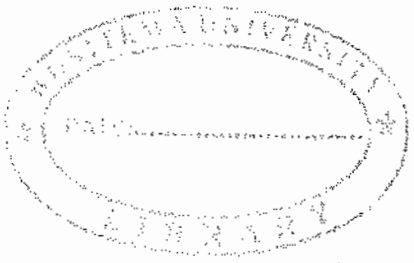
ECONOMIC VALUE OF WETLAND RESOURCES IN KIBAALE DISTRICT
CASE STUDY OF MUTUNGURU WETLAND



AKUGIZIBWE EMMANUEL
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DECLARATION

I AKUGIZIBWE EMMANUEL, hereby declare that this research report is my original work and to the best of my knowledge it has never been submitted by any person to any University or any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature:..... Date: 10/06/2016

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report has been successfully completed under my guidance and supervision

Signature:  Date: 20/06/2016

MR. SSUUNA JAMES

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my great parents; Mr. Ndyanabo Luke and Mrs. Lusia Ndyanabo who have been considerate to my education throughout my secondary and University education, my sister; Atuhairwe Evas and all my brothers and whoever contributed towards my study, all deserve special thanks for their back-up, tolerance and perseverance.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TEV	Total Economic Value
WTA	Willingness To Accept
WTP	Willingness To Pay
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
CVM	Contingent Valuation Method
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
NFA	National Forestry Authority
WRI	World Resources Institute

ABSTRACT

This study was under taken to estimate the total economic value of mutunguru wetland resources in Kibaale district. The study employed market price method and contingent valuation method as valuing techniques to obtain the values of both marketed and non marketed goods and services provided by Mutunguru wetland.

The findings indicate that Mutunguru wetland generated a stream of benefit ranging from direct market goods such as fish, crops, fresh water, thatch and fuel wood and indirect /non marketed goods and services such as climate regulation, water purification and soil retention. They also show that climate change regulation generated the highest monetary value ($225,134.08) and thatching grass generated the lowest value ($94.55). The results show that an estimated annual total economic value of Mutunguru wetland is $375,601.83.

In conclusion, Wetland resources contribute significantly to the household economy of people living near the Mutunguru wetland. Approximately 57% of households depend on the wetland for either their own consumption or the sale of such resources for money to buy food as a basic need. Thus this study recommends for incentive based regulation to be adopted by the developing countries Uganda inclusive owing to their cost effectiveness than the traditional forms of command and control approach which only rely on enforcement of regulations. Such approaches should include the use of direct economic incentives that include property rights that enable the formation of conditions under which communities will benefit from the wetlands and therefore have a stake in their conservation, performance bonds or subsidies upon environmentally friendly activities.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Wetlands are natural lands perceived as waste lands and needed to be converted to put into use which may range from agriculture to developmental purposes. This use of the term "Wetland" can be traced to the beginning of 20th century. The term wetland has been defined by different people and researchers (Nwankwoala, 2012), especially based on their profession and the needs of this important ecosystem and up to today there is no single definition accepted by all users of wetlands.

McCartney et al. (2010) defined wetlands as sinks into which surface water or groundwater flows from a surrounding catchment. Within landscapes they are natural harvesters of rain water and, by definition, sites where water occurs at or close to the ground surface.

According to US EPA (2009), wetlands are land areas covered with water or where water is present at or near the soil surface all year or varying periods of the year. These areas support the prevalence of hydrophytes or aquatic plants that are typically adapted to life in water saturated (hydric) conditions.

Wetlands are particularly important providers of all water-related ecosystem services as they are essential sources of water. They regulate water quantity (including availability of surface water), groundwater recharge, and can contribute to regulating floods and the impacts of storms. Lesser known, but no less important, wetlands particularly help in erosion control and sediment transport, thereby contributing to land formation and increasing resilience to storms.

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