

Saving Lake Naivasha

TRAILER

Lake Naivasha is one of Kenya and East Africa's most important water bodies. But through a combination of climate change and manmade intervention, the Lake has come under increased threat. The WWF together with local stakeholders are working diligently to restore the wetland to its formerly pristine condition.

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SCRIPT

COMMENTARY

Man's impact on our planet's environment is alarming. Habitats are changing and the climate has followed suit. The planet is threatened by drought, changes in rainfall, altered seasons, violent storms and flash floods.

As the habitats change many flora and fauna could be pushed over the edge towards the brink of extinction. Just north of the equator lie the Aberdare range catchments. The ranges are critical catchments for rivers and lakes within the region.

The local community primarily obtain their livelihood from growing agriculture and horticulture products; crops as well as livestock herding. Stable climatic conditions play a critical part to the success of these practices.

Climate change damages eco-regions and bio-diversity. We are already seeing signs of climate change in the natural world as some species are shifting and others disappearing. The changes in nature are starting to threaten people and their livelihoods as well. Irregular and inadequate amounts of rainfall have become a common phenomenon.

ITV, Peter Omenyi, Scientist, Kenya Meteorological Department (English)

“The recent trends in temperature and rainfall actually are going hand in hand. The frequency at which we get very heavy rainfall in a season, very prolonged dry periods for a whole year or even more.”

COMMENTARY

This has had ripple effects on the communities socio-economic activities as well as unpredictable food security.

Captain Juma has over three decades kept vivid records of daily weather patterns in his area. He has observed the drastic downturn in weather patterns around his environs.

ITV, Captain Juma Macharia, Local Resident and Herbalist (Kikuyu)

“In the past things were very good. Rainfall was sufficient; it would start in April and last till August when we plant our crops. Later on, from 1988, things began to change for the worse. There would be no rain in April or May. Only a little in the months of June and July.”

COMMENTARY

These are clear and visible signs of climate change.

ITV, Captain Juma Macharia, Local Resident and Herbalist (Kikuyu)

“In the past, we would experience a lot of frost, but not now... not anymore. The frost has disappeared. Rainfall is also scarce.”

COMMENTARY

As a result of low rainfall in the catchments area, tributaries and rivers have continually experienced receding water levels. Encroachment on riparian land has compounded conservation challenges like siltation and receding water levels among others. As a result of change and reduction of indigenous vegetation cover, the area has experienced rising temperature making it conducive for parasites to breed and disease-spreading insects to thrive.

ITV, Peter Omenyi, Scientist, Kenya Meteorological Department (English)

“Increasing temperature trend is actually an indication of global temperature change. Normally when you talk about climate change, basically the only sure way you can talk of climate change is to check the trend in change of temperature.”

COMMENTARY

Action on climate change aims to develop awareness of the consequences and initiate preventive action. Scientists predict that the planet may be able to adapt and survive the extremes but will the human species have similar capabilities. There is an urgent need to redesign conservation efforts to include responses to climate change.

We can limit the damage from climate change if we act now.

END