
**IMPLICATIONS OF DEFORESTATION ON ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT IN BUSITEMA
SUB COUNTY, BUSIA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at the implications of deforestation on environment management in Busitema sub county, busia district and it was guided by the following objectives; To establish the different reasons why people in Busitema sub-county have resorted to cutting down trees, recklessly, to analyze the different environment management strategies adopted by the people in Busitema sub-county to sustain the existing trees for proper environment management and to find out the impacts of deforestation on the environment management especially in Busitema sub county. The study's findings shown that forest clearing had a negative impact on the environment. In accordance with respondents' opinions, 90% of the participants concurred that forest loss had caused soil erosion in the region, while 10% disagreed, arguing that soil erosion only occurs in hilly and steep terrain. Similarly, 75% of the participants agreed that destruction contributes to climate change by disrupting the water cycle and resulting in desert-like conditions, while 25% disagreed, arguing that climate change is a natural phenomenon that is predetermined by God. 10% of the respondents urged that deforestation leads to the outbreak of landslides in the area while 90% disagreed on the basis that the area is not hill/mountainous therefore there are minimum risks of landslides while 5% agreed that deforestation leads to wild life extinction. Strict laws should be put and implemented to control the encroachment of forests for example those who carry out charcoal burning, cutting trees for settlement. This is because many people carry out charcoal burning in order to earn a living therefore punishments like imprisonment in order to solve the problem of encroachment of forests.

Key words: Deforestation, wildlife, environmental management and biodiversity

Background of the study

Both overt or direct drivers and covert or indirect drivers contribute to deforestation. Proximate drivers are human behaviors or recent decisions that have immediate effects on the amount of forest cover. They can be divided into groups like commercial and agricultural subsistence expansion, infrastructural development, and timber production (Kazaara & Christopher, 2023). These broad categories are further made up of particular factors (activities). Globally, industrial and livelihood pursuits account for 40% and 33%, correspondingly, of deforestation, while mining, development of infrastructure, and urban growth together account for the remaining. The two main drivers of rainforest are agriculture and timber exploitation.

Deforestation is listed as one of Uganda's most pressing environmental issues in the National Forest Authority's 2015 biomass studies. The amount of forest cover in Uganda has drastically decreased, falling from 24% (4,933,271 hectares) in 1990 to 9% (1,956,664 hectares) in 2015. In order to change present patterns in forest cover towards a more climate and ecological diversity friendly outcome, it is crucial that we comprehend them (Nicholas et al., 2023). For this reason, the investigator has conducted additional research on the effects of forest loss on managing the environment, particularly in Busitema sub county, Busia district where the investigator has observed massive deforestation.

Problem Statement

Uganda's woods continue to disappear at alarming rates notwithstanding the existence of several policies, laws, and organizations (Ministry of Water and Environment 2015). Consequently, it's important to comprehend the effects of deforestation. One environmental management technique that is essential in creating the policies and initiatives required to effectively reverse the trends of forest loss and to foster a bright future for biodiversity and human well-being. In order to better manage the natural resources in the Busitema Sub County Busia district, the study attempted to investigate the causes of tree-cutting, the consequences of forest loss, and management strategies.

Specific objectives of the study

- 1. To establish the different reasons why people in Busitema sub-county have resorted to cutting down trees, recklessly.*
- 2. To analyze the different environment management strategies adopted by the people in*

Busitema sub-county to sustain the existing trees for proper environment management.

- 3. To find out the impacts of deforestation on the environment management especially in*

Busitema sub county.

Research Questions

- 1. What are the different reasons why people in Busitema sub-county, Busia district have resorted to cutting down trees?*
- 2. What are the different environment management strategies adopted by the people in*

Busitema sub-county?

- 3. What are the impacts of deforestation on environment?*

Methodology

Research Design

The investigation was carried out using a case study research design. This type of research entails looking at a specific subject to learn more about more complex situations. The investigator was able to conduct the study in-depth thanks to the case study research design; the study mainly made use of qualitative methodologies and individual verbatims. In the Busia District's Busitema Sub County, research was conducted on the causes, effects, and solutions of degradation on the surroundings.

Target Population

The study involved 80 respondents of which there were children, community leaders like councilors, NGOs and parents from Busitema Sub County in Busia district. These parties were selected because they are assumed to be well versed with data related to the socio- economic impacts of deforestation on environment.

Sample Size

The researcher used a sample size of 50 respondents. Of these respondents, 35 were village people

(Male and female), 10 were local leaders and 5 were children (boys and girls).

Table 1: showing the sample size of the target population

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Sampled</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Village people</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Local leaders</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>50</i>

Source: field research 2021

Data Analysis

Data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Qualitatively, personal communication and quotations of respondents were recorded. Quantitatively, computer packages like SPSS and STATA were used to generate tables, charts, graphs while Microsoft word was used for editing the work

RESULTS

WHY PEOPLE RESORTED TO CUTTING DOWN TREES.

Table 2 showing the respondents views as to why people resort to cutting down trees.

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>75</i>

Settlement	8	40
Urbanization	5	25
Industrialization	5	25
Charcoal burning	13	65

Source: field research 2022

In the picture above, the results of a field study on the causes of residents in Busitema Sub County's resorting to tree-cutting are shown. It was found that 75% of the people surveyed (which was the majority) agreed that forest loss in the area has been caused by agricultural and crop cultivation, 40% acknowledged that forest loss has been caused by the need for land for development, 50% agreed that modernization and industrialization are the main causes of forest loss in Busitema sub county, and 65% concurred that it has been caused by charcoal burning.

According to the results, with a proportion of 75% and 65% accordingly, agriculture and charcoal burning are the main sources of deforestation in Busitema Sub County.

The impacts of deforestation on environment

The second objective of the study sought to examine the impacts of deforestation un to the environment and according to the research findings, the results are tabulated in table 4.2 below.

Table 3 showing the impacts of deforestation un to the environment

Impact	A	DA
soil erosion	18 (90%)	2(10%)
Climate change	15 (75%)	3 (15%)
Land sliding	10 (90%)	10 (90%)
Global Warming	10 (50%)	5 (25%)
Wild life extinction	5 (25%)	3 (15%)
Loss of bio diversity	5 (25%)	2 (10%)

Source: field research 2022

The study's findings show that forest clearing has a negative impact on the environment. In accordance with respondents' opinions, 90% of the participants concur that forest loss has caused soil erosion in the region, while 10% disagree, arguing that soil erosion only occurs in hilly and steep terrain. Similarly, 75% of the participants agreed that destruction contributes to climate change by disrupting the water cycle and resulting in desert-like conditions, while 25% disagreed, arguing that climate change is a natural phenomenon that is predetermined by God. 10% of the respondents urged that deforestation leads to the outbreak of landslides in the area while 90% disagreed on the basis that the area is not hill/mountainous therefore there are minimum risks of landslides while 5% agreed that deforestation leads to wild life extinction. Conclusively, the study findings imply that deforestation have a negative impact on the environment.

Table 4: Environmental management Strategies to control the impacts of deforestation

<i>Measures</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Increasing the number of harsh laws</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Relocation of individuals</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Control fertility</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>100</i>

Increasing the number of harsh laws: Nine individuals, or 28% of the total, suggest this technique. Deforestation can be controlled and its effects can be reduced by establishing and implementing the regulations that govern it. This may entail putting policies in place to safeguard forested areas, enforcing fines for illegal logging or land conversion, and guaranteeing adherence to ethical forest management techniques.

Relocation of individuals: This tactic is cited by 6 participants, or 19% of all participants. Relocation is moving individuals from previously forested areas to more appropriate settings. This plan attempts to lessen human impact on forests and safeguard delicate ecosystems. To guarantee that communities who have been resettled have access to sufficient resources and livelihood possibilities in their new places, proper preparation and assistance are crucial.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the investigator has made an effort to downplay the environmental impact of deforestation. Regarding population growth, the results show that people expand on forests to carry out financial operations like charcoal burning, lumbering, and agriculture because there has been a lot of poverty among individuals as a consequence of the large number of people, and this leads to the interference of forests. These commercial endeavors include development and need for land for agriculture, need for land for development, development, and manufacturing.

Recommendations

Strict laws should be put and implemented to control the encroachment of forests for example those who carry out charcoal burning, cutting trees for settlement. This is because many people carry out charcoal burning in order to earn a living therefore punishments like imprisonment in order to solve the problem of encroachment of forests.

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