



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2012/2013

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION
FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
AQUATIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(MAIN CAMPUS)

SZA 205: WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS ECOLOGY

Date: 18th July, 2013

Time: 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer ALL questions in Section A (6 marks each).
2. Answer ANY TWO questions in Section B (20 marks each).

SECTION A (60 Marks):

Q1.

- a) Define the term 'wetland'
- b) List and briefly describe two main kinds of wetlands

Q2. Describe the major wetland products

Q3. Citing specific case studies, briefly explain the potential and actual effects of climate change and human disturbance on wetlands

Q4. Describe the major macrophyte communities found in the L. Victoria wetlands

Q5. Briefly describe the physical and biological characteristics of salt marshes

Q6. List and briefly comment on 6 main adaptations of mangrove plants

Q7. List 6 international and regional treaties and conventions that are in place to support the Ramsar Convention mission on sustainable management of wetlands

Q8. Briefly describe two important tools for assessing and monitoring wetlands

Q9. Describe the population dynamics and ecological succession of the water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes*

Q10. List the major flood plain areas within the L. Victoria region

SECTION B:

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **TWO** questions (20 Marks each question)

Q11. Discuss major destructive economic activities practiced in wetlands and how they affect the wetlands

Q12. Discuss the main indicators for the assessment and monitoring of wetlands

Q13. Discuss the main challenges in wetland conservation and management and the strategies for overcoming them?

Q14. Discuss the role of microorganisms in the structure and function of wetland ecosystems