

**REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENT
IN MID-WESTERN UGANDA
CASE STUDY OF KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE
SETTLEMENT
MASINDI DISTRICT**

BY



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DECLARATION

I, Majak Arop Kuol, declare that this is my original work and has not been presented to any University or Institution of higher learning for award of a degree. Throughout the work I have acknowledged all previous work by the scholars referred to.

Signature  Date 20th/10/2009

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research thesis has been submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management of Kampala International University with my approval as appointed Supervisor.

Signature.....

KASSIM SEKABIRA

Date.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved wife Mrs. Lucia Nyakuya Akuei and my dear children. I particularly dedicate this work to my wife for her inspiration and courage in raising the children and the family single handedly while I was away performing a national noble task; without her efforts and dedication to the family welfare, it would have been difficult for me to pursue my under graduate and post graduate studies. Madam Lucia, I salute you and may the good Lord bless you as we continue building our family in love and trust to God.

A treasural piece of dedication also goes to promoters and lovers of knowledge.
Alutta continua!

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Deforestation: It occurs when trees and other woods vegetation cover has been lost.

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plants, animals and micro-organism and their living environment interacting as a unit.

Environment: The physical factors of the surroundings of the human beings including land, water, atmosphere, climate, sound, odour, taste, biological factors of animals, plants and the social factors of aesthetics and includes both the natural and built environment.

Environmental conservation: To protect natural resources from loss and waste for achieving sustainability in management and use.

Environmental degradation: To lower the quality, productivity, capacity or stability of the natural resources.

Environmental Impact Assessment: The study conducted to determine the possible environmental impact of proposed policies/project or activity to mitigate such impacts.

Environmental mitigation: Action which reduces, avoid or offset the potential adverse environmental consequences of a project.

Environmental Restoration: This is reversing the process of degradation and destruction to as near as possible, the ecological state of the environment or ecosystem it was in, before it was disturbed.

Humanitarian assistance: May be conceived as consisting of emergency relief.

Settlement Camps: These are large expanses of land allocated to the refugees by the government in collaboration with the UNHCR for settlement and cultivation.

Sustainable use: Present use of the natural resources which does not endanger the right of future generations to use the same resources.

ACRONYMS

AAHI	:	Action Africa Help International
AU	:	African Union
BMZ	:	Bundesministerium Fur Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Co-operation)
DAR	:	Development assistance for Refugees and hosting-areas in Uganda
DRC	:	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECF	:	Equatoria Civic Fund
GGP	:	Grant assistance for Grassroots for Human Security Projects
IGA	:	Income-Generating Activity
IRC	:	International Rescue Committee
JICA	:	Japan International Co-operation Agency
LIPRO	:	Livelihood Improvement Programme for Uganda
MOLG	:	Ministry of Local Government
MSF	:	Medicine' San Frontier
NFA	:	National Forest Authority
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization.
OAU	:	Organisation of African Unity
Oxfam GB	:	Oxfam Great Britain
OPM	:	Office of the Prime Minister
RWC	:	Refugee Welfare Council
SRS	:	Self-Reliance Strategies
UNHCR	:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

ABSTRACT

Uganda being a member of the International community, surrounded by conflict prone neighbors with unsecured borders, is consequently over burdened with the stress of hosting refugees generated from her neighboring countries and beyond. The topic of study was about the refugee's protection and Environment. This study was therefore undertaken to establish the effectiveness of Refugee protect in relation to the environmental conservation in Kiryandongo refugee settlement. Cross-sectional Survey design was used because the data were collected one time from sampled population of the refugee and local Ugandans living within and around refugee settlement.

Data were gathered by using open ended questionnaire instruments, informant interviews for key respondents, focus group discussions and observation methods. The total sample size of (115) included the respondents to the questionnaires and interviews was used to provide information for the study

The main finding of the research was that; the activities of the refugees such as charcoal burning, clearing forest vegetation and bricks production among others have contributed negatively in the destruction of the natural vegetation cover and subsequently in soil erosion. These destructive activities resulted from poverty, lack of incentives to the refugees to conserve the environment they are living in and lack of sensitization of refugees and policy enforcement regime. It is therefore concluded that the refugees' effect on the environment is a serious challenge which deserves a multipronged intervention mechanism from all relevant actors in order to ensure and further nurture the sustainability of the current settlement policy for refugees being implemented in Uganda. Several recommendations were made to specific authorities that include carrying out environmental audit assessment in the Kiryandongo refugee settlement areas, controlling and managing conflicts arising from competition over natural resources use, implementing the national environmental standards in order to control further destruction of the refugee camps and promoting tree planting programme.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Under the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, a refugee is defined as a person who is outside his or her country of origin and unable or willing to return to it because of a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political oppression. The organization of African unity (OAU) convention of 1969 currently known as African union (AU) extended the above definition to include “ any person who is the victim of external aggression ,occupation, foreign rule or events that seriously affect public order”

In the host countries, the influx of refugees normally brings about emergencies, which are both short term and long term. Because of great fear and haste in which refugees characteristically leave their countries of origin, family members may flee their homes of origin (Aduany, 2004). In the host countries, the sudden and drastic increase in population also puts strain on economic system and usually has a devastating effect on the environment. The high population density of refugee camps unavoidably leads to excessive strain on natural resources causing environmental degradation/destruction.

Aduany (2004) further observed that an increase in the population of refugees creates higher local prices or pillaging, competition for resources which often escalates into violence between refugees and the local people thus contributing to general insecurity in the region.

As a procedure of working for a long-term solution to the problem of refugees, the host country normally allocates land for the settlement of refugees. Settlement camps are usually vast expanses of land to which refugees are settled. The refugees are expected to cultivate the land, and are provided with seeds to enable them to engage in agricultural production for sustenance while awaiting other more long-term solutions.

The burden of providing care and protection for refugees is characteristically too heavy for a host country to carry single-handedly. This task therefore normally involves international support and the use of international resources in addition to those provided by the host country. The UNHCR in collaboration with the host country, humanitarian agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, are mandated to provide land and protection for refugees (UNHCR, 1993).

One such argument that merits discussion is the contention that by the nature of the circumstances of the refugees, migrants are more likely to contribute to environmental degradation than the non-migrant population because refugees have no long-term stake in the sustainability of the natural environment (Leach, 1992).

Environmental degradation in the context of this study occurs when one or all of the following take(s) place. Ecological integrity of the environment is reduced or lost, quality of elements in the environment is reduced or lost, primary and secondary productivity of the plants and animals are reduced or lost respectively, and stability of the ecosystems is reduced or lost (Muthoka *et al*, 1998).

Environmental degradation is seen through scarcity of environmental resources which limit availability of human needs. This in turn leads to poor standard of living. In a number of refugee settlements in Uganda, the country is faced with environmental problems which include use of inappropriate methods of cultivation causing soil exhaustion and loss of fertility, food shortages, clearing of forest products for fuel and decline in water quality (NEMA, 2000).

The refugees' phenomenon has become a hotspot in the international relations (Muggah, 2006). The continuous large influxes of refugees may affect or have long lasting negative effect on the environment (Leach, 1992). This study is hoped to develop intervention mechanism for responsible

stakeholders to take keen interest in restoring the degraded environment across the settlements hosting refugees in Uganda with a particular focus on Kiryandongo (Muggah, 2006). The role of Uganda as an important host for refugees in the Great Lakes Region is well documented since the attainment of political independence (Muzaale, 1998).

Unfortunately, little has been done to generate systematic information on the effects of refugees on the areas hosting them. As a result, refugees' activities on the environment in Uganda have proceeded without proper documentation. Consequently, no long-term practical solutions have been sought or designed to mitigate their impact on the environment currently hosting the refugees.

Even if, there has been considerable effort to deliver humanitarian assistance to refugees over various refugee settlements in Uganda, little attention has been paid to the conservation of the environment hosting the refugees. There is urgent need to examine the activities of refugees that has resulted in environmental destruction.

The continuous large influx of the refugees resulting into increased levels of violence and other challenges (Aduany, 2004) has subsequently forced some states to include the problems of refugees on their national security strategic planning. According to the UNHCR (1993), Uganda hosts over 350,000 refugees from the neighbouring countries and beyond. The high level of population density of refugees in camps has unavoidably led to excessive strain on the natural resources. For example, Uganda's fragile ecological ecosystems experiencing deforestation for cultivation and burning of charcoal for trade, if not given due attention, may result into desertification (Cairns, 1997). The question of the environmental protection must therefore be given first hand attention by the policy makers and all the stakeholders involved in the management of refugees' affairs.

Failure to put up practical measures to mitigate the state of environment "hosting the refugees" may lead to an adverse effect on the quality of life of both the refugees and the local indigenous populations (Cairns, 1997).

Thus, there is need to design for strategic plan to protect the environment and encourage both the nationals and the refugees to sustain use of the natural resources without compromising the interest of the future generations. Precautionary measures including conduction of environmental impact assessment prior to settlement of refugees are needed.

Currently Kiryandongo settlement hosts over 15,000 refugees (UNHCR, 1998). There are pending tensions as a result of refugees' encroachment into plots of land of the nationals to cut down trees for firewood and to get access to more land for cultivation purposes, simply because the land currently hosting the refugees is exhausted (State of Masindi Environmental Report; 2008).

To make the matter worse, most trees which the refugees need badly for fuel and building purposes have been depleted over the past nine years. The refugees are also involved in depletion of wetland resources in and around this settlement and this has affected water catchments capacity of the area. Bricklaying in and around the settlement has also left out large galleys and bare soil which are now acting as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which through malaria has also taken life toll of quite a good number of refugees.

1.2 Problem Statement

In Uganda, most of the refugee settlements are claimed to have been demarcated without proper comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, as stipulated in the National Environmental Management Act 2000. The refugees have not used the resources in and around the settlement sustainably which has resulted in massive environmental destruction. The current state of environmental degradation across the settlements hosting the refugees shows that, there are no mitigative measures that have been put in place to restore the degraded environment. As a result of the above, the scarcity of the environmental resources is high and the host population is hardly able to satisfy its basic needs as a result of competitions with refugees over limited resources.

Refugees and the host population in Kiryandongo have caused environmental degradation especially in a situation where the influx of the refugees in the area has been high; this has seriously threatened the local ecosystem upon which the economic activities depend. From environmental point of view, it is unrealistic to expect the current carrying capacity of the land in Ranch Numbers 1, 18 and 37 to host the increasing number of refugees for more years to come. The host population is also affected by the excessive refugee population. Competition for scarce resources is therefore, almost always at the heart of every conflict in Kiryandongo refugee settlement. Failure to manage environmental resources effectively and equitably may lead to future conflicts. There is already a growing sign of conflict between the host population, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees which urgently require systematic approach to tackle the situation.

There is urgent need for empirical data on the effects of the activities of the refugees on the environment, insights, practical experiences and analytical concepts to prompt environmental conservation and restoration in the areas hosting the refugees in Uganda.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

To establish the effectiveness of refugee protection in relation to the environmental conservation in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- a) Identify the effects of refugees on the environment in Kiryandongo
- b) Assess the level of interventions by the government of Uganda, UNHCR and other organizations towards conservation and restoration of the degraded refugee settlement areas in Kiryandongo.
- c) Identify practices for prompt conservation and restoration of the degraded areas hosting the refugees in Kiryandongo.

1.4 Research Questions

- a) What were the effects of refugees on the environment in Kiryandongo settlement?
- b) To what extent were the levels of intervention of the Uganda government, UNHCR and other organizations effective towards conservation and restoration of the refugees' settlement area in Kiryandongo?
- c) What were practices for prompt restoration of the degraded area hosting the refugees?
- d) What was the effectiveness of refugees' protection in relation to environmental conservation in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement area located in mid western Uganda, on Kampala Gulu highway about 226 km from Kampala. The population of the settlement was about 15,000 people. The majority of the population was of children and youth between 18-30 years and women. Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement area was formerly a government ranch and a former forest reserve which was leased to the UNHCR by the government of the Republic of Uganda around 1990 for the settlement of the refugees according to an official from the Directorate of refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

The activities of the refugees on the environment from 1994 to 2009 were assessed. During the piloting study conducted by the researcher in Kiryandongo settlement, it was noted that 1994 was the year when the government and the UNHCR started allocating land to the refugees across the three ranches Numbered 1, 18 and 37 as part of the durable solution to the problems of the refugees. The year 1994 was specifically chosen because it was the year when the magnitude of environmental degradation became alarming. The study extensively analyzed the effect of the settlement of refugees on the Environment in Kiryandongo.

1.6 Significance of the Study

- This study is expected to yield data and information that will be useful for long-term sustainable planning leading to informed decision-making by the government, UNHCR and other stakeholders involved in the management of refugees, and for institutionalization of a framework for urgent restorations of the degraded environment hosting the refugees.
- It is hoped that the findings of the research will send a strong signal to the stakeholders involved in the management of refugees to promptly encourage refugees to appreciate the values of environmental conservation.
- It is further hoped that, the study will form a basis for further research and debate on refugee studies and environment.
- The final dissertation is a crucial requirement for the award of Masters of Public Policy and Planning in Kampala International University (KIU).

1.7 Conceptual Framework

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework relating to the impact of Refugees' Activities on the Environment

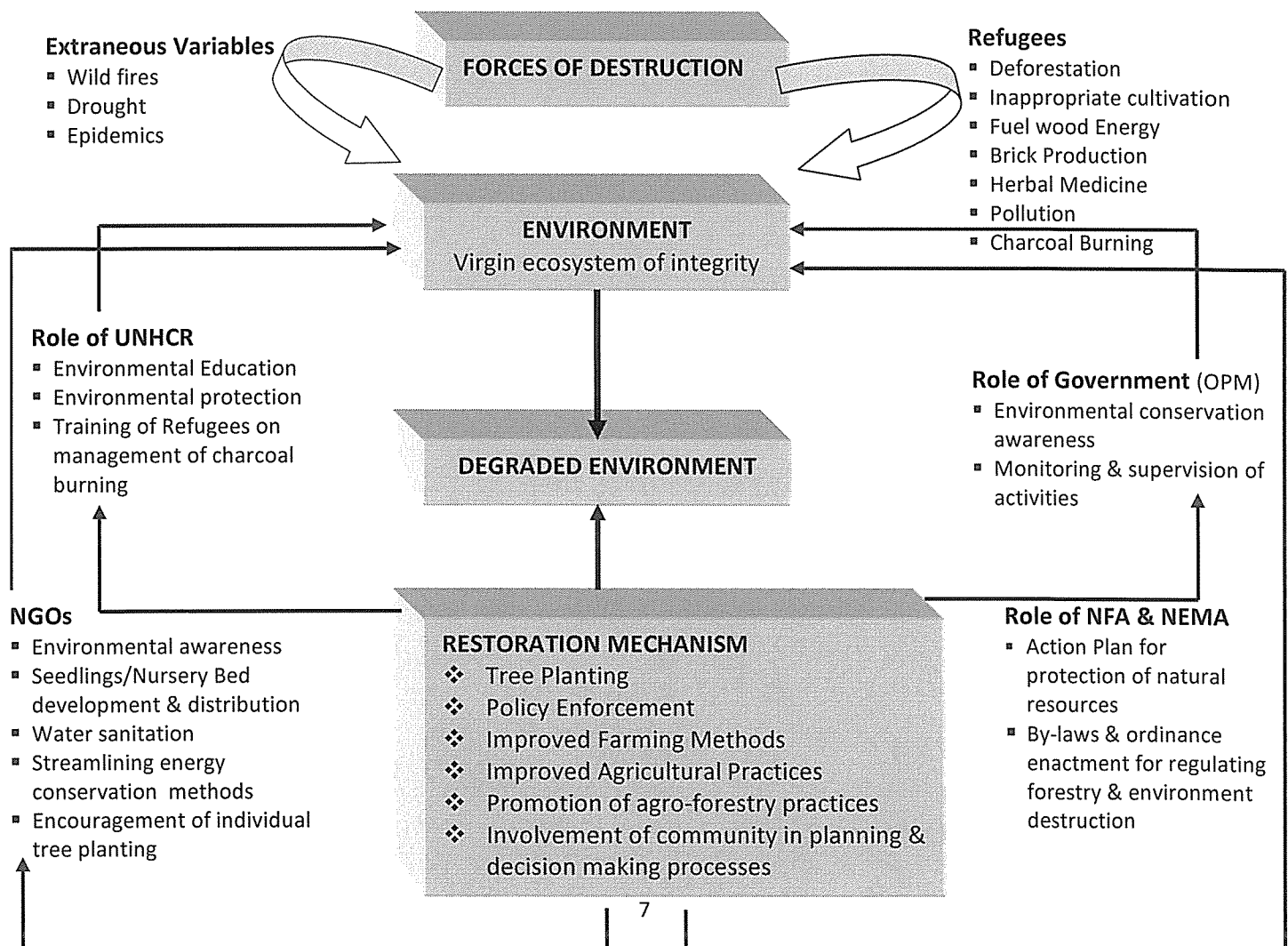


Figure 1 in Page 7 illustrates the forces of destruction of the environment which include the refugees' activities involving deforestation, inappropriate cultivation, charcoal burning, extraction of herbal medicines, wood fuel extractions among others as mentioned in the figure. Other extraneous factors which are beyond the human control include wild fires, drought and epidemics. Therefore, the refugees' factors and extraneous variables have consequently led to extensive environmental degradation.

The destruction of the environment in Kiryandongo Settlement subsequently calls upon the responsible actors to come up with the restoration mechanisms which includes tree planting, policy enforcement, improved farming methods, improved agricultural practices, promotion of agro-forestry and last, but not least, involvement of the community in planning and decision making processes.

The various stakeholders charged with the restoration of the environment in Kiryandongo Settlement incorporates the roles of the government/Office of the Prime Minister which is currently undertaking environmental conservation awareness, monitoring and supervision of the implementing NGOs operating in the Settlement. Besides, the National Forestry Authority and NEMA have undertaken the role of designing an Action Plan for protection of natural resources, designing by-laws and ordinance enactment for regulating forestry and environmental destruction through the support of the local government in the districts.

To add on, the UNHCR who are the principal stakeholders in the protection of the refugees have conducted extensive environmental education, training of the refugees on the management of charcoal burning, to mention but a few, all geared towards environmental protection in the Settlement hosting the refugees.

The NGOs who are the implementing partners of the UNHCR have also played a significant role aimed at environmental restoration and conservation which include, among others, environmental awareness, seedling/nursery bed development and distribution, water and sanitation projects, streamlining energy conservation methods, last but not least encouragement of individual tree planting.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature relevant to the root causes of environmental degradation in the refugee settlement Camps with a focus on Kiryandongo settlement in Masindi District. The researcher further assessed the level of interventions by the Government, UNHCR and other parties towards conservation and restoration of the degraded refugee settlement areas.

From the onset, it must be noted that, out of the global refugee population of around 10 million recognized by UNHCR (UNHCR, 2007), 32.7% are in Africa. These refugees had left their homes to escape from torture, persecution, or imminent danger to their lives. Given continuous insecurity, political violence, lack of human rights and poor governance in the world, the number of refugees is likely to increase (UNHCR, 2007). In Sub Saharan Africa, there is high refugee mobility due to civil wars, recurrent drought and unemployment (UNHCR, 2007).

2.2 The effects of refugees on the environment of the host country

Cairns (1997) stated that it was not only those forced to leave their homes who suffer; in fact they are the minority. The communities who receive them may be living in extreme poverty. Yet the impulse to help those even worse off is still strong. Cairns stated in his literature with reference to refugees in Kivu in DRC in late 1996 that thousands of people in Kivu offered what little they could, usually a cup of maize or shelter for the night to those fleeing the fighting in Eastern DRC. Those who had fled the fighting had been supported by poor rural communities as well as in some cases by international aid. Therefore, according to Cairns, the suffering of the host communities can be almost as heavy as that of refugees. Echoing this statement by Cairns (1997) who quoted Samizi, a government official in Tanzania to have said this! "... the influx of refugees does not only cause environmental destruction but it

also creates the problem of food shortage in the local community, soaring food prices, the spread of various diseases such as meningitis, malaria, dysentery, venereal diseases, and damages roads and bridges by heavy truck”.

Besides deforestation, Black (1998) stated a number of other negative environmental impacts cited in various environmental impact assessment studies conducted in the region, although the amount of evidence presented to back up claims of environmental degradation is limited. As regards impacts on natural resources, Biswas and Quiroz (1995) reported accelerated soil erosion as a consequence of deforestation in and around Goma (DRC) and more especially around Bukavu where steep slopes containing alluvial soil were exposed leading to gully erosion.

However, soil erosion as cited by Kunze *et al* (1990) referred to as a major problem prior to arrival of the refugees in Bukavu throws into question the observation of Biswas and Quiroz (1995). More so, much as this observation by respective authors related to refugees’ activities in Bukavu- DRC which may not necessarily be focused on Kiryandongo, however, the argument contained herein could be useful for comparative analysis.

There is a strong contention by (Black, 1998) that, by the nature of the refugees’ lifestyles, circumstances forced migrants to contribute to environmental degradation than non immigrants’ population. The notion that refugees are exceptional resource degraders was first raised by Leach (1992) in the context of settlement by urban refugees in Sierra Leone, which is based on principle that refugees have no long-term stake in the sustainability of natural environment. Leach (1992) further suggests that the lack of long-term commitment to the host may combine with refugees’ poverty to lead to short-term resource exploitation.



Echoing this, Jacobsen (1994) quotes the arguments of Myers (1993) that people living in absolute poverty such as the displaced; appear to cause much environmental damage as the rest of the rural people of the developing world. Jacobsen suggests that refugees may be unfamiliar with the host environments in which they live, but the process of monetization of the free local resources entice them to over exploit the resources to earn income.

However, it should be noted that much as the argument by Jacobsen and others may hold water, it is not specifically directed to the causes of environmental degradation in Kiryandongo refugee settlement. Furthermore, the statement appears to be hypothetical and still needs to be confirmed.

Ketel (1994) noted that the trauma of war, resettlement and lack of ownership of land may reinforce refugees' lack of incentive to observe principle of sustainable resource management. He further added that refugees are not governed by the traditional principle of common property. Whilst there may be a breakdown of social authority and insecurity within the refugee population around refugee camps, the settlement of refugees may reduce the radius of the exploitation.

The above statement may be relevant to the refugee situations/circumstances in Sierra Leone as noted by Ketel (1994) but the circumstances of the refugees in Kiryandongo, Uganda are unique; and demand an academic investigation for comparative analysis.

2.3 The roles of Stakeholders

The burden of providing care and protection for refugees is characteristically heavy for a host country to carry single-handedly (Muzaale, 1998). This task therefore involves international collaboration and the use of international resources in addition to those provided by the host country. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the host country and humanitarian agencies try to work together in seeking durable solution to the problems of refugees.

2.3.1 Government

In the Uganda constitution of 1995, the role of the State or Government on the environmental conservation is to promote sustainable development and public awareness of the need to manage land, air and water resources in a balanced and sustainable manner for the present and future generations.

Another role provided in constitution is the role of management of utilization of natural resources of Uganda to meet the development and environmental needs of the present and the future generation of Ugandans by taking possible measures to prevent or minimize damage and destruction to land ,air and water resources resulting from pollution or other causes.

More over, the promotion and implementation of energy policies that will ensure people's basic needs and meet those of environmental preservation is another role to be tackled by the Government. Last but not least, the State including the local government is given a role to create and develop parks, reserves and recreation areas and ensure the conservation of natural resources, while promoting the rational use of natural resources so as to safeguard and protect the bio-diversity of Uganda.

Uganda's Refugee policy emphasizes human treatment of refugees and enabling those live normal lives. A number of policies safeguard the dignity and promote the well being of refugee population, including the opportunities to access social services, land, Uganda courts of law and the right to work. These policies are formulated based on the Geneva Convention (1951), the OAU Refugee convention(1969) and the global frame work for durable solutions for Refugees within the framework of the convention plus initiative.

2.3.2 UNHCR

Based on Self-reliance Strategies (SRS 2003), UNHCR has catalytic and advocacy role. This has been exemplified in its work in the united republic of Tanzania with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) in Kigoma region of Tanzania and its work in western province of Zambia with Government of Zambia. In this the UNHCR was trying to engage the interest of bilateral development agencies in alleviating the impact of refugees on local communities and their environment.

The main source of funding for Uganda's refugee programme has been mainly UNHCR's country programme, but the involvement of UNHCR in development activities is limited because of her institutional mandate and general global resource constraints (DAR II Strategic Plan 2009-2013).

Another role of UNHCR apart from protecting refugees and assisting in finding their durable solutions is promoting and monitoring states adherence to the 1951 refugees convention and enabling them to offer adequate protection to the refugees in their territory.(UNHCR,2000).

Muzaale (1998) further argued that most of the relief workers are trained to only provide short term immediate relief giving little or no attention to durable solutions. In addition, failing to do developmental work with refugees due to excessive pressure of rescue work, refugees normally perceive themselves as people on transit. This attitude has not always been conducive to participation in long term development like environmental conservation even where such opportunities have been made available (Muzaale, 1998). The statement by Muzaale does not warrant an excuse for compliance in conservation and restoration of environment hosting refugees in this regard.

2.3.3 Other Partners

According to UNHCR (2005), Uganda Network (1999), the German government through BMZ is said to be funding several development programmes and has made available to Uganda USD 409,000 in support to

self reliance activities in education, forestry and income generating sectors in Rhino Camp, Uganda.

The project is said to be focusing on land preparation, site development, besides infrastructural support and a large component of community services and educational activities. The project is claimed to have given a special priority to the environment and gender issues for integration of women in the development.

Among the roles or interventions of other partners to be mentioned is the support given in the implementation of development assistance for refugees and host communities (DAR).the programme which was initiated with specific focus to support the host areas to cope with the impact of refugees, while at the same time empowering refugees and the nationals to be self-reliant in Uganda (DAR strategic plan).

Danish Government through Danish NGOs gave the initial support to DAR in form of institutional, agricultural related activities and development project implementation, while Japanese government gave support through JICA and the grants assistance for Grassroots human security (GGP) in form of direct implementation of development projects in affected areas and the support to training farmers.

The greater percentage of donor support to DAR was channeled to West Nile region living out other refugee-hosting districts especially in South-Western Uganda which have become out of focus on the basic needs such as education, water and sanitation and health assistance.

2.4 Environmental Practices

Drawing the practices from Ethiopia in an effort to conserve the environment hosting the refugees, Gebremariam (2008) reported on the UNHCR, the government and other NGOs that were involved in the natural resource

protection and conservation programme in and around Shimelba refugee camp which included Mud brick construction, building check- dams, hillside plantation, nursery development, afforestation and biomass saving stoves / distribution among others. Gebremariam argued that the prompt intervention by the government and other non state actors was due to the damage on natural resources that had reached a critical level. He further stated that despite the fact that, there was concerted effort undertaken in providing training in soil and water conservation activities in Shimelba refugee camp, less than 20% of the refugees benefited from soil and water conservation techniques.

Furthermore, according to the UNHCR Environmental Guidelines (1996), the implementing partners and their field staff must ensure that preventive and mitigative measures which include proper site planning, forest protection and wood control extraction, re-afforestation, and afforestation should be extensively emphasized.

More so, the UNHCR also encourages the involvement of the community services in environmental conservation. The UNHCR in particular emphasized the inclusion of environmental concerns in any participatory mechanism established. The UNHCR further encourages its implementing partners to identify refugees skilled in environmental matters to promote the environmental information awareness and training. Further emphasis has been focused on provision of alternative fuel sources.

However, despite the commendable efforts in environmental conservation mechanism by the UNHCR in restoring the degraded environment in the refugee settlement, it seems there is little attention paid in practically tackling refugee poverty which seems to be the main exacerbating element threatening the environmental ecosystem. Thus, in line with the preceding argument, there is an urgent need for deeper analysis in order to arrive at some workable intervention mechanism for prompt restoration of the areas that host refugees in other situations like the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

2.5 Conclusion

The various views of different authors on the causes of refugee activities and their effects on degradation of the environment are experience of researches conducted either in Congo, Tanzania or Sierra Leone but not conducted in Kiryandongo refugee settlement. Therefore more study is needed for comparative analyses.

The roles of State or the government stated as objectives in the Uganda Constitution of 1995 are concerned with protection and preservation of the Environment in Uganda. and their implementation or fulfillment in the Refugee Settlements particularly in Kiryandongo need confirmation.

The methods employed by the Ethiopian government or the intervention they made to combat land degradation as reported by Gabremariam (2008) need to be verified in Kiryandongo study area as the terrain might dictate the practices to be employed. The above represent the gaps found during the review of literature and make points of investigation and analysis for the study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, population sampling strategies, sample selection, data collection methods and instruments, research procedure, data collection procedure, techniques in data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

Cross-sectional survey design was used because data were collected at one time from the sampled population of the refugees and local Ugandans living within and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement area. For cross-sectional survey, data were collected at one point in time from a sample selected to represent a larger population (Linda, 2002) which was the aim of this study. A cross-sectional survey was used to study the population and the purpose of the study was to establish the effect of the refugees on the environment. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in order to achieve the objectives of the study. Qualitative methods of collecting data were used to explore population's experiences with the refugees in affecting the environment. They included primary data which were collected using interviews and observations. Qualitative methods used helped to generate in-depth information about the study. Secondary data were also collected to assist in analysing the primary data. These were collected from printed materials and other literature. Quantitative study design was also used in quantifying quantifiable responses represented in percentages in relation to the characteristics of the study population. The self-administered questionnaires were used to gather the necessary data to reduce interview bias. It helped to generate richer information.

3.3 Study Area

The area of this study was Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement Camp in Masindi District located in the county of Kibanda along Kampala-Gulu Highway. The

climate of the area is tropical and the distance of the settlement from Kampala is about 226 km (Fig 2).

The District is at an average altitude of 1295 m above sea level, situated between $1^{\circ} 22''$ and $2^{\circ} 20''$ North and longitude $31^{\circ} 22''$ and $32^{\circ} 23''$ East.

Figure 2: Location of the Study Area (Kiryandongo), Masindi District



Source: McMillan Publishers, Kampala (2009)

3.4 Population Sample

The refugees (15,000) living in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and local Ugandans (8000) living around the Refugee settlement area, and officials from Prime Minister's Office - Directorate for Refugees, UNHCR, AAHI, NEMA, NFA and DLB, were the target population in the study. This population was preferred because of its experience and knowledge about the problem for the study.

3.5 Sample Selection

A total of 115 respondents were selected which involved hand-picking the respondents based on the knowledge and experience. This included officials from the Prime Minister's Office - Directorate of Refugees, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), District Forest Authority, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Local Government, Indigenous Ugandans living around the settlement and community based organizations working in the settlement area. Their selection was based on their knowledge in sectors of the study and their availability. Apart from the refugees and Ugandan nationals, the rest of the respondents are not residents in the study area, but were knowledgeable about the refugee camp. The study population of 115 represented a total population of 15,000 refugees and 8,000 of local Ugandans in the study area (Kibanda County Local Government Census Report, 2008).

Table 1: Sample size composition (n = 115)

Respondents	Number	Percentage
Office of the Prime Minister	2	1.7
UNHCR	1	1.5
Action Africa Help International	2	1.7
National Environmental Management Authority	2	1.7
National Forest Authority	2	1.7
District land Board	1	1.5
Refugees in the settlement	72	62.6
Nationals around the settlement	33	28.7
Total		100

3.6 Methods for Data Collection

Various methods were applied during the process of data collection some specific methods were used for collecting specific information. An appropriate research method was therefore considered important to establish the level of environment degradation by the activities of the refugees, and the strategies by various groups of agencies for restoring the degraded environment. In view of this, qualitative methods were used as they helped to look at the level and quality of environmental destruction and rehabilitation. Qualitative methods also help to investigate people's behaviour and why they behave the way they do towards the environment. Qualitative methods involve in-depth interaction between the researcher and the respondents.

Qualitative research approach was considered appropriate for this research because it is based on recognition of the importance of the subjective experimental life of the respondents rather than on assumption commonly seen in quantitative research methods. Qualitative approach is characterized through an emphasis on casual explanation and control (Stake (1995) cited by Zimba (2006). It seeks to understand the context of a situation from the perspective of those involved (Zimba, 2006).

3.6.1 Instruments

The following instruments were used for the data collection.

(i) Questionnaires

Open-ended structured survey questionnaires were used as a technique to generate information about the effects of the refugee activities on the environment. The questionnaires were distributed by the research assistants and the researcher purposely to the 105 respondents who were literate in reading and writing. The few who were illiterate answered the questions verbally after translation and in vernacular. Literate respondents did not have difficulties in responding to the questionnaires. In this case therefore, opened-ended structured questionnaires were used in order to give space for the respondents to give their own opinions on the subject matter.

(ii) Interviews

The techniques involved seeking information by asking questions to the stakeholders and key informants to gather their views and perceptions on the effects of the refugees' activities on the forest conservation and management, and on what needs to be done. Bailey (1994) defined an interview as a conversation in which the study tried to get information from the respondents. The method assumes that the respondents have the information required; they can understand the questions put to them and they were willing to give honest answers during the interview.

Interviews are useful when the respondents cannot read or write, or where sensitive and complex issues are investigated. Interviews were therefore preferred because the sample population was characterised by people semi-illiterate and illiterate and others did not have time to fill the questionnaires.

An interview guide was designed with a set of questions about which the interviews were conducted. The number and order of questions asked depended on how knowledgeable and informative the respondents were. Over 10 structured interviews were carried out during the field work. In addition to this, numerous informal interviews were conducted with the government officials.

(iii) Focus group discussions

This was conducted to gather information from 40 selected students (10), local nationals (10) and refugees (20) on what they perceived as the key problems affecting them. This was aimed at providing policy guidance especially in context of better environment policy formulation for Uganda.

(iv) Observation

This method involved systematic selection of watching and recording information on all activities done in the environment. The techniques involved seeking information by direct observation without asking from the respondents. The researcher was able to see what the people in the

Refugee Settlement actually did rather than what they said they did. The techniques involved seeking information by direct observation, without asking the respondents. Bailey (1994) noted that the observation method is the primary techniques for collecting data on non-alignment position of verbal behaviour. This method helped to record information as it occurred and to notice unusual aspects during the study. A checklist was prepared to enable the study to get the required results.

(v) Photography

Photography was also used to depict the situation on the ground.

(vi) Documentary Review

This involved use of the library, history and official records/reports to build a background to the study and to provide a backing in the discussion of the findings. Using this method, information was gathered from books. Secondary data were also obtained from various publications, journals, newspapers and sectional papers.

3.6.2 Sources of Data

The researcher gathered the necessary data through two sources which included primary and secondary data as follows:

(i) Primary data

Involved getting information from the field using questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions and observations.

(ii) Secondary data

Involved obtaining information through documentary review, various applications, journals, newspapers and sectional papers.

3.7 Data Processing

The processing and analysis of data collected from the respondents involved the following three stages:

(i) Editing

Under this process, the errors made in the completed questionnaires and interview guide were identified and eliminated. Editing was done in the field and after collecting data in the field. This was done to check for completeness, accuracy, uniformity, consistence and comprehensibility in the completed interview guide or questionnaire. After cross-checking the questionnaires and discarding the irrelevant responses, the paraphrasing language used by the respondents was done.

(ii) Coding

This was done to classify responses to each question into meaningful categories so as to bring about essential patterns. It was done by grouping answers to specific questions found in the questionnaires.

(iii) Tabulation

This involved the determination of frequency responses of each particular element on the response. It was done by establishing a frequency distribution of the codes and calculating the number of percentages of the codes. Under qualitative data analysis, information was analysed daily after being collected. This was done by writing the respondents' response, word by word or using a recorder so that the information becomes stored and transcribed later.

3.8 Data Analysis

This has been done qualitatively and quantitatively;

(i) Qualitative Analysis

As much of this research was conducted using qualitative method, the analysis was more qualitative than quantitative and it was done by presenting data using percentages and averages obtained from simple arithmetic supported by quotations from literature and statements from key informants.

(ii) Quantitative Analysis

After editing, coding and tabulation process, analysis was done quantitatively presenting data in form of frequencies, averages in tables and graphs after quantifying them using simple arithmetic formula(response/total x 100)

3.9 Quality Control

Data quality control was achieved through:

- a) Field pre-testing of data collection tools to ensure suitability of the tools to collect the required data. Pre-testing was done to find out, among other things: clarity, sequence, wording and ambiguity of the responses from the respondents. However, moderation of the questionnaires by the researcher with the help of the research assistants was done in order to ensure quality data gathering and control.
- b) The entire field team was carefully and comprehensively trained before field data collection. Clear explanations of the survey objectives and methodology were highlighted to them. Interviewing techniques were comprehensively demonstrated to them.
- c) Field dairies were kept by field team to record any events that were deemed important in the interpretation of the results.
- d) Immediately following each focus group discussion, facilitators discussed the session deliberations to ensure that the notes gave an accurate and full picture of the proceedings.
- e) Editing and coding of the completed questionnaires were done on spot after the interview to ensure completeness and accuracy.

3.10 Ethical Control

Permission to conduct the study was obtained first from the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology. Secondly, the Office of the Prime Minister's, Directorate of Refugees of Uganda was approached for permission after a thorough explanation of the purpose of the study. The University was finally contacted for a written permission.

The information collected was kept with maximum confidentiality and was with consent of the respondents. The respondents had access to the results that were obtained from the study and the benefits from the survey were explained to them by the interviewers so that they were aware of the effects. Personal questions were minimized.

3.11 Limitations of the Study

Ideally the study should have been conducted in all refugee settlement camps throughout Uganda because the problems facing Uganda as a result of the activities of refugees on the environment apply to other refugee settlements at Nakivale and Uruchinga in Mbarara, Kyaka in Kyenjojo District, Kyangwale in Hoima and in over fifteen other settlements in Adjumani, Moyo and Arua Districts. All these phenomena warranted rigorous academic investigation. The localization of the study in Kiryandongo limited its generalisability to other refugee settlement camps in Uganda but was useful for beginning an inquiry.

Other anticipated limitations included respondents giving biased information in relation to the study while others might have given exaggerated information. Some respondents suspected that the researcher was an official from the National Forestry Authority NEMA sent to arrest those destroying the environment and this might have caused uneasiness in accessing information.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATIONS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

The methods described in Chapter 3 were used to generate the findings upon which the content of Chapter 4 is built.

The presentation of the findings, analysis and discussion are critically highlighted in this chapter. The data are based on the objectives of the study. In the analysis and discussion of the findings, the relevant scholarly works of the past and the current situations were incorporated. The chapter has six sections namely: The background characteristics of the respondents; The effects of refugees' activities on the environment in Kiryandongo settlement areas; The root causes of environmental degradation in Kiryandongo settlement area; Views of the focus group discussions; The extent of intervention by the government of Uganda, UNHCR and other organizations towards sustainable environmental conservation of the degraded areas; and The best practices for prompt restoration of the degraded areas hosting the refugees in Kiryandongo refugees settlement area.

4.2 Socio-demographic Characteristics

Table 1 shows the purposefully selected respondents that included local Ugandans, government officials and refugees. Refugees formed the majority (72), followed by local Ugandans (33) and then the various categories of the officials (10). The 115 included 105 respondents for the questionnaires and focus group discussions.

4.2.1 Sex

Table 2 shows sex representation of the respondents who participated in the study. The male refugees (26.66%) and nationals (14.29%) constituted an overall total of 40.95% out of 105 male respondents. On the other hand, for the two respective groups, female representations were 41.90% and 17.14%.

Women dominated the representation by 59.05%. The sex representation of the respondents was therefore considered representative and fairly balanced for the study.

Table 2: Sex Status of the Respondents in Kiryandongo Refugees Settlement (n=105)

Sex of the Respondents	Refugees		Nationals		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	No.	%
Males	28	26.66	15	14.29	43	40.95
Females	44	41.90	18	17.14	62	59.05
Total	72		33			100.00

Source: Field Data

4.2.2 Age

The age brackets of the respondents categorised into the youth, adults and elders who participated in the study are shown in Table 3. The respondents represent people of all age groups thus eliminating bias in the study. The majority were mature people of 41 years and above, and were able to provide sensible responses. A good number (34) in the 31-40 age bracket were considered intelligent enough for the study.

Table 3: The age of the Respondents (n=105)

Age in Years	Refugees	Nationals	Total
20 – 25	17	8	25
26 – 30	7	3	10
31 – 35	13	6	19
36 – 40	8	7	15
41 +over	27	9	36
Total	72	33	

Source: Field Data

4.2.3 Marital Status

Table 4 shows the details of marital status of the respondents in the study. Overall, married respondents (48) were dominant, followed by single respondents (25), the widowed (23) and least by the co-habiting (4). Therefore, the participation of the married, single, widowed, cohabiting and the divorced respondents signify the representativeness of the respondents.

The dominant married respondents exhibit maturity and knowledge which was healthy for the research.

Table 4: The Marital Status of Respondents (n=105)

Marital Status of the Respondents	Refugees	Nationals	Total
Single	17	8	25
Married	37	11	48
Widowed	14	9	23
Co-habiting	1	3	4
Divorced	3	2	5
Total	72	33	

Source: Field Data

4.2.4 Composition of the Focus Group Discussions

The composition of the focus group discussion that included students, refugees and nationals which was selected randomly from the 105 respondents was fairly representative of the participants (Table 5). The refugee participants were the largest with (50%), followed by students and nationals who each had a percentage of 25%.

Table 5: The Composition of the Focus Group Discussants (n=40)

Categories	Number	Percentage
Students	10	25
Refugees	20	50
Nationals	10	25
Total		100

Source: Field Data

4.2.5 Education

The level of education for the sample population selected for this study was not included in the questionnaire guide but generally, based upon the answer sheet, most of the respondents were literate and were able to answer and respond to the questions by themselves except the few who were illiterate who responded verbally to the interview guide administered by research assistants..

4.2.6 Occupation

Among the respondents above were peasants, students, teachers and employees in Refugees Welfare Council (RWC).

4.3 Refugees Activities

Table 6: Activities of the refugees on the Environment in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement (n=105)

Responses	No. of Respondents	
	Frequency	%
Activities		
Clearing forest vegetation cover for agricultural purposes	104	99
Charcoal burning	103	98
Cutting trees for wood fuel	103	98
Sale of firewood and logs	103	98
Construction of shelters	101	96
Cutting tree indiscriminately	100	95
Bush burning	100	95
Hunting for wild game meat	98	93
Bricks production	75	71

Source: Field Data

Table 6 shows the major activities responsible for environmental degradation in Kiryandongo Settlement (n=105).

4.4 Impact of Refugees' activities on the environment

Table 7 displays the responses of the respondents on the effects of refugee activities on the environment ranked in frequencies, percentages and averages.(n=105)

Table 7: The views of the Respondents on the Effects of Refugees' Activities on Environment in Kiryandongo Settlement (n=105)

Responses	Respondents categories						Average %
	Students (25)		Refugees (55)		Nationals (25)		
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
Soil erosion/desertification	25	100	50	90	25	100	97
Reduction in number of trees/ vegetation cover	21	84	55	100	25	100	95
Land degradation	25	100	44	80	25	100	93
Soil exhaustion/fertility reduction	25	100	42	76	25	100	92
Change in rainfall pattern	25	100	41	74	25	100	91
Poor harvest/reduced agricultural production	25	100	38	69	25	100	90
Destruction of buildings by powerful winds	25	100	39	70	25	100	90
Violent conflict	20	80	48	87	22	88	85
Loss of medicinal plants	20	80	33	60	20	80	73
Socio-economic development	22	88	30	54	18	72	71

Source: Field Data

Deforestation is the worst significant environmental problem associated with the refugees in Kiryandongo. Nearly all of the respondents (99% in Table 8) strongly attested to the fact that deforestation rates in the settlement are sharply accelerated by the refugees' activities because of the demand for wood fuel and construction materials. Forest products are used to construct shelters, and solid wood fuel is the principal source of energy for cooking. About 97% (Table 7) of the respondents agreed that "the long term implication of the refugees on the environment in the refugee settlement area may lead to reduction in soil fertility, trigger desertification and increase soil erosion and pollution". Currently, commercialization of forest resources in the area has increased, as demand for firewood and thatching hiked.

Consequently more woodlands in and around the study area were depleted and markets for other natural resources like thatching grass, firewood and building materials also emerged. More so, very high 98% (Table 6) of the respondents agreed that the refugees sell wood fuel and charcoal (Plates 1

and 2) in order to subsidize for food rations which have been drastically reduced by the World Food Programme.



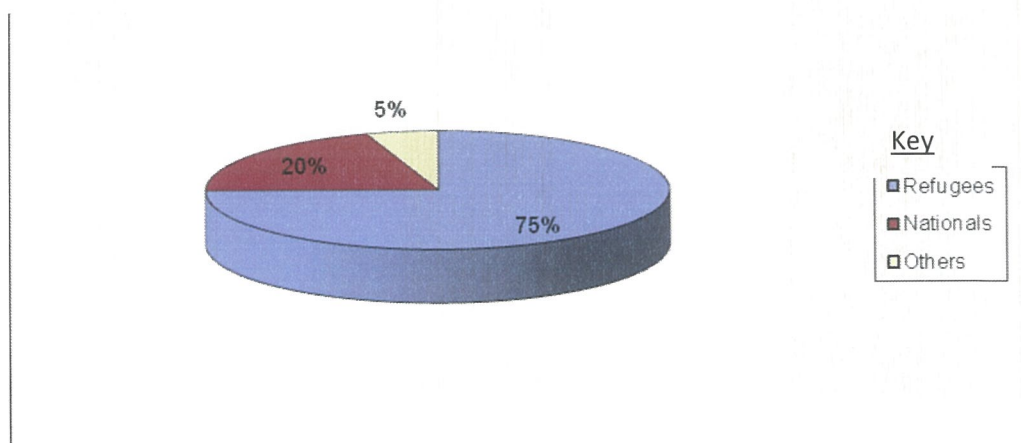
Plate 1: A refugee transporting firewood on a bicycle from Panyadoli Village in Ranch 18 to Bweyale Market for sale



Plate 2: Trucks loading bags of charcoal from Bweyale Trading Centre to be transported to the high demand driven urban markets of Kampala

In turn, the consequences of the deforestation have led to secondary problems both for the refugees and other aspects of the ecosystem. For example, the District Forest Officer reported that “the loss of the browsing areas for the domestic animals may lead to disruption of natural food chain, eradication of the species and fragile ecosystem in areas around the settlement”.

Figure 3: The Forces causing Environment Destruction in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



Source: Field Data

Figure 3 demonstrates the groups of people destroying the environment in Kiryandongo settlement area. A high 75% of the environment is destroyed by the refugees while 20% and 5% of the destruction is caused by the indigenous and Balaalo pastoralists respectively. The effect of the destruction is visibly clear (loss of trees) and prolonged drought among others.

Land degradation was also identified by 93% (Table 7) of the respondents as one of the effects of destruction of vegetation cover. Land degradation refers to reduced productivity of agricultural and ranch land which occurs when marginal land such as semi arid savannas and hilly areas are brought into cultivation (Myers, 1993). Eminent influx of refugees into Kiryandongo has contributed to soil degradation because soils with limited potential for agriculture are brought into production. The researcher also observed soil erosion being experienced in the settlement as a result of bare soil that had

been left bare (Plate 3) as a result of the refugees' destructive activities on the land and this was confirmed by 97% (Table 7) of the respondents. This assertion supports the submission of Biswas and Quiroz (1995) that the activities of the refugees of Bukavu in DR Congo had led to accelerated soil erosion, a consequence in and around Goma in DR Congo. More so, a refugee field extensionist stated that, 'fallow periods are reduced in the settlement area because of the increase in the refugees families and more land is needed which is not available'. Consequently, lack of enough land in the settlement and increased family members could have affected the practice of fallow farming system in the refugee settlement area.



Plate 3: *Bare land as a result of deforestation by the Refugees in Panyadoli, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement*

Some 91% of the respondents (Table 7) stated that, Kiryandongo refugee settlement used to experience at least four rainfall drops in a week. But with the activities of the refugees and nationals in the district which have depleted the forest cover, there is already a problem in the rainfall pattern in the area which has now led to crop failure and problems of food insecurity. Food security, as access to sufficient food to support a normal healthy life, is tightly linked to natural resources, such as wood fuel, bush meat, grazing range, fertile soil and water (Chambers, 1997).

According to the respondents, the refugees' activities on the environment have contributed to violent conflicts between 1997 and 2000, which resulted into the killing of 9 refugees in Ranch No. 2. In retaliation, two indigenous members of the community were killed by the refugees. According to the Settlement Commander, this conflict prompted the UNHCR and the Ministry of Local Government to transfer the affected refugees' families from Ranch 2 to Ranch 1. The respondents 85% in (Table 7) reported that, the refugees encroached on the land of the neighbouring indigenous community searching for woodlots for charcoal and wood fuel, and land for further agricultural extension for their increased families. It seems the land that had been allocated to the refugees by the government and the UNHCR was not enough to sustain their livelihoods. The reduction in food rations by the UNHCR led to increased need for additional food to cater for all the increased refugee families, subsequently prompting the refugees to encroach into the land of the nationals. The respondents further stated that conflict over agricultural land between the nationals and the refugees are still brewing which immediately demands a concerted effort from all the concerned actors in order to come up with conflict resolution mechanisms.

In addition, a Masindi District Natural Resources official asserted that, 'The presence of the refugees in Kiryandongo has led to depletion of the indigenous tree species which is difficult to plant. He further stated that regeneration of the indigenous tree species is always very difficult. To affirm the submission, 73% of the respondents (Table 7) narrated that some medicinal plants which are vital in curing diseases have also been depleted by the settlement of the refugees in Panyadoli hills. Panyadoli hills are a name referred by the indigenous community to the three Ranches Numbered 1, 18 and 37 which are currently hosting the refugees.

Despite the negative detrimental effects on the natural ecosystem by the refugees on the environment in Kiryandongo settlement, 71% of the respondents (Tables 7) argued that, the refugees have contributed to the socio-economic development of the area. This is through the development of infrastructures such as schools, health centre and subsequent

commercialization of the area which brought about quality service delivery to the local communities as well as to the refugees. The respondents further argued that the development of Bweyale Parish into a strong central business environment in Kibanda County is largely attributed to the presence of the refugees. Bweyale has now developed into a central business center and subsequently this year, it has been elevated to the level of a sub-county.

4.5 Other Causes of Environmental Degradation

One of the root causes of environmental degradation as cited by 98% of the respondents (Table 8) was the issue of the lack of incentives to the refugees to conserve the environment they are living in. The natural resources official in Masindi stated that: “there are links between lack of tenurial security and willingness of refugees to undertake conservation activities” Therefore, the argument by the Masindi District Natural Resources Official, means, the circumstances in which the refugees in Kiryandongo are, may not allow the refugees to engage in conservation and restoration of the degraded environment they are living in.

Table 8: Views of the respondents on the Causes of Environmental degradation in Kiryandongo Settlement (n=105)

Causes	Respondents categories						Average %
	Student (25)		Refugees (55)		Nationals (25)		
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
Deforestation	25	100	54	98	25	100	99
Poverty	25	100	54	98	25	100	99
Lack of sensitization and mobilization	25	100	54	98	25	100	99
Lack of incentives to the refugees to conserve the environment	25	100	54	98	24	96	98
Indiscriminate burning of bushes	25	100	53	96	23	92	98
Poor farming methods	24	96	52	95	25	100	97
Inadequate environmental awareness activities	25	100	50	90	24	96	95
Poor coordination of activities among the key stakeholders	25	100	47	85	24	96	94
inadequate agro-forestry activities	25	100	52	95	21	84	93
The use of energy saving stoves not streamlined	23	92	52	94	22	88	91
Weak law enforcement agencies	25	100	36	65	25	100	88
Poor working relationship between the agencies	20	80	34	61	23	92	78
Lack of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	15	60	46	83	13	52	65

Source: Field Data

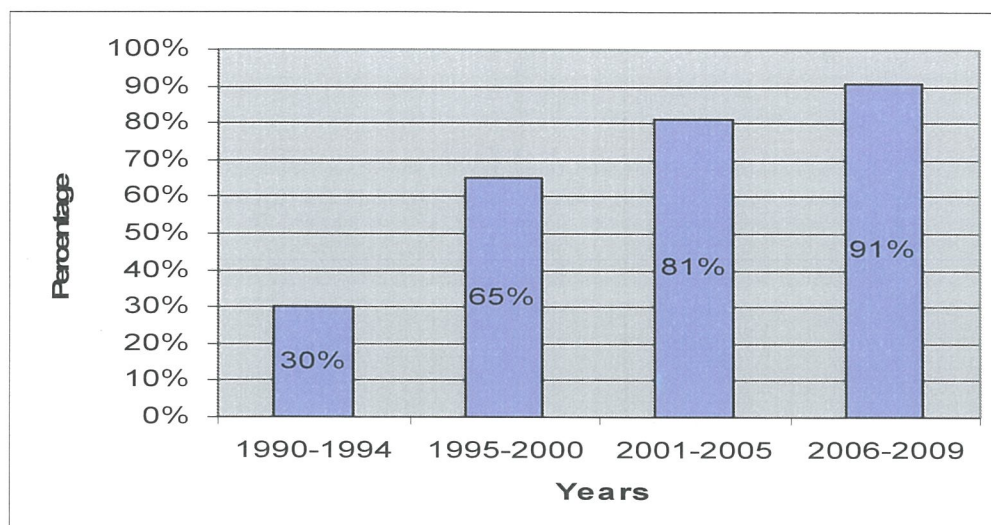
Black (1998), Leach (1992) and Jacobsen (1994) state that the nature of the refugees' circumstances under which they live, and lack of long-term stake in the sustainability of natural resources, contribute to environmental degradation.

The submission of the above scholars may be collectively used in projecting the magnitude of environmental degradation by the refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. To illustrate the argument further, refugees' uncertain status and lack of permanent land ownership in Uganda, combined with their desire to return home, give them short-term time horizons. Yet, conservation measures are investment whose benefits are realized in the long-term.

More so, 99% of the respondents (Tables 8 and 10) agreed that poverty of refugees in Kiryandongo has also led to depletion of natural forest cover and that refugees are among the poorest of the poor in developing countries, especially in Africa and it is the very poor who are most responsible for environmental damage.

The Masindi District Environmental Official illustrated the above argument further by stating that "Impoverished people like refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement are more dependent on available natural resources to subsidize their living from the limited humanitarian handouts given by the UNHCR, and are less able to afford conservation measures". This submission rhymes with that of Myers' (1993) and Jacobsen (1994) statements that in several respects people living in absolute poverty appear to cause as much environmental damage as the rest of the developing world combined. They are primarily the ones who burn wood and clear forests, desertify grasslands and cultivate sloppy land with resultant soil erosion. This argument by the above prominent scholars puts the magnitude of the environmental destruction in Kiryandongo into perspective.

Figure 4: Destruction of Natural Forest Resources in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



Source: Office of the Prime Minister – Kiryandongo

Figure 4 illustrates the alarming trend of the destruction of the natural forest resources in the Kiryandongo refugees' settlement which had been climbing in ascending order since 1990 to date. This trend, if not controlled now, may lead to a national disaster.

To add on further, uncontrolled bush fires by the refugees in Kiryandongo were also cited by 98% of the respondents (Table 8) as one of the causes of environmental degradation. In addition to that, the failure on the part of the UNHCR and the Uganda government to carry out systematic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as referred to in (Table 8) was also cited, and mentioned during focus group discussion as one of the elements that has escalated the destruction of the natural forest cover and subsequent environmental damage in Kiryandongo Settlement. The main objective of environmental impact assessment according to NEMA (1995) is to predict and prevent unacceptable adverse environmental effect of the proposed action and to further propose for alternative and better ways of implementing the proposed project or associated activities so that negative impact is mitigated while benefits are enhanced.

The District Forestry Official in Masindi argued that the vocabulary of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) came into the National policy framework under the National Environmental Act in the year 2000. However, the settlement of the refugees in Kiryandongo Settlement came in existence since 1990, long before the enactment of the National Environmental Statute 1995. At least 65% (Table 8) of the respondents agreed that there was no viable environmental assessment carried out before the settlement of the refugees in Kiryandongo. Therefore, the neglect by the Government and UNHCR to conduct proper environmental impact assessment prior to the settlement of the refugees could have contributed to the failure in putting up mitigative or precautionary measures in place for systematic conservation and restoration of the environment in Kiryandongo Settlement.

Furthermore, the weak law enforcement regime was also cited by an average of 88% (Table 8) of the respondents as one of the causes of environmental degradation in Kiryandongo Settlement. Some 88% (Table 8) of the respondents among the refugees stated that: “they did not feel the full force of the national law as far as regulating forest cutting is concerned”. The failure to extend environment awareness across the refugee settlement camps areas and further protracted failure on the part of the law enforcement agencies could have rendered the refugees opportunities to go on rampage to further escalate the destruction of the natural environment in and around the settlement.

The above argument could further be confirmed with the assertions of the Masindi District Forestry Officials that: “policy enforcement and implementation in general in Uganda are very weak”. The official further stated that several action plans are there but the implementation/enforcement is very weak.

Compounding the already fragile situation, lack of sensitization of the refugees and policy enforcement regime was cited by 99% of the respondents (Table 8) and could have contributed to the environment destruction in Kiryandongo as argued in the preceding paragraphs. Another challenge

identified by 94% (Table 8) of the respondents which could have escalated the degradation of environment in Kiryandongo Settlement is poor coordination and working relationship between the key stakeholders involved in environmental conservation and restoration activities. The researcher further noted that, most of the organizations that have been working in improving the refugees' livelihoods have been very suspicious while dealing with each other as they undertake the humanitarian operations. One particular example to illustrate this argument was cited by 78% of the respondents (Table 8) that there is poor working relationship between Masindi District Forestry officials and the organizations in the settlement implementing environmental conservation and restoration activities.

The Masindi District Environmental Officials complained in most instances that, they have not been involved right from the inception of the project design in the settlement, but only to be called upon when the concerned agency is handing over the activities in the settlement after the end of the project life cycle. Therefore, the District Forest Authority stated that; "in such instances sustainability of the programme may not be realized. This is because other partners might have not been involved right from the beginning of the project initial stages."

Laxity in coordination work as identified by 94% of the respondents (Table 8) was further cited in a correspondence between the UNHCR and Directorate of Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister when the latter protested for not being involved when recruiting an implementing partner known as LIPRO – Uganda in order to undertake implementation of environmental activities in Kiryandongo, Ikafe and Kyaka II refugees settlements. The OPM protested in its note dated 3rd July 2007 referenced OPM/7/2007, and concluded by stating that: "In future note that OPM should be involved at all stages of contracting new implementing partners". Laxity in coordination work among the implementing partners operating in Kiryandongo settlement was further affirmed by the respondents indicated in Table 8. To illustrate the above argument further, during the course of the study, the researcher was hardly able to trace the practical work / activities of LIPRO - Uganda as far as

environmental conservation is concerned. Subsequently, the complaint of the officials of not being involved in the initial programme and the protest of the OPM about LIPRO signify a contradiction and poor coordination which have affected the implementation of the development programmes in Kiryandongo Settlement. Therefore, there is urgent need for systematic mainstreaming of coordination in environmental activities by the government, UNHCR, the Districts and the relevant development partners so as to enhance the sustainability of development projects.

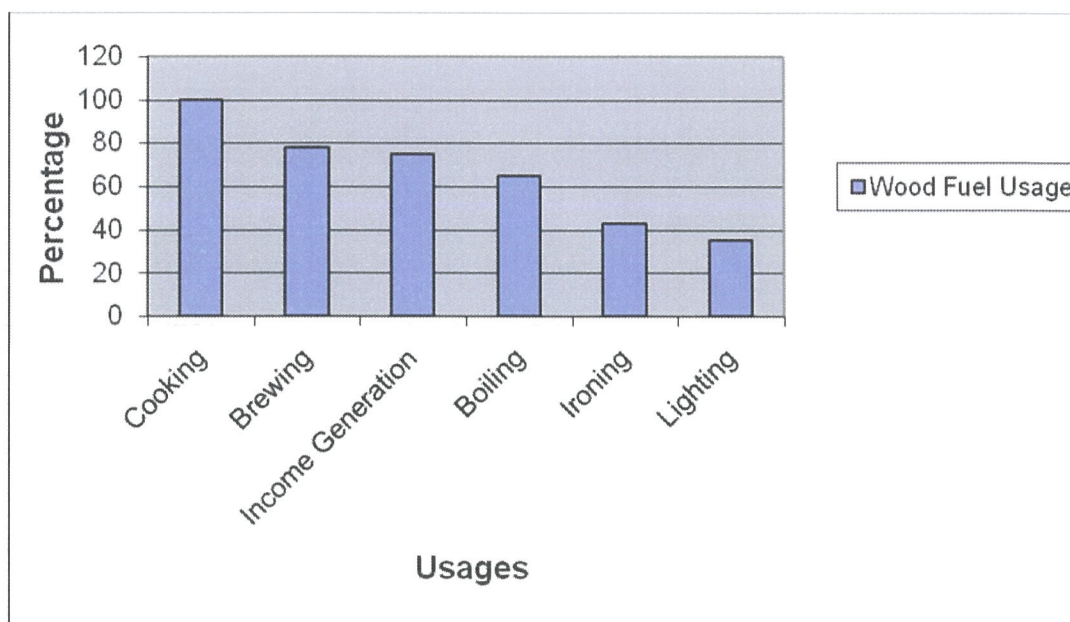
Table 9: Sources of energy used by the Refugees in Kiryandongo Settlement (n = 105)

Usage	Frequencies	Percentages
Cooking	105	100
Income Generation	79	75
Brewing alcohol	82	78
Boiling water	69	65
Ironing	46	43
Lighting	37	35

Source: Field Data

Furthermore, the researcher also noted from the respondents that the usage of energy saving stoves in the settlements has not been streamlined. It was noted that 55% of the refugees (Figure 6) were not using energy saving stoves, despite the fact that there are prevailing reports by organisations giving indications that several refugees are using energy saving stoves. According to the observation by the researcher, most refugees in the settlement prefer cooking outside on the three fire stone cooking system which consumes a lot of wood fuel. Consequently, failure to adequately streamline the usage of the energy saving stoves in the settlement could have escalated the woodlot destruction in the settlement as referred to in Tables 6 and 8 respectively.

Figure 5: Usage of Wood Fuel Energy in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



Source: Field Data

Figure 5 and Table 9 show usage of wood fuel energy in Kiryandongo Settlement. Cooking is the major consumer of wood fuel in the settlement ranked at 100% by the respondents. Cooking of dry beans and brewing local alcohol were stated to consume a lot of firewood. Boiling of water for drinking/ bathing/ tea/coffee, brewing of alcohol, ironing, lighting and finally income generation consumed 65%, 78%, 43%, 35% and 75% respectively. Therefore based on the data presented in Figure 5 and Tables 6 and 8, refugees depend entirely on wood fuel energy for their energy requirements.

Nearly all the respondents 99% (Table 8) noted that, the refugees lack awareness of the dangers of soil degradation. Coverage of field extension services from the agricultural sector and related sectors such as forestry are inadequate in the settlement due to the limited number of extension workers and insufficient logistical support.

Furthermore, 97% of the respondents (Table 8) noted that farmers in the settlement have basically depended on their traditional farming methods which have often exhausted the soils. There is a lot of mono cropping in the settlement especially of maize, which has led to the exhaustion of soil

nutrients. The refugee farmers also practice intercropping, but due to scarcity of land, they never fallow their farms.

In addition, 93% of the respondents (Table 8) noted that there is minimal agro-forestry being carried out; hence more soils are left bare when they are not under crops. Compounding the matter, based on the observation of the researcher, across the three ranches hosting the refugees where extension services have not taken adequate roots, the response remains minimal due to lack of follow up by the concerned agencies.

Besides, 95% of the respondents (Table 8) noted that there is inadequate environmental awareness as repeatedly pointed out by the respondents in the preceding paragraph as a contributing factor for environmental problems in Kiryandongo Settlement. The Refugees are not made aware of the likely impact that would arise when the environment is depleted. For example, the Settlement Camp Commandant noted that, as referred to in Table 12 “the Refugees seem not to see the importance of tree planting when they see plants of forests around. More refugees have not adequately adopted the value of Nursery Seedlings in the settlement”. To further illustrate the statement by the Settlement Commandant, the researcher was able to observe that several seedling beds visited have outgrown by the weeds indicating that there is no proper care and inspection being undertaken by the concerned actors.

Furthermore, the AAHI Environmental Officer revealed that, as referred to in Table 10, they were only able to inculcate environmental conservation and protection in established institutions like schools and health centres in the settlement in form of seedlings / nursery beds unlike among the refugees and the local host community, where the environmental conservation initiatives have not been sustainable. The Environmental official stated that Table 10 “local community structures established in the settlement need to be supported and motivated by extending cash handouts in order to sustain the development of the Nursery Seed Bed activities”. Therefore, without adequate funding, the concerted efforts of implementing agencies in the

settlement have considerably been constrained as a result of irregular funding remittances from the UNHCR.

To further illustrate the above argument, the researcher was able to note that the local camp authorities like the Refugee Welfare Council offices do not have environmental portfolio in their administrative structure. Consequently, they do not have the mandate to mitigate the environmental activities in the settlement. Therefore, failure to streamline the initiative of environmental protection and conservation within the administrative structure of the Refugee Welfare Council could have probably hindered the sustainability and community ownership of the environmental conservation and restoration in the settlement.

4.6 Interventions for Conservation

The intervention of the stakeholders that is Government, UNHCR Implementing Agencies, local community and refugees as stated below are presented, analyzed and discussed as follows:

4.6.1 Government

In this context, the government includes, Office of Prime Minister (OPM) National Forest Authority (NFA) and National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) .

4.6.1.1 OPM

With the co-operation of the OPM, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was incorporated into the District action plan. Among the activities that are being implemented in the settlement by the district forestry and environmental authorities in co-operation with the OPM as referred to in Appendix C includes sensitisation of the refugees and the host community and training of the refugee charcoal burners on the improved charcoal production mechanism through management of charcoal kilning. However, the District Forestry Official stated that, “the Refugee charcoal burners have been very resistant in

adopting the management of charcoal production through kilning because they thought that, it was a ploy by the Government to arrest them”.

More so, promotion of energy saving devices such as efficient utilization of firewood, environmental conservation awareness raising, among others, are also being promoted by the district environmental authorities in co-operation with the OPM. The OPM works in coordination with UNHCR and other implementing development partners in extending humanitarian assistance and according due protection to the refugees.

However, the official in the Prime Minister’s Office stated that; “the role of the OPM is only limited to monitoring and supervision of the activities of UNHCR and other development implementing partners in the Settlement”. The Settlement Camp Commandant in the Office of the Prime Minister stated that they have always coordinated environmental awareness in the settlement in cooperation with the District Forestry and National Environment Management Authorities, but their activities have been constrained by inadequate funding.

To illustrate the above argument further, the respondents in the focus group discussion stated that on some occasions, the Office of the Prime Minister / Directorate of Refugees has been organizing stakeholders’ workshops on environmental awareness and sensitization of the refugees on environmental matters but on small scale.

4.6.1.2 NFA and NEMA

The District Forestry and Environment Authorities enacted the district by-laws and ordinance for regulating forestry and environmental destruction in the District. Above all, the District has developed the tentative action plan for protection of the natural resources. However, their activities in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement have been constrained by inadequate funding.

More so, the District Forestry and Environment Authorities further stated that, the poor coordination between the key stakeholders involved in the environmental activities in the settlement have compounded the situation

further, leading to poor service delivery and unsustainability of development programmes being implemented.

Therefore, failure to uphold coordinated participatory plan of action by the relevant stakeholders in environmental conservation and restoration project in the settlement, could have hindered efforts towards effective restoration and conservation of the ecologically fragile areas in Kiryandongo settlement hosting the refugees.

Furthermore, the District Forestry Official stated that (Appendix D), the effective and efficient implementation of the National Forestry Statute, Environmental Acts and subsequent District By-Laws have not been efficiently implemented because of the weak enforcement of the policy regime in the country. The official further stated that, "in Uganda, environmental protection is not a national priority". The above statement by the technical official could probably be one of the factors that could have hindered effective implementation of the environmental policy regime in the country, refugee settlements inclusive.

4.6.2 UNHCR

According to the UNHCR Field Officer based in Hoima District, the UNHCR values the protection of the environment hosting the refugees in Uganda. The UNHCR Field Officer further stated that, "the UNHCR has developed an environmental action plan for the conservation of all refugee settlements in the country including Kiryandongo". However, one wonders if at all, the UNHCR has developed an environmental action plan, then their interventions in Kiryandongo Settlement be put into critical scrutiny.

The argument by Black (1998) condemned the statement by the UNHCR Field officer in Hoima by stating that; Environmental master plan is only as good as the analysis of the environmental problems allows it to be. In other words, if an environmental impact is ignored, mis-specified or exaggerated, any remedial measures enshrined in a plan will also be misplaced.

The UNHCR Field representative further stated that, “the UNHCR cherishes participation of the local community and refugee communities in the conservation and protection of the environment. He further commented that, within the UNHCR framework, there is a strong role geared towards environmental education reflecting a belief that changing people’s attitudes is crucial to resource protection. This argument in-turn fits in with the notion of the refugees as “exceptional resource degraders” as framed by Jacobsen (1994). Therefore education is needed to reach people who otherwise have no commitment to the long term sustainability of the natural resource use like the refugees.

The UNHCR Field Representative further stated that since they are now implementing the 2007 tripartite agreement for the repatriation of the Sudanese Refugees to the Sudan, there is a post-repatriation plan of action in place which includes environmental restoration of former environment hosting the refugees, renovation of school infrastructures, health and community services. Under this arrangement, the UNHCR Field Officer further stated that the hosting communities have also been incorporated into this project as a reward for hosting the refugees.

The UNHCR Field Officer further stated that: “the UNHCR normally contracts Non-Governmental Organisations to implement some of its’ programmes in the settlement on its’ behalf. The UNHCR Field Officer identified some organizations such as IRC, AAHI, Inter-Aid among others that have been contracted to implement wide range of activities which include protection, community services, education, health and environmental mitigation in Kiryandongo and other settlements in the country.

Table 10: Statements from Key Officials

Key Officials	General views
Settlement Commandant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reluctance by the refugees on environmental conservation. b. Refugees and host community should be trained and sensitized. c. Government should closely monitor and evaluate environmental activities of the implementing partners.
The District Environmental Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Loss of grazing land has led to disruption of natural food chains. b. Fragile ecosystem in the settlement c. Poor law enforcement by officials. d. Impoverished refugees depend on forest resources to subsidize their income. e. Poor coordination of activities and networking among key stakeholders. f. Environment is not put as one of the national priorities.
The District Natural Resources Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of tenurial security and willingness of refugees to undertake conservation activities. b. The settlement is considered as a "Diplomatic" zone and UNHCR is the custodian. c. It is difficult to protect environment especially when people who are supposed to guard it destroy it.
The District Forestry Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of involving key stakeholders during the planning stages. b. Environment is not put as a national priority. c. Policy enforcement is very weak. d. Plans for conservation and restoration of environment is there but never been implemented due to lack of budget. e. Inadequate sensitization of the community on the benefits of conservation.
The UNHCR Field Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In adequate coordination of activities of conservation.
The AAHI Environmental Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local community structures in the settlement need to be enhance. b. Continued support to the established community structures are needed. c. Close cooperation is required in order to sustain the conservation activities. d. Community participation should be valued e. District Environmental officials should work with implementing partners in close coordination. f. Team work need to reinforced .
The AAHI Assistant programme Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. More support is needed from UNHCR. b. Repatriation has hampered conservation programme in the settlement . c. Delayance in remittances interrupts project implementation.

Source: Field Data

4.6.3 Implementing Agencies

In Kiryandongo refugees Settlement, several organizations like IRC, Inter-Aid and Equatorial Civic Fund are on record to have implemented some Environmental projects on behalf of the UNHCR since 1990 to date. The activities (Appendix "C") were mainly concerned with imparting environmental awareness, seedlings/ nursery bed development and distribution. However, their track record on sustainable environment conservation in Kiryandongo could hardly be traced by the researcher because of lack of proper documentations of their activities.

The researcher was only able to trace the activities of Inter-Aid and International Rescue Committee (IRC) which did some commendable work on water and sanitation in the Settlement. The distribution of *Eucalyptus* Seedlings/trees to the established institution in the Settlement by the IRC and Inter-Aid was criticised by some environmental experts and the respondents in that *Eucalyptus* trees are harmful to the environment because they drain a lot of water from the soil.

Currently there is an organization known as AAHI working with both the refugees and local communities, to develop community environmental action plans in the refugee hosting sub-counties of Kiryandongo and Bweyale respectively. AAHI is conducting extensive awareness on environmental conservation and mitigation. According to the AAHI Environmental official, further effort is also being undertaken in streamlining energy conservation stoves. However, according to the observation of the researcher, the project has realised minimal results since most refugees are still using the three stones traditional cooking system (Figure 5) which consumes a lot of wood energy.

There are also accelerated efforts for establishing community tree nurseries and further initiative is being undertaken on mass sensitization of the refugees and the local people on individual tree planting. But according to the AAHI Environmental Official; "their effort has been hampered in environmental conservation and restoration because the community facilitators whom they

have trained have decided to voluntarily return to Sudan, through the on-going repatriation programmes". Consequently, the sustainability of the programme has considerably been hampered by the repatriation factor.

The environmental official of AAHI further stated that, their effort in environmental conservation and restoration in Kiryandongo is also drastically affected because of inadequate and irregular funding from the UNHCR. The Programme Assistant of AAHI in Kiryandongo further illustrated the argument by stating that, for the past two months, since February 2009, funding for the environmental programme has not been remitted by UNHCR.

4.6.4 Local Community

Establishment of tree nursery beds, Tree planting, involvement in environmental awareness functions for conservation of the environment and preventing refugees from encroaching areas outside the boundaries of the settlement areas was to some extent conservative role towards conservation of the environment.

4.6.5 Refugees

Little has been noted in the commitment of refugees in the conservation of the environment. Nursery and seed bed raising, tree planting and small scale use of energy saving devices are limited conservation interventions by refugees. Their interventions have always been negative ones in form of their various negative activities environment such as charcoal burning, cutting trees for fuel wood among others, this is due to the observed lack of supported programme for self-reliance for refugees.

4.7 Practices for conservation

Environmental degradation in the refugees' settlements in Uganda remains one of the serious challenges to the government and the UNHCR. The refugees' situation compounded with poverty has inflicted permanent damage to the natural ecosystem in the refugee hosting areas in the country. It is therefore paramount that the UNHCR, the government and the relevant

stakeholders must endeavour to put much effort for prompt restoration of environment in Kiryandongo settlement and other settlements in the country, hosting refugees.

Table 11: Environmental conservation and restoration practices as identified by the respondents (n = 105)

Practices	Freq	%
Motivation of peasant farmers	105	100
Promotion of active community participation in the environmental activities	105	100
Establishing and enhancing local community structures	105	100
Promotion of alternative income-generation activities	105	100
Monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the agencies	103	98
Re-afforestation/afforestation	103	98
Improved farming methods through field extension services	100	95
Development and distribution of nursery bed/seedlings	100	95
Enforcement of national environmental policy regime	91	86
Agro-forestry	93	88
Cooperation among the key stakeholders	90	85
Promotion of energy saving devices/stoves	79	75

Source: Field Data

The views of the respondents in focus group discussions and 100% of the respondents in (Table 11) affirmed that, the government, UNHCR and relevant stakeholders should promote community participation. Every effort should be geared towards ownership and sustainability of conservation and protection of the degraded environment in all refugee settlements in the country, Kiryandongo inclusive. The respondents stated that the project could be implemented through community service works, establishing and facilitating sustainable community structures in the refugee settlements among others as referred to in Table 11.

Some 75% of the respondents (Table 11) further argued that concerted efforts should be geared towards the promotion of energy saving devices usage and conservation. Presently, wood fuel is the primary source of energy for food preparation in both the refugees and local neighbouring communities. The widely used systems for cooking according to the keen observation by the researcher is the traditional three stones system as referred to in Figure 6, which does not conserve energy and further contribute to indoor pollution.

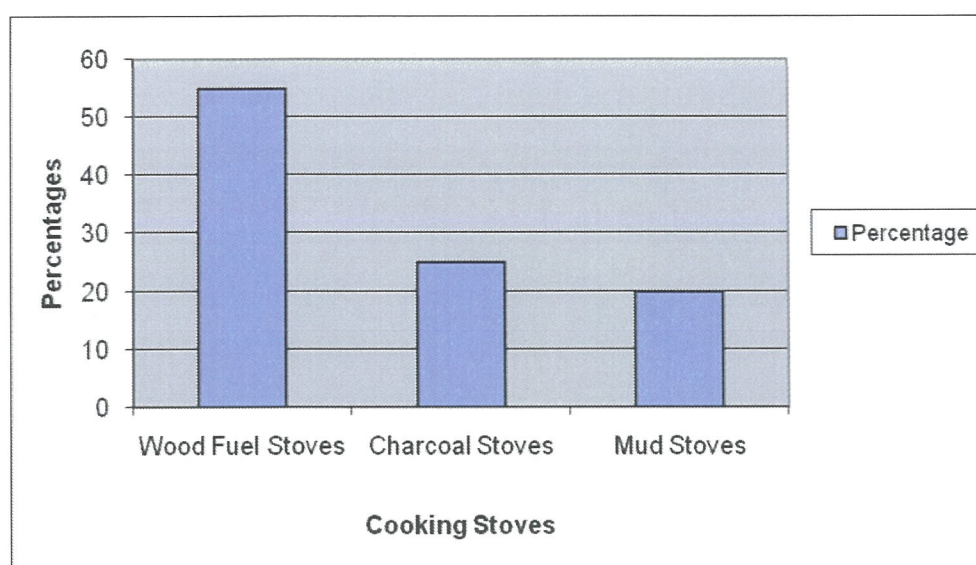
Table 12: Types of Energy Cooking Stoves used in Kiryandongo Settlement
(n = 72)

Types of Cooking Stoves	Frequency	Percentage
Wood Fuel Stoves	40	55
Charcoal Stoves	18	25
Mud Stoves	14	20

Source: Field Data

The unsustainable use of firewood for cooking has not only led to serious environmental degradation but has also had to increase time and distance for the refugee women and children in search for firewood. Reciting the random survey study conducted by the researcher in the settlement, it was noted that 98% (Table 9) of the refugees and local community in Kiryandongo still use firewood as their main source for energy.

Figure 6: Types of Cooking Stoves used in Kiryandongo Settlement



Source: Field Data

Figure 6 and Table 12 show the traditional wood fuel stoves which consume a lot of wood fuel still dominant among the refugees in Kiryandongo settlement with about 55% using wood fuel stoves, while charcoal stoves which also consume a lot of fuel were at 25% and mud stoves which consume less fuel were at 20%. Overall, it means the refugees in Kiryandongo Settlement have not yet adopted the usage of energy saving stoves seriously, in spite of the interventions by several implementing organizations to operationalise the usage of the energy saving stoves in the settlement.

All the respondents (100% in Table 11) strongly recommended that the UNHCR and the OPM must establish, streamline, strengthen and empower the community structures in the settlement for efficient and effective service delivery. Monitoring and evaluation of environmental activities undertaken by NGOs in the Settlement should further be regularly and jointly undertaken by the refugees and the local communities in order to ensure the sustainability of the programmes.

Last but not least, as referred to in Table 11, the respondents unanimously agreed that multi-pronged approaches should be implemented for environmental conservation to include among others: afforestation, re-

afforestation and improved agricultural practices in the settlement as a quick means of conserving and restoring the degraded environment. The respondents agreed that, in order to nurture the value of sustainability of community participation in decision making, all programmes by the agencies operating in the refugee settlements should incorporate the views from the refugees and the local community in decision-making and designing community action plans which in turn will encourage individual ownership of the development programmes being undertaken in the Settlement.

4.8 Personal Note

The relevant scholarly works of the past and current situation has assisted in the presentation, analyses and discussion in this chapter. Based on the discussion, it could be summarized that, refugees are source of environmental degradation, burden on local government and administration as well as retarding the economic activities of the region. In spite of all these in Kiryandongo refugee settlement and beyond, some positive change in socio-economic aspect has been observed, Multi-pronged approaches should be implemented for environmental conservation.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter includes the summary, conclusions and recommendations.

5.2 Summary

The study assessed the effect of refugee activities in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement area on the environment, examined the root causes of environmental degradation, assessed the level of intervention by the Government of Uganda, UNHCR and other organizations towards conservation and restoration of the degraded areas and identified practices for prompt conservation and restoration of the degraded areas in the settlement area.

The methods used included: open-ended questionnaire instruments, informant interview for key respondents, focus group discussions, photographic techniques and observation method which were extensively used to gather relevant data.

On the effects of refugees' activities on the degradation of the environment in Kiryandongo Settlement, the main findings included; Extensive destruction was caused to the forest and land by the refugees which has led to soil erosion and drastic changes in the rainfall pattern in the area. Encroachment of the land of the nationals has also led to violent conflicts between the refugees and the host community.

The causes of environmental degradation in the settlement were identified as: lack of incentives for the refugees to conserve the environment, perpetual poverty, weak law enforcement regime, poor coordination among the relevant stakeholders and poor farming practices by the refugees.

Concerning the intervention by the relevant authorities towards environmental conservation and restoration in the refugee settlement area, the Government in co-operation with the District Forestry and Environmental Authorities focused on general sensitization of the refugees on environmental conservation, promotion of energy saving devices (though on a small scale) and on monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the implementing partners in the settlement.

The UNHCR roles are centred on development of environmental action plan, contracting implementing agencies to undertake humanitarian operations in the Settlement and mobilizing financial resources for the activities of implementing organizations to conduct environmental education.

The environmental practices included promotion of the community participation to ensure ownership, establishment of sustainable community structures and promotion of energy saving use. However, these practices are constrained by inadequate financial resources and uncoordinated modes of operations among the relevant stakeholders.

It was finally, recommended that the Government, UNHCR and Non-Governmental Organisations operating in the refugee Settlement area should ensure that all efforts are made to promote active participation of the refugees and host community in decision making process on the local environment. Further effort should be taken in mobilization of the financial resources by UNHCR and other stakeholders to guarantee the sustainability of environmental conservation and restoration in the refugees Settlement area.

5.3 Conclusions

The causes of environmental degradation in the Kiryandongo refugee settlement were acute poverty, lack of incentive by the refugees to conserve the environment, weak law enforcement regime, failure to conduct environmental impact assessment, inadequate environmental awareness among others. Consequently, the effects of refugees' activities in the environment were soil erosion as a result of poor farming methods, soil

exhaustion, changes in rainfall patterns, violent conflict among the refugees and the host communities.

The environmental degradation in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement remains a serious challenge to the Government and the relevant stakeholders. The shrinking natural resources of vegetation cover, changes in the rainfall patterns compounded with refugees' perpetual poverty triggered by environmental degradation, have increased competition over the use of natural resources, thereby causing conflict between the refugees and the host local population.

The reluctance on the part of the Government and the UNHCR to conduct viable environmental impact assessment coupled with limited funding, call upon policy makers to introduce consistent mitigative measures in order to protect the environment hosting the Refugees in Kiryandongo.

Despite the fact that there have been several interventions by various agencies ranging from Government to Non Governmental Organisations in an attempt to promptly restore and conserve the environment hosting the refugees, unfortunately, the interventions have only centred on treating the symptom of the problem but not the root causes.

The works of the NGOs in the settlement which have been mitigating and implementing environmental programmes geared towards conservation and restoration of the environment have been largely inconsistent and uncoordinated in their operations.

Promotion of the Refugees' participation and host population in decisions concerning their environment have not yielded useful outcome as expected. The efforts of the agencies have been further constrained by inadequate financial resources for implementing environmental awareness in the settlement.

5.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made out of the data collected during the study and addressed specifically to four relevant actors; OPM, UNHCR, implementing partners operating in Kiryandongo refugee settlement area and the international community for improving the management of the environment hosting refugees in Kiryandongo.

5.4.1 Government of Uganda

- i) The Directorate of Refugees and Disaster Preparedness in the Office of the Prime Minister, with the support of National Forest Authority, the Environmental Management Authority and the UNHCR, should comprehensively carry out environmental audit assessment in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement area.
- ii) The Directorate of Refugees and the UNHCR with the support of the local district authorities hosting the refugees should organise for dialogue and conflict mitigation, mechanism among the refugees and the local host community in order to control and manage conflicts arising from competition over natural resources which may escalate into future deadly conflicts.
- iii) The Central Government should empower and facilitate the District Environmental and Forestry Authorities in Masindi to implement national environmental standards in order to control further destruction of natural resources in the area hosting the refugees.

5.4.2 UNHCR

- (i) The UNHCR as a key stakeholder should co-operate with other relevant stakeholders including the refugees and the local host community in the delivery of both humanitarian and development programmes in the refugee camp for the development of Environmental Action Plan in order to ensure sustainability and ownership of the programme.

- (ii) The UNHCR should appoint an environmental coordinator on a permanent basis to oversee and monitor environmental related projects undertaken in the settlements. This strategy shall ensure continuity and consistency which has been lacking in most activities of the organizations which have been operating in the Settlement area since all of them have been operating on a contractual basis.
- (iii) The UNHCR should adequately facilitate community based organizations operating in the Settlement and involve the district forestry and environmental experts to offer technical assistance in its efforts to conserve and restore the environment in the Settlement.
- (iv) The UNHCR should work towards reducing the amount of wood fuel and construction wood as a strategy that would drastically reduce the depletion of wood resources by encouraging the use of fuel saving cooking mechanism like the use of grass stoves which use dry grass and other non-woody plant materials.

5.4.3 Implementing Partners

- i) NGOs like AAH should endeavour to raise tree seedlings for planting by refugees and local communities and should ensure that seedlings are distributed to the refugees and local residents and well maintained.
- ii) The Refugee Welfare Council should be engaged in the mobilization of the refugees and the local residents to participate in tree planting.

5.4.4 International Community

The African Union should continue to adopt conventions and strategic policies that help take deeper root causes to the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The African Union (AU) should further consider why voluntary repatriation of the refugees remains the preferred durable solution, in the spirit of solidarity, compassion and African brotherhood. Refugees who cannot accept to be repatriated back to their home country should be considered for local integration as an alternative.

5.4.5 General Recommendations

The general problems of the refugees in Africa are intractable. Therefore, they demand multipronged approaches that can only be handled by the international community in order to realise durable sustainable solutions to the problems of refugees.

5.4.6 Areas for further research

The following areas are proposed for further research;

- i) The factors hindering the repatriation of Sudanese refugees in Uganda to their home country.
- ii) The effect of the Balaalo pastoralists on the environment in Panyadoli.
- iii) The roles of Non-Governmental Organisations operating in the Refugee Settlement in Uganda.
- iv) A critical assessment of Uganda Government Settlement policy for the Refugees and internally displaced persons in Uganda.
- v) The challenges hindering the use of energy saving devices in Kiryandongo Settlement.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REFUGEES AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS IN MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEE AFFAIRS

Dear Respondent,

I am a Post-graduate student in the School of Post Graduate Studies at Kampala International University - Kampala pursuing M.A. in Public Policy and Management. You are kindly requested to actively participate in answering the following questions, which will be used in analyzing the role of community participation on sustainable conservation of environment in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Masindi District.

Any information provided will be used for academic purposes only. Please feel free to express your thoughts as the information availed herein will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Background Information

1. Marital status

(a) Single

☐

(b) Married

☐

2. Sex

(a) Male

☐

(b) Female

☐

3. Age range _____

4. Address _____

5. Designation _____

6. No. of years you have worked with refugees? _____

7. Are you a refugee?

(a) Yes

(b) No

☐☐

8. In your own words define the word environment: _____

9. Are the refugees being involved in the conservation and protection of the environment they are living in? If Yes, give the details.

10. Describe the state of the environment in Kiryandongo before the settlement of the refugee

11. Was the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out before the settlement of the refugees? Yes or No?

12. If Yes what was the mitigative measure put in place in order to conserve and restore the degraded environment?

13. Do the refugees value the environment they are living in? If Yes to what extent are the refugees involved in the conservation and protection of the environment?

14. List the agencies/organization that have been responsible in conservation and protection of the Kiryandongo environment since 1994 to date.

15. Outline the activities of the agencies /organization in the environmental conservation and protection.

16. According to your View, was the intervention measures by the above agencies/organizations in Kiryandongo settlement sustainable?

17. According to your own view, what should be done in order to conserve and restore the present state of the environment in Kiryandongo refugee settlement?

18. What are the main economic activities/sources of income for the refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement? _____

19. Are there any other alternatives for earning income for the refugees apart from charcoal burning and agriculture practices? _____

20. Are there any viable policies or regulatory measures put in place by the Government or UNHCR in order to conserve and protect the environment in Kiryandongo?

21. Why is the destruction of the environment in Kiryandongo settlement at an alarming rate right now? _____

22. Please list any effects of environmental degradations in Kiryandongo settlement.

23. Outline the importance of community participation in sustainable conservation of the Environment in Kiryandongo settlement.

24. List activities by the refugees responsible for environmental destruction in the settlement. _____

25. List different usages of wood fuel in Kiryandongo Settlement

26. According to your own View, what will happen if the present state of the environmental destruction in Kiryandongo is not corrected?

27. Could you please suggest some sustainable measures/solutions for conservation and protection of the environment in Kiryandongo settlement?

29. Do the refugees have enough land for food production for sustaining their families? Are the present activities by the refugees on land environmentally friendly?

28. Are the refugees in Kiryandongo ready to go back to their home countries right now? If not why not?

30. Are Government, UNHCR and other organizations failing to restore the degraded environment in Kiryandongo settlement?

NB: *Respondents are free to provide separate page for additional information which may enrich this research.*

APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR REFUGEES AND LOCAL UGANDANS

1. What do you think are major cause of environmental destruction in Kiryandongo Settlement?

2. List activities by Refugees responsible for environmental destruction in the Settlement?

3. What are the main economic activities (source of income for Refugees in Kiryandongo refugee Settlement?

4. List any effect of environmental degradation in Kiryandongo settlement _____
5. Are there any viable policies or Regulatory measure put in place by the government or UNHCR in order to conserve and protect the environment in Kiryandongo?

6. Why the destruction of the environment in Kiryandongo settlement is at an alarming rate now?

7. According to your own view, what should be done in order to conserve and restore the present state of environment in Kiryandongo refugee Settlement?

8. List different usages of wood fuel in Kiryandongo settlement?

9. Could you please suggest some sustainable measures /solutions for conservation and protection of the environment in Kiryandongo settlement?

10. How do the Refugees benefit from the wood fuel in the settlement area (what are the various use of fuel wood ?

APPENDIX C: THE SKETCH BOUNDRY DEMARCATION MAP OF KIRYANDONGO SETTLEMENT SHOWING RANCH 1, 18 AND 37 RESPECTIVELY



Source: Refugee Welfare Council Offices in Kiryandongo Settlement

APPENDIX D: ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES THAT HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN KIRYANDONGO SETTLEMENT

S/No	Name of Agencies	Activities	Years of Operations
1.	Ministry of Local Government (MOLG)	a. Refugees registration b. Community services and training c. Environmental conservation	1990 – 1996
2.	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Directorate of refugees	a. Registration of refugees b. Protection of the refugees c. Monitoring and Evaluation of other agencies d. Environmental Conservation	1997-date
3.	Oxfam GB	a. Distribution of relief b. Provision of Health care c. Community services	1990-1991
4.	MSF	a. Provision of Health Care b. Community services	1990-1991
5.	Inter Aid-Uganda	a. Construction of schools b. Construction of Health centre c. Distribution of relief d. Agricultural services e. Capacity building	1992-1996
6.	ECF	a. Education Support b. Vocational Training c. Women support Projects d. Adult Literacy	1996-2004
7.	IRC	a. Community services b. Health Care services c. Capacity building d. Youth programmes	2005- 2008
8.	AAHI	a. Community services b. Environmental conservation c. Capacity building	2008-date
9.	RWC	a. Local administration b. Linking refugee community with other agencies c. Community mobilisation	1990-date
10.	LIPRO-Uganda	a. Establishment of tree nursery beds b. Training of refugees c. Community forest management d. Distribution of tree seedlings	2007-2008

APPENDIX E: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY



Plate 4: *Focus Group Discussion in progress at Panyadoli Self Help Senior Secondary School in Kiryandongo Settlement*



Plate 5: *Herds of cattle for Balaalo pastoralists grazing at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement*



Plate 6: Refugees transporting ready for sale charcoal to Bweyale Trading Centre – Kiryandongo



Plate 7: Pile of charcoal bags on sale in Nyakadot Trading Centre, Bweyale Sub-county – Kiryandongo



Plate 8: *Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, one of the highest charcoal producing areas in Masindi District*

APPENDIX F: PERMISSION FROM OPM TO CARRY OUT THE RESEARCH

Telephone : 041 4 232575/4 358741
: 4 254307/4 345955/4 254252
DoR Telephone: 041 4 230758/4 230768

E-mail : psopms@info.com.co.ug
DoR E-mail : opmdor@info.com.co.ug
TELEFAX : 041 4 341139/341923
DoR FAX : 041 4 258735

In any correspondence on **OPM/R/7**
this subject please quote



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
DIRECTORATE OF REFUGEES
POST OFFICE BUILDING
YUSUF LULE ROAD
P.O. BOX 341, KAMPALA
UGANDA.

8th May 2009

The Refugee Desk officer
Hoima

PERMISSION TO DO RESEARCH

This is to inform you that permission has been granted to Mr. Majak Arop Kuol who is a student from Kampala International School of Postgraduate studies to carry out research in your Settlement from 11th – 16th may 2009 and the theme is: "The impact of refugees on environment": A study of Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

This office would like Mr. Majak Arop Kuol to share with us his final findings.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

Martin Owor

For: PERMANENT SECRETARY

Copy: The Settlement Commandant
Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
Masindi

" : Mr. Majak Arop Kuol

**APPENDIX G: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO CARRY
OUT THE RESEARCH**



**KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

P.O.BOX 20000
KAMPALA- UGANDA.
TEL:-041-266813

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

7th May, 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION OF MAJAK AROP KUOL

This is to inform you that the above named is our registered student
(**MPPP/15429/72/DF**) in the School of Post Graduate Studies pursuing
a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management (MA PPP).

He has completed his taught Modules and is left to embark on his thesis
entitled: "**The impact of Refugees on Environment in Kiryandongo
Refugee Settlement Camp, Masindi District, Uganda**".

Any assistance rendered to him regarding research, will be highly
appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Owolabi O. Samuel

DIRECTOR-SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

APPENDIX H: CORRESPONDENCE BY OPM TO UNHCR RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

15

TELEPHONE: 252575/258241
254307 / 345985 / 254252
FAX: 345985
EMAIL: pmopm@info.com.ug
TELEAX: 341139 / 341923



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
POST OFFICE BUILDING
YUSUFLUJI ROAD
P. O. BOX 341, KAMPALA, UGANDA

In any correspondence on OPM/R/30
this subject please quote No

3rd July, 2007

The Representative
UNHCR Representation in Uganda
KAMPALA.

Att: Montserrat Feixas Vihe

Dear Madam.

PROSPECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION BY LIPRO UGANDA IN IKAFE KIRYANDONGO AND KYAKA11 REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

Thanks for yours referenced UGA/PRO/0333-07 of 13th June 2007.

Concerning implementation of environmental activities by LIPRO-Uganda; we would like to express our concern since as the Principle stakeholder you should have involved us from inception not at this late stage. While it is a welcome idea to bring on board other partners as a measure of improving the funding basket, such hopes are yet to be realised from such other partners.

Regarding the registration process of the NGO at national level, the NGO's board has confirmed that LPRO – Uganda lodged an application for a national certificate and their application was approved under **S. 5914/7224** and a certificate is under process to be ready in Two weeks time according to the Secretary to the board Mr. Kiiza Alone.

You may go ahead and enter implementation arrangements with the said IP (LIPRO - Uganda) on the understanding that they are bringing with them additional resources and expertise and are ready to deliver under the set terms and conditions. In future note that OPM should be involved at all stages of contracting new implementing partners.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

Yours sincerely

David Andro Kazungu

FOR: PERMANENT SECRETARY, DIRECTOR FOR REFUGEES.

APPENDIX I: CORRESPONDENCE FROM INTER-AID ON FOREST ACTIVITIES/ENERGY CONSERVATION



Uganda Field Headquarters
Makerere Road, Plot 4
P.O.Box 737
Kampala - Uganda
TEL: 347545/347022
Fax: 256-41-347545
E-mail: iau@utonline.co.ug

8th June 2005

Ref: IAU/K/02/05

The Representative
UNHCR Representation in Uganda
P.O.Box 3813
Kampala

Dear Madam,

**Re: 04/AB/UGA/LS/453/ (d) Forest Activities and Energy Support to the Refugee Affected
Areas of Kiryandongo**

Reference is made to your letter Ref: UGA/PRO/0035-05 dated 21st March 2005 concerning the
above Project.

InterAid Uganda will be officially handing over the Management of Established Woodlots of the
Project to the Masindi District Administration on 13th June 2005 at 10.00 am at its offices
adjacent to the Office of the Prime Minister Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement as agreed between
the Masindi Chief Administrative officer and ourselves. Your presence at this function will be
appreciated.

Thanking you for your continued cooperation.

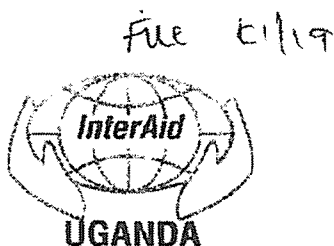
Yours Sincerely,


Mr. Sicofasica Nasinyama
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- C.C. The Commissioner for Refugees, OPM Kampala
- " The Senior Programme Officer, UNHCR
- " The Chief Administrative Officer, Masindi
- " The Settlement Commandant, OPM
Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
- " The Kiryandongo Environment Project Coordinator, InterAid

Working with the Disadvantaged

APPENDIX J: CORRESPONDENCE FROM INTER-AID UGANDA ON WORKSHOP CONDUCTED



Uganda Field Headquarters
Makerere Road, Plot 4
P. O. Box 737
Kampala - Uganda
TEL: 347545 347022
FAX: 256-41-347545
E-mail: info@interaid.org.ug

IAU/KIR/0234/02

29th November 2002

The Camp Commandant
Kiryandongo
Masindi District

Dear Sir,

RE: WORKSHOP - 3/12/2002

A workshop to fit in the District Forestry Plan will be conducted by the DFO, Masindi on 3/12/2002. The venue will be at the camp in Kiryandongo. This workshop is part of inputs to the Masindi District Forestry Plan.

Participants will be drawn from government extension services, NGOs and the private sector. A tentative programme as drawn by the DFO Masindi attached. More details will be provided on the workshop by the DFO.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,


David Obot
Executive Director

Cc: The Commissioner for Refugees
and Disaster Preparedness
OPM.

" The Environmental Coordinator
UNHCR B.O.
Kampala.

Working with the Disadvantaged



- Contributing to the realization of improved livelihoods among refugees and host populations as a shared mission and attitude.
- Delivering services and inputs in tree planting, energy saving and sustainable agriculture technologies among communities served by the organization.
- Supporting income generating activities for beneficiary groups
- Fostering improved sanitation, water supply and harvesting technology.
- Ensuring sustainable livelihoods among beneficiary communities and being able to influence policy.

HANDS-ON-EXPERIENCE

LIPRO offers tailor-made training and service delivery to specifically strengthen and empower beneficiaries to further their own goals for improved standards of living. LIPRO interventions are rooted in existing initiatives and processes, ensure wide stakeholders participation and are flexible to respond and adapt to specific needs of targeted beneficiaries.



LIPRO Development Network Initiatives

Mr Bagambe Steven (LIPRO Uganda) Mr Cornelius Kazwira (Sustainable Development Centre - Makerere), Prof Joseph Odongo (UNDP - Nairobi) and Mr Sam Chimbuya (Khanisa-utched, South Africa) during a workshop on Poverty and MDG Monitoring in Kampala.



LIPRO Board Members at the launch of the Refugee Support Programme (RSP).



LIPRO Environment Management Project In Bushenyi District

Over the years, LIPRO has been organizing and conducting training, out-reaches, poverty monitoring, impact assessment, evidence-based advocacy, public expenditure tracking and training of trainers with a cross-section of stake holders in the East African region.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- **Board of Trustees:** It is composed of 10 eminent people (5-female and 5-male) based on their capacity to undertake development initiatives. The Board ensures that the organization is focused on its vision. The Board is headed by a chairperson and it meets quarterly every year.
- **Management:** This comprises of project officers responsible for the day-to-day activities under the supervision of the Country Director who is the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. LIPRO staff meet twice in a week at their respective project offices.
- **Network Committees:** In every District and Sub-County, there is a Network Committee of 10 gender balanced people to ensure that project activities address the needs of targeted beneficiaries. Network Committees also help in community mobilization, information dissemination and meet monthly with a Project Officer.
- **Annual Stakeholders Review Meeting:** This is usually a two-day meeting of stakeholders to review and refocus LIPRO capacity building action plan (CBAP) at the end of every calendar year.

CONTACT ADDRESS

LIPRO Uganda
Market Street, Kabwohe Itendero Town Council
P.O. Box 190, Kabwohe, Bushenyi (Uganda)
Tel: (+256) 048522617
E-mail: liproafrica@yahoo.com

LIPRO



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K9677
2009

APPENDIX L: REFUGEE STATISTICS IN UGANDA

1.3 REFUGEE STATISTICS AS AT THE END OF OCTOBER 2007

NO.	NATIONALITY	POPULATION	REMARKS
1	Sudanese	162,732	The numbers have remained 1 despite the anticipated repatriati
2	Congolese	30,400	The numbers have continued increase due to the ethnic con going on in Eastern DRC
3	Rwandans	16,808	Voluntary repatriation of the load has failed due to return repatriates
4	Somalis	4351	Their numbers have been increa steadily though not high.
5	Burundians	1207	The numbers seeking asylum 1 decreased due to the increa stability in Burundi
6	Ethiopians	110	The numbers of those see asylum from the country negligible
7	Eritreans	15	Some asylum seekers have come from Eritrea
8	Others	114	These mainly come from c conflict areas and the third cou asylum arrangement.
9	TOTAL	214530	The above statistics will ch with addition of the recent influ refugees from Eastern DRC are being settled in Nak Refugee Settlement

Source: OPM - Directorate of Refugees & Disaster Preparedness

