ASSESSMENT OF PLASTIC BAG BAN COMPLIANCE: CASE OF LIKONI, MOMBASA COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

Plastic bags pollute the environment majorly due to the nature of their non-biodegradability. Kenyan government ban use of plastic bags since 2017. However, the compliance of this new regulation has not been assessed particularly in the coast region bestowed with sensitive marine ecosystems. This study assessed people’s perceptions on the ban of plastic bag use at Likoni Area mainly focusing on degree of compliance amongst consumers, degree of awareness on the ban as well as awareness on use of alternatives. A purposive sampling technique was adopted involving use of a semi-structured questionnaires. A sample size of 100 respondents was interviewed. A Chi-square test was used to test for relationships. The results showed that rate of awareness on plastic bag ban, dangers associated with it use, rate of compliance and the willingness to use alternatives was generally high ranging between 85 to 93%. Illegal smuggling of plastic bags and protection of illegal manufacturers plastic bags were highlighted as the major drivers of non-compliance. In order to enhance compliance regular monitoring, enforcement of the regulation by relevant authorities and political goodwill should be upheld.