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**Master thesis: Assessment of agriculture practices in wetlands for improved livelihoods and ecological integrity – A case study of Katunguru and Nyamazugo wetlands Sengerema District, Mwanza**

This study is aimed at assessing agriculture practices in wetlands for improved livelihoods and ecological integrity. The wetlands play a critical role in the survival of the communities across the study area. Specific objectives for the study were to assess socio-economic activities undertaken in the wetlands environment of Katunguru and Nyamazugo villages, to assess the roles played by Katunguru and Nyamazugo wetlands in crop production, to assess impacts of agriculture activities on the wetlands environment and to assess sustainability aspects wetlands management in the study area.

The study was carried out at Katunguru and Nyamazugo wetlands in Sengerema District, Mwanza region. Data collection was done through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method involving questionnaires, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and field observation and transect walk. The results indicated that about 85% to 80% of respondents in the study villages depend much on the wetlands for agricultural activities, 3% to 12% depend the resource for cattle grazing while 12% to 8% depends for fishing activities. It was learnt that these livelihood activities had impacts on the wetlands environment in the study area. Findings from the study area also revealed that 87.5% to 79.3% of the respondents declared their activities to have negative impacts on the wetland environment but could not find alternative means of conserving the area as its where their livelihood assets are obtained from. Factors for these impacts were identified to include environmental, policy related factor and socioeconomic factors.

This research, however, noted that a proper management regime is required to help maintaining the natural characteristics of the wetland environment while also allowing partial conversion for livelihood activities to effectively meet the economic needs of communities surrounding the wetland resource.