ANALYSIS OF THE GUM MYRRH AND OPPOPONAX (HAGAR) MARKET CHAIN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WAJIR COUNTY AND KENYAN ECONOMY

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DECLARATION

Declaration by Student:

This proposal is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university

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Declaration by supervisors

This proposal has been submitted with our approval as the university supervisors

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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to assess the distribution and area coverage of *Commiphora. myrrha* and *Commiphora holtziana* in its natural stands; assess the gum myrrh and opoponax production potential from natural stand; assess the socio-economic factors influencing the production of gum opoponax on the lives of the local communities; assess the gum myrrh and opoponax market chain analysis and document the constraints affecting the commercialisation of gum myrrh and opoponax in Wajir County. Research evidence carried out in the neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia show that there exists multitude of economic and ecological benefits from *C. myrrha* and *C. holtziana* though little efforts have been made to explore, investigate, document, sustainably manage and conserve the resource in its natural range. Therefore, there exist knowledge gap on the distribution, production potential, economic uses and marketing, particularly on the genus *Commiphora* in Kenya. This study will be undertaken through resource mapping, resources assessment, household and market surveys using GIS and remote sensing techniques, participatory techniques, designed data sheets, the market structure, conduct and performance model, checklist and questionnaires. This study expected to generate policy recommendations that will guide decision making on the sustainable exploitation, commercialisation and socio-economic contributions to the livelihood of the local communities in Wajir County and the Kenyan economy.