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2011-06-21
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School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN RWANDA. CASE STUDY: GIKONDO WETLAND

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A research report submitted to the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree in Masters of Science by coursework in Environmental Studies

ABSTRACT

Wetland management and conservation is a process that has been applied to numerous degrading wetlands in both developed and developing countries. The Ramsar Convention was the first intergovernmental organization that was established to raise wetland awareness around the world. Wetland awareness has been implemented through policy implementations, government collaborations and public education on the values and functions of wetlands. However, economic development has out weighed wetland benefits thus leading to wetland utilization and exploitation. This has led to the over utilization of these resources resulting in wetland loss and degradation. Rwanda recognized the value wetlands provide especially for a developing economy, thus the management and conservation of Gikondo wetland. This case study, Gikondo wetland, represents the classic example of conservation versus development in a struggling developing country. The study examines the process of relocating an entire industrial area to make way for the conservation of the wetland including the policy processes. The study revealed that the relocation of the industrial area will lead to the conservation of Gikondo wetland thus leading to overall environmental and social sustainability of the country. The management and conservation of Gikondo wetland builds upon a growing body of literature on economic development versus environmental sustainability in developing countries.

DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Science (coursework) in Environmental Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other university.

Name

Shumbusho Scholastica Mbabazi

Date

(02/02/2010)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Mashiga from REMA in all his dedication in making sure that i obtain all the necessary information. In addition, i also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the former State Minister of Lands and Environment Mrs. Hajabakiga. I would also like to thank Miss Kuradusenge for all her help in obtaining industrial documents.

My Parents Vianney Shumbusho and Susanne Balera for all their love and advice during the course of writing this report

I would like to sincerely thank my supervisor, Professor Charles Mather for all the advice and contribution to this research report.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CP	Cleaner Production
GoR	Government of Rwanda
KIEM	Kigali Industrial Environment Management
LVEMP	Lake Victoria Environmental Management programme
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance
MINICOM	Ministry of Commerce
MINIFRA	Ministry of Infrastructure
MINTERE	Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines
MVK	City of Kigali
REMA	Rwanda Environmental Management Authority
RIEPA	Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UN-HABITAT	United Nation Human Settlements Programme