

**THE EFFECTS OF FOREST COVER LOSS TO THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE
LIVING IN NDAIGA VILLAGE BUSITEMA SUB-COUNTY, BUSIA DISTRICT.**

**(CASE OF AMONI-AKINEI NATURAL FOREST IN BUSIA
DISTRICT)**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

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DECLARATION

I **ACHEDA AMOS** hereby declare that the work and data about this research I have got is out of my own knowledge and research due to the acknowledgement which was accordingly done in form of citations, quotations and references to other people's ideas, and it has never been submitted to any organization or any office for an award.

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my dear mum Mrs. Abeja Josephine, my dad Mr. Abekun Francis, my aunty Josephine, to Edith's Home Organization, and to all my lovely friends in appreciation of the care and support offered to me. May the Almighty Lord reward you abundantly.

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I give great thanks to the Almighty GOD who gave me the gift of life and made me strong during unbearable times both at University, during my research and whole education life, I will always worship Him forever and ever.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LFR	Local Forest Reserve
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UEP	Uganda Forestry Policy
AANF	Amoni-Akinei Natural Forest
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CPR	Common Property Rights
DF	Degree of freedom
MWLE	Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forest Authority
NFP	National Forest plan
NFTPA	National Forestry Tree Planting Act
NGO	Non Government Organization
PFE	Permanent Forest Estate
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
TEV	Total Economic Value
FD	Forest Department
FID	Forest Inspection Department
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

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ABSTRACT

This study was motivated by the socio economic impact of forest degradation taking a case study of Amoni-Akinei natural forest which is located in Busitema sub-county in Busia district. The study was carried out by looking at the benefits people derive from the forest, the causes of the loss of forest cover, and the impacts of forest degradation and the willingness of people to adopt improved methods in order to ensure sustainable utilization of the forest.

Degradation of forests in Uganda has become a serious problem, though the causes leading to loss of forest cover are diverse. This study focused on forest degradation often limited to the area of assessment of changes in forest cover. While these assessments are important, it is also important to look into the consequences of loss of forest cover and the people who are affected, how they are affected and to what extent they are affected. This study aimed at evaluating the factors and processes leading to the loss of forest cover in Ndaiga village as well as the consequences of the forest cover loss.

However, the study also was focused on livelihood consequences and the willingness of the people to adapt improved measures of ensuring sustainable utilization of the forest resources in order to maintain the forest cover.

In conclusion, there is need for the government to properly manage the forest resources in order to ensure their sustainable utilization for the benefit of the future generation.

Keywords: Livelihood, Dependence on forest, degradation of forest, Factors affecting dependence and degradation of forest, Forest cover.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the study topic, the effects of the loss of forest cover to the livelihood of the people living in Ndaiga village Busitema sub-county in Busia district. It covers the background of the study, the problem statement to the study, objectives of the study, research questions to the study, significance/justification of the study and the conceptual frame work.

1.2 Background of the study

1.2.1 What is a forest?

The term forest refers to a type of vegetation dominated by trees most of which at maturity are more than 5 m tall and establishes a minimum tree canopy cover of 30% (National Forestry Authority, 2008). It includes all alpine, tropical high- and medium-altitude forests, woodlands, wetland and riparian forests, plantations and trees, whether on public or private land (Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment, 2001). For an area to be considered a forest, it should have a tree cover of at least 20% or more and the area should not be <0.5 ha in size (National Environment Management Authority, 2004 / 2005). On the other hand, woodland is an area predominantly covered with woody plants, trees over 4 m high, shrubs and grasses. When discussing the status of forests in Uganda, woodlands are also included because many forests have extensive woody species coverage. On the other hand, tree cover in grasslands and woodlands may increase because of dynamics in the faunal populations leading to formation of a forest.

Forest nature reserves are areas that are designed by the forest department to be protected from all forms of extractive resource use. They are in situ conservation areas whereby species grow wild in their environments. The legal protection afforded to them is from the forest Act. (Government of Uganda 1964) The objectives of maintaining forests as nature reserves have been described by Howard (1991).

1.2.2 Forest governance in Uganda

In Uganda like any other colonized countries, on attainment of independence, all natural resources became property of the government of Uganda. The forest Act of 1964 retained the colonial administration approach of the forestry management. Under the 1967 constitution, forest resources were centralized and management vested in the Forest Department (FD (Mugenyi et al., 2005. The National Forest Authority charged with the responsibility of management of Central Forest Reserves evolved from then FD institutionalized in 1898. NFA manages only

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