



BUSITEM A UNIVERSITY

**FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES.**

**ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF WETLAND
DEGRADATION ON LOCAL COMMUNITY AROUND AGU WETLAND
NGORA SUB-COUNTY, NGORA DISTRICT.**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF NATURAL
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FULLFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE
ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

MAY, 2022

DECLARATION.

I OMAIRO CHARLES hereby declare that this research report/project is solely a result of my own efforts and findings. I therefore affirm that this is my original work and has never been submitted for any other award of a degree or any other academic qualification to any University or academic institution before.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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APPROVAL.

This research project /report was done under the guidance of:

Signature  Date 30th May 2022

PROFESSOR WAISWA WILSON MWANJA

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DEDICATION.

I dedicate this research project/ report to our brother last born **Mr. Odongo Emmanuel, Mrs. Amaniyo Bridget** and I encourage them to work tirelessly to achieve all the best and God grants you success in all your struggles. I also dedicate it to my **friend Amito Kevin**, as a sign of appreciation for their contributions toward my success in several ways.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION.

- CBO: Community Based organization.
- MEMD: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.
- MoNR: Ministry of Natural Resources.
- MoWE(MWE) : Ministry of Water and Environment.
- MWLE: Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment.
- NARO: National Agriculture Research Organization
- NDLG: Ngora District Development Plan.
- NEMA: National Environment Management Authority .
- NFA: National Forestry Authority
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organization.
- NWP: National Wetlands Programme
- NSEP: Ngora save Environment project
- OAG: Auditor General office.
- OPM: Office of the Prime Minister.
- PEAP: Poverty Eradication Action Plan.
- UBOS: Uganda Bureau of Statistics.
- NSEP: Ngora save Environment project
- KDLG: Kampala district local gorvenment.

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on assessing the environmental effects of wetland degradation on local community around Agu wetland Ngora sub-county, Ngora district in eastern Uganda. The main objective of the study was to assess the environmental effects of wetland degradation on local community living around and within Agu wetland in Ngora sub-county. The specific objective of the study was to assess the causes of wetland degradation, establish the effects of wetland degradation on livelihoods of communities dependent on Agu wetland. The study also sought to identify and evaluate possible measures put forward by Government to address the effects of wetland degradation on environment and local livelihoods. The study interviewed 60 heads of household found in and around Agu in Ngora sub county of Ngora District. Primary data was collected using questionnaires, interview and field observation. Secondary data was collected from documentary review of Ngora District development plans, Ngora District state of state of environment report, Ngora District statistical abstract, reports and journal articles. From the study, it is evident that the major benefit derived from the wetland was supply of potable water for domestic use, followed by food crops. The main cause of Agu wetland degradation was agriculture practices that has resulted in to loss of vegetation cover, destruction water spots and proness of the top fertile soil to erosion. The wetland degradation was found to result in several adverse effects including ease of spread of diseases, destruction of houses, conflicts, famine due to reduction in output, scarcity of water, poor transportation, and floods, erosion, loss of vegetation cover, loss of biodiversity, global warming, and reduced wetland productivity among others among the dependent communities and the environment. The study recommends that the Government should strengthen existing laws and or make new ones that prohibit destructive and wetland degrading

practices such as destructive cultivation and production practices, charcoal burning, nomadic cattle keeping, deforestation and illegal timber harvesting, all of which encroach and are degrading to the wetland and corrupt officials, proper demarcate all the wetlands boundaries in the district and carry of massive sensitization of the masses and finally intensifying agriculture and control other illegal activities in the wetland.

CHATER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0: Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the study, problem statement, objectives, research questions, significance, justification, and conceptual frame work.

1.1 Background of the study.

The National Environment Act, Cap 153 under Section 2, defines wetlands as areas permanently or seasonally flooded by water where plants and animals have become adopted. It includes permanently flooded areas with papyrus or grass, forests or high-altitude mountain bogs, as well as seasonal flood plains and grasslands. Wetlands are home to distinctive plant and animal communities that are well adapted to the presence of water and flooding regimes (Henry, 2011). Wetland resources in Uganda have traditionally been used by the people as a source of building materials, for crafts, furniture and as hunting and fishing areas, traditionally Seasonal wetland and margins have been used for grazing cattle, growing arable crops, and for domestic water. In addition, they are a major habitat for wildlife resources.

Wetlands in most parts of the Uganda are under threat of over exploitation, loss and /degradation partly due to agriculture and urban land uses this is evidenced more in wetland around lake kyoga basin in eastern part of uganda. Agu wetland being one of the wetlands in the great lake kyoga basin measuring about 15,500 ha supports large biodiversity and is a source of livelihoods to communities around it majorly with water and food crops but its unsustainable utilization has affected the communities living within or around it (MWE, 2020).Wetlands cover about 15

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