WETLANDS DEGRADATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE IN NAMASAGALI SUB-COUNTY, KAMULI DISTRICT.

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DECLARATION

I **Nakyanzi Deborah** declare that this research report was out of my own work and intelligence and to the best of my knowledge it has never been submitted to any other institution of higher learning for any award of a degree or any other qualification. I am also responsible for any errors and mistakes in this research report.

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APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this research report is the original and individual work of Nakyanzi Deborah. It has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission to the board of examiners Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Busitema University, Namasagali campus with my due knowledge.

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DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this research report to the Almighty God who has helped me throughout my life despite my sins and to him I say "Thank you Lord".

I wish to dedicate this report to my dear mother, Nantongo Esther and my father, Mr. Byekwaso Joseph for the love they showed me by paying for my education and I also wish to dedicate it to my late grandmother, Kizza Margret and my grandfather Mr. James Yinda who despite not going to formal school saw the value of education by sacrificing their meager income to kick start my childhood education. To them I say "thank you very much".

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
ENR	Environment and Natural Resource
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IUCN	International union for conservation of nature
KCC	Kampala Capital City
KDLG	Kamuli District Local Government
LC	Local Council
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NDP	National Development Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NR	Natural Resources
NWP	National Wetlands Programme
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Plan
RDC	Residential District Commissioner
SPSS	Statistics Packages for Statisticians
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UWA	Urban Water Authority
VEDCO	Volunteer efforts for development concerns
WSSP	Wetland Sector Strategic Plan

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ABSTRACT

The major purpose of the study was to analyze the impact of wetland degradation to the livelihood of people in the study area (Namasagali sub-county). The objectives of the study were to; establish the impact of wetlands on people's income, access the contribution wetlands on the education status of people in the study area, find out the various causes of wetland degradation in the study area and recommend the best ways of conserving wetland resources in Namasagali sub-county. The study followed a descriptive research design and it employed both qualitative and qualitative methods of data collection where the qualitative methods enabled the study to identify variables used and the quantitative methods were used for quantifying variable for instance incomes of people. Field surveys were carried out in the four parishes of Kisaikye, Kasozi, Bwiza and Namasagali. A sample size of 120 respondents was selected and interviewed with 30 respondents from each parish to avoid bias in the research. To enable data collection, well designed questionnaires were presented for respondents to fill and give their opinions towards the study where after data was checked, edited and coded. It was then entered in computer for processing in several computer software and packages such as Micro-soft Excel and SPSS respectively where different descriptive frequency analysis was made.

The findings of the study included; finding out the major wetlands in Namasagali Sub County which included; Nalwekomba wetland which is located to the south of Kamuli-Namasagali road from eastern Butansi sub-county, with a seasonal river flowing northwest past Namasagali downwards to R.Nile, Kisaikye wetland located within Kisaikye parish which is about 3500-3450ft,Buwampasa wetland located in Kasozi parish which is 3550-3500ft in altitude and Kakindu wetland located in the southern part of Bwiza parish (refer to appendix 4) .It was also found out from the study that; People's livelihoods depend on agriculture, livestock keeping, and exploitation of forest products such as wood for charcoal making and fishing in the seasonal rivers like river .Lwekomba found in Nalwekomba wetland. It was also revealed that, many rich people in the study area had more access to wetland resources than the poor people because of their cloaked ownership of the wetland resources (land lords). However, resource sustainability is a serious question due to resource degradation. Major conflicts were between the local people themselves over water use, livestock keeping and crop production. However, a number of strategies starting from grassroots level to higher level were coming up to minimize such conflicts. It was also found out that people's

incomes do not depend on wetland conditions and there was no correlation between wetland degradation and education of the residents in Namasagali sub-county.

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 of the study

Wetlands are among the world's most biologically productive ecosystems and are rich in species diversity. Such wetlands 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. (Majule and Mwalyasi,2003).Wetlands can be defined as areas of mash, fern, peat and land or water whether natural or artificial, brackish or salty including areas of marine water of which at low tides does not exceed six meters (Ramsar convention 1972). Similarly, Webster (1984) refers to a wetland as a low land area, a marsh or swamp that is saturated with water or moisture especially when viewed as a natural habitat of wildlife. Maltby (1986) defines wetland as a collective term for ecosystems whose formation has been dominated by water whose process and characteristics are largely controlled by water. In addition, he categorizes wetlands into mires, valley swamps, swamps, swamp forests among others. Wetland resources in Uganda have traditionally been utilized by the people as a source of materials for construction, crafts, furniture, and as hunting and fishing areas (NEMA, 2011). Traditionally seasonal wetlands and margins of permanent wetlands have been used for grazing cattle, growing crops and as a source for domestic water and it is mainly the poor people especially in the rural areas that are directly dependent on wetlands for their livelihoods. In addition, they are a major habitat for wildlife resources. Despite these values, wetlands have been regarded as "wastelands" and many have been reclaimed and degraded (NEMA, 2011). This has affected people's livelihoods (in form of flooding, consistent drought) yet wetlands are one of the most essential resources of Uganda and key components of the riparian areas filtering sediments from runoff thereby minimizing water pollution.(Nakiyemba, 2013).

In 1964, the total area of un degraded wetlands in Uganda was estimated at 32,000Km^2 but by 1999,it had decreased to about 30,000km^2 (13% of Uganda's total area), and in 2005,it was reduced to 26,308km^2,or 11% of total land area of Uganda(NEMA 2007;NEMA 2011). Therefore, wetland degradation is a global problem emanating from population increase, lack of knowledge about the importance of wetland, poor government policies, and conversion to agriculture. For example the Uganda government in 1953 encouraged wetland degradation in favor of agriculture (NEMA 1996). In addition, wetlands have been reclaimed for industrialization, urbanization, road construction and

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