

**MERITS AND DEMERITS OF WILD LIFE CONSERVATION IN WEST BUGWE
CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE IN UGANDA TO THE NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY IN
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DECLARATION

I KAWALA SHARON Reg No : BU/UP/2018/3426 do here by declare that this report is original and has not been submitted by any other degree award to any other University

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Approval

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Date.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my father, mother, siblings, relatives and friends who have been there for me for guidance, care, encouragement and financial support.

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I thank God for the much He has done for me since the beginning of my study to the successful completion of this research project. I am indebted to some people who contributed to this research. Also extend my sincere gratitude to my supervisors Madam Flavia Natukunda for the support and guidance during this research. Also sincere thanks go to my father Nabangi John and my mother Nandutu Suzan for their endless financial support and encouragement towards my study. I extend my gratitude to my sister Mbwali Charity for her ceaseless prayers and financial support which accompanied me all the way to the success of this study. Specials thanks go to my special friend Lugono Emmanuel for the technical assistance provided towards the success of this research and many thanks go to my dearest friend Achieng Immaculate for the assistance, care, encouragement and being there for me during the hard times. Some special thanks go to my course mates whom I have been continuously consulting and they have spent their valuable time discussing concepts necessary to this research. I also acknowledge assistance from my respondents who volunteered their time and information to enrich this study. Be blessed.

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NFA	National Forestry Authority
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
ESA	Endangered Species Act
WBCFR	West Bugwe Central Forest Reserve
GIS	Geographical Information Science
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
UPF	Uganda Police Force

ABSTRACT

This research project documented the merits and demerits of wildlife conservation in West Bugwe Forest Conservation Reserve to the neighboring communities. A case study was conducted in West Bugwe Forest Central Forest Reserve (WBCFR) in the month of January of 2022. A household survey and key informant interviews were used to collect information on the merits and demerits of wildlife around WBCFR. The study of 22 respondents in the neighborhood of WBCFR, Busia district results showed that the most practiced occupation in both villages of Ndaiga and Buyaga were crop farming (46% in both) followed by Agro-pastoralism (27%), Hunting (18%), Trading (9%) and the last occupation was Non farming jobs e.g building, teaching with 9%. It was observed that source of food was highest benefit which took the biggest percentage as shown in graph 1 and graph 2. It was also observed that few community members are employed in the forest and this made source of employment to emerge the last benefit from both communities. The biggest challenge faced by wildlife that was presented in both villages was deforestation and climate change followed by poaching, Epidemic diseases, and the least challenge was habitat fragmentation. The frequently mentioned measure by the members from the two communities was putting strict laws by the government (80%), followed by proper boundary demarcations and fencing (75%), collaborative forest management followed with 65% and eco-system restoration (60%).

Keywords: Merits, Demerits, Challenges and Measures.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION.

1.1 BACKGROUND.

Wildlife management is interdisciplinary that aims at protecting endangered and threatened species and subspecies together with their habitats, including the non-threatened agricultural animals and game species. Therefore, wildlife comprises all living organism (plants, animals, microorganisms) in their natural habitats which are neither cultivated or domesticated nor tamed. (Wildlife management and conservation). Wildlife maintains ecological balance of nature through regulation of population of different species, Food-chains or passage of food and energy through a sequence of populations comprising producers, consumers and micro-organisms and natural cycles or circulation of inorganic nutrients between biotic and abiotic environments. It also helps in plant Propagation through Pollination in certain plants that is performed by wild animals like birds, insects etc.(Wildlife Management and Conservation, 2002)

Biodiversity in wildlife is rapidly declining worldwide. The rates at which species are becoming extinct have increased 1000 times the background rates that were typical over Earths history, due to human activities over the past centuries. Worldwide, the amphibians, birds in agricultural lands, mammals, Indo-Pacific and Caribbean corals, British butterflies, as well as a majority of harvested fish species have declining populations. Exceptions are mainly species which tend to grow in landscapes where human activities take place, or that have been protected in reserves or those that are threatened to extinction, such as overexploitation. For species that are well studied, biodiversity loss has occurred through population extirpation and reduced distributions.

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