

# Poverty and Forest Degradation in the Lango Sub Region; A case of Kole District Northern Uganda.

Okori Phionah

Gilbert Obici

2023.

**Background:** The study was set to evaluate the impact of poverty on forest degradation in Kole district includes; food insecurity, poverty, adverse weather loss of some tree spices among others in Kole District. The specific objectives of the study were to examine the effect of limited energy sources, unstable income sources, and food insecurity on forest degradation in Kole District.

**Methods:** study adopted a case design while incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study used simple random sampling and purposive sampling to select respondents which include the local community near Ayer and Alito CFR and key informant respectively. A total of 132 respondents were selected. A total of 118 questionnaires were returned and analyzed using IBM SPSS version 23, while qualitative data from the key informants was analyzed using the recursive method and the result presented in chapter four.

**Results:** The findings revealed that limited energy sources and unstable income sources were significant at coefficient  $p < 0.01$ ,  $\beta = 0.43$ , and  $p < 0.01$ ,  $\beta = 0.38$ , respectively in determining the effects of poverty on forest degradation but food security was insignificant.

**Conclusions:** The study concludes that the use of firewood as a source of energy in households, and generally limited energy sources among households degrade forest; that fuel wood harvesting in particular, and unstable income sources in general degrade forests, and that food insecurity promotes land clearance within forests although it is not significant degrading forests.

**Recommendations:** The study recommends that energy subsidies such as on electricity, biogas and introduced in Kole district, fishing for the people living in and around the forests be considered and deployment of forest officials be done in forest areas of Kole district.

**Keywords:** *Poverty, Forest Degradation, and Kole District.*

