

**EFFECT OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PROJECT MONITORING ON
SUSTAINABILITY OF NGO PROJECTS IN KAMULI DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES,
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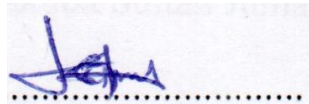
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DECLARATION

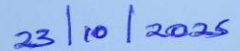
I, Ipyeu Dorcas, solemnly declare that this dissertation is my original work. To the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted, whether in part or in full, for the award of a Master's degree in Uganda or any other institution of higher learning, except where proper acknowledgment has been made.

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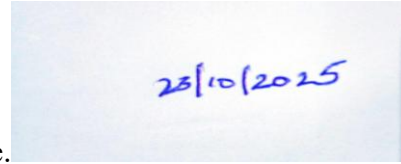


APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my loving family (Shine, Shane, Samara and Miguel) that is a great source of inspiration and joy in my daily endeavors, their love and support can never be undervalued.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL.....	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
ABSTRACT.....	10
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION	11
1.1 Background of Study.....	11
1.2 Problem Statement.....	15
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	16
1.4 Research Objectives	16
1.5 Research Hypotheses.....	16
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	16
1.6.1 Geographical Scope.....	16
1.6.2 Content Scope.....	17
1.6.3 Time Scope.....	17
1.7 Significance of the Study.....	18
1.8 Conceptual Framework	18
Explanation of Conceptual Framework	19
CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW	20
2.0 Introduction	20
2.1 Theoretical Review.....	20
2.1.1 Stakeholders' Theory.....	20
2.1.2 Sustainability Theory.....	21
2.2 Conceptual Review.....	22
2.2.1 Stakeholder Engagement	22
2.2.2 Project Monitoring.....	22
2.2.3 Project Sustainability	23
2.3 Empirical Review	24

2.3.1	Stakeholder Engagement and Project Sustainability	24
2.3.2	Stakeholder Engagement and Project Monitoring	25
2.3.3	Project Monitoring and Project Sustainability	27
2.3.4	Stakeholder Engagement, Project Monitoring, and Sustainability	29
2.4	Summary	30
CHAPTER THREE.....		32
METHODOLOGY		32
3.0	Introduction	32
3.1	Research Design	32
3.2	Study Population.....	32
3.3	Sample Size Determination and Technique.....	33
3.4	Data Source and Type.....	33
3.5	Data Collection Instrument.....	34
3.6	Measurement of Study Variables.....	34
3.7	Validity and Reliability	34
3.8	Data Collection Procedure.....	36
3.9	Data Analysis.....	36
3.10	Ethical Considerations	37
CHAPTER FOUR.....		38
DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION		38
4.0	Introduction	38
4.1	Response Rate.....	38
4.2	Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	38
4.3	Project Characteristics	39
4.4	Descriptive Statistics	40
4.5	Correlation Analysis	41
4.4.1	Stakeholder Engagement and Project Sustainability.....	42
4.4.2	Stakeholder Engagement and Project Monitoring.....	42
4.4.3	Project Monitoring and Project Sustainability	42
4.6	Direct Regression Analysis	42
4.5.1	Demographic Factors and Project Sustainability	43

4.5.2 Stakeholder Engagement and Project Sustainability	43
4.5.3 Project Monitoring and Project Sustainability	44
4.5.4 Stakeholder Engagement and Project Monitoring	44
4.7 Mediation Analysis	45
4.8 Summary of Hypotheses Testing.....	47
CHAPTER FIVE.....	48
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	48
5.0 Introduction	48
5.1 Summary of Findings	48
5.2 Discussion of Findings	48
5.2.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Project Sustainability	48
5.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement and Project Monitoring	50
5.2.3 Project Monitoring and Project Sustainability	51
5.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement, Project Monitoring and Project Sustainability	52
5.3 Conclusions	53
5.4 Recommendations.....	54
5.5 Limitations and Areas for Further Study	55
REFERENCES.....	56
APPENDICES	65
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE.....	65
SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS.....	65
SECTION B:	66
Appendix II: Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table of sample size determination	69
Appendix III: Map of the study Area	70
Appendix IV: Introduction letter.....	71
Appendix V: Similarity Index	72

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig 1: Conceptual Framework.....10

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Content Validity Index and Cronbach's Alpha	35
Table 2: Response Rate.....	38
Table 3: Demographic profile of respondents.....	39
Table 4: Project characteristics	40
Table 5: Descriptive statistics for study variables	41
Table 6: Correlation Analysis Results	41
Table 7: Results of Hierarchical Regression Analysis.....	42
Table 8: Regression Results- Stakeholder Engagement and Project Monitoring	44
Table 9: Mediation results	46
Table 10: Summary of tested hypothesis	47

ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of stakeholder engagement and project monitoring on project sustainability among NGO projects in Kamuli District. Specifically, it sought to examine the effect of stakeholder engagement on project sustainability, assess the effect of stakeholder engagement on project monitoring, evaluate the effect of project monitoring on project sustainability, and determine the mediating role of project monitoring on the relationship between stakeholder engagement and project sustainability. Guided by the sustainability theory and stakeholders' theory, the study employed a cross-sectional research design with a quantitative approach. A sample of 76 NGO projects was selected using simple random sampling from a target population of 93, out of which 69 (90.8% response rate) fully responded. Primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire, and the validity and reliability of the instrument were tested using the content validity index and Cronbach's alpha coefficient, which met the 0.7 threshold. Data analysis employed descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including Pearson correlation and regression analysis. The findings revealed significant and positive relationships between stakeholder engagement and project sustainability, project monitoring and project sustainability, and stakeholder engagement and project monitoring. Hypothesis testing further confirmed that stakeholder engagement significantly enhances project sustainability, significantly predicts project monitoring, and that project monitoring significantly affects project sustainability while partially mediating the relationship between stakeholder engagement and project sustainability. The study underscores the importance of integrating project monitoring mechanisms with stakeholder engagement projects to achieve project sustainability.

Keywords: Engagement, Evaluation, Monitoring, NGOs, Stakeholders, Sustainability.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises the background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, research objectives, research hypotheses, scope of the study, research significance, and the conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of Study

In the modern world, the idea of project sustainability has become more important due to the growing demand for interventions that benefit the recipients for longer than the donor's lifetime. According to Hassan et al. (2020), sustainability is a crucial aspect of project management, as it ensures that services will continue to be provided to beneficiaries after the development partners' financial support has ended. Sustainability and sustainable development are essential because people are now more aware of the need for initiatives that address current demands without endangering the capacity of future generations to do the same (Stanitsas et al., 2021). Lack of sustainability in projects is a major challenge that denies the population the opportunity to derive benefits from community interventions. Project sustainability refers to the ability of a project to maintain its benefits and operations over the long term while ensuring minimal negative impacts on economic, social, and environmental dimensions (Silvius & Schipper, 2014).

Stakeholder engagement is a critical aspect of project management, particularly for ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of projects. Active and meaningful engagement helps ensure stakeholders' needs and expectations are met, fostering support and minimizing resistance, which in turn enhances the likelihood of project success and long-term sustainability (Wang et al., 2024). Stakeholder engagement refers to the process of involving stakeholders (individuals or groups who have an interest or are affected by a project) in decision-making, dialogue and actions throughout the project lifecycle. Stakeholder engagement is often measured through various dimensions, including participation and empowerment (Aarons et al., 2022; Olander & Landin, 2023).

Project monitoring plays a crucial role in ensuring project sustainability, as it provides ongoing oversight and assessment of a project's progress, allowing for timely adjustments to enhance its long-term viability. Through consistent monitoring, projects can adapt to changing

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