



Are Tanzania's wildlife management areas alleviating poverty?

Anthropologists at UCL are exploring the impacts of Tanzania's community-based schemes to manage natural resources on the people they are designed to benefit.

Professor Katherine Homewood (UCL Anthropology) leads the Poverty and Ecosystem Services Impacts of Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) study, which is evaluating the impacts of WMAs on local peoples' lives and livelihoods.

WMAs are communal land areas set aside as habitats for wildlife, which are designed to bring economic benefits while protecting habitats and ecosystem services including biodiversity.

"However, while this is how Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania are presented, many observers see

them as a way of commercialising natural resources formerly supporting local livelihoods," explains Professor Homewood. "While the rhetoric emphasises benefits to communities who exist within them, in reality communities receive only a very limited share."

Accounting for differences in the ability of households to pay

Economists at UCL argue that inequality should be considered when regulators intervene in the ability of financial institutions to provide credit.

“Current thinking among economists highlights the impact of imperfections in the credit system on the economy as it goes through periods of recession and boom. But existing models do not

consider the impact on individual household’s ability to avoid financial hardship,” explains Dr Ralph Luetticke (UCL Economics).

Depending on their financial outgoings, and whether they have savings or other assets, households vary greatly in their ability to withstand economic shocks, such as unemployment. Many have to rely on credit cards and loans.

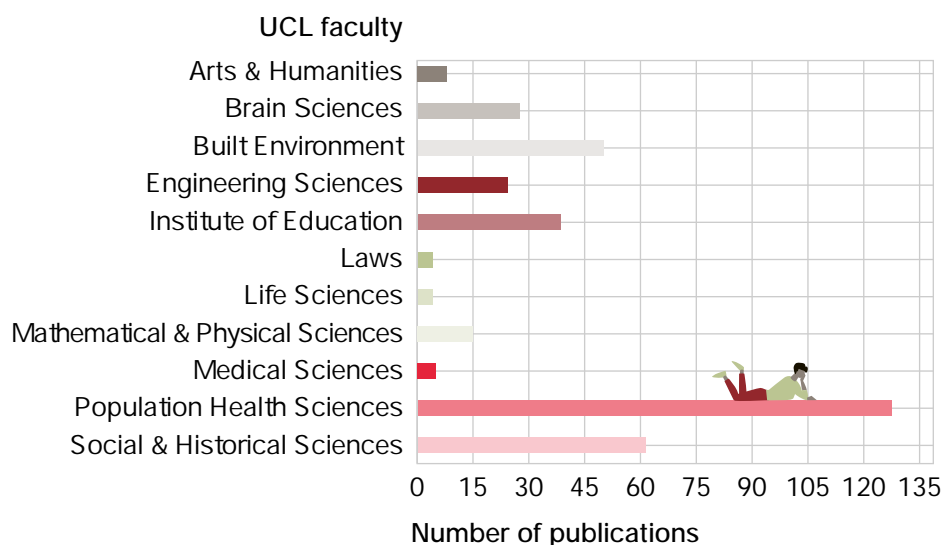
Dr Luetticke and his departmental colleague Professor Morten Ravn wanted to develop insights to allow

a deeper understanding of financial regulation and its interaction with inequality.

Their new model will help central banks and financial bodies sharpen their insights and develop policies that better address the trade-offs between economic volatility and individuals’ financial volatility.



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25.7%

of UCL’s SDG1-related publications are in the top 10% most cited for all research of similar papers in 2016–20

Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

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Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

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