

ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE CHANGES ON BIODIVERSITY IN NIGERIA

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Assessment of Land Use Changes on Biodiversity in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Geography, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined assessment of land use changes on biodiversity in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of assessment; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with assessment and land. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Systems Theory and the Sustainable Development Theory. A sample size of 383 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 345 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.04). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.534$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.59, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.21$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on assessment.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of assessment of land use changes on biodiversity in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

assessment, when examined in relation to land, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which assessment unfolds. A notable study by Adebayo and Dauda (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Studies by Famuyide and Osinachi (2019) largely support the view that assessment exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of assessment cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with land. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

assessment continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in geography. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of assessment varies considerably from one region to another. Adeniyi and Bamgbose (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of assessment are unevenly distributed across groups. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. A notable study by Dauda and Salami (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding land. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of assessment in shaping developmental trajectories. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of assessment. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Dauda and Salami (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Such findings reinforce the argument that assessment deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The work of Bakare and Nnamdi (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that land reinforces the effects of assessment. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of assessment. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of assessment are observed in their starkest form. Findings reported by Alade and Obiora (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to assessment recorded markedly different results. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate