

**COMMUNITY VALUATION OF WETLAND RESOURCES AND THEIR  
CONSERVATION CASE OF NAMASAGALI SUB-COUNTY, KAMULI DISTRICT**

**WATELA WINNIE**

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**SUPERVISOR: ISABIRYE MOSES (Associate PROFESSOR)**

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**DECLARATION**

I **Watela Winnie** declare that this research report was out of my own work and intelligence and to the best of my knowledge it has not been submitted to any other institution of higher learning for any award of a degree or any other qualification and so am responsible for any mistakes or errors to be found in this thesis.

**NAME OF STUDENT: WATELA WNNIE**

**SIGNATURE** *W. Winnie*.....

**DATE** *1st June 2015*.....



## APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this thesis is the original and individual work of Watela Winnie. It has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission to the Board of examiners Faculty of Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences, Busitema University with due knowledge.

**NAME OF SUPERVISOR: ISABIRYE MOSES (Associate PROFESSOR)**

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to all my family members.

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I thank the LORD for all the protection, provision and gift of life; it is by HIS WILL that I was able to complete my Bachelor's degree successfully.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

LG	Local Government
NR	Natural Resource
NWP	National Wetlands Program
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PFM	Production Factor Method

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## ABSTRACT

The Study was about Community valuation of wetland resources and their conservation a case of Namasagali Sub County in Kamuli District. The objectives of the study were to: assess the socio economic contribution of the wetland resources to the community of Namasagali Sub County, find out how value is attached to the wetlands by the community through the use of the production factor method for future benefits of the wetland resources, evaluate the level of conservation efforts on the resources by the community, recommend strategies for community involvement in wetland conservation. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative study designs where the qualitative study design enabled the study to identify variables used and the quantitative study design was used for quantifying variables like incomes of the people. Field surveys were carried out in four parishes of Kisaikye, Kasozi, Bwiza and Namasagali. A sample size of 60 respondents was selected and interviewed with 15 respondents from each parish to avoid bias in the research. To enable data collection, well designed questionnaires were presented for respondents to fill in and give their opinions towards the study where after data was checked, edited and coded. It was then entered in Micro soft Excel where different analysis was made.

The findings of the study included; identifying the major wetlands in Namasagali Sub County and these included wetlands like; Nalwekomba wetland located to the south of Kamuli-Namasagali road from eastern Butansi sub county, with a seasonal river flowing northwest past Namasagali downwards to River Nile, Kisaikye wetland located within Kisaikye Parish, Buwampasa wetland located in Kasozi Parish and Kakindu wetland located in the southern part of Bwiza Parish. People depend a lot on agriculture, Livestock keeping and harvesting of forest products such as wood for charcoal burning and some fishing is also done in the seasonal river such as that one found in the Nalwekomba wetland. It was also revealed that very few people attached value to the wetland resources as wetlands were regarded as waste lands therefore the level of conservation efforts for the wetland resources was very low. However, a number of strategies starting from the grass root level to the higher level were being established to address the issue of not using the wetlands sustainably. The study therefore recommends the development of land use and management plans in order to enhance the use of wetland resources in the study area and in other parts of the country in a sustainable way.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Back ground

Wetlands are among the world's most productive & biologically rich ecosystems as they offer a wide range of livelihood options to communities as compared to the surrounding dry lands and they have significant economic, social, cultural, hydrological and biological values.

Wetlands are shallow seasonally or permanently water logged or flooded areas, which normally support hydrophytic vegetation (water tolerant). Hydrophytic plants are those that are adapted to growing in water or are found in predominantly wet places. According to the Ramsar Convention,(1971) "wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static, or flowing, fresh, brackish or salty, including areas of marine water that do not exceed six meters at low tide". The National Environment Act, Cap 153 under Section 2 defines wetlands as areas permanently or seasonally flooded by water where plants and animals have become adapted. Uganda's National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources (1994) defines wetlands as areas "where plants and animals have become adapted to temporary or permanent flooding." It includes permanently flooded areas with papyrus or grass swamps, swamp forests or high-altitude mountain bogs, as well as seasonal flood plains and grasslands.

Wetlands are hotspots of the areas where they are located by the fact that, they hold a great number of biodiversity (Kipkemboi, 2006). Wetlands are important because of their position in the landscape between terrestrial and aquatic environments and their high productivity. The wetlands among other things provide food and other materials, store water, improve water quality, sequester carbon and support biodiversity (Mitsch and Gosselink, 2007; Maltby, 2009). de Groot, (2007) opine that wetlands are among the most precious natural resources on earth. These highly varied ecosystems are natural areas where water accumulates for at least part of the year. Wetlands offer sanctuary to a wide variety of plants, invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, as well as to millions of both migratory and sedentary water birds. Wetlands are an integral part of the hydrological cycle, playing a key role in the provision and maintenance of water quality and quantity as the basis of all life on earth. They are often interconnected with other wetlands, and they frequently

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