

Marine Ecosystem Management: the Role of Geospatial Experts from Southern Nigeria's Perspective

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SUMMARY

The marine ecosystem is the most critical ecosystem in the world. Presently, the ecosystem is being threatened by pollution caused majorly by anthropogenic activities such as agricultural, mechanical, and engineering, among other land use-related activities. The study looked at the various land uses which are practically designed and mapped by geospatial experts and how they can contribute to marine pollution. The study was designed and carried out using both primary and secondary data. Interviews, random group discussions (RGDs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) among selected experts in the field of environmental management were conducted. Other literature on the related subject matter was also consulted. Some of the activities of geospatial experts in environmental management in the area of the fight against climate change, water pollution, and city planning, among others, aimed at improving the quality of the earth's resources and sustainable use which may affect the marine ecosystem if abuse were identified, queried, and discussed. The views and responses of the experts were analyzed thematically. The general idea of the respondents is that the role of geospatial experts in the pre-developmental, developmental and post-developmental stages of any construction is sacrosanct, and if ignored or abused can lead to environmental hazards which may ultimately pollute the ocean. In reducing ocean pollution, or in ecosystem management, the role of geospatial experts is basically advisory which the relevant authorities may ignore. Conclusively, the world needs clean and healthy oceans to support the health and survival of all the organisms that make up the marine ecosystem. Looking at the benefits offered by the marine ecosystem, there is the need to engage all stakeholders through collaborative efforts or approaches to ensure that all forms of threats posed to the marine ecosystem as a result of negligence in various anthropogenic activities are checked or eliminated.

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