



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

**DEGRADATION OF WETLANDS: CAUSES AND IMPACTS. A CASE OF
NALWEKOMBA WETLAND IN NAMASAGALI SUB-COUNTY, KAMULI DISTRICT.**

BY

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**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Science degree in
Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University, Faculty of Natural Resource and
Environmental Sciences**

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DECLARATION

I, **Ndyamuhaki Ronald** declare that this research report has been from my own efforts and to the best of my knowledge it has never been submitted to any institution of high learning for the award of a Degree or other qualification

Signature



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APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this research report titled **“Wetland degradation: Causes and Impacts. A case of Nalwekomba Wetland in Namasagali Sub-county, Kamuli District** by Ndyamuhaki Ronald has been done under my supervision and is ready to be submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences- Busitema University.

Signature

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my Mum Mrs. Kyamunyogonya Puricaria and Dad Mr. Bitenhirwe Gregory for the tremendous support provided financially, prayers and any other support. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CWA	Clean water Act
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KDLG	Kamuli District Local Government
MWE	Ministry of water and environment
NECI	Namasagali Environment Conservation Initiative
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSOER	National State of the Environment Report
SPSS	Statistical package for social sciences
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats
WMM	Wetland Management Measures
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of statistics

ABSTRACT

Kamuli district is one of the Eastern districts of Uganda found in the Busoga region. It is well blessed with a wide range of Wetlands. One of the wetlands includes Nalwekomba Wetland in Namasagali Sub County which has been highly exploited by natives. The study examined the causes of degradation of Nalwekomba Wetland in Namasagali Sub County, Kamuli District and associated impacts. The methods of data collection used were questionnaires and field observations. The data was collected from 70 respondents who operate from the wetland as well as those neighboring it that benefits them indirectly.

The data was entered in Excel and exported into SPSS where the analysis was done.

I found out that most people living in Namasagali Sub county derive their livelihood on farming/ and for Nalwekhomba -cultivation of rice and sugarcane which is the most exploiting activity in the wetland. This emanates from shortage of land in the area due to over population. The seemingly fertile soils in the wetland have attracted residents to farm there. Another root cause for the intensive activities in the wetland has been the changing climate that have affected the upland areas especially during prolonged drought that drives the natives to areas with reliable source of water.

The increased degrading activities in the wetland has impacted on the wetland through increased floods due to high vegetation cover loss, extinction of species for example wild animals, deforestation where most tree cover has been lost. Finally most respondents think this is contributing methane emissions that cause global warming.

Generally, the wetland has been highly degraded which calls for immediate remedial actions by the concerned stakeholders like NEMA, Ministry of Water and Environment and the district and sub county environmental committees and departments.

I therefore recommend that the Government through its concerned stakeholders should ensure sensitization of local community people about the wise use and protection of the wetland for sustainable development.

There should be also provision of alternative sites for those operating in the wetland through initiatives like provision of upland rice to shift people from cultivating the wetland thereby reducing on the level of wetland encroachment.

1. CHAPTER ONE:

1.0 Introduction

In this chapter, brief notes are presented on the background of the wetlands worldwide, the problem statement and objectives of the study, research questions, significance and justification of the study.

1.1 Back Ground to the Study

Wetlands are the link between land and water, and are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Being the most productive eco systems, their wellbeing calls for a lot of attention worldwide.

All over the world, wetlands have been destroyed for substitute usage. The history of wetlands worldwide is a story of exploitation and destruction because swamps were once seen as 'waste lands' filled with diseases and prohibited travel and made agricultural activity difficult.

Africa's wetland ecosystems are estimated to cover more than 131 million hectares therefore critical to the long-term health, safety and welfare of many African communities.

Despite their importance and possessing of a lot of bio diversity, wetlands are being degraded very fast through human activities, climatic changes, limited specific national policy on wetland conservation, influence from different sectors and population increase leading to reduced sizes and productivity of these wetland systems.

Regionally, Uganda covers a total land area of about 241,500 square kilometers, of which 30,005 (13%) is wetland (NEMA-2000). In 1964, the total area of wetlands was estimated at 32,000 square kilometers but by 1999, it had decreased to 30,000

Wetlands represent one of the vital natural systems Uganda is endowed with. In that they provide an ecological service portrayed in climate modification, water purification, for example the Nakivubo wetland in Kampala, waste water treatment, flood control and water storage and distribution in space and time, they have direct uses such as acting as a source of water for domestic purposes, livestock watering, a source of fish, medicinal plants and animals, and various other materials

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