

**Social use of riverine resources within the Chobe Enclave: botswana: the case of Chobe Enclave.**

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The social dimension of the importance of riverine resources that are vital for sustaining riverine communities' livelihoods is often overlooked. This often leads social issues within the water management sector to be more focused on the provision of water for basic domestic requirements, completely ignoring social use of water by riverine communities. An important step towards correcting this situation and countering this negligence is to identify the use, importance and value of the riverine resources. The study aims to characterize riverine resources and users, estimate the relative importance and value of riverine resources and to determine the link between the riverine resources and water levels in the Chobe Enclave. Data was collected through questionnaire based interviews, documentation review and key informant interviews. Chobe Enclave Rainfall and Combe River Water levels were also collected. Microsoft Office Excel 2007 was used to analyse the data. Market Price Valuation method was used to value the marketed resources. The study found that the Chobe Enclave Communities rely on riverine resources for among other uses food, housing, medicinal and spiritual well-being. Over twenty riverine resources were identified. In ranking the importance of the resources, most of the resources were ranked very important (63.5%). The overall total direct use value of marketed riverine resources was estimated at US\$2 963847.57. Most of the resources are available during wet season. There is a direct correlation between the increase of riverine resources and increase of the water level. Only seven identified resources are protected by law. It is recommended that appropriate policies should be introduced for management of riverine resources.