

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF LAND DEGRADATION IN KARANGAZI SECTOR,
NYAGATARE DISTRICT RWANDA

BY

MUJYAMBERE FRED

10/F/BLUM/198/F

A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD
OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAND USE
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
OF KABALE UNIVERSITY.

OCTOBER 2014

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at investigating the causes and effects of land degradation in Karangazi sector, Nyagatare District Rwanda. The objectives of the study were: to establish the causes of land degradation, to find out effects of land degradation and to find out possible ways to mitigate land degradation in Karangazi sector, Nyagatare District. The study utilized the questionnaire and interview guide in data collection. The study found out that bush burning, deforestation, over grazing and use of pesticides were the major causes of land degradation in Karangazi sector. The effects of land degradation were famine, soil fertility reduction, reduction in plant species, floods, diseases, low produce and migration due to landslides and destruction of roads and houses. Growing of cover crops, a forestation programmes, water harvesting, community participation and sensitization were the major ways to reduce land degradation in Karangazi sector.