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Full Length Research Paper

Indegenous knowledge systems in sustainable utilization of wetlands in communal areas of Zimbabwe: case of Hwedza District

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to investigate how Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) has helped in the sustainable management of wetlands in Mukondwa ward of Hwedza District in Zimbabwe. The wetlands are found in patches of about 2-3 square km per patch and accommodating an average of 15 households and are managed as a community asset. A descriptive survey was used and a structured questionnaire was administered to 280 farmers in seven villages. The findings show that most farmers viewed IKS to be important in sustainable wetland management. A wide range of IKS techniques were used and these included use organic manure, mixed cropping, use of cultural taboos and flora indicators for sustainable management of wetlands. The study also established that urbanization and conventional technologies have an obliterative effect on IKS. The research recommends that IKS development action be based on a multi-sectoral approach involving all institutions of the society. Planners should take cognizance of existing IKS within communities

Key words: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Wetlands, Sustainability.

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