

**STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:  
A CASE STUDY OF MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK EASTERN UGANDA**

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## DECLARATION

I **Masokoyi Ismail** (S22/MUC/BPAM/028) hereby declare that the work submitted in this dissertation is mine and has never been submitted to any institution of learning for any award.

Signature :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masokoyi Ismail', written over a faint, tilted watermark that says 'CS' and 'Please use Caution'.

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### **SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL**

This Dissertation entitled “Stake holders’ involvement and natural resource management: A case study of mount Elgon national park, eastern Uganda” has been prepared by Masokoyi Ismail under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the faculty of social sciences.

**Signature :**



**Names : Mr Joseph Odongo**

CS Scanned with CamScanner

**Date: 17/08/2024.**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this piece of work to my loving Mum Safiyat Masokoyi who has always supported me in all my endeavors of life.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .....	i
SUPERVISOR’S APPROVAL .....	ii
DEDICATION .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	5
LIST OF TABLES.....	10
LIST OF FIGURES .....	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....	xiii
ABSTRACT.....	xiv

### CHAPTER ONE

#### Introduction

1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study. ....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.3 Objective. ....	5
1.3.1 General Objective .....	5
1.3.2 Specific Objectives. ....	5
1.4 Research Questions. ....	6

1.5 Significance of the Study .....	6
1.6 Scope of the Study. ....	7
1.6. 1 Geographical Scope. ....	7
1.6.2 Content Scope. ....	7
1.6 .3 Time Scope. ....	7
1.7 Conceptual Framework.....	8

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **Literature Review**

2.0 Introduction.....	10
2.1 Definition of Operational Terms.....	10
2:2 Relationship between politics and natural resource management. ....	10
2.3 Role of Political Leaders in management of Natural Resources.....	12
2.4 Challenges faced by political leaders during management of Natural Resources. ....	17
2.5 Conclusion .....	19

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Materials and Methodology**

3.0 Introduction.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.1 Research Design.....	20
3.2 Area of Study .....	20
3.3 Study Population.....	21

3.4 Sample Size.....	21
3.5 Sampling Technique .....	22
3.6 Data Collection Techniques .....	22
3.6.1 Questionnaires.....	23
3.6.2 Key informants.....	23
3.6.3 Document Review .....	23
3.7 Data Collection Procedure. ....	23
3.8 Quality Control .....	24
3.8.1 Validity .....	24
3.8.2 Reliability.....	24
3.9 Data Processing and Analysis .....	25
3.10 Ethical Considerations .....	25
3.11 Informed Consent.....	25
3.12 Voluntary Participation.....	26
3.13 Respect Individual Autonomy .....	26
3.14 Avoid Causing Harm .....	26
3.15 Maintain Anonymity and Confidentiality.....	26
3.16 Objectivity.....	26

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **Presentation, Interpretation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings.**

4.0 Introduction.....	27
4.1 Demographic composition of respondents.....	27
4.2 Relationship between politics and natural resource management.....	28
4.3 Roles of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park. ....	32
4.4 Challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park .....	36

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**Summary, Conclusions And Recommendations**

5.0 Introduction.....	39
5.1 Summary of the Findings.....	39
5.2 Conclusions.....	40
5.2.1 Relationship between politics and natural resource management.....	40
5.2.2 Role of the political leaders in management of Mt. Elgon national park. ....	40
5.2.3 Challenges faced by political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park. ....	41
5.3 Recommendations.....	41
5.4 Area of Further Research .....	42
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>APPENDECIES.....</b>	<b>i</b>
Appendix i: Research Time Frame .....	i
Appendix ii: Budget for Research Exercise.....	ii
Appendix iii: Questionnaire.....	iii

Appendix iv: Data Collection Letter..... vi

Appendix v: Coordinated Meeting Between Political Leaders and UWA Staffs..... vii

Appendix vi: Operations implemented in the park to chase out Cattle. ....viii

Appendix vii: Registration book for Resource Users at Access Gates. ....ix

Appendix viii: UWA , Leaders and Donors Entry Meeting. .... x

Appendix ix : Example of Collaborative Resource Access ..... xi

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 : The Target Population and the Corresponding Sample.....	21
Table 3.2 : The Sample Size of the Population.....	22
Table 4.1 Represents the demographic composition of respondents.....	27
Table 4.2 Representation of the Relationship between Politics and Natural Resource Management. .....	29
Table 4.3 Representation of the roles of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park. ....	32
Table 4.4 Representation of the challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.....	36

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Fig.1.7 Conceptual Framework..... 8

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

FAO:	Food Agricultural Organization
LC:	Local Councils
MAF:	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
NEMA:	National Environment Management Authority
NRM:	National Resource Management.
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goal
UWA:	Uganda Wildlife Authority

## **ABSTRACT**

Politicians as some of the key stakeholders are very essential in natural resource management. This research therefore investigated the effectiveness of political leaders in management of natural resources in mt. Elgon national park in Bududa district. Politics was regarded essential in management of natural resources. The study was specifically designed to; analyze the relationship between politics and natural resource management, establish the role of the political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park, and to also identify the challenges faced by political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.

Qualitative and quantitative research approaches were adopted to obtain data from the respondents. A descriptive case study design was used to collect data which indicated that politics has positive influence on natural resource management. The study also found that politicians play a very great role in in the management of mt. Elgon national park due to the various noted impacts attained when politicians are involved in natural resource management. However, despite of the various contribution of politics to conservation, there were some challenges that were noted to have hindered its effectiveness. Therefore, various recommendations were made in order to improve on the effectiveness of politicians in decision making.

Word count (**204**)



# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0.Introduction.

This chapter presents an overview of the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, study scope, significance of the study and conceptual framework.

### 1.1.Background of the Study.

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and institutions at all levels is one of the sustainable development goals aimed at ensuring management of natural resources (UN, 2015). Protected areas for conservation of natural resources are being created for various reasons; conserve biological diversity, protect critical watersheds, prevent overexploitation of forest resources and preserve scenic natural areas (FAO, 2003). Uganda is well enriched with variety of natural resources though most of its forest cover has devastatingly deteriorated.

Stakeholders refer to people, institutions, or social groups that are involved in or affected by, decision making regarding biodiversity conservation issues (WWF, 2000). Likewise, stakeholders as per Dona et al ( 2017) may refer to people and organizations who are involved in or affected by an action or policy and can be directly or indirectly included in the decision-making process.

A stakeholder can also include any individual, group or community living within the influence of the site or likely to be affected by a related management decision or action, and any individual, group or community likely to influence the management of the site (Marega, 2010; Pound, 2010).

Stakeholder involvement includes participation of interest groups (i.e., representatives of

locally affected communities, national or local government authorities, politicians, civil society organizations and businesses) in a planning or decision-making process (Hauck, 2016).

Natural resources management consists of making pragmatic decisions and actions regarding the policies and practices of how to assess, protect, allocate, develop, use, manage, rehabilitate, repair, restore, monitor and evaluate resources . Natural resources include; land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a special focus as it relates to how management affects the quality of life of present and future generations (Precious, 2021).

In many parts of the world, natural resources area under increasing threat from human activities and natural disasters hence managing the future global change and environmental challenges will also require a new thinking, new perspectives and new way of doing things to ensure environmental sustainability (Mack, 2022). Stakeholders play role and interact at multiple levels—from local to global level and their role and interaction determine the effectiveness of a development intervention (Mohamad, 2010).

The predominance of environmental degradation in Africa has generated waves of concern from international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) due to a remarkable increase in the number of NGOs with environmental protection interest since 1990s (Ndenecho,2009).

Environmental problems are typically complex, uncertain, multi-scale and affect multiple actors and agencies. This demands transparent decision-making that is flexible to circumstances, and embraces a diversity of knowledges and values. To achieve this, stakeholder participation is increasingly being sought and embedded into environmental decision-making processes, from local to international scales (Stringer et al., 2007).

Participation in environmental decision-making is increasingly becoming regarded as a

democratic right and this right is increasingly being used by proliferating environmental interest and pressure groups. In addition to normative arguments such as this, many pragmatic benefits have been claimed for participation; by involving stakeholders, it is argued that the quality and durability of decisions is likely to be greater (Reed et al., 2008).

Due to the fact that the majority of problems experienced within the boundaries of the area originated from the decisions and practices of other ministries, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry decided to develop a management plan through a participatory approach, in order to maintain the integrity of the ecosystems of the national park and the sustainable use of natural resources in the area (Dover's, 2015).

Natural resource responsible organizations prefer community engagement through dialogues during protected area management for a variety of reasons among which is promotion of co- management (Dovers *et al.*, 2015). The purpose of “cooperative management” or “co-management” is to develop a legitimate partnership management relationship between the target interest group and the protected area management with a view of making day to day and long-term decisions about the management of natural and other key resources (Yenilmez, 2011).

Increased public interest in questions concerning natural conservation has led to a growing need for participatory public involvement in managing natural conservation areas due to presence of environmental and natural resource management styles which evolved from top-down and regulatory style towards characterized by close and

diverse partnerships and collaborations between management agencies and local communities, resource users, other management agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector (Mutekanga, 2023).

In the broader environmental and development sectors, stakeholder engagement centers on democratic and equity aims. This includes reducing marginalization of those underrepresented in decision-making, increasing stakeholder trust in and ability to act on decisions accounting for diversity of values across stakeholders, and promoting social learning where stakeholders learn from each other while developing new relationships. In general, resource rich countries have not produced more positive development outcomes than non-resource rich countries, suggesting that stakeholders have been ineffective in managing them (Marck, 2022).

In the Ngenge watershed, at Mt. Elgon in the eastern Ugandan highlands, agricultural practices cause serious soil erosion problems and subsequent decrease in soil and water quality. Attempts to manage soil erosion through policy interventions have not been successful, because existing policies and legislation for natural resource management are inadequate and often formulated without consulting local communities. In the Ngenge watershed, an integrated watershed management (IWM) program was initiated to foster sustainable land and water management solutions (Mutekanga, 2023).

Exacerbating conflict between park managers and other stakeholders has resulted into resource curse associated with a variety of issues. However, in response to this there have been a number of initiatives to improve the governance of natural resources and improve the management of stakeholders (Rao, 2010).

## **1.2.Statement of the Problem.**

Effective natural resource management cannot be attained without the involvement of stakeholders in general and politicians in particular since they play essential roles in a planning or decision-making process (Hauck et al, 2016). However, since time immemorial, majority of all entities don't prioritize the involvement of stakeholders in conservation of natural resources since they are viewed as threats to the different flora and fauna with an assumption that, politicians use natural resources as their key campaigning reference point among their Electorates. Such contradictions have left both parties (Politicians and Conservationist) in conflict with no element of success attained by any party. A lot of communities and staff attached to conservation agencies have sustained injuries and many of them lost their lives and property in an effort to struggle for the constant and degraded natural resources. Based on the current threats of degradation and depletion of natural resources, and escalating community-park conflicts, involvement of Politicians in natural resource management is therefore very essential element hence need to be attained by all agencies.

This research seeks to find out the effectiveness of political leaders on the management of Mt. Elgon National Park.

## **1.3 Objective.**

### **1.3.1 General Objective**

To assess the effectiveness of political leaders in the management of Mt. Elgon National Park.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives.**

- i. To analyze the relationship between politics and natural resource management.
- ii. To establish the role of the political leaders in management of Mt. Elgon National Park.

- iii. To identify the challenges faced by political leaders in management of Mt. Elgon National Park.

#### **1.4. Research Questions.**

- i) What is the relationship between politics and natural resource management?
- ii) What role do politicians play in the management of Mt. Elgon National Park?
- iii) What challenges do political leaders face in the management of Mt. Elgon National Park?

#### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

In anticipation of the role of stakeholders in natural resource management, local communities and UWA management will be enlightened on the measures that can be adopted to strengthen on the relationship between the two parties. Understanding that politics cannot be separated from conservation, and vice versa will enable UWA, politicians and local communities to set mechanisms for co-existence.

The research will be a paramount tool to policy for decision makers like the Members of Parliament since it will guide them to make appropriate decisions aimed at addressing challenges hindering effective involvement of stakeholders in natural resource management.

Establishment of knowledge gaps in the study will be reference materials for future researchers. Maintenance of good working relationship between park management and local communities will majorly contribute to attainment of SDG 16 that is tailored towards building peace, justice and strong institutions in Uganda through promoting community inclusiveness and equal access to justice, geared with high-capacity political will.

## 1.6. Scope of the Study.

### 1,6.1 Geographical Scope.

The study was conducted in Bududa district in three sub counties (Bushiya, Bukaalasi and Bufuma), three parishes and 9 villages, 3 villages per parish with focus aimed at those parishes neighboring the park.

**Table 1.1. The Area of Study.**

<b>Subcounty</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Villages</b>
Bushiya	Namirumba	Shiteka
		Matuwa
		Elgon
Bukaalasi	Kasuni	Ibokho Main
		Ibokho Central
		Nasisi
Bufuma	Naboti	Naboti
		Shipoli
		Matuwa

**Source: Primary data April , 2024**

### 1.6.2 Content Scope.

The study was focused on literature, information, documents about political leaders as key stake holders' in natural resource management in protected areas. This was attained through reading, reviewing literature that were available to the researcher . Information on how politics is related to natural resource management, general roles of politicians in conservation and associated challenges was also sought for.

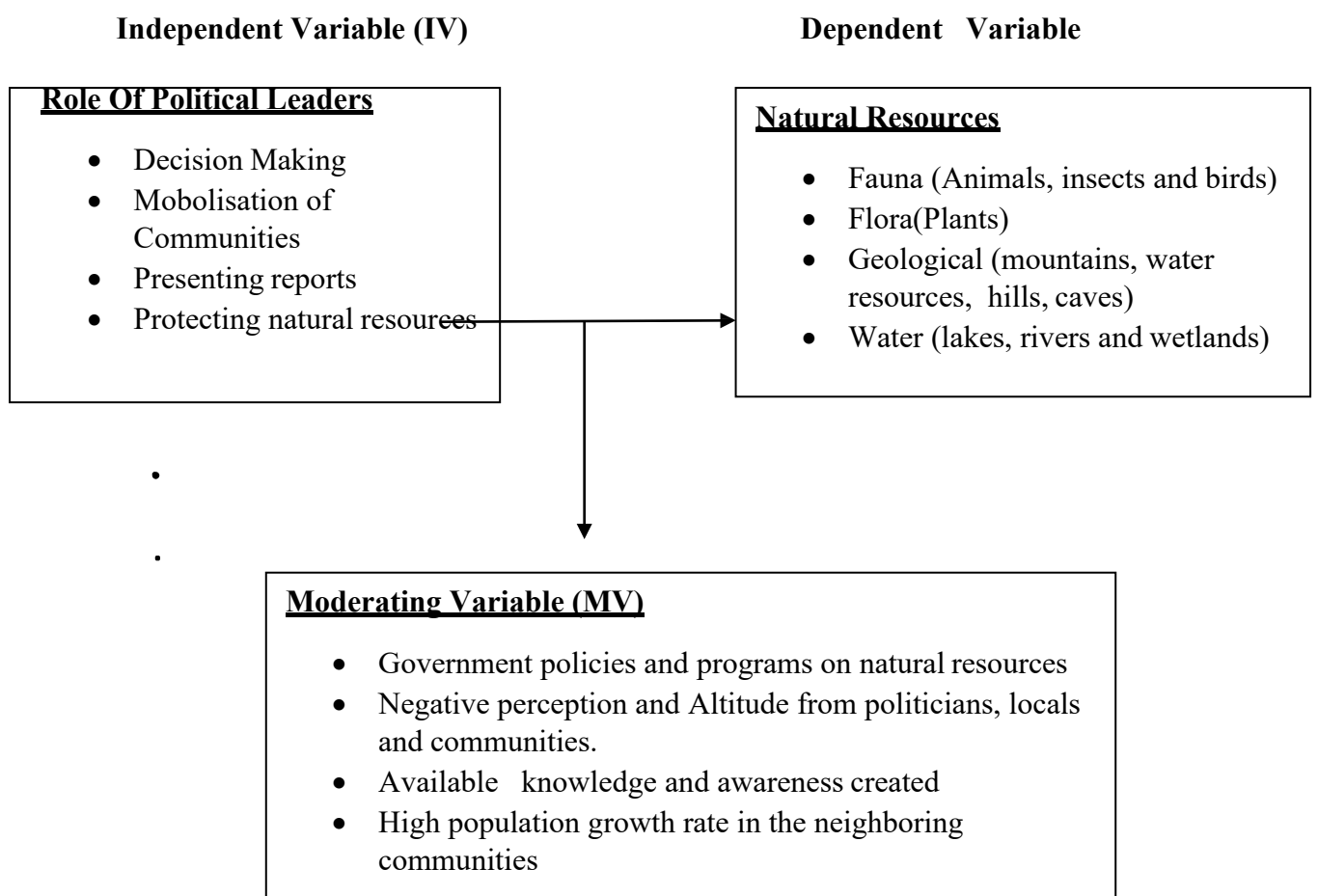
### 1.6 .3 Time Scope.

The research took 3 months beginning March 2024 to May 2024. A pre-visit to study area to pre-test the questionnaires and also learn about other required information was conducted for 01 week. Data collection took 04 weeks as questionnaires were distributed since respondents could delay to submit them due to various reasons. 02

weeks were used for interview interactions with targeted groups. Data processing and analysis also took 02 weeks, while report writing took 3weeks, before a final copy was be produced.

The researcher also interacted with information from documents, reports concerning Mt. Elgon National Park and the way the park has been managed within a period between 2020-2024.

### 1.7 Conceptual Framework.



**Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework Illustrating Dependent and Independent Variables Source: Adopted from Norton –Griffiths and Southey, (1995) and Amended by Researcher (2023).**

A conceptual framework is the end result of bringing together a number of related concepts

through either narrative or schematic presentation in order to make clear existing relationships between the variables (Imenda, 2014). The conceptual framework (Figure 1.1), illustrates the dependent variable natural resource which is conceptualized into various forms; fauna, flora, geological features and water resources. In reference to the study figure 1.1 ,independent variable (politics has significant effects on dependent variable (natural resources). Figure 1.1 further suggests that there are moderating variable that may also influence independent and dependent variables and these include; government policies and programs on natural resources, negative perception and altitude from politicians, locals and communities, available knowledge and awareness created and high population growth rate in the neighboring communities.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Literature Review

#### 2.0.Introduction.

This will include definition of operational term and also related studies conducted on the effectiveness of stakeholders' involvement in management of Mt. Elgon National Park.

#### 2.1.Definition of Operational Terms.

**1. Stakeholder.** A person, group or organization with a vested interest, or stake, in the decision- making and activities of a business, organization or project (Massimo, 2019).

**2. Stakeholder Involvement-** A systematic identification, analysis, planning and implementation of actions designed to influence stakeholders (Eric, 2016).

**3. Natural Resources-** Materials from the Earth that are used to support life and meet people's needs (Anil et al, 2021).

**4. Natural Resource Management.** Sustainable utilization of major natural resources, such as land, water, air , minerals, forests, fisheries ,flora and fauna (Neha et al, 2021).

**5. Mount Elgon National Park.** A protected area is gazetted land aimed to preserving and conserving the water catchment areas of mountain Elgon (MENP GMP, 2009).

#### 2:2 Relationship between politics and natural resource management.

Stakeholders are individuals or groups who have the current and past experience of coping with, and adapting to, climate variability and extremes. The principal resource for responding to climate change impacts is people themselves, and their knowledge and expertise (Marck, 2022).

In any situation, it is important to consider which stakeholders to engage, as the most effective approach will balance the benefit of including a wide range of opinions and perspectives without being overly burdensome, to the point of hindering success of the engagement process (Sterling et al. 2017).

Under increasing scarcity and competition for natural resources, various political and economic instruments that aim to combine environmental objectives with socioeconomic development goals, have been implemented around the world (Mine and Torsten, 2015). Politics refers to the way that societies choose different policies to achieve their desired outcomes (John, 2017). Politics also refers to the methods or tactics involved in managing a state or government or its organs such as an organization in charge of delivering water services, education, health, poverty alleviation and other governmental organs (Ryan, 2012). In addition, Henrik-Serup (2014), described politics as the art and power of influencing resource distribution.

According to (John, 2017), the politics of natural resource management are typically located in a stress field, where policy makers have to balance a wide range of competing objectives, for example, increasing growth and empowering poor people socially have often been regarded as two disparate and competing goals.

Another essential factor for pro-poor natural resource-based growth concerns the characteristics of actors in the political arena related to the management of a resource. Typically, such an arena consists of a variety of actors, notably people who have an immediate interest in using the good. Actors such as public authorities who do not use the good in a direct way, but are involved in their management processes, also form part of the arena (Peter , 2021).

Nevertheless, the key political figures in any country, whether the president, prime minister or their cabinet colleagues, can play a vital role in driving change. In Indonesia, the committed minister for forests has sought to take on many of the vested interests in the forest sector. As quoted by John (2017), Kader Asmal, the South African Minister for Water and forestry, was credited with helping to advance many reforms in the water sector.

Under any of these public methods, the politics engaged may require consulting, compromising, building consensus, or enlisting support from other different stakeholders (Puni *et al.* 2014). Involvement of politics in natural resource management demand nothing less or more than obedience to rules and regulations that may be issued by politicians from time to time in the public interest (Lindblad 2010).

They can also be inefficient, ineffective and inequitable in the sense that they can result in the delivery of very unsatisfactory services when their intent is to promote the self-interest of the politicians (Puni *et al.* 2014).

However, though Peter (2021) emphasizes that political interferences in the governance and utilization of natural resources has greatly affected natural resource conservation due to some politicians being untouchables and rich, and yet they are at the forefront of destroying natural resources such as wetlands and forests. More resources should be devoted to environmental protection and conservation and there must be political will to support all the efforts geared at protecting and restoring the environment through politicians (Theresa, 2008).

### **2.3 Role of Political Leaders in management of Natural Resources.**

The importance of stake holders' engagement in the planning and management processes of protected areas was initiated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, more commonly known as the 1992 Rio Summit FAO and MAF (2022).

Stake holder engagement today appears to be a common legal requirement or prerequisite for the planning and management of protected areas in most countries (Appleton, M. 2009).

According Eleanor (2016), effective engagement of stakeholders will have a positive influence on the outcome of conservation interventions since more pragmatic arguments increase diversity in decision-making hence leading to a broader set of, and potentially

more creative, solutions higher quality and durability of decisions.

Through clearly defined stakeholder engagement, it is possible to identify those who will be affected or can affect decisions related to management planning issues hence absence of this knowledge makes it difficult to know which stakeholders to involve (Niedziałkowski, 2018).

According to (FAO and MAF, 2022), stake holders owned projects have always been registered to be successful. Brumbaugh (2017) clarified that there is always increased sense of ownership among stakeholders living in or near the protected area whenever they are given an opportunity to be involved in managing and taking decisions about it.

Early involvement of actors through stakeholder involvement also helps to avoid surprises and usually leads to more sustained commitment and ownership on their part, compared to the decisions imposed from above without consultation hence enabling the efficient and effective use of resources (Yenilmez Arpa, 2011). According to

Appleton (2009), stakeholders' participation provides more resources for management since local people who support the objectives of the protected area may be more willing to contribute their time and resources to its management and protection

Studies indicate that stakeholders' involvement reduces implementation costs of conservation related projects due to minimization of hindrances like conflicts and associated effects like destruction and damages (Brumbaugh, 2017).

In terms of protected area governance, stakeholder involvement in natural resource management influences higher quality management decisions, due to increased diversity of participant knowledge and participation, that are better adapted to the local social-cultural and environmental contexts (Stoll-Kleemann and Welp, 2006).

Stakeholder engagement also strengthens the legality of the management and decision-making process, as it allows for dialogue and discussion about the topics at hand, while soliciting stakeholder feedback on the acceptability and usefulness of management actions in protected areas (Appleton, 2009).

In addition, stakeholder involvement in natural resource management contributes to development of common ground, trust, hence reduction of conflict among stakeholders since the process aims at ensuring that decisions made are at a consensus (FAO and MAF, 2022). Brumbaugh (2017) emphasis that, the process of stakeholders' engagement reduces conflicts through raising awareness on key issues hence increasing public support and social empowerment.

According to Young (2013), stakeholder involvement is not only regarded as an essential element in environmental management and decision making, but also considered critical in the context of ecosystem services. This is because management of

protected areas can only be achieved when there is great public and political support. (Appleton, 2009).

Additionally, management of natural resources with stakeholders is the only way to sustainable ecosystem management as the practice generates potential strategies for various parties on sustainable ecosystem management (Hack, 2016).

Through stakeholder involvement in natural resource management, human wellbeing can greatly improve since the contribution of ecosystem to human is viable from person to person (Hack, 2016). From the economic point of view, stakeholder engagement is a prerequisite for receiving funding from international funding agencies (Brumbaugh, 2017).

Stakeholder participation provides a mechanism for communication, where views, concerns and opinions on management of the area can be shared between the managers and stakeholders. This can lead to the identification and resolution of problems and to a greater understanding and support for the protected area (Brumbaugh, 2017).

Participation of stakeholders also helps to address elements of competitiveness since they have the knowledge to identify the losers and winners in any new land setting hence providing an opportunity to uncover and tackle these issues (Hack, 2016).

Furthermore, stakeholder engagement leads to inclusion of diversity of values during decision making and also facilitates empowerment, trust, and equity through including local communities in the decision-making process (Sterling et al. 2017).

It is thought that stakeholder participation will bring benefits such as promoting a sense of ownership among protected area managers and other interest groups, ensuring good management of the protected area (Yenilmez Arpa, 2011). This strengthens community

park relationship and also builds adaptive capacity through developing awareness of the issues within the community, as well as finding ways to address them (Young, 2013).

It is also argued that stakeholder participation reduces the likelihood that those on the periphery of the decision-making context or society are marginalized since most of the more relevant stakeholders can be included in decisions that affect them and active citizenship can be promoted (Martin and Sherington, 1997).

Stakeholder participation may increase public trust in decisions and civil society, if participatory processes are perceived to be transparent and consider conflicting claims and views (Richards et al., 2004).

It is claimed that stakeholder participation may increase the likelihood that environmental decisions are perceived to be holistic and fair, accounting for a diversity of values and needs and recognizing the complexity of human-environmental interactions (Richards et al., 2004).

When stakeholders perceive (rightly or wrongly) that their views were not given fair consideration, hostilities can develop and possibly doom a project (Madden & McQuinn 2014).

Stakeholder engagement throughout a project can also lead to higher quality decisions by incorporating more sources of information since considering a range of perspectives leads to a wider set of more creative options (Sterling et al, 2017).

According to UNEP 2015, stakeholders involvement plays a central role in providing expertise and scientific knowledge, informing governments of local needs and opinions, as well as identifying the on the ground realities of policy decisions .

Another key role of stakeholders in natural resource management is that they promote the community based natural resources management (CBNRM), an approach under which communities become responsible for managing natural resources, mainly renewable resources such as forests, land, water, and biodiversity, within a designated area through emphasizing sustainable utilization and protection of natural resources within a pre-agreed manner. (Mutekanga, 2023).

#### **2.4 Challenges faced by political leaders during management of Natural Resources.**

Despite the availability of appropriate legislation, policies and mechanisms for the management of protected areas, the participation of local residents and other interest groups has been insufficient, and the active support of interest groups could not be obtained through all levels of the management process (Young, 2013). Though there is an emphasis on the active involvement of local residents in decision-making processes relating to protected areas, there is a need to increase the participation skills of public officials and improve financial resources, (Niedziałkowski *et al.*, 2018).

Another key challenge in stakeholders' involvement in natural resource management is unwillingness to share power through governments and/or regional or local managers, with fear of spending more resources or taking command and control (Hack, 2016). Stakeholder participation for protected areas management is also very limited due to lack of collaborative management policy and framework for management of protected areas with the involvement of stakeholders (Madden & McQuinn 2014).

Another challenge in natural resource management is that some of these organizations were organized by government officers rather than by farmers themselves and work for farmers but implement government policies which causes conflicts during their

Implementation (Ndenecho, 2009). Other key challenges in stakeholders involvement is the un reliable legal regulations and the administrative structure of protected areas, for example most laws don't provide clear explanation about the joint management of protected areas with stakeholders (Niedziałkowski, 2018). There are insufficiency of projects and efforts to increase stakeholder participation in the protected area management processes (Yenilmez,2011).

The evolution of natural resource management towards adaptive governance and participatory protected area management is a difficult process that demands continuity from an administrative, organizational and professional perspective. The purpose here is to create comprehensive processes where stakeholders are involved as well as to achieve tangible results. Traditional legal and administrative regulations instituted by government institutions are not generally able to facilitate long-term, cooperative, experimental and flexible management processed (Dovers et al., 2015).

The lack of a legal basis for the participation of stakeholder groups in the management of protected areas, with the exception of wetlands, leads to potential difficulties and problems linked to participation and collaboration with stakeholder groups in protected area management (Yenilmez, 2011).

Policy interventions, due to their top-down character with little or no input from local-level stakeholders, have not been successful in making natural resource management (NRM) more sustainable (NEMA 2005). However, in the last decade, the government has opened up the policy debate with the Local Government Act (Uganda Government 1997), which gives decision making power to the people, to solicit stakeholders' views democratically elected local councils (LCs) at various administrative levels are empowered to develop and implement policies (Siriri et al 2005)

However, there is an insufficiency of projects and efforts to increase stakeholder participation in the protected area management processes due to prevalence of traditional approaches in the management of protected areas, and the fact that flexible and collaborative management approaches (involving several stakeholders) are not adequately taken into consideration. (Niedziałkowski, 2018).

In appropriate stakeholder involvement in natural resource management is also associated to cognitive barriers that may involve lack of understanding of decision-making processes as a result of inadequate communication, an actor's role and responsibilities, or the perspectives of other stakeholders (Brian, 2017). It is understood that the evolution of natural resource management towards adaptive governance and participatory protected area management is a difficult process that demands continuity from an administrative, organizational and professional perspective (Dovers *et al.*, 2015).

## **2.5 Conclusion**

Despite of the various studies conducted on the role of stakeholders on protection and management of natural resources, there are limited studies focusing and specifying on the political related interventions in management of these resources. Political leaders being key in community engagement and influence have to be taken into consideration as one of the key stakeholder.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Materials and Methodology**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides information on the methodology that was used in the study presenting procedure on how the research was carried out; describing the study site and location, climate of the study site, data collection and analysis approaches for all objectives and limitation to the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study used a cross sectional survey design adopting both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms. While using quantitative technique of data collection, structured questionnaires were used for eliciting information from the respondents who knew how to read and write. However, research assistants were used to interpret and guide those who could not read and also to answer the questionnaires. Qualitative data collection techniques involved the use an of interview guide while eliciting information from the key respondents who were purposively selected hence enabling provision of in-depth information on the subject matter from the technical respondents.

#### **3.2 Area of Study**

The study was conducted within the communities' adjacent mount Elgon national park, in Bududa district. The National Park is located 140km northwest of Lake Victoria. The Park covers an area of 1,279 square kilometers and is bisected by border of Kenya and Uganda. The Ugandan part covers 1,110 square kilometers while the Kenyan part covers 169 square kilometers. The Kenyan part was gazetted in 1968, the Ugandan part in 1962. Bududa District is bordered by Sironko District to the north, Kenya to the east, Manafwa District to the south, and Mbale District to the west. The district's

headquarters are located approximately 36 kilometers (22 mi), by road, south-east of Mbale, the largest city in the sub-region, at 1.0030° N, 34.3338° E.

### 3.3 Study Population

The population involved in the study included both male and female, literate and illiterate (details shown in Table 3.1). These were include politicians, technical staffs involved in natural resource management ( District, UWA and NGOs), and other district technical staffs involved directly or indirectly in supporting conservation related programs ( CAO, Sub County Chief , Community development officers, and Parish Chiefs.

**Table 3.1 : The Target Population and the Corresponding Sample.**

Category of Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Sample technique
Technical/political leaders	30	25	Purposive sampling
Men	112	124	Random sampling
Women	260	59	Random sampling
Totals	392	208	

**Source: Primary data April , 2024**

### 3.4 Sample Size

In determining the sample size, the researcher used Krejcie and Morgan table (1970) as cited by Amin (2005) (Appendix I). Since the population to be sampled for the study is 392, according to the Krejcie and Morgan table (1970), the researcher took a sample size of 208 to be disproportionally distributed amongst the different strata of the population (Table 2).

**Table 3.2 : The Sample Size of the Population**

Category of respondents	Location	Number	Data collection
Chief Administrative Officer	District	1	Interview guide
District Chairperson	District	1	Interview guide
District Natural Resource Officer	District	1	Interview guide
District Community development	District	1	Interview guide
Forest Officer	District	1	Interview guide
Environment Officer	District	1	Interview guide
Community Development officers	Subcounty	3	Interview guide
Subcounty Chiefs	Sub counties	3	Interview guide
Parish Chiefs	Parishes	3	Interview guide
UWA officers	UWA out	5	Interview guide
Conservation agencies	Offices	5	Interview guide
Women	Sub counties	124	Structured
Men	Sub counties	59	Structured
Total		208	

**Source: Primary data April, 2024**

### 3.5 Sampling Technique

In research, it is believed that if the sample is carefully obtained, it is then possible to generalize the results to the whole population as suggested by (Amin, 2005). In order to determine the study population of respondents, random selection using a transect method was used through selecting nine villages in the three sub counties within a range of 1km from the national park boundary, with each sub county being represented with at least 3 villages, yielding to a population sample of 208 members whose homes were along the transect.

### 3.6 Data Collection Techniques

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative research instruments for collecting the required data as discussed below;

### **3.6.1 Questionnaires**

Quantitative data was collected using individual survey questionnaire, designed in English and administered to both literate and illiterate women with the help of the research assistants. This questionnaire covered all the thematic areas of the research as revealed by the research objectives.

### **3.6.2 Key informants**

The key informants were used generate qualitative data from people who have understanding and experience on the issues surrounding natural resources. An interview was used to collect qualitative data from key informants representing the different categories of the population. This included district technical staff, politicians and conservation agencies.

### **3.6.3 Document Review**

The use of document review as a method for data collection was used as secondary source of data. Relevant documents from UWA, district and NGO offices were reviewed to get related data to this study. The documents reviewed included monthly, biannual and annual reports, policy statements, press releases and related books and research works. The use of these documents enabled the researcher to make an informed comparison between interpretation of events and those recorded in the documents. Copies of relevant data from reviewed documents were obtained for further use in the study.

### **3.7 Data Collection Procedure.**

After approval of the research proposal, the researcher acquired of a clearance letter from the Dean of Faculty in order to introduce the researcher to the responsible

authorities in study area. This enabled the researcher to seek acceptance from national park management and the local leadership in order to collect data from the respondents. The researcher after authorization conducted preliminary meetings to guide respondents on how to fill the questionnaire. The researcher also fixed appointments to conduct interviews with key informants.

Questionnaires were submitted to the respondents for about a week and they were thereafter be picked for analysis. Interviews were held with specialized respondents in order to derive the required information, and these were conducted in line with the correspondences in the questionnaire.

### **3.8 Quality Control**

#### **3.8.1 Validity**

Pre-testing of the research tools was used to ensure that right information is collected. The pre-test was utilized for checking on the aspects of duration of interview, estimate possibility of fatigue, comprehension of questions and their applicability and examine the procedures for conducting the interviews. To improve on the clarity of field questions, adjustments were done on the questionnaires based on the feedback from the pre-test

#### **3.8.2 Reliability**

To ensure reliability, the questionnaires were administered in an interview session by the principal researcher and the trained research assistants. The researcher explained the purpose of the study to the respondents. Additionally, they also gave the assurance of confidentiality and anonymity and their consent to participate in this study. This was done to motivate them to freely and openly offer information on the subject matter.

In addition, the researcher also offered clarity for some questions in order to obtain a reliable response. All questions in the questionnaire were completed and further clarifications were ensured before ending the interview session. Later, the researcher read through the questionnaires to ensure completeness, consistency and accuracy of the data filled.

### **3.9 Data Processing and Analysis**

The data collected from different questionnaires and interviews was recorded using Microsoft excel and Microsoft word computer programs and then organized through a process of editing and coding. Data analysis was done using SPSS computer program since it is reliable and easy to use. Multiple statistics (calculation of mean, percentage ranking and regression analysis) were applied to analyze the various data.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

Once again, a letter of introduction from Uganda Christian University was obtained in order to introduce the researcher to the respondents. Informed consent was sought from the respondents before interviews were conducted. Confidentiality of the respondent's information was ensured by the researcher by not including names of the respondents on the questionnaires. The researcher also ensured that the interviews are conducted in secure places in order to cause any effect to the respondent there after.

### **3.11 Informed Consent**

All participants were informed about the purpose of the study prior to being asked to give written informed consent to participate. They were guided to know exactly what they would be asked to do, and what the risks were. An information sheet providing potential participants with information about the study was used. This information included; who the researcher was, where the researcher came from, how and why the respondents were selected.

### **3.12 Voluntary Participation**

No incentive was provided to coerce the participants to take part in the study. Collection of data from respondents was as free as possible. Where some of the key informants failed to complete and return a questionnaire as agreed, the researcher took effort to follow-up requests without necessarily provocation.

### **3.13 Respect Individual Autonomy**

The participant's freedom to decide what to do was perfectly be respected. Even where someone would have consented to study, they were made aware that they are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason.

### **3.14 Avoid Causing Harm**

The researcher did the best to minimize and avoid causing harm during the study. However, judgments were made about what acceptable levels of harm .

### **3.15 Maintain Anonymity and Confidentiality**

The researcher took more than basic steps to protect a participant's identity through making data 'anonymous' (removing the contributor's name). Other information that could help to identify people, for example; job title, age, gender, length of service or group name were not strongly expressed opinions. Where the aim of the researcher was to specifically access private feelings, stories, and concerns the issue of confidentiality of that data was highly guaranteed.

### **3.16 Objectivity**

Objectivity was maintained during data analysis and reporting. The data collected was not falsified or changed in any way beyond the necessary editing. All the meanings of the data were maintained in their original versions but only necessary grammar checks were made to ensure accuracy and communicability of the data presented.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Presentation, Interpretation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings.

#### 4.0 Introduction

This includes; demographic composition of respondents, relationship between politics and natural resource management, roles of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park, challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.

#### 4.1 Demographic composition of respondents

The demographic characteristics include; gender, marital status and educational level of the respondents as indicated in Table 4.1.

#### Demographic composition of respondents

Table 4.1 Represents the demographic composition of respondents

Demographic Composition	Frequency
<b>Gender of Respondents</b>	
Male	141(67.8%)
Female	67(32.2%)
<b>Education Level of Respondents</b>	
Primary School level	66(31.7%)
Secondary School level	50(24%)
Institutional level	44 (21.2%)
None	48 (23.1%)
<b>Age of Respondents</b>	
18-27 years	52 (25%)
28-37	52 (25%)

Source: Field data(2024).

In reference to the descriptive Table 4.1, 141(67.8%) of the respondents were male whereas 67(32.2%) of them were female. This implied that the sampling criteria used by the study was free from gender-based bias since both genders were fairly represented. This was also in line with (Mbabazi & Taylor, 2005) who recommended that data collection that integrated responses from both genders was more reliable than that gathered from a single sex sample hence certifying the study's conclusions and recommendations as applicable to both masculine and feminine populations.

Table 4.1 further indicated that 66(31.7%) of the respondents had attained primary school education, 50(24%) of them had at least attained secondary level education, 44 (21.2%) of them had reached institutional levels of education, and only 48 (23.1%) of respondents had no requisite levels of education. Therefore, majority of the respondents of the study were educated enough to read and comprehend on questions presented to them while those who couldn't were helped by research assistants. The findings were in line with the proposal of (Harrow et al., 2012) who argued that it was important in social research to sample individuals who have attained an acceptable level of literacy in order to understand and interpret content in the questionnaires.

Results from the finding indicate that all the respondents were adult since 52 (25%) of them were between 18 to 27 years, 52 (25%) 28 to 37 years, 63 (30.3%) of the respondents were 38 to 47 years and 41(19.7%) of the respondents were 48 and above in years.

#### **4.2 Relationship between politics and natural resource management.**

The study assessed the relationship between politics and natural resource management, and results are summarized in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Representation of the Relationship between Politics and Natural Resource Management.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Disagreed</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Total</b>
No park decision has been undertaken contrary to presidential	81 (38.9%)	62 (29.8%)	65 (31.3%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Park laws are designed without prior	78 (37.5%)	58 (27.9%)	72 (34.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
UWA staffs do not conduct bad	93 (44.7%)	44 (21.2%)	71 (34.1%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Decisions on community and park	84 (40.4%)	47 (22.6%)	77 (37.0%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Hold coordinated UWA and	112 (53.8%)	32 (15.4%)	64 (30.8%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Joint decisions are made while	128 (61.5)	33 (15.9%)	47 (22.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Politicians negotiate their electorates' interest in meetings	109 (52.4%)	49 (23.6%)	50 (24.0%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>

**Source(field data, 2024).**

Results from the study indicated that politics has an impact of conservation because 81 (38.9%), 62 (29.8%) and 65 (31.3%), agreed, disagreed and were not sure in relation to the assessment that no decision has been made when its contrary to the presidential agenda respectively. Results from interviews indicate that, all laws and polices made are in line with the General Management Plans that are reflected from the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 passed by the Parliament of Uganda. These findings can be justified by John (2017) who stated that political leaders play a vital role in driving change in natural resource management.

In addition, it has been established that UWA makes its laws through stakeholders' involvement since 78 (37.5%) of the respondents agreed in relation to the research opinion though 58 (27.9%) disagreed and 72 (34.6%) were not sure of the research opinion. According to interviews, community consultations are always made while formulating conservation bye-laws at district level and confiscated laws are made by the member of

parliament, who represent local community views and ideas. This can be supplemented by the literature that, involvement of politicians in natural resource management promotes obedience to rules and regulations made (Lindblad, 2010).

Furthermore, results indicated that operations conducted by the UWA rangers are not bad since majority of the respondents at 93 (44.7%) agreed with the research opinion, only 44 (21.2%) and 71 (34.1%) of the respondents disagreed and were not sure of the research opinion. This is because UWA at all levels strongly engages politicians in most of its activities, the most recognized effective approach that balances conservation and community benefits. (Sterling et al. 2017).

Further clarification on the impact of politics on natural resource management indicate that majority of the respondents were in line with the research opinion that most decisions made on natural resource management are reached through a consensus as majority of the respondents 84 (40.4%) were in consent with the research opinion though 47 (22.6%) and 77 (37%) disagreed and were not sure of the research opinion respectively. This is almost inline with literature that, politics engaged under public methods may require consulting, compromising, building consensus, or enlisting support from other different stakeholders (Puni et al, 2014).

Basing on the research findings, elements of strengthened coordination between UWA and communities through meetings were noted, as illustrated in appendix iv. This is because 112 (53.8%) of the respondents were in agreement with the research opinion, and fewer 32 (15.4%) disagreed with the research opinion and the rest 64 (30.8%) were not sure with the opinion. Such relationship according to the interviews held was established to be as a result of the various meetings held with the department of community conservation under UWA. According to (Peter , 2021), it's good to involve very many actors in the management of natural resources.

Furthermore, research findings indicated that joint decisions are made while determining the goods and services to extract from the national park as majority of the respondents 128 (61.5) were in line with the research opinion, although 33 (15.9%) and 47 (22.6%) disagreed and were not sure of the research opinion respectively. Results from interview indicated that these joint decisions are made either through use of formed committee members of the communities under which the project operate, either are recommendation of the council or the district. According to Brumbaugh (2017), politicians are always involved when determining goods and products to be extracted from the national park.

Justification of the good relationship between politics and natural resource management indicate free negotiations entered between UWA and politicians as majority of the respondents 109 (52.4%) were in line with the research opinion that politicians negotiate their electorates' interest in UWA meetings, while few respondents disagreed with 49 (23.6%) and were not sure of 50 (24.0%) the research opinion. Such relationship eventually results into the delivery of very satisfactory services among communities adjacent the national park (Puni *et al.* 2014).

### 4.3 Roles of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.

Results from research indicated that political leaders play various important roles in conservation of natural resources.

**Table 4.3 Representation of the roles of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.**

Item	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure	Total
Increased diversity on made park	77 (37.0%)	63(30.3%)	68 (32.7)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Promoted community commitment and ownership of	98 (47.1 %)	58 (27.9%)	52 (25.0%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Minimized costs of project	108 (52.0 %)	50 (24.0 %)	50 (24.0 %)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Enabled formulation of best	105 (50.5%)	35 (16.8%)	68 (32.7%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Enabled accessibility of funds	114 (54.8%)	43 (20.7%)	51 (24.5%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Supported establishment of key problems in the national park	166 (79.8%)	18 (8.7%)	24 (11.5%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Promoted equity and inclusiveness on made park	115 (55.3%)	45 (21.6%)	48 (23.1%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Increased public trust on decision	117 (56.3%)	34 (16.3%)	57 (27.4%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Promoted community based natural resources management of	156 (75.0%)	30 (14.4%)	22 ( 10.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Strengthened community-park relationship	162 (77.9%)	26 (12.5%)	20 (9.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>

**Source (Field data, 2024)**

Results from the respondent indicated that there are always diverse decisions made on national parks though group discussions as confirmed with 77 (37%) of the respondents, with fewer respondents disagreeing since 63(30.3%) and 68 (32.7) and not being sure of the research objective respectively. This is also similar to Sterling et al ( 2017)'s findings that, stakeholder engagement in a project can also lead to higher quality decisions through incorporation of more sources of information during decision making

Due to involvement of politicians in natural resource management, there has been an observed increase in commitment and ownership of conservation projects by the communities as 98 (47.1 %) of the respondents were in support with the research opinion, only 58 (27.9%) disagreed with and 52 (25%) were not sure of the research opinion. According to interview, this has been viable where communities attached to projects in the park also help to arrest their colleagues who enter the national park and cause destruction. Elements of ownership through stakeholder participation were also noted by Yenilmez Arpa ( 2011) that sense of ownership among interest groups ensures good management of the national park.

Majority of the respondents were still in support with the provision that involvement of politicians in natural resource management has minimized costs of project implementation by UWA, this is because 108 (52.0 %) of the respondents agreed with the research opinion, and only 50 (24.0 %) , 50 (24.0 %). This is because findings from interview indicated that in situations where communities are against park programs, more enforcement operations are implemented to monitor the development, which always come with a cost to the organization, as illustrated in appendix v. This is almost similar to studies that stakeholders' involvement reduces implementation costs of conservation projects due to minimized hindrances like conflicts and associated effects like destruction and damages (Brumbaugh, 2017).

Research findings further revealed that involvement of political leaders as one of the key stakeholders in conservation has supported the formulation of best strategies for conservation of mt. Elgon national park, as more that half of the respondents 105 (50.5%) agreed with the research opinion, though 35 (16.8%) disagreed and 68 (32.7%) of the respondents were not sure of the research opinions. Further establishment from interviews indicate that communities have come up with best conservation programs, for

example registering of all resource users who enter into the national parks to monitor illegal resource offtake, as shown in appendix vi. This is in line with research findings that management of natural resources with stakeholders ensures sustainable ecosystem management (Hack, 2016).

This research has also established that, political support in conservation has enabled UWA to access financial support from the donors as 114 (54.8%) of the respondents were in support of the research opinion though 43 (20.7%) disagreed and 51 (24.5%) were not sure of what was investigated. Clarifications from interviews indicate that compliance of donors to support any institution can only be possible when the two parties (communities represented by politicians, and the institution) are in good co- existence, as reflected in appendix vii. From the economic point of view, stakeholder's engagement is a prerequisite for receiving funding from international funding agencies (Brumbaugh, 2017).

Research findings further established that involvement of stakeholders has led to establishment of the key problems facing communities due to exhaustive discussions made between UWA and communities when coming up with resolutions addressing park community issues. This is because 166 (79.8%) of the respondents were in support of the research opinion though 18 (8.7%) disagreed and 24 (11.5%) of the respondents were not sure of it. This is similar to Brumbaugh (2017)'s findings that, stakeholders' involvement leads to appropriate identification of problems and resolution on problems facing protected area (Brumbaugh, 2017).

Furthermore, it was established that involvement of political leaders in decision making has promoted equity and inclusiveness in decision making, as majority of the respondents were in support of the research opinion since 115 (55.3%) agreed, though 45 48 (21.6%)

disagreed while 48 (23.1%) were not sure of the research inquires. This is because the process of stakeholder engagement leads to inclusion of diversity of values during decision making hence facilitating inclusiveness and equity in the decision-making process (Sterling et al. 2017).

In relation to the above, decisions made on the national park are always trusted by the communities since 117 (56.3%) of the respondents were in support of the research opinion, and only 34 (16.3%) disagreed and 57 (27.4%) of the respondents were not in support of the research opinion. According to research findings, stakeholder involvement in natural resource management contributes to development of trust in decisions made since the process aims at ensuring that decisions made are reached through a consensus (FAO and MAF, 2022).

Research findings also emphasized that involvement of politicians in management of national parks has promoted the adoption of collaborative natural resources in the national park as majority of the respondents 156 (75.0%) were in support of the research opinion compared to minority of the respondents contrary as 30 (14.4%) disagreed with the research opinion and 22 ( 10.6%) who were not sure of the research opinion, as also illustrated in appendix viii. According to Mutekanga ( 2023), one of the key roles of stakeholders in natural resource management is the promotion of community based natural resources management (CBNRM).

Conclusively, involvement of politicians in national park management has generally improved on park community relations , as majority of the respondents 162 (77.9%) were in support with the research opinion and only minority of them were not in support of the opinion since 26 (12.5% ) disagreed and 20 (9.6%) of the respondents were not sure of the research opinion. This can be proved by studies that stakeholders' involvement strengthens community park relationship and also builds adaptive capacity through

developing awareness of the issues within the community and the park (Young, 2013).

#### 4.4 Challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.

Basing on the general overview of findings, there are various challenges hindering effective involvement of politicians in natural resources management as highlighted in the table below;

#### Challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.

**Table 4.4 Representation of the challenges of political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.**

Item	Agreed	Disagreed	Not Sure	Total
In adequate funds by UWA	105 (50.5%)	53 (25.5%)	50 (24.0%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
UWA unwillingness to share	113 (54.3%)	48 (23.1%)	47 (22.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Un clear laws on stakeholder	126 (60.6%)	40 (19.2%)	42 (20.2%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
In adequate communication during stakeholder involvement	99 (47.6%)	45 (21.6%)	64 (30.8%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Prevalence of traditional	139 (66.8%)	32 (15.4%)	37 (17.8%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Fear of negative altitude by the	145 (69.7%)	30 (14.4%)	33 (15.9%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>
Preference of top to bottom approach in stakeholder	121 (58.2%)	40 (19.2%)	47 (22.6%)	<b>208 (100%)</b>

**Source (Field data, 2024).**

Research findings as evidenced by 105 (50.5%) of the respondents stated that in adequate funds could be one of the challenges, and only fewer respondents were not in support with the research opinion as 53 (25.5%) disagreed and 50 (24.0%) were not in sure with the research opinion. According to interviews, political leaders are always selected as one of the important stakeholders but due to limited funds, there is always minimal engagements of these leaders up to grassroot level. Related studies by Niedziałkowski et al ( 2018) recommended that, increased participation of stakeholders can only be attained through improved financial resources . During the course of the research, it was

also established that some managers at their respective levels fear to share management guidelines and procedures with other parties due to selfish interest as 113 (54.3%) of the respondents were in support with the research opinion, though 48 (23.1%) disagreed and 47 (22.6 %) of the respondents were not in line with the research opinion. Relatedly, information from Hack (2016) indicate that this is attributed to the fear to spend more resources or taking command and control of the national park.

In addition, majority of the respondents consented that weakness on the current laws have hindered effective involvement of politicians in natural resource management, as the key stakeholders. This is because of 126 (60.6%) respondents were in line with the research opinion, and only 40 (19.2%) disagreed with the research opinion and 42 (20.2%) of the respondents were not sure of the research opinion. Clarification from interview indicate that there is no specific law that provides and emphasizes stakeholder in natural resource management. According to Madden & McQuinn (2014), there is no collaborative management policy and framework for management of protected areas with the involvement of stakeholders (Madden & McQuinn 2014).

Furthermore, research finding established that in adequate communication is one of the challenges hindering effective involvement of politicians in natural resource management, as 99 (47.6%) of the respondents agreed with the research opinion, and only 45 (21.6%) of the respondents disagreed and 64 (30.8%) of them were not sure with the research opinions. Clarifications from interviews indicated that, though at limited levels, UWA has implemented various meetings and workshops involving stakeholders in natural resource management, however, issues are with the electorates receiving outputs of these gathering. According to (Brian, 2017), in adequate communication is one of the cognitive barriers facing stakeholders' involvement in natural resource management.

Results from interviews indicated that, though the management of protected areas has to be in line with UWA act 2019 and other wildlife policies that prevent illegal activities, some communities prefer traditional approaches which automatically increases crime. In addition, 139 (66.8%) of the respondents supported the research opinion, and only 32 (15.4%) disagreed, and still few 37 (17.8%) of the respondents were not aware of the research opinion. According to Niedziałkowski (2018) use of traditional approaches in the management of protected areas is always preferred compared to the existing flexible and collaborative management approaches.

Another serious challenge hindering effective involvement of stakeholders in natural resource management established through interviews is the fear of politicians to pronounce to their electorate the proconservation decisions since they may have some impacts on their livelihood, and such decisions always make politician to loss votes, hence affecting continuity from an administrative perspective (Dovers *et al.*, 2015). This was further justified by findings that 145 (69.7%) of the respondents were in support of the research opinion while as 30 (14.4%) disagreed and were 33 (15.9%) of the respondents were not sure of the research opinion.

Last but not the least, the less preference of bottom to top approach is one of the key challenge hindering participation of politicians in management of national parks. This is because 121 (58.2%) of the respondents were in support with the research opinion, and only 40 (19.2%) disagreed and 47 (22.6%) were not sure of the research opinion. Results from interviews indicate that this is usually common during making of policies where local communities are not thoroughly engaged from the grass root. According to NEMA (2005), policy interventions, due to their top-down character with little or no input from local-level stakeholders, have not been successful in making natural resource management (NRM) more sustainable

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter includes summary, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further research.

The conclusion is based on the findings of the study objectives and the recommendations are based on the discussion of the findings and analysis as well as interpretation of the findings addressing the research questions that the study aimed to answer.

#### 5.1 Summary of the Findings

Research findings established that politics has positive influence on natural resource management since it was confirmed that; all decisions made in the park are in relation to the presidential agenda, electorates are always consulted before passing out any laws and UWA has been conducting meetings while involving communities. Additionally, politics has also influenced national park management through, promoting consensus during decision making, ensuring that park decisions are jointly by UWA and community and that UWA staffs' operations are community friendly.

The study also found that politicians play a very great role in in the management of mt. Elgon national park since it increases diversity in decision making, promotes community commitment and ownership of projects, and enables formulation of best strategies for management of protected areas. Additionally, involvement of politicians in park management has supported securement of funds from donors, aided appropriate problem identification , promoted trust, equity and inclusiveness in decision making hence strengthening community park relationship.

However, despite of the various contribution politics has impacted on conservation, there are some challenges that have been noted to hinder its effectiveness and these include; inadequate funds by conservation agencies, managers' un willingness to share power with politicians, in appropriate laws for strengthened political involvement, in adequate communication among the political leaders, prevalence of traditional approaches in the management of protected areas to UWA laws and policies, and politicians' fear of negative attitude from electorate in case they undertake proconservation decisions. Furthermore, less preference of bottom to top approaches in conservation management has also affected the effectiveness of politicians in national park management since grass root leaders are given less consideration and yet they are the ones who are immediately affected by conservation programs.

## **5.2 Conclusions.**

### **5.2.1 Relationship between politics and natural resource management.**

From the findings regarding the relationship between politics and natural resource management, which was the first objective, it can be concluded that both politics and natural resources are dependent on each other. This study also deduces that political leaders' activities are significantly associated to management of natural resources. UWA should therefore strengthen its relationship with political leaders since conservation cannot be implemented without political leaders. However, though Peter (2021) This emphasizes Peter (2021) findings that, political interferences in the governance and utilization of natural resources has greatly affected natural resource conservation.

### **5.2.2 Role of the political leaders in management of Mt. Elgon national park.**

According to the second objective, the study findings established that political leaders through their activities have significantly contributed to effective management of natural resources. The researcher concluded that political leaders contributed a number of output management of mt. Elgon national park. This is because politicians' participation in natural resource

management generally strengthens community -park management relationship , the only approach to address conflicts in natural resource management. The findings are similar with Eleanor (2016) studies that, effective engagement of stakeholders has positive influence on the outcome of conservation interventions.

### **5.2.3 Challenges faced by political leaders in management of mt. Elgon national park.**

Concerning the third objective, this study found out that political leaders have faced a number of challenges while participating in the management of mt.Elgon national park. These findings were almost inline with Young (2013). stated that , despite the availability of appropriate legislation, policies and mechanisms for the management of protected areas, the participation of other interest groups in conservation has been insufficient due to various challenges.

### **5.3 Recommendations.**

Based on the established challenges hindering effective political leaders' involvement in natural resource management, the following recommendations are drawn;

- UWA should prioritize stakeholders involvement through appropriate allocation of funds for the activity, right from development of strategic plans, general management plans and annual management plans, the key tools used in budget planning and allocation of conservation activities.
- Need to change approaches of management to bottom to top approach in order to benefit communities and strengthen community involvement at initial stages of development of park related projects, other than late involvement attributed to the top to bottom approach. This is because the immediate neighbors of national parks are the ones greatly affected by conservation issues hence the need for them to be taken as a priority.
- There is need to include and strengthen community involvement in conservation in

the existing conservation laws in order to strengthen prioritization and guide the involvement of stakeholders in natural resource management, other than not being taken as a priority as no law attached.

- There is need to conduct continuous sensitization of communities on the importance of coordinated park community conservation of the national park, since it's the only strategy to address conflicts on natural resources that has resulted into loss of lives and property, any various injuries to both the community and park management.
- There is also need to come up with the modest means of communication when passing out essential information to communities, in order to ensure that target population efficiently receives the required information, for example use of mobile local loud speaks

#### **5.4 Area of Further Research**

The following areas are proposed for further studies:

- i) There is need to study for a study to be conducted on the most appropriate mechanisms to strengthen political interventions in natural resource management.
- ii) Alternatively, more studies should be conducted to evaluate how politicians can also benefit when they are involved in natural resource management.
- iii) For purposes of quantifying the output of political involvement in natural resource management, studies should be conducted to evaluate key conservation out puts attained from stakeholder involvement

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**APPENDECIES**

**Appendix i: Research Time Frame**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>03/2024</b>	<b>03/2024</b>	<b>03/2024</b>	<b>03/2024</b>	<b>04/2024</b>	<b>04/2024</b>	<b>05/2024</b>
Preliminary study	<b>XXX</b>						
Literature review	-----	<b>XXX</b>					
Compiling and presenting of a			<b>XXX</b>				
Compiling and presenting a				<b>XXX</b>			
Data collection from the field and presentation to the					<b>XXX</b>		
Compiling final report and presentation of						<b>XXX</b>	
Compiling and handing in a final							<b>XXX</b>

## Appendix ii: Budget for Research Exercise

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
General transport costs	500,000/=
Facilitation to language interpreters	500,000/=
Facilitation to two research experts	500,000/=
General welfare costs	500,000/=
Administrative costs(stationary, typing, printing and publications)	1,000,000/=
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000/=</b>

**Appendix iii: Questionnaire**

**Questionnaire Administered To Respondents in the Study Area**

**“ Stakeholders’ Involvement and Natural Resource Management”**

**Dear Respondent,**

The researcher humbly requests you to fill the questionnaire.

I am a student of Uganda Christian University Mbale College, pursuing Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration and Management. As part of the academic requirements, I am carrying out a research **“Stakeholders’ Involvement and Natural Resource Management “In Bududa District in Eastern Uganda”**. I therefore request you to reserve some time and fill this questionnaire.

Answers in this questionnaire will help the responsible government agencies and area leaders make well informed decisions in implementing policies concerning improving working relationship between park authority and local communities.

The researcher also informs you that your answers given in this questionnaire are only for academic purposes and assures you that will be kept confidential.

I will greatly thank you for having your interest and participating in this research.

**Yours faithfully**

.....

**Masokoyi Ismail**

Bachelors of Public Administration and Management

**Student of Uganda Christian University, Mbale**

**Contact number. 0774/ 0702638497**

Deadline of this research is May 2024.

N.B this research is not sponsored.

Please read and answer the following questions accurately and honestly.

a) Tick and fill in blanks where applicable.

1. Respondent Identity (Questionnaire Number).....

2. Age: 18-27  28-37  38-47  48 and above

3. Education level  
 Primary  Secondary  Institutional  None

4 Gender  
 Male  Female

5. Area of resident

a) Village..... b) Sub county.....

b) **Relationship between politics and natural resource management**

Qn	Relationship	A	D	NS
6	No park decision has been undertaken contrary to presidential agenda.			
7	Park laws are designed without prior consultation from electorates.			
8	UWA staffs do not conduct bad operations.			
9	Decisions on community and park are reached through consensus			
10	Hold coordinated UWA and politicians meetings on the park.			
11	Joint decisions are made while determining projects in the park			
12	Politicians negotiate their electorates' interest in meetings			

c) **Roles of Political Leaders in Management of Mt. Elgon National Park.**

Qn		A	D	NS
13	Increased diversity on made park decisions .			
14	Promoted community commitment and ownership of park			
15	Minimized costs of project implementation in the park			
16	Enabled formulation of best strategies for protecting the park.			
17	Enabled accessibility of funds from donors by UWA			
18	Supported establishment of key problems in the national park			
19	Promoted equity and inclusiveness on made park decisions			
20	Strengthened community-park relationship			
21	Increased public trust on decision made on mt elgon national park.			
22	Promoted community based natural resources management in mt elgon national park			

d) **Challenges in Stakeholders' Involvement.**

Qn	Challenges	A	D	NS
23	In adequate funds by UWA			
24	UWA unwillingness to share power with political leaders			
25	Un clear laws on stakeholder involvement			
26	In adequate communication during stakeholder involvement			
27	Prevalence of traditional approaches for park management			
28	Fear of negative altitude by the electorate.			
29	Preference of top to bottom approach in stakeholder engagement			

*Thank you for your response*



# UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa  
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Office of the Academic Registrar

To HUMAN RESOURCE STAFF  
BUDWA DLA

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss MASOKO, Lemba  
Of Registration Number S22/M42/BAM/028 pursuing a Masters'  
Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

He/ she is required to carry out academic research on the topic  
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN NATURAL  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN MITCHELL HIGHLANDS PA

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK)copies for Postgraduate students as a university requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.  
Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Akampurira Timothy  
Academic Registrar



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**Appendix iv: Coordinated Meeting Between Political Leaders and UWA Staffs.**



**Appendix v: Operations implemented in the park to chase out Cattle.**



**Appendix vi: Registration book for Resource Users at Access Gates.**

AN	NAME	VILLAGE	POSTAL	SEX	RESIDENCE	PHONE	STATUS
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**Appendix vii: UWA , Leaders and Donors Entry Meeting.**



**Appendix viii : Example of Collaborative Resource Access**

