

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF WETLAND POLICY IN NTUNGAMO DISTRICT

A CASE OF ITOJO SUB-COUNTY WESTERN UGANDA

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**A RESEARCH DESERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF A DEGREE BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN
NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

JUNE, 2014

DECLARATION

I, Atuhaire Denis, do declare that this research proposal submitted to Busitema University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics has not been previously submitted to the University or any other Higher Institution of Learning for this Degree award.


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APPROVAL

This serves to verify that this work is truly from the efforts of Atuhaire Denis towards the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my supervision.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God for the divine guidance, and to my family members that's my brothers like Tumusiime Didas, Acklim Black and my sisters like Ninsiima Clare, Kyasimire Fortunate and my parents Mr Tibatekyereza Silver and Mrs Tushabe Mary, my guardians family Mr Ahimbisibwe Kenneth Burugu that's Burugu Denricch, Musiime Viva, Burugu Sandra.

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Itojo sub-county in Ntungamo district with the objectives of finding out the key impacts of existing wetland policies in Uganda and the associated impacts of these policies towards wetland conservation. Using purposive sampling respondents were chosen from different categories that is business persons, professionals and peasants. 80 questionnaires containing closed and open ended questions were used to obtain data information concerning the impacts on these natural resources, benefits derived from these wetlands by the community, how to manage them and what the ten year strategic plan has done towards achieving sustainable use of these wetlands, whether the community can participate in policy formulation and implementation process and the efforts of the district authority towards conservation and policy implementation Face to face interviews especially for the illiterate respondents were conducted using the questionnaire.

The findings indicated that most of the wetlands are degraded and therefore the policy has no positive impact towards wetland conservation and management. The findings further indicate that community participation in policy formulation and implementation programs is very low, wetlands being biological supermarkets for the extensive food chains and rich biodiversity they support and conserve other natural resources for tourism. In addition collaborative management, education and sensitization are the best practices to reduce and maintain the existing wetlands.

There is still need for community involvement in the wetland conservation through collaborative management, sensitization and education of the community on the benefits of wetlands and their associated and natural resource conservation.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMPs	Best Management Practices
LCs	Local Councils
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NDLG	Ntungamo District Local Government
NEM	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NRE	Natural Resource Economics
WID	Wetlands Inspections Department
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments

CHAPTER ONE:

Introduction

1.1 Background

Wetlands are known as biological supermarkets for the extensive food chains and rich biodiversity they support Mitsch and Gosselink, (2000). They are habitats for important biodiversity species and populations, species of special conservation concerns such as the endemic, rare, endangered/threatened, and valuable global genetic resources (Mitsch and Gosselink, 1990).

According to the Ramsar Convention, “wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static, or flowing, fresh, brackish or salty, including areas of marine water that do not exceed 6 meters at low tide”. The National Environment Act, Cap 153 under Section 2 defines wetlands as areas permanently or seasonally flooded by water where plants and animals have become adapted.

Uganda’s National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources (1994) defines wetlands as areas “where plants and animals have become adapted to temporary or permanent flooding.” It includes permanently flooded areas with papyrus or grass swamps, swamp forests or high-altitude mountain bogs, as well as seasonal flood plains and grasslands. While all wetlands are characterized by impeded drainage, the length of their flooding period, depth of water, soil fertility, and other environmental factors vary with different wetland types. Wetlands are home to distinctive plant and animal communities that are well adapted to the presence of water and flooding regimes.

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