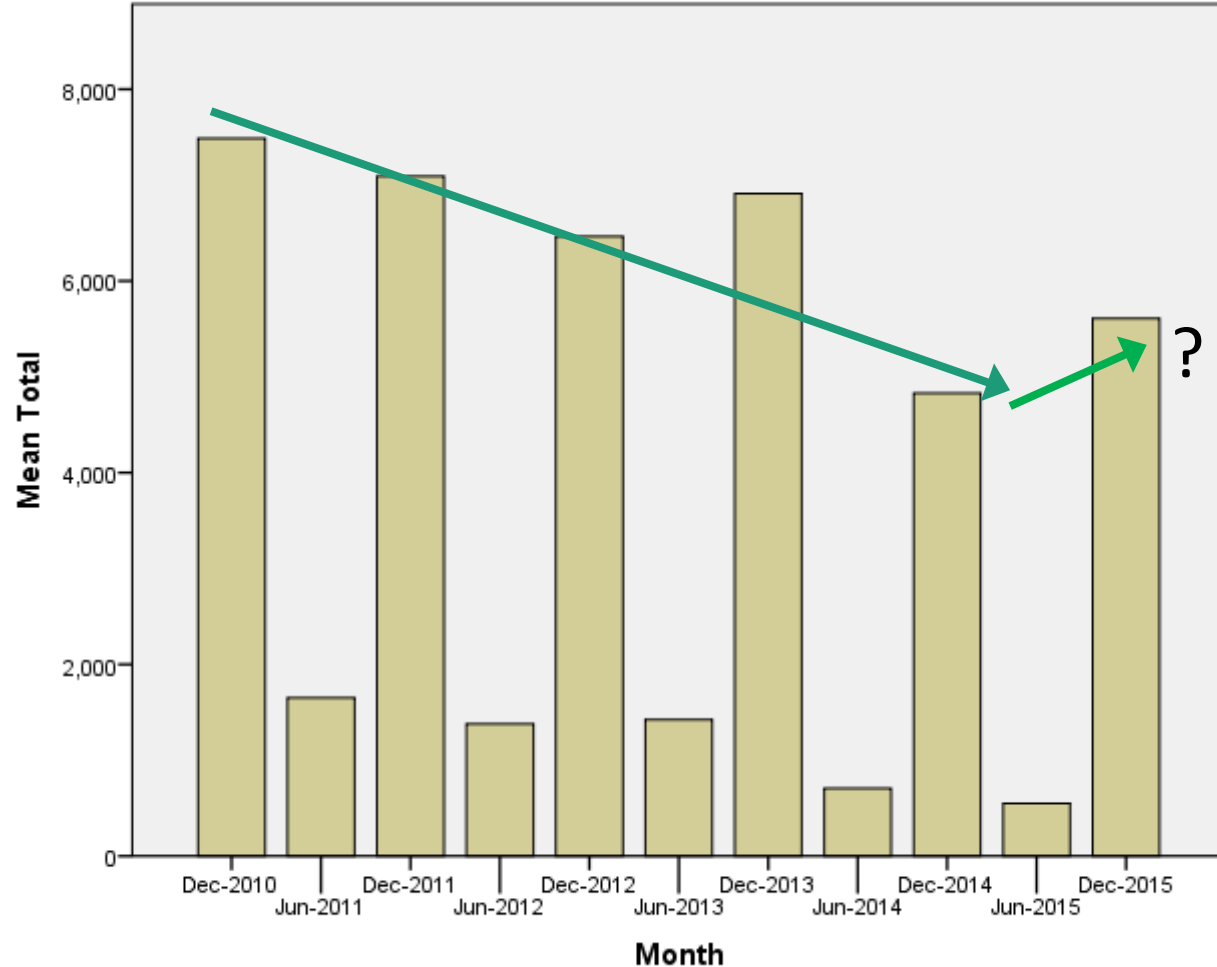
Tourism is the 3rd important occupation in Mkwiro.

METHODS

- Tourist visitor data
 - Kenya Wildlife Service records of visitor numbers
- Household survey
 - Baseline household survey before the tourism slump in 2012
 - Repeat survey of 140 households after tourism slump 2014

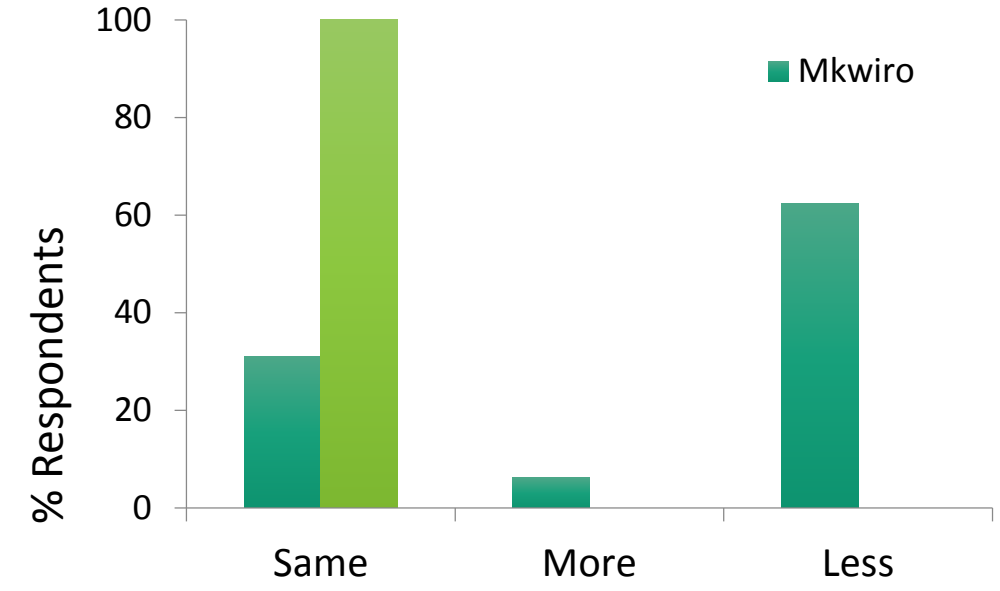
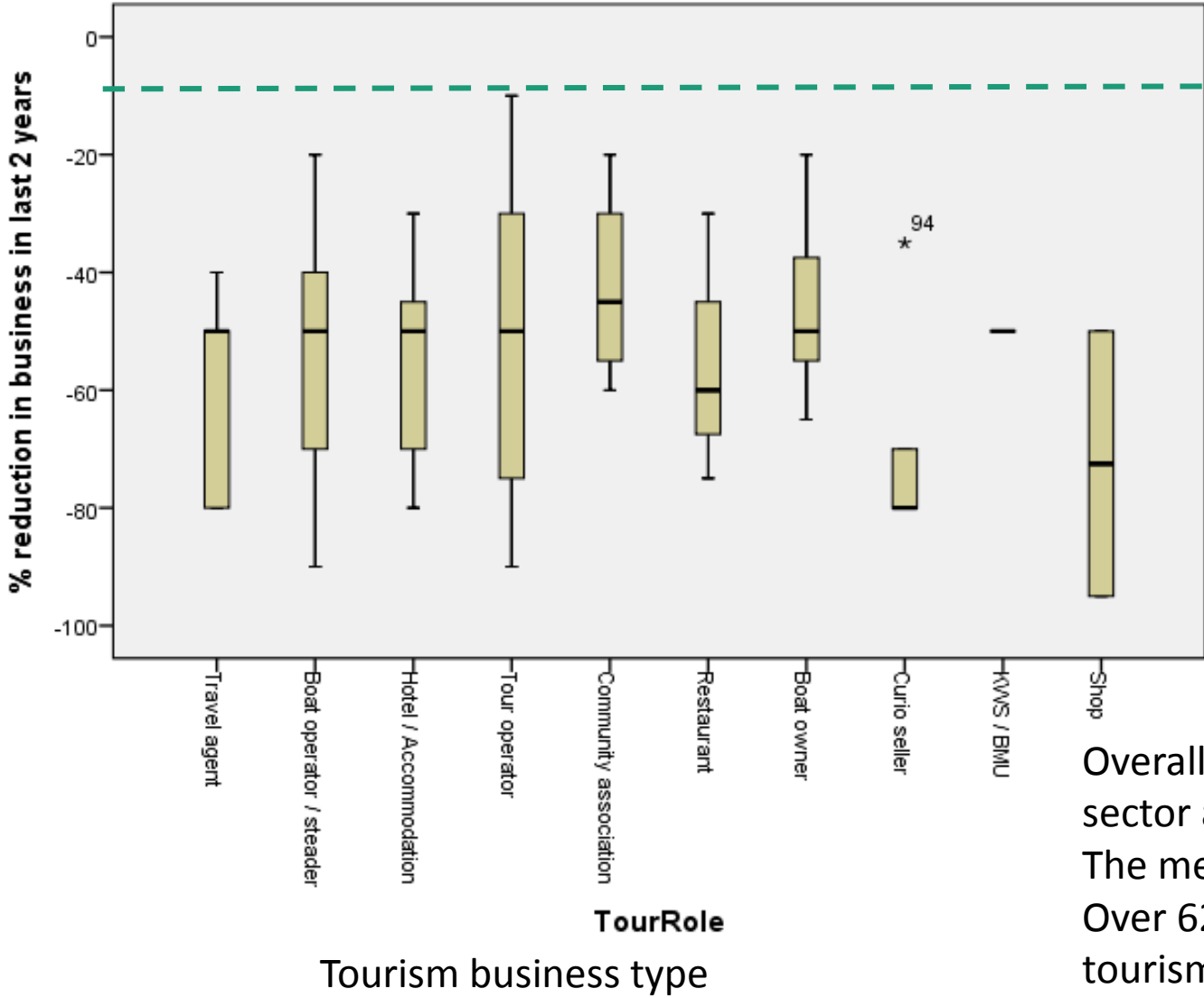


Overall tourist numbers in decline 2010-2015



- There has been a clear decline in peak season visitor numbers over the last few years (blue arrow)
- Particularly in 2014
- Things are perhaps recovering now? (green arrow)
- Similar pattern in low season (June)

Perception on decline and effect on tourism sector



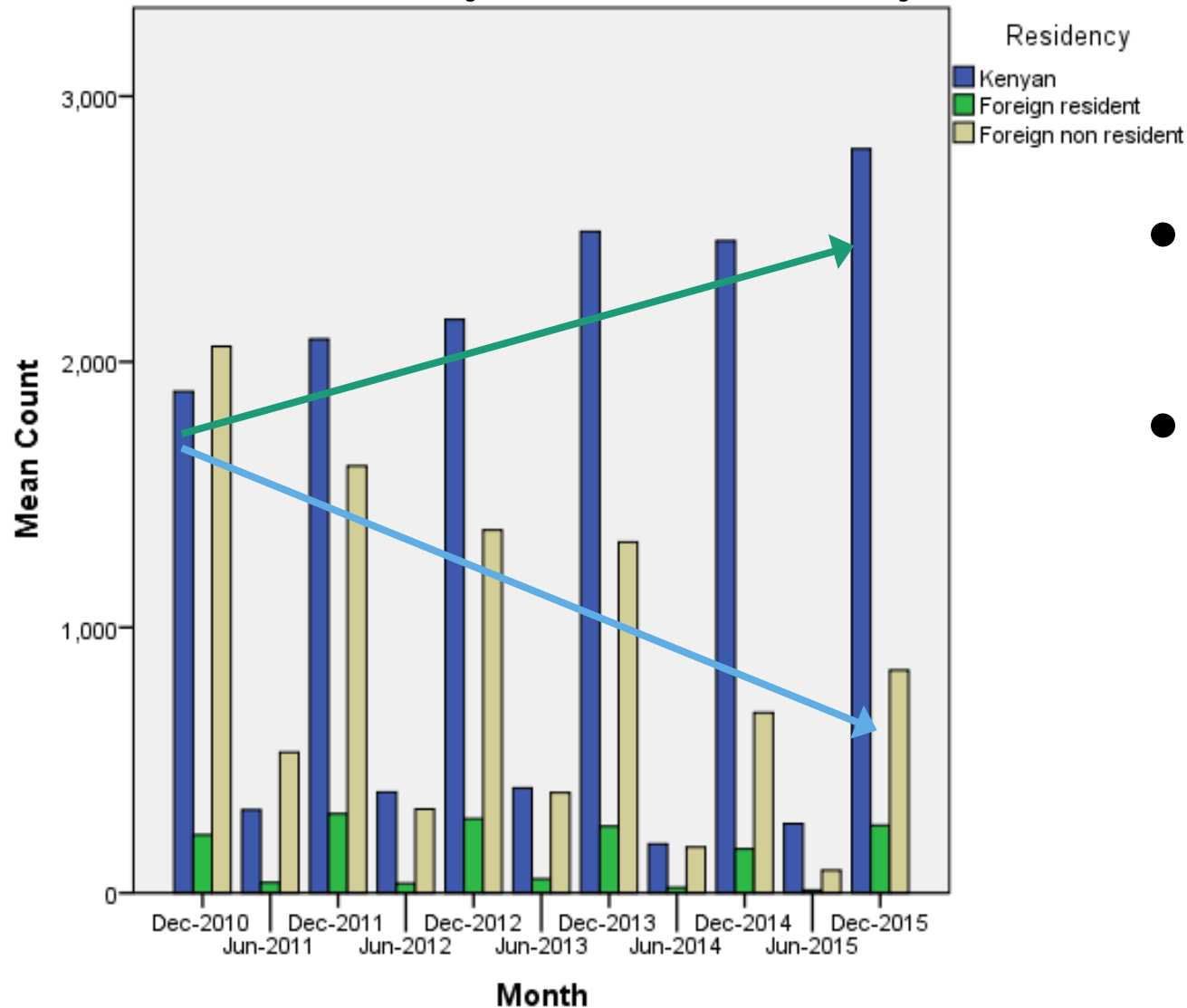
Q. Are there more or less tourists compared to before April 2014

Overall reduction was less than 20% all sectors within the tourism sector affected.

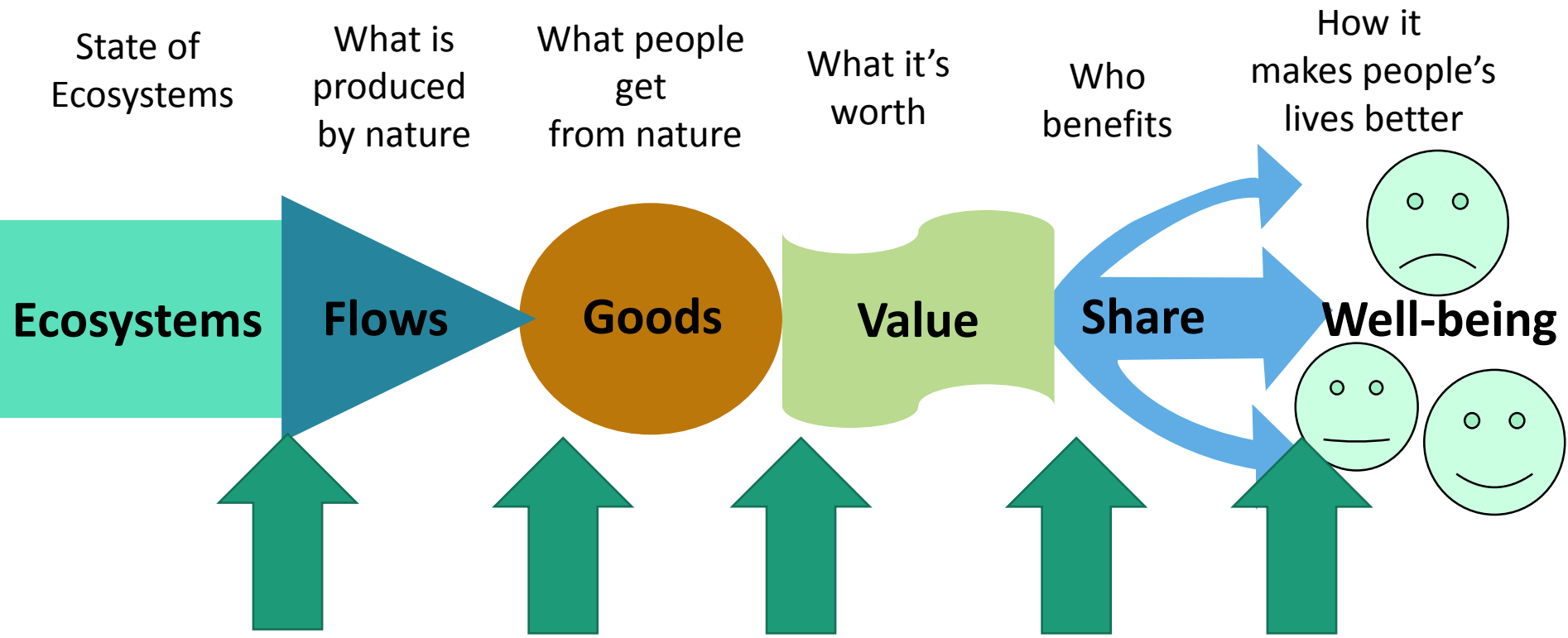
The mean reported decline was 55% over the last two years
 Over 62% indicated that there was a decrease in numbers of tourism and tourism activities.

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Different patterns by visitor nationality



- International tourist numbers have gone down a lot
- BUT: Kenyan citizen numbers have actually gone up



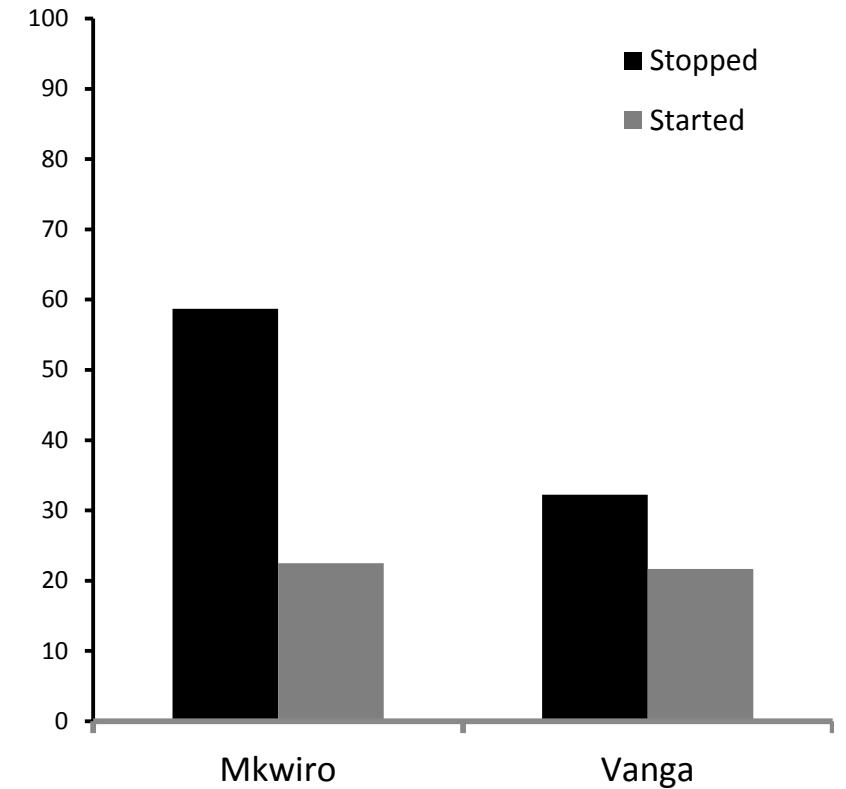
What changed

stopped and which were started.

what activities undertaken for the last 12 months, which of those have

Activities stopped	Health	Others	Lack of materials	Lack of time	Low returns	Age	Hazards	Tourism	Grand Total
Trading	4	9	2	2	3	4		1	25
Farming	8	2	1	2	2		6		21
Fishing	4	0	2	1		1			8
Food business	3	0	1		1	1			6
Gleaning	1	1	1	2	1				6
Salaried job		0						2	2
Tourism		2							2
Transport		1	1						2
Grand Total	20	15	8	7	7	6	6	4	73

New activities	Others	Supliment	Survival	Tourism decline	Grand Total
Trading	4	2	2	1	9
Food business	3	5	1		9
Fishing	3	1		2	6
Small business	0	1	2	1	4
Remittance	0		1		1
Gleaning	0		1		1
Grand Total	10	9	8	4	31



- Most activities started were those that stopped
- Despite the slump, not many stopped tourism activities
- fewer activities started compared to those stopped
- What is the connection between the slump and farming and fishing?

What does all this mean?

- Tourism has suffered in the area due to the terrorism crisis
- Kenyan citizens have continued to visit the area – they are not put off – may be more resilient but also have lower impact as they spend little?
- Coping strategy is low-the number and type of occupations started were lower than those stopped.

Key message

- Although the relationship and connection of ES to WB is complex, it is evidence that ES supports livelihoods of the poor?
- Intermediate factors for to be considered in the use of ES to alleviate poverty-its not a left right process and vice versa?

ASANTENI SANA

