

ECONOMIC VALUATION OF KWAPAWETLAND RESOURCES, TORORO

DISTRICT, EAATERN UGANDA

BY

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DECLARATION

I OKITWI CHARLES ISAAC BU/UG/2010/241 declare that this dissertation is my original work and therefore has never been submitted in any institution or university for the award of Bachelors of Natural Resource Economic Economics in Busitema University

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# APPROVAL

This serves to certify that OKITWI CHARLES ISAAC  
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I am therefore recommending that the report be submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University.

  
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## DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to all those who have given me a hand in the process of getting it done, especially my father Mr. Okemer Juventine and mother Mrs. Achieng Christine who did everything possible for me by providing all the necessary support.

I will always love you dad and mom, God bless all of you abundantly

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To God almighty for his grace for keeping me focused amidst all the trials of life. Thank you God, all the glory is yours, Amen.

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## ACRONMYS

BCD	Biodiversity
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CDO	Community Development Officer
CVM	Contingent Valuation Method
DFO	District Forest Officer
ER	Environmental Resources
ES	Ecosystem Services
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
SPSS	Statistical Program for Social Sciences
TEV	Total Economic Value
V	Valuation
WR	Wetland Resources
WTA	Willingness to Accept
WTP	Willingness to Pay

## ABSTRACT

Humans living in and around wetlands depend a lot on their resources such as ecosystem services, crop production and other indirect services derived values for their livelihood. There is need to understand and appreciate the value of wetland resources received by the people who live near and around wetlands.

This study was conducted in Akoret wetland, Asinge wetland and Ogiroi wetland of Kwapa Sub County Tororo district.

The study focused on the determination of the value of key wetland resources in the identified study sites mentioned above for the benefit of the people living near these wetlands and the sub county at large.

The research was basically carried out to generate data that may be used to conserve and protect wetlands for the good of the present and future generations.

Using semi-structured questionnaire and field data sheets, community interviews coupled with field observations were the key methods used to collect data.

The results indicated that wetland resources delivered in and around kwapa Sub County wetlands had abig impact on the livelihood of people's well-being such as food and ecosystem services.

It is therefore recommended that policy makers considered the wetland resources for the benefit of all people in the community, through management, new policies, and conservation strategies to help for regulating the use of these resources. Wetland management interventions are often designed to enhance provision of different wetland services or attributes. Thus, a number of possible management options can exist depending on the targeted wetland attribute(s) and the levels of improvements of such attributes. The best management option is that which achieves both wetland conservation and improved livelihood for the local people. Achieving the best wetland management option obviously requires a strong legal and institutional support. Apart from that, quantitative information on the values that residents attach to different attributes and to possible alternative management options is also critical. Information on the values and residents' preferences for the different wetland management attributes and management options is still largely missing in Uganda.

**Key words:** Ecosystem services, Economic valuation, wetlands, wetland management.

## CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### 1.0. Introduction.

The growing wetland degradation in rural communities has raised greater concern. Rural communities are victims in this unending drama of wetland resources reclaim nation for agricultural activities, which have recently led to problems like floods, loss of biodiversity, wetland resource depletion and global warming.

This chapter includes the background of the study, the problem statement, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, justification of the study, scope of the study, conceptual frame work, operational definitions and the organization of the study.

Wetlands are particularly important in Africa where many countries are faced with serious water shortages. In such contexts, wetlands are an important source of water and nutrients necessary for biological productivity and often sheer survival of the people. In many cases, wetlands are the exclusive source of natural resources upon which rural economies depend (Schuijt, 2002).

### 1.1. Background to the study.

Wetland resources valuation has become a catchword worldwide today than ever before. The serious concern for wetland resources valuation has been caused by serious wetland degradation. The global environmental awareness campaign for protection and conservation of wetlands has been manifested by international concern expected in such international forums as Ramsar conventions and other environmental organizations addressing environmental concerns like unions for conservation of wetland resources locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

Wetland resources are some of the most important biologically diverse areas in the world and provide essential habitats for many species, such as fish, water birds, amphibians and wetland-dependent mammals such as hippopotamus, manatees and river dolphins are among those examples of biodiversity covered by the global Ramsar Convention network of "Wetlands of International Importance", which comprises over 2,000 sites covering over 1.9 million km.

Environment Management Authority, (2000) sustainable utilization and management of wetlands in Uganda is inadequate.

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