

## Land Use Changes and Impact around Maladumba Lake and Forest Reserve, Nigeria

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**Abstract :** This study was carried out to analyze and describe biodiversity changes in representative communities around Maladumba Lake and Forest Reserve (MLFR), Bauchi, Nigeria. Primary and secondary data were collected through formal and informal interviews of key informants and survey of local communities and government records. There has been a change in biodiversity; some of the cropping systems have become nonexistent whereas others have developed. The main aspect of the changes has been the decline of species diversity due to degradation and over utilization. The changes have also been positive through the introduction and intensification of cropping system. Options have been open for people to manipulate the cropping systems in order to efficiently use the limited resources. Farmers have opted not only to intensify agricultural practices but also to deliberately restore some of the lost species. Reduction in the number of animals per household, adoption of new techniques of land management, changes in the type of crops cultivated and intensive use of the available resources are some of the indicators describing farmers' efforts to cope with the changes. Sustainability of the farming system and biodiversity has been enhanced through peoples' efforts that include planting trees and use of fertilizers.

**Keywords :** cropping systems, historical trends, household, land management, sustainability

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