

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in Nigeria Coastal Waters; Impacts, Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract : Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), which is a native of South America, is believed to have found its way into Nigeria waters through Pot-Novo creek, Benin Republic, in September 1984. This study attempts to review the impacts, challenges, and prospects of water hyacinths in Nigeria's coastal waters. Water hyacinth possesses a very high proliferation rate, and its infestation in Nigeria's coastal waters poses severe problems to the fishing, recreational, transportation, and health sector, amongst other activities. The weed has been reported to disrupt aquatic ecosystems, clog waterways, and create associated problems with water supply, irrigation, and drainage. To curb this menace, a huge amount of money is used yearly for its management, which is not sustainable. There is, however, a positive twist to this plant as it has the potential to be used as fertilizers, feed for fish, craft materials, biogas, and many more. Due to its high population and related economic importance and implications in Nigeria's coastal waters, it is highly recommended that more research works be carried out on the of making optimal use of this plant.

Keywords : waste to wealth, environmental pollution, water hyacinth, biogas, sustainable development goals

Conference Title : ICEEB 2023 : International Conference on Ecosystem Ecology and Biodiversity

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : April 17-18, 2023