

**THE ROLE OF URBAN FORESTRY TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELFARE OF
THE URBAN DWELLERS IN BUGWERI TOWN COUNCIL, BUGWERI DISTRICT**

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DECLARATION

I **NABONGHO TIMOTHY** declare that the information in this report has never been submitted to any institute of higher learning.

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DEDICATION

I thank the almighty God who has enabled me to accomplish this report.

I dedicate this research report to my dad Mr. NABONGHO CHRISTOPHER and my mum Mrs. NABONGHO MARGRET of Namutumba district for their financial support and love towards my success.

My sisters: Mrs. Tabula Juliet, Eunice, Olivia and My brothers, Deo, Henry, Jovan, Andrew all of Isegero village Namutumba that your love and financial support was highly appreciated, the Almighty God bless you.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BYG: Bugweri Youth Group	12
CBOs: Community Based organisations	1
D.F.O: District Forestry Officer.....	25
etc: And other Similar Things.....	17
FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation	6
FBSSE: Forest Based Small Scale Enterprises.....	14
i.e: That is to say	30
Km: Kilometer	10
MoWE: Ministry of WaterandEnvirnment	1
NAADS: National Agricultural Advisory Services.....	18
NARO: National Agricultural Research Organisation	22
NDP: National Developement Plan	11
NEMA: National Environment Management Authority.....	1
NFA: National Forestry Authority.....	1
NGOs: Non Government Organisations	1
Pers.com: Personal communication.....	9
SPGS: Sawlog Production Grands Scheme	26
<i>spp</i> : Species	20
SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences.....	14
UWA: Uganda Wildlife Authority.....	1

ABSTRACT

An assessment of the contribution of urban forestry activities to the socio- economic welfare of the urban dwellers was carried out in Bugweri town, Bugweri district. The objectives of the study were: Assessing the level of involvement of urban dwellers in forest related activities, Determining the importance of urban forestry to the urban dwellers, and Identifying problems and challenges limiting the implementations of urban forestry activities and how they impact on the socio-economic welfare of people in Bugweri town.

Data collection methods included questionnaire, guided interview, direct observation, discussion and secondary data review. A purposive sampling method was used to select the division from where data was collected.

The study showed that urban dwellers had improved their socio-economic welfare through various activities of urban forestry such as planting of trees, rising of tree seedlings among other activities. The uses of trees included fuel wood, food security, shade, medicinal, boundary, wind breaks, pollution control, soil conservation, aesthetic and worshipping grounds.

Trees were grown along roads, wetlands, around homes, public places, boundaries, hospitals, schools among other places. Urban forestry activities included nursery management, landscape maintenance and sensitization, landscape designing, tree planting among others. The urban dwellers faced challenge of lack of technical support and also the participants lacked enough capital for investment. The benefits of urban forestry included fuel wood, provision of shades in homesteads, provision of herbal medicine, acquisition of skills, sources of raw materials, performing cultural rituals, employment opportunities, and provision of food and source of income.

It was concluded that urban forestry had benefited the urban dwellers as it improves their socio economic welfare.

It was recommended that more and serous extension work be carried out with appropriate technologies, financial support from government and NGOs be given to urban dwellers to boost

urban forestry and urban forestry be encouraged for all urban dwellers. The urban dwellers should be given incentives to participate in urban tree planting.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

An urban forestry is a forest or a collection of trees that grows within the city, town or suburb. In wider senses, it includes any kind of woody plant growing in and around human settlements. It's an area whose ecosystem are inherited from wildness left over or remnants care and the management is called urban forestry, also referred to as forest parks

The history of European gardens started 500 years ago in Egypt and Mesopotamian and the following were invented; the Arabian gardens, French gardens and the English gardens (Janick 1997). According to Obua (2003), Urban Forest plantations in Uganda were established in the 1930s in areas originally occupied with Indigenous trees species initially to provide timber and wood. The most commonly used trees were *sena siamea* and Grenville *Robusta*. Some of these trees were introduced in urban areas to drain swamps and eliminate mosquitoes breeding grounds.

To a large extent, urban trees play an important role in ecology of human habitats in many ways; they filter air, water, and sunlight, provide shelter to animals and recreational area for people. They moderate the local climate, slowing the speed of wind and storm and shading home and business to consume energy. They are critical in cooling the urban heat island effect thus potentially reducing the number of unhealthy zones.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The role of urban forestry in Bugweri Town is paramount yet, it is always not given priority in development Plans (Bugweri District Forestry Report 2011). Urban forestry in the town has become a business activity due to the present construction of residential buildings, amusement parks hence a strong socio-economic dimension has been added to the urban forestry. Janick (1997) wrote that urban plants and people, as in the past make a good companion. This accentuates an urgent concern to analyze, quantify and appreciate the benefits that urban forestry can offer to the urban dwellers. This is important in this modern day of bustling factories and countless cars

on the roads of Bugweri where the service of air purification has become more necessary than ever.

The demand put on the forest resources in the town as a result of increased population, has caused to a decline in the level of supply of resources. The legislation under which urban forestry is practiced can no longer sustain utilization of the resources because of the increasing population and reduced financing from the government (NFA 2009). Socio economic conditions and requirements can be quite different and more variable in a city or urban area in the country side. In addition, the availability of technical information on the decision or urban/ peri-urban forest which can be based on is still limited, particularly in developing countries (Banana, 2003). Thus, many urban trees in Bugweri are due to increase in product demand by the increasing population.

With such problems, the study results therefore will be used by policy makers in the area to design effective policy framework for implementing urban forestry programs for improving urban tree planting. The information generated also has the potential to be used by government and NGO officials to create awareness about urban forestry and also influence people's participation in tree planting.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 Main Objective

The main objective of the study was to find out the roles of urban forestry to the social economic welfare of the urban dwellers of Bugweri Town.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To identify the plant species planted in the area.
2. To assess the level of involvement of urban dwellers in forest related activities
3. To determine the extent to which urban forestry techniques have been adopted by urban dwellers
4. To identify problems and challenges limiting the implementations of urban forestry activities and how they impact on the socio-economic welfare of people

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