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**FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES**

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**DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION IN BUKALEBA FOREST RESERVE, MAYUGE
DISTRICT**

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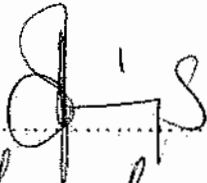
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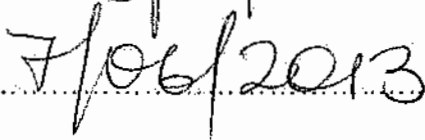
APPROVAL

This work has been thoroughly supervised and approved to have fulfilled the requirement leading to the award of a bachelor of science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University. Therefore, this dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval of the supervisor.

Signature:



Date:



Assoc. Prof: Isabirye Moses

Supervisor

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lukebera, uncle Smart, my brother Richard and my entire family and friends who have given in their love and care to ensure my success.

God bless you as you pursue all your reveries

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

APRM	Africa Peer Review Meeting
BFC	Bukaleba Forest Company.
BFCR	Bukaleba Forest Company.
DFS	District Forest Services
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFRI	International Forestry Resources and Institutions
LFRs	Local Forest Reserve services
MFPE	Ministry of Finance, Project and Economic Development
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forest Authority
NGP	National Growth Product
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UFIRC	Utilizing International Forestry Resources and Institutions
UIFRI	Utilizing International Forestry Resources and Institutions
UNEP	Uganda National Environmental Program
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

ABSTRACT

Deforestation, especially in the tropics, continues to occur at alarming rates. This continued loss of forest cover poses a major threat to continued availability of goods and services that support livelihoods of a huge proportion of the human population, especially in developing countries. Despite numerous interventions by governmental and nongovernmental entities to combat deforestation, forest cover has continued to decline. In Uganda, forest cover declined from about 10.6% in 1989 to about 4.3% in 2009. The objective of the study was to identify key drivers of deforestation in Bukaleba forest reserve.

Data was obtained from archival sources, interviews and direct observation while data analysis was done using SPSS. Deforestation appears to have been a consequence of a number of causes which include agricultural expansion into forests, extraction of wood forest products, population growth, clearing of forests for non-agricultural uses.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Forest resources are a mainstay in the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economy, society and environment (Kayanja and Byarugaba, 2001). Many world economies, including Uganda, are wholly or partly dependent on forest resources (FAO, 1997). Despite the presence of some forested areas that have exhibited stability or enhancement (Lung and Schaab, 2010; Vogt *et al.*, 2006) through reforestation, a general trend of deforestation can be witnessed in the tropics (Nagendra, 2007). Forest cover loss poses a great threat to the continued availability of goods and services provided by forests. In recognition of the fast disappearance of forests in the tropics, many interventions aimed at either conserving or sustainably managing forest resources, ranging from government-owned protected areas to private conservation through parks and community reserves, have been implemented over time (Nagendra, 2007). Outcomes of these interventions have been mixed. Most interventions are based on dominant paradigms or theories about drivers of forest change (deforestation or reforestation) such as population growth leading to deforestation (Nagendra, 2007; Vogt *et al.*, 2006). Most including Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the world. Other environmental services provided by forests include maintenance of high biodiversity (Kayanja and Byarugaba, 2001; UNEP, 2008) and protection of globally important carbon sinks that sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which is critical to future climate stabilization (Stephens *et al.*, 2007).

Mayuge is one of the most forested areas in Uganda (NEMA, 2004/05), has experienced considerable deforestation between 1989 and 2009. Estimates from time series analysis of Land sat imagery showed that forest cover declined from 9.0% in 1989 to 4.4% in 2009. (Mugumya 2010) also reported a deforestation deficit of about 1.4 million hectares in Uganda between 1990 and 2005. This research is aimed at developing a more complete theoretical understanding of the drivers of land cover change to better inform useful interventions to combat deforestation in Bukaleba and Uganda at large. The main objective of the study was to determine drivers of deforestation in the Bukaleba Forest Reserve. With enhanced understanding of the drivers of

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