

**EFFECTS OF WETLAND DEGRADATION ON LOCAL LIVELIHOOD AROUND  
LUBIGI WETLAND, KAMPALA DISTRICT**

**BY**

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## DECLARATION


I, NALUGWA SHEILA do hereby declare that this research report is my own work and has never been submitted to any other university or institution of higher learning education for any award.

Signature.....*Sheila*

Date.....*9/07/2013*

## APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this research report Titled “Effects of wetland degradation on local peoples livelihood around lubigi wetland, Kampala district” is the original and individual work of Nalugwa Sheila. It has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission to the board of examiners Busitema University with my due knowledge.

Signature: 

.....  
Mr. MASABA SOWEDI  
SUPERVISOR

Date: 

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to the almighty God that has provided the knowledge and understanding to the completion of this report, am so grateful and humbled.

I also dedicate this work to my family thank you and I love you so much may the almighty God bless you.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Wetlands in most parts of the world are under threat of over-exploitation, loss and/or degradation partly due to agriculture and urban land uses. Lubigi wetland measuring about 17,500 ha supports a large biodiversity and is a source of livelihoods to communities around it. This study was aimed at establishing the effects of Lubigi wetland degradation on local livelihoods. Data was collected from primary and secondary sources through field survey. From the study, it is evident that the major benefit derived from the wetland was clean water for domestic use and the main cause of Lubigi wetland degradation realized from the study was settlement, this result into flooding which greatly affects local livelihoods. The researcher recommends that the Government of Uganda should therefore invest in structuring laws and regulations that will control settlement and other illegal activities in the wetland..

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization

FGDs: Focused Group Discussions

GoU: Government of Uganda

MPED: Ministry of Finance planning and Economic development:

NEMA: National Environment Management Authority.

NGOs: Non Governmental Organizations:

NWCMP: National Wetlands Conservation and Management programme.

SPSS: Statistical package for social sciences.

UNDF: United Nations Development Funds

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General introduction

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, the general objective, specific objectives, research questions, scope of the study and the conceptual framework.

### 1.2 Background of the Study

Wetlands are defined areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing; fresh, brackish, or salty, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters. This definition is similar to the definition set forth by the National Wetlands management and Conservation Policy of 1994, "an area that stay wet long enough for only certain plants and animals to grow even when there is no rain."

Globally, wetlands occupy about 6% of the earth's surface area. According to NEMA (1998), wetlands occupy 13% of Uganda's total area. Current estimates put the total area of wetlands at 33,000km. Uganda's National Policy for Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources (1995) defines wetlands as areas "where plants and animals have become adapted to temporary or permanent flooding." It includes permanently flooded areas with papyrus or grass swamps, swamp forests or high-altitude mountain bogs, as well as seasonal floodplains and grasslands. Wetlands are characterized by; impeded drainage, the length of their flooding period, depth of water, soil fertility, and other environmental factors vary with different wetland types. Wetlands are home to distinctive plant and animal communities that are well adapted to the presence of water and flooding regimes.

A wetland can also be defined as vegetated area of land that is flooded either permanently or seasonally. Uganda's wetlands are normally referred to as swamps and papyrus vegetation is common in these wetlands.

Wetlands inhabit a transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and is influenced to varying degrees by both. They differ widely in character due to regional and local differences in

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