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**Assessing the Impact of Diminishing  
Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Practices  
on Environment, and Suggestions for  
Improving Environmental Management in  
Central and Western Uganda**



## **Abstract**

This study assessed the impact of diminishing indigenous knowledge and cultural practices on environmental management in Central and Western Uganda. The researcher utilized the phenomenological qualitative research methodology to obtain an in-depth understanding of human beliefs, practices, and perceptions based on cultural norms and their implications to the environment. The findings of this study affirmed that people in Uganda have used aboriginal knowledge and cultural practices in managing environmental resources for generations by way of elders passing native knowledge and skills to young generations. This study further revealed that Western-oriented modernization has influenced present-day youth and middle-aged populations from appreciating native cultures and knowledge. This study established that the declining appreciation of indigenous cultures and knowledge has eroded the traditional cultural systems of managing environmental resources. The declining emphasis on native beliefs and norms, which hitherto safeguarded nature, has led to the degradation of environmental resources. The findings of this study yielded that indigenous knowledge is neither documented nor adequately disseminated for the present generation to appreciate. The researcher recommends the documentation of traditional cultural practices, beliefs, and knowledge regarding environmental management before a generation of elders vanishes and that government and non-government actors should intergrate indigenous knowledge into contemporary environmental management initiatives. The researcher highlights that sustainable environmental management is predicated on protecting cultures and practices of indigenous people who have survived on and ferociously protected environmental resources.