

**BUSITEMA**  **UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS**

**ASSESSING THE DRIVERS AND IMPACTS OF WETLAND DEGRADATION: A  
CASE OF MYOMA WETLAND, IN KAKUMIRO DISTRICT.**

**BY**

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*A research proposal submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University.*

**DECLARATION**


I **KANYUNYUZI JANE**, declare that this research report submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences is my original work and to the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted by any other person to any institution for any academic qualification.

SIGNATURE..... DATE...../...../.....

KANYUNYUZI JANE

**APPROVAL**

This is to certify that this research report titled “Assessing the drivers and impacts of wetland degradation, a case of Myoma wetland, in Kakumiro district” is the original work for **KANYUNYUZI JANE** and it has been done under my supervision.

Signature 

**MADAM ARIANGO ESTHER**

DATE...../...../.....

## **DEDICATION**

This work goes out to everyone who supported me in their own special way especially my parents; Mr. Kisembo Joseph (RIP), Mrs. Mbabazi Violet and my siblings; Fatia, Iryn, Norah, Dorah, kendel, friends and course mates who were with me throughout this journey.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

NEMA-National Environmental Management Authority

MWE- Ministry of Water and Environment

US- United States

DLG- District local Government

NGO-Non Governmental Organization

KDLG- Kakumiro District Local Government

DNRO- District Natural Resource Officer

DWAP-District Wetland Action Plan

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## **ABSTRACT**

The major purpose of this study was to assess the drivers and impacts of wetland degradation; a case of Myoma wetland in Kakumiro district. The study was guided by three objectives namely: to identify the drivers of the degradation of Myoma wetland, Kakumiro district, to find out the impacts of the degradation of the wetland ecosystem and to the livelihoods of the people around Myoma wetland, Kakumiro district and to identify the existing and potential intervention measures of controlling wetland degradation in Myoma wetland, Kakumiro district. The study adopted a descriptive research design and it relied mostly on primary data that was collected using questionnaires and interviews. The study generated both qualitative and quantitative data. The quantitative data was analyzed by tabulating and computing percentages while qualitative data was analyzed by coding and establishing common themes that emerged in the process of interacting with participants.

It was found out that that major driver of wetland degradation was carrying out agriculture and this was because of the fertile soils within and around the wetland that supports crop growth which has further attracted many people in the wetland. It was also found out that poverty, pollution and dumping of wastes have also accelerated wetland degradation .These have resulted in to loss of biodiversity due to the clearance of vegetation, outbreak of floods, drought thus poor crop growth, destruction of property and spread of diseases. It was also found out that wetland degradation is not beneficial but instead has more negative effects to the community around Myoma wetland since much of the land has been taken up by the activities carried out within the wetland that alter its natural setup.

The findings show that the government has efforts to reduce wetland degradation through sensitization and law enforcement by arresting and fining of encroachers. However, it has not been sufficient enough because of corruption among the enforcers and also of resistance from the encroachers that have continued to degrade the wetland despite of the penalties put up.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, the general objective, specific objectives, research questions, significance of the study and the conceptual frame work.

### **1.2 Background of the study**

A wetland is an ecosystem that depends on constant or recurrent and shallow inundation at near surface of the substrate (U.S National Academy of Sciences, 2017). According to Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971), wetlands are defined as “areas of marsh, static or flowing, fresh, blackish or salt, including areas of marine water and a depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters”. Most wetlands are characterized by hydric soils which carry physical and chemical indications of repeated and prolonged saturation at or near the surface but these vary in detail depending on the period of flooding, depth of water, altitude, fertility of the surrounding soil and other environmental factors (William, 1995).

Worldwide, wetlands are valuable ecosystems that occupy about 6% of the Earth’s land surface whereby 2% is lakes, 30% bogs, 26% fens, 20% swamps and 15% floodplains (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971). However, since 1900, the world has lost 50% of its wetlands and as a result, access to fresh water has become a challenge, carbon storage has reduced and fresh water species have declined by 76% between 1970 and 2010 (Davidson, 2014).

In Uganda, wetlands are taken to be among the most productive ecosystems important for human survival. They are a source of water for domestic use, fish, raw materials for production, biodiversity conservation and water purification (Aryamanya, 2009). In 1994, Uganda’s wetland coverage was 15.6%, by 2008, it had declined to 10.9% and due to agriculture expansion, industrialization and urbanization, and the wetland coverage in the country currently stands at 8.9% (MWE, 2019). In Kakumiro district, wetlands are estimated to cover 34%. However, since 2014, they have been greatly encroached on and degraded largely by sand miners, crop farmers and the growing urban centers (NEMA, 2019).

### **1.3 Problem statement**

According to Businge (2017), due to increasing population pressure on the natural environment, wetland degradation is becoming a severe problem across the country. Kakumiro district has the

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