
**COMMUNITY PERCEPTION OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT DRIVERS OF
DEFORESTATION IN WEST BUGWE CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE IN
BUSIA DISTRICT IN UGANDA**

BY

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DECLARATION

This research report is my own work and I present it for the award of degree in Busitema University.

Signature:.....

TUSABE VICENT

APPROVAL

I accept that the research work in this research report was done by TusabeVicent under my close supervision as the Busitema University biology department supervisor

Signature.....Date.....

MADAM CARO KAUMA MERE

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to all my lecturers, friends and family members who have always guided, supported and encouraged me to attain my education irrespective of the challenges encountered.

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I thank God for the gift of life and knowledge he gave me to pursue my academic endeavors.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WBCFR: West Bugwe Central Forest Reserve

CFM: Collaborative Forest Management

WBF: West Bugwe Forest

CFR: Central Forest Reserve

NEMA: National Environmental Management Authority

NFA: National Forest Authority

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at determining direct and indirect drivers of deforestation as well as possible measures that can be used to reduce deforestation in WBCFR in Busia district. A household survey and key informant interviews were used to collect information on the drivers of deforestation around WBCFR. The study of 20 respondents in the neighborhood of WBCFR, Busia district results showed that charcoal burning (85%), firewood collection (75%), agriculture (70%), Gold mining (75%), and poverty (80%) had illegally increased beyond the limit in Bulumbi and Busitema sub county local communities of WBCFR. To reduce on above mentioned illegalities, respondents recommended that sensitization of people (60%), employing soldiers to protect forests (65%), use of (National Forest and tree planting Act of 2003)(70%), forest boundaries demarcation (35%) and encouraging collaborative forest management (CFM)(70%) would minimize deforestation in the proximity of West Bugwe forest (WBF).

Keywords: Direct, indirect drivers, measures and deforestation

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 background of study

Forests are important for peoples' survival and and health. They maintain people's livelihoods through provision of useful goods like fruits, herbal medicines and may be source of income for many people (Mutesi *et al.*,2021). More still,(Mutesi *et al.*,2021) reports that forests provide around 20% of income for local people in developing countries like Uganda. Every year over three billion cubic meters of wood was collected as firewood and shelter since approximately 2.4 billion people used firewood for cooking and around 1.3 billion people depended on forests products for shelter(Bon, 2020).Furthermore, forests protected environment by absorbing carbon dioxide resulting in climate modification.

Colonial administration back more than 110 years established formal management of forests in Uganda. Permanent forest estate of the country was about1.9million hectares, these areas were preserved for biodiversity conservation, environmental protection services and sustainable production of forest products. Half of 1.9million hectares were gazetted central forest reserves (CFR) and also 9.5 million hectares comprised of forested areas in national parks and wild life reserves(Cheptoris,2016). It was by 1932 when forest reserves were established in Uganda based on policies and laws established by colonial government by then, some of the reserves were gazetted through Uganda Memorandum of agreement in 1907 and forest Ordinance 1913 like Toro agreement 1900, Ankole agreement 1909 and Bunyoro agreement 1933(Otieno *et al.*,2013).

The colonial government revealed the reserves as set up projects where by local systems of resources management were imprisoned as most researchers assumed that independent states adopted system of state ownership of all resources using colonial tradition(Hamilton,1984).Thus this placed all beneficial resources in hands of powerful people without the silent traditional communities in their amidst yet they were the majority.

According to(Otieno *et al.*,2010), many researchers agreed that it was stated that

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