

LAND BASED STRESSORS AND WATER QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ENCLOSED COASTAL LAGOON IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA

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Hydrobiological investigations were conducted in 2001, to assess landbased stressors and water quality characteristics of the Kuramo Lagoon, Lagos Nigeria. Habitat modifications such as siltation through sandfilling; indiscriminate discharge of sewage through poor sewerage systems; urban storm water run-off with high heavy metal load coupled with leachates from garbage and solid waste dumps have resulted in changing the ecological status of Kuramo waters from an open lagoon to an organically polluted low brackish closed lagoon. The surface water quality reflected high total dissolved solids (>1874.0 mg/l) low dissolved oxygen content (<4.20 mg/l) elevated nutrient levels and high trace metal levels. Sedimentation, influx of seasonal stormwaters and eutrophication through organic enrichment appear to be important factors affecting the water quality of this ecologically important fragile ecosystem.