

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WETLAND
THE CASE OF IGOGERO WETLAND
BUGIRI DISTRICT

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, to the best of my effort, knowledge, and belief, I am the sole author of this work. The work presented in this dissertation has never been submitted to Busitema University for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics or any other higher institution of learning for any academic award. Thus the work is original, a result of my own research, and where other people's research was used, the authors have been dully acknowledged.

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APPROVAL

This serves to exhibit that this work has been truly through the effort of WAKOOBA Fred toward partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my guidance and supervision,

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to the Almighty God for the divine guidance, knowledge and to beloved family members Mr. Musuba Yefusa Bukuwa, Ms. Watsemba Kevina, Ms. Kituyi Sarah, and Ms. Kibone Penina for the effort they put into my successful education and May the Almighty God reward them abundantly.

I also dedicate this report to my beloved brother Munyangha Benard and to all my friends who wished me success and encouragements more especially Mr. Kabandah Deo, Mr. Kasango Aramanzan, Mr. Oundo Arthur Fred, and Naturinda Zerubabeel, thanks for contribution toward my studies.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
DRS	Doho Rice Scheme
DWI	District Wetlands Inventory
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperative Agency
LC	Local council
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NBS	National Biomass Study
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NES	National Environment Statute
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NWCMP	The national wetlands conservation and management programme
NWP	National Wetland Policy
OGS	Out Growers Scheme
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
TAGs	Technical Assistance Grants
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNWCMP	Uganda National Wetlands Conservation and Management Program
USFWS	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WID	Wetlands Inspection Division

ABSTRACT

The topic of the study focused on the contributions of Igogero wetland to the people in Bugiri district more especially those living adjacent the wetland. It also focused on how community interacts with the wetland for their livelihoods and the management of the wetland. The objectives of the study were to assess the socio economic benefits of Igogero swamp to the people of Bugiri district, to find out the most common economic activities carried out from the wetland, to examine economic benefit from the wetland, to find out how different organizations have influenced wetland utilization, and to discover the different community actions towards the wetland management and sustainability.

Igogero wetland cuts across two districts, that is, Iganga district and Bugiri districts and to the western part of Bugiri district. Igogero swamp crosses Buwunga, Buyanga, and Nabukalu sub counties. It is also called Igogero-Ngombwa; it is accessible from the Jinja Tororo road between Butaba and Busowa. It covers an area of 36.3 km².

Data collection for the study involved use of quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data of the eighty respondents was collected using a semi structured questionnaire at the household level. This questionnaire was administered to the household head or to a household member that was active in the wetland utilization. Information gathered by the semi-structured questionnaire included socio – economic characteristics of respondents, information on livelihood benefits and information on, attitudes and practices of respondents on wetland conservation, management and ownership.

According to the findings, it was discovered that most people living near the wetland have benefited more from the system. People who own land grow rice and other crops like tomatoes, maize, and tomatoes.

This wetland also directly support many people and provide goods and services to the world outside the wetland. People living close to the wetland use wetland soils for agriculture, catch fish for consumption, and cut trees for timber and fuel wood and wetland reeds to make mats and to thatch roofs. They Graze animals like cows, goats and sheep, Clay mining is also a common activity carried out from the wetland employing many people in the district.



CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study i.e. specific and overall objectives. The chapter also includes the research questions, the scope of the study and the significance and the justification of the study. Not only that, but it also comprises of the conceptual framework, and the organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Uganda's wetlands which occupy about 13% of the total land area have since the mid 1970s experienced large-scale drainage for agriculture, industrial development, sand and clay mining and other human activities. This state of affairs led Government to ban further large-scale drainage and seek advice on how best to manage the resource on a long-term basis. Subsequently, the National Wetlands Conservation and Management Programme was created in 1989, with technical assistance from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Based on the Department of Environment Protection, the Programme was designed to assist government develop a national policy for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands and acquire the technical capacity needed to implement the policy. Although wetlands are often inaccessible, and therefore seen as wastelands, there is a growing recognition that they provide a wide variety of goods, services and attributes important to our well-being. Goods include; Water, Sand, gravel and clay Soils, Livestock, Fish, Crops, Fuel, Timber, Building materials, Craft materials, Medicines, Wildlife. Wetland services include; Erosion control, Flood protection, Water purification, Groundwater recharge, Climatic effects, Recreation, and Wildlife habitat. The attributes include; Biodiversity and Cultural significance. Wetlands are classified into seasonal and permanent wetlands. Wetlands provide many substantial benefits not only to local society, but also to the nation as a whole. They are recognized globally for their vital role in sustaining a wide array of biodiversity and providing goods and services and as important sources of other natural resources, upon which the rural communities depend.

In Bugiri district, wetlands provide a wide range of tangible and non-tangible benefits to various communities. The tangible benefits include water for domestic and livestock use and support agriculture in terms of irrigation, provision of handicrafts, building materials, and food resources such as fish, yams, vegetables, and medicine. The non-tangible benefits include flood control, purification of water, and maintenance of the water table, and microclimate moderation.

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