

POVERTY AND WETLAND DEGRADATION: A CASE STUDY OF BISINA
WETLAND COMPLEX IN KAPIR SUB COUNTY, NGORA DISTRICT

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DECLARATION

I Ogugu Patrick hereby declare that this report is my original work. It has never been submitted to any university or any higher institution of learning for any academic award. Thus, I accept to be responsible for everything contained in it.

Sign

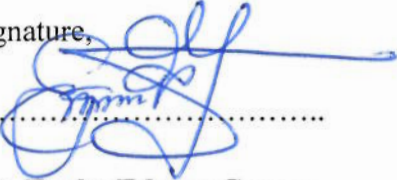
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APPROVAL

This is to certify that the work entitled “poverty and environmental(wetland)degradation” has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the faculty of Natural resource and environmental science.

Signature, 
.....

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Supervisor

Date.. 22/12/2014 ✓
.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family and friends especially my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emukuwho have sacrificed everything to ensure my academic success, Thank you for giving me such a moral foundation on which I have managed to come this far. It is my prayer that the good Lord rewards you abundantly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God for enabling me to reach this far in my academic struggles. My indebtedness goes to my family for their unfailing support mentally, financially and morally. I am so thankful to both my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emuku for my childhood upbringing, inspiration, moral support, financial support and my education.

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GOD BLESS YOU VERY MUCH.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRYONMS

NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
WCED	World Commission on Environmental and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WB	World Bank
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education

ABSTRACT

The relationship between poverty and environmental degradation has been on the global agenda for a long time. This attracted research to be done in Ngora District to establish the nexus since Uganda is a developing country susceptible to the degradation like any other country as shown by the literature review of poverty.

The research was carried out in Sub County using the structured questionnaires that were distributed to the respondents to fill in and later collected by the researcher. Both the qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in the course of gathering the data with some focus group discussions conducted to meet the objectives of the research. The research used purposive sampling to avoid the element of time wasting keep focused on the respondents in the Bisina wetland vicinity. Quality control checks were carried out to make sure that data met the objectives of the research by carefully entering the data in the excel sheets with the special care on the coding of the data in its raw form.

The data analysis was done and the findings summarized into the tables that were easier to interpret. 67.2% of the respondents were male, 32.8% were female. 48.3% were married. 29(50%) agreed that poverty has accelerated the rate of environmental degradation which was the majority, 36(62.1%) agreed that Wetland degradation has been brought about by population growth, 29(50%) agreed that due to clearance of wetland vegetation for agriculture leading to the degradation. 41(70.7%) agreed that wetlands have been destroyed by mining activities. 31(53.4%) disagreed meaning that they cannot afford the basic necessities of life eg food shelter education health. 17(29.3%) disagreed meaning that cannot afford to spend more than 2500 a day hence living below the poverty line depending directly on the environment for survival.

The research found out that the poverty influences environment degradation in the sub county though there were other causes of the degradation like population growth, urbanization. The recommendations were government needed to enforce laws to protect nature and also investing in the education of the respondents to reduce illiteracy through UPE and USE. The better solution which can rescue both the environment and poor people is through the government by increasing the rate of job creation for poor people. If they have jobs they can afford higher quality life which includes affording electricity, they can also afford nice roofing materials

instead of using grasses and they can have somewhere to wake up to instead of harvesting the natural resources everyday.

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INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The relation between poverty levels and environmental degradation has been widely debated inside academic circles. The theoretical linkage between poverty and environmental degradation has for some time been shrouded in ambiguity. Environment degradation and poverty are closely interrelated and inseparable, particularly in developing countries. Awareness and concern about environmental degradation have grown around the world over the last few decades; these concerns are shared by people of different nations, cultures, religions and social classes. In recent years economic researchers have become increasingly aware of the important implications that the state of the environment has for the success of development effort. (Michael P Todaro, Stephen C Smith, Economic Development)

It has been asserted that the interaction between poverty and environmental degradation can lead to a self-perpetuating process in which, as a result of ignorance or economic necessity, communities may inadvertently destroy or exhaust the resources on which they depend for survival. (Michael P Todaro, Stephen C Smith, Economic Development) making the research a necessity.

1.1 Background of the Study

Uganda has a growing population estimated at about 33 million people today. Agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy, though the industrial sector is undergoing transformation. The country has an area of about 587,900 km² of which 576,000 km² is land surface. Eighty-eight percent of the land surface is classified as arid and semi-arid lands and the remaining 12% forms the medium and high agricultural potential land. This classification is based mainly on the moisture index as indicated by average annual rainfall and evapo-transpiration. The stated classifications of agricultural land potential in the country have implications for development aimed at meeting increasing human needs. Increasing population is associated with need for more food, land and provision of social amenities in urban areas and demand for energy. These demands lead to over-utilisation and cultivation of ecologically sensitive areas, over-abstraction of water and over exploitation of vegetation and forests. Consequently the environment gets

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