

**EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE  
OF THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS WOODLAND DEGRADATION: Case of  
Kakooge Sub-county Nakasongola District.**



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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, am the sole author of this dissertation. The work presented in this dissertation has never been submitted to Busitema University for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics or any other Higher Institution of Learning for any academic award. Thus, the work is original, a result of my own research, and where other people's research was used, the authors have been dully acknowledged.

Student

  
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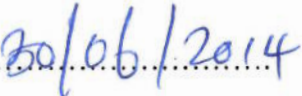
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## APPROVAL

This serves to certify that this work has been truly through the efforts of Namatovu Hildahguard towards partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my guidance and supervision.

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## DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to my grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Ssekamwa, my lovely mother and Mr. Hood. Thank you for your tireless support during the course of these three years. God bless you all.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I present my sincere acknowledgement for the contributions made towards the success of this Dissertation. I would like to acknowledge the efforts put in by my field supervisor Dr. Alice Nakiyemba. I thank you for the guidance and encouragement given in the process of writing this Dissertation. Special thanks go to my grandparents, mummy and daddy plus relatives and friends for the financial support and advice given to me and being there for me in all situations.

May God's grace and mercy rest upon you all and may He reward you as your heart's desire.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization.
<b>FMNR</b>	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration.
<b>IEA</b>	International Energy Agency.
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute.
<b>MoFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
<b>MUINER</b>	Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources.
<b>MWLE</b>	Ministry of Water Land and Environment.
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority.
<b>NFA</b>	National Forest Authority.
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Government Organizations.
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Scientists.
<b>Sq.km</b>	Square Kilometers.
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme.
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental Program.
<b>NDLG</b>	Nakasongola Local District Government.

## ABSTRACT

This study sought to evaluate the current levels of knowledge and attitudes of community towards woodland degradation in Kakooge Sub County Nakasongola district. Specifically, this study focused on: establishing the causes of woodland degradation, examining the effects of woodland degradation, assessing the conservation measures put in place to protect woodlands and the constraints faced in achieving them and finally to document measures that can be put in place to ensure woodland conservation in the Sub County.

The study used across sectional descriptive survey design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study was conducted in three randomly selected parishes of Kakooge Sub County. The samples used in the study consisted of households and key informants. The data was collected using questionnaires and oral interviews. The data was collected and analyzed using SPSS 16.0 and correlations.

Findings of the study indicate a significant relationship between the level of knowledge and community attitudes on woodland degradation. There is a significant relationship between community attitudes and the level of knowledge and woodland conservation measures. When people have knowledge and positive attitudes they can easily conserve the woodlands and that there was a relationship between community attitude and level of knowledge of the constraints of woodland degradation and conservation measures. Knowledge of the constraint helps the community people to work out solutions for them while the reverse discourages even the little effort.

The study recommends community sensitization, provision of seedlings for reforestation program, demonstration projects about woodland conservation measures, provide fertilizers and improved methods of agriculture practices to reduce pressure on land. The study also recommends that there should be bylaws and regulations taught to the people and enforced that safe guard the woodlands like burning and cutting trees indiscriminately. The study finally recommends government should come in to assist the local people to overcome the constraints that limit woodland degradation by providing input. For example termites that eats up trees and

tree seedlings to mention but a few by providing chemicals, which might be expensive for the local community.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Woodlands are central to the three pillars of sustainable development; economy, society and environment. In Uganda, forests cover about 24% of total land. 81 % of these are woodlands. Woodlands are a major source of charcoal and firewood, major grazing areas and occasionally cleared for agricultural expansion. (Namaatwa and Sankhayan, 2005). It is the most significant type of forest and trees found in the tropical world. Forests make a significant contribution to the development of a country at various levels. Hewlett (2000) reveals that woodlands are vital to the rural poor people's livelihoods because they are close to the communities. Muiner (2000) reveals that around 1890 forests and woodlands covered about 108000sq km of Uganda and as of 2002 this coverage had shrunk to approximately 49000sq km (MWLE 2002). The woodlands are the most degraded resources in the area. According to the IFPRI (2003) people easily access woodlands because forests are often constrained by conservation concerns. Woodlands have low conservation value because they cover large areas of the country and are more accessible to the local people. They are found on the private or customary owned land therefore people almost own these trees and have a feeling that they can utilize them any time.

Estimates of annual deforestation rates vary from 55 sq. km to 700sq km-2000 sq. km per year (FAO 2000). According to MoFPED (1994) the primary cause of deforestation and consequently woodland degradation is conversion to agricultural land since 70% of the forest and woodland areas are on private and customarily owned land. The UNEP report of 2005 projected that food demand is expected to increase by 50% by the year 2015 and more than 110% by the year 2050. This will lead to an increase in agricultural land demand and with the slow technological development and absorption in agriculture, it will lead to a 27% increase in demand for agricultural land by the year 2015 and about 42% increase by the year 2050. This increased demand of land to provide food will directly affect tree population coupled with facts that there is low agricultural output per unit area, lack of alternative energy sources, policy failures, high demand for construction materials to mention but a few. At a slow rate of deforestation, all customary and privately owned forests and woodlands could be depleted within the next 62 years (state of environment report 2004/2005).

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