

Impact of land use change on soil erosion in crater-lake catchments of western Uganda

In the crater-lake catchments of western Uganda, large-scale stripping of natural vegetation and their conversion to cropland, grazing meadow, or plantation, exposes the underlying soils, causing increased erosion and nutrient input to the lakes. This forms a serious threat to both terrestrial (reduced productivity) and aquatic (eutrophication, siltation) ecosystem functioning. This study aims to assess the susceptibility of these crater-lake catchments to erosion, with special emphasis on the impact of the different land-use types, and quantify the amount of nutrients entering the lake water. The research will involve data collection (land cover inventory, soil survey and sampling) and the use of an (empirical) soil erosion model.

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