



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

**THE IMPACTS OF NYABIKU FOREST RESERVE ENCROACHMENT ON THE
LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES,
MUGARAMA SUBCOUNTY, KIBAALE DISTRICT**

BY

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JUNE 2016

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this research report is original and has not been submitted to any university or any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature.....


Date.....

KAHWA CHARLES

APPROVAL

This is to certify that **KAHWA CHARLES** did research and this report is a true representation of the findings. I therefore recommend that this report be submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my dear father Mr. Myakamingi Ishá, my mother Namukisa Joyce, my lovely aunt Mrs. Namatovu Cate and my lovely daughters Sanyu Charlene Brenda. I also dedicate it to my friends especially Kato Paul and others who tirelessly provided me with financial and moral support just for the purpose of seeing me excel in life.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS
CFM	COLLABORATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT
CFR	CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE
CLA	COMMUNITY LAND ASSOCIATION
FAO	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
FID	FOREST INSPECTION DIVISION
KDLG	KIBAALE DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LFR	LOCAL FOREST RESERVE
MWLE	MINISTRY OF WATER, LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT
NEMA	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NFA	NATIONAL FOREST AUTHORITY
NFR	NYABIKU FOREST RESERVE
NFR	NYABIKU FOREST RESERVE
NFTPA	NATIONAL FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTING ACT
NWFP	NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCT
PFE	PERMANENT FOREST ESTATE
SFM	SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
SPGS	SAWLOG PRODUCTION GRANT SCHEME
THF	TROPICAL HIGH FOREST

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ABSTRACT

This research project was conducted on the local communities surrounding Nyabiku Forest Reserve, Mugarama Sub County in Kibaale district during the month of January 2016. The main objective of the study was to assess the impacts Nyabiku forest reserve encroachment on the livelihoods of people in the surrounding communities.

The research project employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The data was collected using questionnaires, observation, and existing literature from the journals, websites, reports and books. Data was entered and analyzed using Microsoft Excel, SPSS and STATA respectively to give descriptive and inferential statistics.

Findings showed that the people encroach on the forest reserve in order to fulfill their livelihood needs. This is due to the poverty, limited land and policy failure. However due to encroachment, the forest reserve is degraded due to the livelihood activities. The environment and the livelihood of the people around the forest reserve are impacted on.

There should be sensitization of the masses, gazette and demarcate Nyabiku Forest Reserve, increase man power in environmental protection agencies such as NFA and introduce poverty elevation programmes.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter shows the background of the study, the problem statement, general and specific objectives, research questions, conceptual framework and significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

The world's forest cover is 31% (WWF, 2016). Many of the world's most threatened and endangered animals live in forests, and 1.6 billion people rely on benefits from forests (WWF, 2016). But forests around the world are under threat from deforestation, jeopardizing these benefits. This impacts people's livelihoods and threatens a wide range of plant and animal species. Some 46,000 to 58,000 square miles of forest are lost each year equivalent to 48 football fields every minute (WWF, 2016).

A review of the forestry reports indicated that over a period of 15 years Uganda's forest cover has dropped from 4.9 m hectares in 1990 to 3.6 m in 2005 representing an overall reduction of 27% and a 1.9% depletion rate per annum and this rate is higher compared to other countries in the region with rates below 1% (Auditor general, 2010).. The highest encroachment is noted mainly in the lake shore range where there are an estimated number of 150,000 encroachers (Auditor general, 2010)

A census of encroachers by the National Forestry Authority in 2005 found that 313 of 506 central forest reserves (CFRs) were encroached. Encroachment is evident from forest department reports that illegalities including encroachment were not serious problems before the 1960's. Since then, large stretches of erstwhile virgin forests have been cleared mainly for settlement and agriculture. The worst affected forest reserves are south Busoga forest reserve where more than 76% of the reserve has been encroached, Mabira forest reserve and Kibaale forest reserve, and Mt. Elgon forest reserve among others.

Kibaale district has 18 forest reserves. Out of these 15 are natural forests with an area 25,503 hectares and 3 are plantation forests with an area of 37 hectares. Reserves, which accounts for more than 70 percent of the total forest cover in the district. The rapidly increasing population of

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