

THE EFFECTS OF WETLAND DEGRADATION ON COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS IN UGANDA

ACASE OF LIMOTO WETLAND IN BUSETA SUBCOUNTY

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DECLARATION

I, OTINGA ANDREW hereby declare that this research work is entirely mine and has not been submitted to any other institution for any award. But it has been compiled out of my own efforts and knowledge based on what I did during research.

Signature: 

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APPROVAL

This is to satisfy that this research report has been done under my supervision and it is ready for submission with my approval to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

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Date: 21/06/2013

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Okaude for sacrificing everything for my education. Thank you for giving me such a strong academic and moral foundation on which I have managed to come this far. May the good Lord reward and bless you.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

FAO	:	Food and Agricultural Organization
MFPED	:	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
NEMA	:	National environmental authority
NFA	:	National forestry authority.
NGOS	:	Nongovernmental organizations
NR&WM	:	Natural Resource and Wetland Management
NRs	:	Natural Resources
NWSC	:	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
UBOS	:	Uganda bureau of statistics
USA	:	United States of America
WHO	:	World health organization

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ABSTRACT

The topic of study was the effects of wetland degradation on the community livelihoods to the people of Uganda using Buseta Sub County as its case study. The major objective of the study was to find out the effects of wetland degradation on the livelihoods of communities using Limoto wetland in Buseta

The study was cross sectional where by both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to collect data. To efficiently conduct the study, the data was collected from a sample of 60 respondents in Buseta Sub County. A stratified random sampling method was used.

The data collected was both primary and secondary data that was collected through conducting interviews and using self administered questionnaires by respondents. The data was analyzed using Excel and SPSS (version 20) which facilitated the formation of frequency tables.

The research findings also show that 60% of the community's livelihoods are reduced through reduced agricultural output due to flooding. The findings show that 53.3% of the respondents agreed that decline in crop output has been due to wetland degradation in the area hence affecting negatively the community's livelihood. The finding also show that due to water pollution most fish species no longer exist in the in the wetland shown by 52% of the respondents. The findings show there is increased flooding in the area are due to loss of wetland vegetation shown by 67% of the respondents who agreed with the statement.

Majority of the people have been affected by the flooding, change in the farming production pattern, water pollution, and loss in the wetland vegetation all these have affected the communities' livelihoods which are all as a result of wetland degradation in Limoto wetland in Buseta Sub County.

The government should establish policies on the wetland governing the wetland in order to reduce on the human encroachment on the wetland this will help to reduce on the effects flooding so as to protect communities a against the flood effects. They should sensitize the local communities about importance of wetland so as to reduce on encroachment on the wetlands hence protecting wetland vegetations there by reducing the effects resulting from loss of wetland vegetation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter contains background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, conceptual frame work, justification of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study, operational definition of the key terms and organization of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

The Ramsar Convention (1971) defines wetlands as “areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water whether natural or artificial, permanent or seasonal with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including area of marine waters the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6 meters”.

The National Environment Act, Cap 153, defines wetlands as “areas which are permanently or seasonally flooded and where plants and animals have become adapted. In general, a wetland can be defined as shallow water body with teeming life of complex fauna and flora.”

Wetland environments are any flooded or water-soaked area with a covering of water plants. A wetland is classified by the plant species that live in it. The types of plants grow depend on how fast the water in the wetland flows. Some wetlands are like a swiftly flowing river, while others are like a thick sponge.

World’s wetlands are under constant threats due to human activities. Indirect threats are due to direct threat global warming and climate change while direct threats include conversion of wetland environment to agriculture, horticulture, plantation forest, residential or industrial development, roads and other infrastructure development. Wetlands are also one of the most threatened habitats because of their vulnerability and attractiveness for development (Hollis et al, 1988).

The world’s major wetlands are located in southern Africa, North America, central South America, and Asia. The largest wetlands in the world are the bogs of the Siberian lowlands in Russia. They cover 600,000 kilometers squared. That is to say three times the size of Great Britain. All the world’s wetlands, even the large Siberian bogs, are endangered environments.

Wetlands are found in nearly every region of the world. Types of wetlands include swamps, bogs, marshes, estuaries, and fens. In different areas, they may have different local names. For example, bogs are located in colder, temperate climates. Bogs are also found in Finland, northern Germany, Scotland, Denmark, Estonia,

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