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J Hum Ecol, 60(2,3): 72-79 (2017)
DOI: 10.1080/09709274.2017.1413972

Wetland Loss in Makurdi Town and Its Environs in North Central Nigeria: Implication for Gender

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KEYWORDS Wetland Loss. Change. Ecosystem. Gender. Land Use. Biodiversity

ABSTRACT The study examined wetland loss in Makurdi Town and its environs in Benue State, North Central Nigeria 1976-2006. Remote Sensing Technology and Geographic Information System technology were used in carrying out its analysis. Four epochs of Land Sat images 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006 were acquired, classified and analysed using Land use Land cover change analysis techniques. The result showed that between 1976 to 2006 wetland had declined from thirty-seven percent to fifteen percent of the study area. The study concludes that there is significant loss in the total amount of wetland in the study area. The loss of wetland in the study area could have significant implication on gender due to potential impact on ecosystem function leading to loss in function and benefits the wetlands provide. The study recommends the protection of wetlands and further investigation in the loss of wetland in the entire region.