



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

**FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
THE CONTRIBUTION OF WETLAND RESOURCES TO PEOPLE'S
LIVELIHOODS**

**A CASE STUDY OF NALWEKOMBA WETLAND IN NAMASAGALI SUB-COUNTY, KAMULI
DISTRICT**

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in partial fulfillment of the award of a bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Economics of Busitema University.

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DECLARATION

I, **Abitegeka Margret** hereby declare that this work on” The Contribution of Wetland Resources on Peoples Livelihoods, A Case Study of Namasagali Sub-county, Kamuli District” is my original piece and has never been submitted to any University or Institution of higher learning for the award of a degree in any field for any academic purposes.

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that **Abitegeka Margret** carried out the study on” The Contribution of Wetland Resources on Peoples Livelihoods”. A Case Study of Namasagali Sub-county, Kamuli district “under my supervision as academic supervisor and therefore approved for submission for the fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to the Almighty God that has provided the knowledge and understanding to the completion of this piece of work, am so grateful and humbled.

I also dedicate this work to my parents Mrs. Atugonza Caroline and the late Mr. Tumusiime Geofry, relatives and friends who have been unseasoned pillars of support, encouragement and admonishment throughout my academics and life at large.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NEMA	-	National Environmental Management Authority
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IWMI	-	International Water Management Institute
MEA	-	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
KM ²	-	Kilometer Squared
KG	-	Kilogram
US\$	-	United States Dollar
%	-	Percentage
/ ^o	-	Degree
^o C	-	Degree Celsius
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
N	-	Number

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ABSTRACT

There are numerous benefits the society receives from wetland resources all over the world. Nalwekomba wetland located in Kamuli district, has for a long time been associated with improving people's livelihood but has never been studied. This study was carried out to assess the contribution of the Nalwekomba wetland resources to people's livelihoods and also assess the factors influencing or limiting people's utilization of these resources. Semi-structured interviews, direct observations, key informant interviews and review of secondary data sources were used for data collection. A total of 80 respondents were used in the study, 47 of which were females and 33 were males.

Data was coded in Microsoft excel and analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and Excel to get descriptive statistics.

Responses showed that the wetland contributes directly to people's livelihood through provision of water for domestic use, fertile land for crop growing, fishing, pasture for livestock grazing, brick making and others like craft materials such as papyrus. The income generated from activities done in Nalwekomba wetland is mostly used to cater for domestic expenses and educating their children. Water availability for domestic use and availability of land for crop growing for food security and incomes were considered the major contributions of Nalwekomba wetland to the livelihoods of the local people around it. There is need for community sensitization to enable communities appreciate the contributions of wetlands to the communities and the country at large, as well as guiding them on how to maintain their sustainably. The study also recommends adoption of environmentally sustainable strategies in the utilization of Nalwekomba wetland resources for the sustainability of community's benefits from this resource.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 General introduction

This chapter covers the background and objectives of the study, problem statement, the general objective, specific objectives, research questions and scope of the study.

1.1 Background to the study

Wetlands are defined as areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing; fresh brackish, or salty, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters (Ramsar Convention, 2016). This definition is similar to the definition set forth by the National Wetlands Management and Conservation Policy of 1995, "an area that stays wet long enough for only certain plants and animals to grow even when there is no rain." Wetlands are characterized by; impeded drainage, length of their flooding period, depth of water, soil fertility, and other environmental factors vary with different wetlands (National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources, 1995).

Globally, wetlands occupy about 5.5% of the earth's surface area and 95% of these wetlands are freshwater; the rest are marine or estuarine. Wetlands occupy 8.9% of Uganda's total area and the current estimate of land is 26,600km (National Environment Management Authority, 2020). Wetlands as areas where plants and animals have become adapted to temporary or permanent flooding conditions (National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources, 1995), It includes permanently flooded areas with papyrus or grass swamps, swamp forests or high-attitude mountain bogs, as well as seasonal floodplains and grasslands. Wetlands are characterized by; impeded drainage, length of their flooding period, depth of water, soil fertility, and other environmental factors vary with different wetlands.

Wetlands have played a critical role in the livelihoods of people for millennia. They have been sources of food and water for people living in often dry and semi-arid environments (Scoones, 1991) cited in (Wood, Alan, & Mathew, 2013). For example, in Zambia, wetlands are estimated to contribute around 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) (Wood, Alan, & Mathew, 2013). They often support the poorest people in the region. Their economic benefits are often more significant than a simple measure of their contribution to GDP. In Tanzania's Kilombero Valley, wetlands contribute up to 80% of cash income for the poorest households (McCartney, L-M, & Max,

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