

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

**THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON LION POPULATIONS IN
MURCHSION FALLS NATIONAL PARK
A CASE STUDY OF PURONGO SUBCOUNTY, NWOYA DISTRICT**

BY

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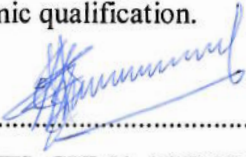
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DECLARATION

I EMMANUEL GUMA ADRABO do declare that this is my own original work and has not been submitted for any other degree award to this or any other University/ Institution of higher learning for any academic qualification.

Signed.....


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Date.....3/06/15

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this report by EMMANUEL GUMA ADRABO has been successfully completed under my supervision and I recommend it for submission to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University with my approval.

Signature.....
MR TAAKO EDEMA GEORGE (SUPERVISOR)

Date.....

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my family and people of Purongo in appreciation of the support they gave to me during this research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank my supervisor Mr Taako Edema George, Mr Samuel Ayebare and Tutifo Mudumba of WCS for their advice and support during this study. I would also like to thank people of Purongó for their support and co-operation during this study.

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ACRONOMYS

IRAD	<i>Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement</i>
CLO	Conservation Liaison Officer
ECOPAS	<i>Ecosystèmes Protégés en Afrique Soudano-Sahélienne</i>
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HAC SIS	Human Animal Conflict Self-Insurance Scheme
IGF	<i>Fondation Internationale pour la Sauvegarde de la Faune</i> (IGF Foundation)
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (Namibian NGO)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OIE	<i>Office International des Epizooties</i> (World Organization for Animal Health)
SSC	Species Survival Commission (IUCN)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund)
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
MFCA	Murchison Falls Conservation Area

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in the northern bank of MFNP in the areas of lagagi and pabit east parishes in purongo subcounty Nwoya district. The study examined the trend of lion population in MFCA using secondary data sources. The study also involved field interviews in house holds in Pabit east and Lagagi parishes about the activities they carried out and how they impacted on lions populations, the human-lion conflicts that resulted as a result of the livestock items being predated on by lions and suggestions in which the losses would be addressed. The primary data from the field was collected using questionnaires and analysed using SPSS. Secondary data was analysed using excel and ArcGIS and google earth.

The report consists of five chapters that is, chapter one which includes the introduction, back ground of study, statement of the problem, general and specific objective of the study, research question, significance of the study, justification and the scope of the study chapter two includes the literature review and chapter three includes the research design, the study population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, data collection instruments, chapter four includes the presentation of findings and analysis, and chapter five comprises of discussions, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

1.1 INTRODUCTION.

Uganda is one of the countries with the fastest growing populations in the world with Uganda's current population growth rate at 3.1% according to world watch institute. There has been increasing demand for land for settlement, grazing, crop cultivation among others as a result of this growth, the demand for land for all these activities has resulted into encroachment on protected areas which impacts negatively on the survival and existence of the flora and fauna. This study looks at the impact of human activities on the lion populations in Murchison Falls National Park a case study of Purongo subcounty Nwoya district.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF STUDY.

African Lions (*panthera Leo*) are carnivorous mammals that come from family felidae with other members in this family being tigers, jaguars, leopards and cheetahs. They are geographically mainly distributed in sub-Saharan Africa but can also be found in zoos internationally, India in the Gir forest National Park and some parts of Asia. In Uganda lions are found in national parks such as Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Kidepo Valley and Lake Mburo national parks. Lions live in groups called prides. A typical pride of lions consists of about six related females, their dependent offspring, and a "coalition" of 2-3 resident males that joined the pride from elsewhere. Most daughters are recruited into their mothers' pride although about a third disperse to form new prides; pride size ranges from 1-21 females, and mid-sized prides enjoy the highest reproductive rates, and females in the same pride breed at similar rates. Young males always leave home in search of unrelated mates. Coalition size varies from 1-10 males, and coalitions of 4-10 males consist entirely of males born in the same pride, whereas pairs and trios often include unrelated individuals.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

As human populations have expanded and developed, all of the world's lions have experienced major contractions in their geographical ranges, often becoming confined particularly to protected areas where human densities are low (Linnell, Swenson & Andersen, 2001; Woodroffe, 2001). Human impacts on lions extend even into protected areas, particularly for wide ranging lions that often range beyond reserve boundaries. Such species are vulnerable to being killed, deliberately or accidentally, by people in adjoining unprotected lands. The resulting edge effect may be severe enough to bring about the extinction of nominally protected populations (Woodroffe and Ginsberg 1998). And in Uganda the biggest decline in lion populations in Uganda has been in Murchison Falls National Park. (Linnell, Swenson & Andersen,

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