

**ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERY  
RESOURCES TO THE LIVELIHOOD  
OF COMMUNITIES ALONG VICTORIA NILE: A  
CASE OF NAMASAGALI SUBCOUNTY, KAMULI  
DISTRICT.**

**By**

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## DECLARATION

I OBALE JOSEPHH do hereby declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted for any other degree award to any other university or institution of higher learning.

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## APPROVAL

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

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Signature.....  ..... Date..... 26<sup>th</sup>/06/2014 .....

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my parents, brothers, sisters and every other person in the family.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I thank the Almighty God for the gift of life given to me during my period of study in Busitema University, Namasagali campus.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the members of my family for the financial and moral support you have offered me through my life at Busitema University, may God bless you all.

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## ACRONYMS

<b>MTTI</b>	-	Ministry of trade, tourism and industry
<b>ACP</b>	-	African Caribbean and Pacific Group of states
<b>EU</b>	-	European Union
<b>ABP</b>	-	Animal by Products
<b>SEATINI</b>	-	South and East African Trade Information and Negotiations Institution
<b>FAO</b>	-	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>IMF</b>	-	International Monetary Fund
<b>UBOS</b>	-	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>DFR</b>	-	Department of Fisheries Resources
<b>NARO</b>	-	National Agricultural research organization
<b>NEMA</b>	-	National Environmental Management Authority
<b>GDP</b>	-	Gross Domestic Product
<b>MAAIF</b>	-	Ministry of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries
<b>FIRRI</b>	-	Fisheries Resources Research Institute
<b>LVEMP</b>	-	Lake Victoria Environment Management Project
<b>SPSS</b>	-	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
<b>NRE</b>	-	Natural Resource Economics

## ABSTRACT

The study was about assessing the contribution of fishery resources on the livelihood of communities at Victoria Nile, Namasagali Sub- County Kamuli district. Study objectives were to assess the socio economic contribution of the fishery to the community of Namasagali Sub-County; to identify the challenges faced by fish resource users at the Victoria Nile, Namasagali sub-county; to identify whether or not Victoria Nile fish stock is under threat of extinction from community perception (Namasagali sub-county).

A cross sectional study was used which involved use of questionnaires covering 40 respondents. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS16. Study findings indicated that; the socio economic contribution of the fishery is basically through provision of income, food and employment. The study also indicated that reduced resource catch is the major challenge which fisheries resource users are encountering which shows that the stocks are reducing due to poor fishing gears accompanied with over fishing and indiscriminate fishing of fish species thus deterioration in socio economic contribution of fishery resources to the livelihoods of communities hence posing a need to address such challenges and finally, the study indicated that there is a gender and occupational imbalance in fisheries which mostly neglects women and fish traders respectively. In Namasagali according to the artisan fishermen in the community, declines are being realized through the decline in the fish catch per day, long hours of fishing and perhaps a decline in its contribution to the fishermen.

In conclusion, it clear that the fisheries resources contribute to the livelihoods of people through provision of food, income and employment opportunities. However the increasing demand for the resource has threatened fish stocks and fish species with extinction due to over exploitation. The researcher recommends that, for an increase in the socio economic contribution of the fishery, value additional activities should be encouraged for example processing of fish waste can be collected to generate fish meal and animal feeds, fish fat for generating fish oil which is good for health improvements. These activities among others provide employment, increasing people's income and improving livelihood of the community.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.0 Introduction

This chapter includes the back ground to the study, problem statement, objectives and research questions of the study, significance and justification of the study, and finally the study scope

### 1.1 Background to the study.

The fisheries industry still remains the second major foreign exchange earner for Uganda after coffee. Uganda's location on the equator gives it a tropical climate with no seasonality and warm temperatures. The country is landlocked with an estimated 165 lakes accounting for 18% of total country area (SEATINI, 2008). However, Uganda has got five major inland freshwater bodies and River Nile that are responsible for most of the wild fish catches. These lakes provide 80% of all Uganda's capture fish production. Lake Victoria leads the production statistics (58%) of the important export species Nile perch. Much as the country has over 365 fish species, the most important of these for commercial and subsistence exploitation include Nile perch, tilapia, Sardine-like *Rastrineobola* sp, African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), *Bagrus docmac*, *haplochromis* and Lungfish (*Protopterus* sp). There are numerous small lakes and streams plus a high water table in most locations that have made it possible for small scale aquaculture. Aquaculture is further enhanced by availability of local species that can be cultured under controlled environments. These are Nile perch and tilapia accounting for 67% and 32% respectively in terms of production statistics (FAO-Fishstat, 2009). These are the two main species of commercial importance for the country (Dickson, 2011).

Contribution of fisheries to the economy; In 2010, the national gross domestic product (GDP) was \$ 17.70 billion bringing per capita GDP to \$ 517. The average inflation rate of Uganda was approximately 10.5 (IMF, 2010). Uganda's economy is supported by agriculture which contributes about 28% of the national GDP, employs 80% of the economically active population and accounts for 70% of exports (IMF, 2010). In 2009, trade in fisheries contributed about 2.8% of the national GDP. Recent data shows that the fishery sector is important for poverty reduction as it provides the main direct source of income for over 266,000 households, equivalent to

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