



MSc. Research project at socio-economic evaluation research group

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Impacts of Anthropogenic Activities of Local Communities on Ewaso Narok Swamp Environment and Adjacent Lands.

Keywords: Anthropogenic factors, livelihood drivers, “dry land” wetlands, environmental well-being, sustainable production, food-security.

Summary.

The master’s research project presented is part of the GlobE-Project Wetlands in East Africa - reconciling future food production with environmental protection under Work Package A3.

It seeks to investigate the impacts of human factors of local communities on Ewaso Narok Wetlands in Kenya in relation to socio-economic dimensions of access and gender contribution, associated health risks, management and utilization for sustainable production and development. Further to recognition for their vital role in sustaining a wide array of biodiversity and providing goods and services, they are also an important source of natural resources, upon which the rural economies depends. To date, Ewaso Narok forms important dry season refuge for both human beings and wild animals and support crucial industries. However, in best practices, decision-making benefits from improved evidence base which require specific data collection exercises for local decisions to reflect local solutions and the specific nature of the problem addressed.

The study aims to capture data on impacts of anthropogenic activities on this unique “dry land” wetland as a basis to make contribution into policy and legislative frameworks regarding sound management, not as a wasteland but, as a resource with huge potential to contribute to both local and national economy and food security. The information can inform policies on exploitation of both goods and services and ultimately help develop better management protocols to support sustainable resource utilization and management of the wetland.

This will highlight the relevant anthropogenic drivers of the livelihood, valuable ecosystem components, their multi-functional services and their implication to the environment and people’s welfare in holistic and multidisciplinary approach and whose cross-cutting baseline information, the research partly seeks. The utmost objective is to adopt better management for sustainable production, development and environmental protection for the well - being of both human and environmental health for posterity.



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