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**FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES**

TOPIC: ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN WETLAND CONSERVATION

BY

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DECLARATION

I OKEM HAZRA BU/UP/2010/464 declare that this Dissertation stands as my original work and has never been submitted in at any institution or University for the award of Bachelor of Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University.

Signature:.....

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APPROVAL

This research and dissertation has been under my supervision and I hereby in my full capacity and knowledge approve it.

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Date:.....

DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my dear parents Mr.Mpanuka Musa and Mrs.Begum Mumtaz. I extensively received their love, support and guidance through my education. I pray they live longer to see me through my dreams. Special dedication to Dr. Hilda Tadria whose enthusiasms, efforts and encouragement made it possible for me to complete my studies and without her, I wouldn't have achieved this.

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ABSTRACT

This study was focused on the Role of Women in Wetland Conservation. The research attempts to assess the role of women in wetland conservation in Buyende district. The specific objective of the study was; to develop concept about women participation and their role in wetland conservation.

A systematic research design was applied to the research work. The methods used involved sampling, interviews, questionnaires, observations, and review of written literature. Certain short comings were encountered while using the above methods like shortage of funds, suspicions from the public and unwillingness to release information.

Findings indicate that women play a big role in wetland conservation as they are in direct contact with natural resources such as wetlands, forests, water, land and wildlife. They utilize and conserve these resources to supply basic needs for their families.

Therefore findings showed that; conservation of wetlands in Buyende areas cannot be done without the involvement and training of women. They need to be educated on the values, management and sustainability of natural resources as alternative sources of livelihood.

Basing on the findings, the study has recommended some strategies to address the problem in Buyende which include; training of women in wetland conservation, and wetland management policies which will impact women's role in wetland conservation.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NES	National Environmental Statute
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
WTP	Willing to pay
WMP	Wetlands Management Policy
NWP	National wetlands programme
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority.
UPE	Universal Primary Education.
USE	Universal Secondary Education.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands along Lake Kyoga in Buyende district have economic, ecological, aesthetic, socio-cultural and religious values. They provide habitats for several species of wildlife and lie within various ecosystems of high-mountains and lowland plains. These wetlands are important ecosystems and utilized for the benefits of humankind.

Rice cultivation, fishing and collection of wetland products are basic activities performed by local people. Likewise rendering ferry service, cattail technology, craft manufacturing and weaving are other such income generating activities of wetland dependent people.

However, adverse effects remark in many cases; many rural communities have poor knowledge on sustainable utilization and more often conflicts arise for the use of wetland resources.

It is common knowledge in rural Uganda that women (and not men) are indeed the (invisible) managers of natural resources like wetlands. Most rural women are comparatively poor and uneducated. Most of them do not hold a monthly paying job and therefore are commonly referred to as housewives. But these women are great sustainers of rural micro-economic activities. However nowhere is their impact and activities more significant as their indigenous knowledge of, and management of the wetlands. They are crucial because their traditional gender roles bring them in direct contact with the wetlands, and their survival and that of their families depend directly in exploiting and harnessing supplies from these natural resources.

To many poor rural farmers, especially women, nature sustains society because they use the wetlands to feed their families. This sustainability is crucial to them if they have to sustain livelihoods off these resources. Thus when the world environmental protection and conservation policies advocate for protection without any form of use, while ignoring rural women, they become the greatest victims of such a policy.

Women constitute a large percentage (over half) of the rural population in Buyende District. Women are socially more burdened in rural Uganda. Their activities range from family economic activities to running of homes and rural development projects. They are also a more appropriate

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