

# The Archaeology of Kinanisi – Senyi Uganda

*Felix Chami & Ruth Tibesasa*

## Introduction

African Archaeology Network organized a field school in Uganda in July 2008. It involved students and staff from the Universities of Kyambogo and Makerere in Uganda and Dar as salaam in Tanzania. The field school was led by the two archaeologists who have authored this paper with the support of Dr. Edmund Bukenya of Makerere University, Herman Muwonge, a Ugandan M.A student at the University of Dar as salaam, and Gido Laswai of the African Archaeology Network center in Dar-es-Salaam. The area earmarked for research spread from Kinanisi to Senyi in the region of Lugasi between Kampala and Jinja on the shores of Lake Victoria. (figs. 1&2)

The intention of this field school was to train undergraduate students in archaeological field work and to conduct archaeological research in this part of Lugasi. It had been observed that the survey work conducted in that area in the past by Andrew Reid had identified large iron smelting slags which were yet to be understood. The late Prof. David Mulindwa had also indicated potential research areas on the islands and shores of Lake Victoria towards Jinja area where the flow of the Nile River begins (Kiyaga – Mulindwa 2004).

The work was conducted between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The first part involved archaeological survey followed by excavation work. The survey work followed roads, open space where the soil had been disturbed by gully erosion, and areas where communities had cultivated. Pits used by households for garbage dumping etc, were also examined. This method had been proposed for forest and heavy vegetational landscapes (see Bower 1986; Chami and Mapunda 1998).

Here, we mention only key sites found and earmarked for excavations or for future research. The iron smelting site of Kinanisi was the first to be re-surveyed since