

Use and protection of water resources in Lake Victoria through sustainable management of wetland-ecotones

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Our interdisciplinary and development oriented research project aims at identifying options for sustainable use and management of Jinja towns wetlands. This process includes all stakeholders concerned. An important goal of the project is to enable key actors to monitor the use and management of their wetlands by looking at indicators displaying changes of the habitat.

We investigate structural and functional aspects of wetland-ecotones. Comparison of plant species composition of wetlands in urban and rural areas allows to assess the influence of human activities on the integrity of these ecosystems. The material fluxes in the catchment areas of the wetlands of Jinja town are analysed and the filtering capacity of the wetlands towards incoming loads of wastewater quantified. This will allow to define sustainable uses of wetlands by urban stakeholders such as industries and wastewater treatment companies.

We investigate the socio-economic and institutional context of wetland management in Jinja along an urbanisation gradient and assess the types, quantities and dynamics of the resource uses. An in-depth investigation of the environmental knowledge and cultural values of wetlands is carried out among the fishermen, cultivators and plant gatherers. We evaluate and develop in partnership with the municipal authorities and women's groups options for sustainable wetland resource use and participatory monitoring of this ecosystem.



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