

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**THE IMPACTS OF WILDLIFE POLICIES IMPLEMENTATION ON COMMUNITY
LIVELIHOODS AROUND MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK, MBALE DISTRICT,
EASTERN REGION OF UGANDA**

BY

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BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

JUNE 2015

DECLARATION

I **WANYONYI INNOCENT** declare that this work is out of my own knowledge and research due to the acknowledgement which was accordingly done in form of references to other people's ideas, and it has never been submitted to any organization or any university for an award.

Signature.....

Date.....26th/06/2015

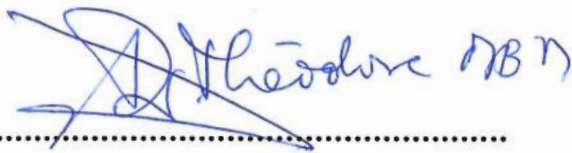
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APPROVAL

This serves to certify that KIANYONYI INNOCENT
did research that I had the pleasure to supervise. I confirm that this report is a true representation of the findings in it.

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 piece of work is dedicated to the family of my father Mr.Wambete John and my mother Miss Bisikwa Immaculate in appreciation of the support, care and love offered to me. I also dedicate to my beloved sisters Namwano Barbra, Namwatikho Brenda, Mutenyo Cathrine, Namwama Scovia, all my brothers Lulonde Bruno, Lwala George Linus, and my friends Wakalanga Sulai, Wakoba Fred, Nagobi Sumaya, Katarwa Collins, Wambi Geoffrey, Jingo Haman, Nviri Geoffrey for the courage that they gave me May the almighty Lord reward them abundantly.

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ABSTRACT

With the implementation of the wildlife policy, people have been displaced but the level of displacement increased with the degazetment of the park. Access to forest resources was restricted, people lost their grazing land and people were deprived of their farming land and their homes. An initial strict preservation approach was soon substituted by community based participatory approach. The main general objective of the study was to contribute to the knowledge generation about the impacts of the wildlife policy implementation to communities living in surrounding protected areas of Mount Elgon. Secondly to describe how the policy has been implemented. Next objective is to capture the perception of communities about the benefits related to this policy on national park protection, to describe how they affect the livelihoods of people and finally to outline the measures to improve on the livelihoods of this communities and conserving mount Elgon national park. The study was a cross sectional and used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to collect data analyze and present. The methods of data collection used were interviews, questionnaires and field observations. The data was collected from a sample of 60 respondents.

The study included the use of statistical packages like Excel, Stata, Min-tab to generate descriptive statistics, Gaussian models and the correlations for testing for the significance of the results

These were from Gewa parish, Bumusiri parish, Bumajila parish and Bukhwana lower in Bufumbo and Bubyangu sub counties respectively. Findings included the better understanding of the impacts of the wildlife policy implementation were it was established that the wildlife policy implementation had the great impact on the local communities with the finding showing that the communities were mostly affected by hunger as most of the communities were much dependent on the national park for their livelihoods, incomes were much affected given the fact that they are agriculturalists diseases in the families, low productivity of crops due to the exhaustion of the small piece of land that the households posses and low productivity of animals due to luck of the pastures due to limited access to the national park as this has made the communities to have hard time in managing their families. It was found out that the communities have tried out some strategies to ensure that their livelihoods improve as some are engaged in the business of selling of ripe bananas, selling of grass and working for people as a way of earning some income to sustain their families but the strategies are not appropriate in making this communities be well off. It was found out that so far no measures have been taken by the government towards improvement on these communities livelihoods as this communities although have tried to catch up with life by doing some little activities that can earn them some income further research should be done to enhance the findings of the study and their needs the government to include the local community starting from the grass roots before implementation of the policy begins. From the Gaussian linear models both the Gaussian log models and the log modals indicate that the data was significant in explaining the impacts of the wildiife policy implementation wit ($P < 000$) and the coping strategies that the communities have under taken. There was also significant ($P < 0.05$) correlations between the variable explaining the impacts of wildlife policy implementation.

Key words: *policy implementation, conservation refugees, Food security and food production, Ecosystem services and ecosystem products, livelihoods, conservation, eviction.*

CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

The research will be looking at the effects of wildlife policy implementation on the livelihoods of communities living with in and around Mount Elgon national park the case study based in Bufumbo sub County. This chapter covers the background of the study, the problem statement, the objectives of the study, research questions, the scope of the study conceptual frame work, operational definitions of the key terms.

1.1. Back ground

Displacement of people has often been driven by large scale development projects, wars, disease and ecological disasters such as famine and drought. However, there is another category of displaced people who have often been ignored. These people who are victims of a much more noble cause are referred to as conservation refugees. Conservation refugees are people displaced from protected areas.

Despite the existence of conservation refugees and their troubles, only Brockington and Igoe (2006) have attempted a global literature review on the problem. Conservation of Mount Elgon national park has made many communities to become refugees as a result of conservation and many have been displaced hence becoming the refugees of conservation. They are people, frequently indigenous people, who are displaced from their lands to create and restore conservation areas national parks or biodiversity reserves. Conservation refugees exist on every continent, except Antarctica. By some reports there are 14 million conservation refugees on the African continent

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