



# Eradicating Eichhornia Crassipes: A Two-Year Ecological Restoration and Water Quality Improvement in Mozambique's Coastal Communities,

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## Abstract

Eichhornia crassipes, commonly known as water hyacinth, is a prolific aquatic weed that poses significant ecological and socio-economic challenges in Mozambique's coastal communities. The study employed participatory monitoring techniques involving local stakeholders to assess changes in vegetation cover, water clarity, and community engagement over two years. Significant reductions (75%) were observed in Eichhornia crassipes coverage across the study sites, leading to improved water quality parameters such as turbidity levels by up to 40%. The programme's success highlights the potential of community-driven ecological restoration efforts for addressing environmental degradation and improving public health outcomes. Communities should be actively engaged in future management plans, with a focus on sustainable water hyacinth control methods that minimise environmental impact and maximise benefits to local populations.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Aquatic Weed Management, Ecological Restoration, Ecosystem Services, Hydrology, Invasive Species Control, Water Quality Analysis*

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