

**ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS AWARENESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
POPULATION OF GOMA TOWN.**

AUTHOR

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ABSTRACT

Our research is entitled “Environment problems awareness for the development of the population of Goma town”. The qualitative method have been used with mainly the questionnaire and documentary techniques. The sample of 170 respondents were chosen at random, by ten from each quarter though ten questionnaires were not answered. The age, sex, and marital status variables were respected. The following results were reached:105 respondents (61.76%) have said that they throw household wastes anywhere or everywhere.35 respondents or 20.59% have declared that they do not have anywhere to put household wastes while 30 (17.65%) have said to put them beside the house. Concerning the volcano eruption warning alert colours (red, yellow, orange, green), 110 respondents, that is, 64.71% have answered that they don't know their meanings; 35 (or 20.59%) have said that ‘red’ means war while 25 (or 14.70%) have said that ‘green’ means peace. Yellow and orange were skipped. To the questions why garbage is thrown in the Kivu Lake, 102 subjects, that is, 60% have said they don't know while 68 (or 40%) have said it doesn't matter. To the question of the knowledge of touristic places in Goma and around, 120 respondents (or 70.59%) have declared they didn't know; but 45 (or 26.47%) have answered that only Kivu Lake is touristic while 5 (or 2.94%) have mentioned only Virunga National Park. Recommendations, among them five short poems, are addressed to provincial and national Government authorities, GVO and citizens to more sensitization of the population on the one hand and responsible behavioural self-consciousness on the other.

Keywords: *awareness, household wastes, warning alert colours, sensitization, Goma Volcanic Office (GVO), citizens.*

RÉSUMÉ

Notre recherche est intitulé “La connaissance des problèmes environnementaux pour le développement de la population de la ville de Goma . La méthode qualitative ainsi que les techniques du questionnaire et documentaire ont été utilisées. L'échantillon de 170 a été choisi, d'une manière aléatoire parmi les 18 quartiers dont 10 sujets dans chaque quartier, mais dix questionnaires n'ont pas été répondus. Les variables age, sexe, état civil ont été respectés. La recherche a abouti aux résultats suivants: 105 répondants, soient 61.76% ont dit qu'ils jettent les déchets ménagers n'importe où. 35 répondants, soient 20,59% ont déclaré qu'ils n'ont pas où jeter les déchets ménagers contre 30 (17,65%) affirmant les jeter à côté de la maison. Concernant les couleurs d'alerte (rouge, jaune orange, vert) d'avertissement du volcan, 110 sujets, soient 64.71% ont répondu qu'ils ne connaissent pas leurs significations; 35 répondants, c'est à dire, 20,59% ont répondu que le rouge signifie la guerre alors que 25 (ou 14,70%) ont confirmé que le vert signifie la paix. Les couleurs jaune et orange ont été sautées. A la question pourquoi les immondices sont jétés au lac Kivu, 102 répondants (60%) ont dit qu'ils ne savent pas alors que 68 (40%) ont dit que cela n'est pas un problème. Quant à la connaissance des lieux touristiques à Goma et ses environs, 120 répondants (ou 70.59%) ne savent pas; alors que 45 (ou 26.47%) ont mentionné seulement le lac Kivu et 5 autres (29.94%) ont mentionné seulement le Parc National de Virunga. Les recommandations, parmi lesquelles 5 courtes poèmes, sont adressées aux autorités nationales et provinciales, à l'Office volcanologique de Goma (OVG) ainsi qu'aux citoyens residents pour plus de sensibilization d'une part et auto-conscience comportementale responsable d'autre part.

Keywords: *connaissance, déchets ménagers, couleurs d'alerte d'avertissement volcanique, sensibilisation, Office volcanologique de Goma (OVG), citoyens.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Justification

Goma, located in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, with approximately 75.72km², is the capital city of North-Kivu.

Goma's current development cannot be disconnected from its mounting politico-military and economic significance. Local processes of state decline and regional dynamics of conflict increasingly gave the city its status as an autonomous space, offering new opportunities to local, national and regional actors. One element that was crucial in Goma's rising importance and urban development was the city's border location. Situated at the heart of the Great Lakes Region, the city has increasingly gained importance as a trading post in the region's vast network of transborder trade routes; while since the early 1990s regional conflict dynamics and local processes of state decline also defined Goma's growing political and strategic importance. The second element is the presence of vast amounts of natural resources in Goma's hinterlands of Masisi and Walikale.

Goma is represented in the National Assembly by five deputies/Representatives from different political parties:

- Jean Batiste Kasekwa (ECIDE)
- Hubert Furuguta (UNC)
- Patrick Munyomo (AFDC)
- Elvis Mutiri (ADR)
- Josue Mufula (LDIC)

List of Mayors

- Kana Guzangamana 1989–1991
- Mingale Mwenemalibu in 1991
- Athanase Kahanya Kimuha Tasi 1991–1993
- Mashako Mamba Sebi 1993–1996
- Kisuba shebaeni 1996–1998
- Francois-Xavier Nzabara Masetza 1998–2005
- Polydore Wundi Kwavwirwa 2005–2008
- Roger Rachid Tumbula, circa 2008–2011
- Jean Busanga Malihase, In 2011–?
- Kubuya Ndoole Naason, 2012–?
- Dieudonné Malere, 2015–?
- Timothée Mwisa Kyese, 2018–present

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Goma city is made of two communes, Goma and Karisimbi, which have quarters (districts) respectively: Himbi, Kaembe, Katindo, Keshero, Lac Vert, Les Volcans, Bujovu, Kasika, Katoyi, Mabanga North, Mabanga South, Majengo, Mikeno, Mugunga, Murara, Ndosho, Virunga,

1.2. Problem statement

On 17th January 2002, Nyiragongo erupted, sending a stream of lava 200 metres, to one kilometre wide and up to two metres deep through the center of the city as far as the lake shore. Most of the population of Goma evacuated to Gisenyi and in the direction of Sake, situated at 27kilometres driving to Bukavu. The lava destroyed 40% of the city, mainly more than 4,500 houses and buildings. There were some fatalities caused by the lava and by emissions of carbon dioxide, which causes asphyxiation. The lava also covered over the northern 1 km of the 3-kilometre runway of Goma International Airport

Lake Kivu is one of three lakes in Africa identified as having huge quantities of dissolved gas held at pressure in its depths. The other two, Cameroon's Lake Monoun and Lake Nyos, experienced limnic eruptions or 'lake overturns', catastrophic releases of suffocating carbon dioxide probably triggered by landslides. Lake Nyos's overturn in 1986 was particularly fatal, killing nearly two thousand people in the area around the lake. Kivu is 2,000 times bigger than Lake Nyos and also contains dissolved methane as an additional hazard – though concentration of carbon dioxide is much lower than in Lake Nyos. Nearly two million people, including the population of Goma, live in the vicinity of Lake Kivu and could be in danger from a limnic eruption triggered by one of the nearby two volcanoes (Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira) and the earthquakes associated with them. The phenomenon known locally as 'mazuku' often kills domestic animals and children in the villages bordering the Lake.

Today, the high production and poor management of household waste represent major problems for the preservation of the environment. In most of the quarters, the population throw waste during the night along the streets and avenues, even when it is raining, believing that it can be carried away. The current situation with regard to waste management is alarming and generates significant negative impacts on the environment through soil and water pollution and on the tourist attractiveness of the city of Goma. Poor environmental governance, and more particularly household waste threatens the living conditions of the inhabitants of Goma, tourist activities (though having fallen down due Covid-19).

Moreover, the problems of allotment and 'anarchical' buildings constitute a threat to the city's environment and its development.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the environment problems awareness facing the development of the population of Goma town.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are the following:

1. To investigate where the population throws household wastes.
2. To investigate whether the population of Goma towns know the volcano eruption warning colours alerts or not.
3. To investigate whether the population knows touristic places or not.

1.4. Research questions

The following research questions have retained the researcher's attention:

1. Does the population have appropriate places where to throw household wastes?
2. Does the population know the meanings of volcano eruption warning colours alerts (red, yellow, orange and green)?
3. Does the population know the touristic places in Goma and around?

1.5. Hypotheses

The following assumptions can be considered:

1. The population of Goma might have appropriate places where to throw household wastes,
2. The population of Goma might know the meanings of volcano eruption warning colours alerts (red, yellow, orange and green)
3. The population of Goma might know the touristic places in Goma and around.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Introduction

Research methodology is a series of methods, techniques and procedures followed in order to conduct the research. The use of methods depends on the nature of the research. The researcher has used a mixed method with observation, documentary and questionnaire techniques.

2.2. The study area and population

Goma, the city of about one million citizens has two communes of Goma and Karisimbi as well as 18 quarters. They are:

N°	Goma Gommune	Quarters
1		Himbi
2		Katindo
3		Himbi
4		Lac Vert
5		Les Volcans
6		Mikeno
7		Keshero
9	Karisimbi Commune	Bujovu

9		Murara
10		Kaembe
11		Virunga
12		Majengo
13		Mabanga North
14		Mabanga south
15		Katoyi
16		Ndosho
17		Mugunga
18		Kasika

Source: My source

2.3. The sampling method and techniques

As the total population is made of 18 quarters, we have taken 10 respondents from each (ten avenues). But while collecting the questionnaire only a total **170** was gathered, meaning that 10 were not answered. The aim was to know what does the population think or more specifically their awareness of environmental problems facing the development of the town. The ten representatives were taken from the quarters, specifically ten avenues. We have used the proportionate stratified random sampling method to determine the sample $n=170$, representing the population. The questionnaire (in English, French and Swahili), the interview and documentary techniques or /and methods have also been used. The qualitative method has been used in the analysis and interpretation of data. After the questionnaire gathering, it is the turn of analysing data.

3. DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

3.1.1. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC IDENTIFICATION

It is important to know how gender, profession, and marital status representation of the respondents of our sample. The table below is a guide:

Table 1. Sociodemographic and socioeconomic identification

	Number	Percentage
A. AGE		
18- 30 years old	30	17.65
31-40 years old	50	29.41
41-50 years old	55	32.35
51-60 years old	25	14.71
61 and over	10	5.88
Total	170	100

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B. Gender		
Male	92	54.12
Female	78	45.88
Total	170	100
C. Profession		
Students	40	23.53
Teachers (all levels)	25	14.71
Housewives	60	35.29
Businessmen	30	17.65
Motocyclists	15	8.82
Total	170	100
D. Marital status		
Married	80	47.06
Single	75	44.12
Widow/widower	10	5.88
Divorced	5	2.94
Total	170	100

55 subjects, that is, 32.35% are from 41 to 50 years old; 50 subjects or 29.41% are from 30 to 40 years old, 30 respondents, that is, 17.65% are from 18 to 30 years old. Moreover, our respondents are distributed practically in 54.12% of males against only 45.88% of females; and 40 students who represent 23.53% have answered the questionnaire; the married 47.06% against 44.12% of the single.

3.1.2. ANSWERS IDENTIFICATION ABOUT HOUSEHOLD WASTES

The respondents' answers about where they throw household wastes

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents on where they throw household wastes.

**Where do you throw household wastes? French: Où jetez-vous les déchets ménagers?
Swahili: Taka za manyumbani munazitupa wapi?**

Answer	Number	Percentage
Everywhere	105	61.76
Near the house, a lorry takes them	30	17.65
Nowhere to put them	35	20.59
Total	170	100

From the above table, 105 respondents (61.76%) have said that household wastes are thrown everywhere, 30 respondents or 17.65% have declared that they put them near the house

and a lorry comes to take them, and 35 subjects, that is, 20.59% have said that they do not have where to put them.

3.1.3. Distribution on why household waste are thrown on the streets.

Why are then household wastes thrown on the streets? *French*. Pourquoi les déchets ménagers sont jetés dans la rue? *Swahili*. : Kwa nini Taka za nyumbani zatupwa barabarani?

Table 3. The why throwing household waste on the streets.

Answer	Number	Percentage
I don't know	95	55.88
It is the Major's job	75	44.12
Total	170	100

The above table shows that 95 respondents, that is, 55.88% do not know why household wastes are thrown on the streets, and 75 subjects, that is, 44.12% said that it is the Major's job.

3.1.4. Distribution on volcano eruption warning alerts.

Table 4. Knowledge on volcano eruption warning colours alerts.

What is the meaning of the volcano warning colours red, yellow, orange, green?

French: Quelle est la signification des couleurs d'alerte rouge, jaune, orange, vert?

Swahili: Rangi za kuarifuu volcano: ekundu, rangi ya chungwa, ya kimanjano, ya majani zina maanisha nini?

Answer	Number	Percentage
I don't know	110	64.71
'Red' means war	35	20.59
'Green' means peace	25	14.70
Total	170	100

It is a pity that only 110 respondents, that is, 64.71% have argued that they do not know the meaning of the volcanic warning alerts. But 35 respondents, 20.59%, have said that red means war and 25 have said that green means peace.

3.1.5. Distribution on throwing garbage in Kivu Lake.

The investigation is to know why garbage is thrown in the lake. The answers of the respondents can be a guide to the acquaintance of the searched information.

Table 5. Answers about throwing garbage in the lake.

Why is garbage thrown in the lake? *French*: Pourquoi les immondices sont jetés au lac? *Swahili*: Kwa nini takataka za nyumbani zatupwa ziwani?

Answer	Number	Percentage
I don't know	102	60
"Ça ne dérange personne"	68	40

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Total	170	100
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102 respondents, that is, 60% argue that they don't know, and 68 respondents, that is, 40% argue it doesn't matter.

3.1.6. Distribution about on touristic places knowledge.

Table 6. Answers on touristic places knowledge.

What are touristic places you know?

French: Citez les lieux touristiques que vous connaissez ici à Goma?

Swahili: Taja mahali pa utalii ujuapo hapa Goma?

Answer	number	Percentage
I don't know	120	70.59
Lake Kivu	45	26.47
Virunga National Park	5	2.94
Total	170	100

120 respondents, that is, **70.59%** have stated that they don't know, and 45 subjects, 26.47%, cited Kivu Lake while 5 or 2.94% identified Virunga National Park.

DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

Considering the above results, we notice that not only all the ages specifically from 18 have been represented, but also labour groups though housewives dominated with 35.29%. There wasn't a great difference between male respondents and female ones, 54.12% against 45.88%. Moreover, married and single were in the same range, that is, 47.06% against 44.12%. "Everywhere" (61.76%) answer to the question where household wastes are put, and "nowhere" one (20.59%) are threatening in this period of covid-19.

Likewise, the "I don't know" answer to the meaning of volcanic eruption warning colours alerts might be awesome as this may imply uncareness of the volcano existence and the negative effects caused 19 years ago. Furthermore, 70.59% of the absence of knowledge of touristic places in Goma is perhaps a sign of discourage. That is why the recommendations is the following part are of necessity.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our paper entitled Environment problems awareness for the development of the population of Goma town".

The general objective of this study is to investigate the environment problems awareness for the development of the population of Goma town.

The specific objectives of this study are the following:

1. To investigate where the population throws household wastes.
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1.4. Research questions

The following research questions have retained the researcher's attention:

1. Does the population have appropriate places where to throw household wastes?
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3. Does the population know the touristic places in Goma and around?

1.5. Hypotheses

The following assumptions can be considered:

1. The population of Goma might have appropriate places where to throw household wastes,
2. The population of Goma might know the meanings of volcano eruption warning colours,

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3. The population of Goma might know the touristic places in Goma town and around.

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As far as the methodology is concerned, qualitative method have been used. Goma is subdivides into 18 quarters. In each, ten respondents from ten Avenue houses have been taken, thus forming a sample of 170 respondents as ten questionnaires were not answered. Their ages vary from 18 to 61 and over, but the dominant age was from 41 to 50, representing 55 subjects (or 32.35%). Males were 92 (54.12%) while females were 78 (45.88%). Married respondents represented 47.06% while the single represented 44.12%. As for the profession, 60 or 35.29% of the respondents were housewives, 40 or 23.53% were students, 30 or 17.65% were businessmen, 25 or 14.71% were teachers while 15 or 8.82% were motocyclists. The technique which have been of great importance in the gathering of data is the questionnaire handed out to the respondents. Other techniques used are the observation, the interview and the documentary technique or method.

Moreover, these preceding methods and techniques have allowed us to reach the following results:

- 105 respondents (61.76%) have said that they throw household wastes anywhere or everywhere.
- 35 respondents or 20.59% have declared that they do not have anywhere to put household wastes,
- 30 or 17.65% have confirmed that they put household waste near the house and a lorry come to take them,
- Concerning the volcano eruption warning alert colours (red, yellow, orange, green), 110 respondents, that is, 64.71% have answered that they don't know their meanings; 35 (or 20.59%) have said that red means war while 25 (or 14.70%) have said that green means peace. Yellow and orange were skipped,
- To the questions why garbage is thrown in the lake, 102 subjects, that is, 60% have said they don't know while 68 (or 40%) have said it doesn't matter,
- To the question of the knowledge of touristic places in Goma and around, 120 respondents (or 70.59%) have declared they didn't know; but 45 (or 26.47%) have answered that Kivu Lake is while 5 (or 2.94%) have mentioned only Virunga National Park.

Recommendations

To quarters and avenue managers: they are required:

- ✓ To contribute in the sensitization of the citizens in taking care of their environment,
- ✓ To follow up in their quarters citizens who throw household waste on the streets, and transfer them to the police, for appropriate punishments.

To OVG (Office Volcanologique de Goma) and North-Kivu provincial and national Governments: they are required:

- ✓ To more sensitization of the population on the harmful effects of household wastes and garbage,
- ✓ Not to provide citizens construction permits on touristic places,

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- ✓ To punish lawless citizens who damage the environment,
- ✓ To identify and advertise regularly on radio and television a list of touristic places,
- ✓ To set up places where to throw garbage, household wastes and then remove them without delaying by transportation means foreseen for that.
- ✓ To extract methane gas in Kivu Lake.

To citizens: they are required:

- ✓ To put household wastes and garbage where appropriate, once sufficient places are determined,
- ✓ To consciously consider the environment, in particular touristic places as an asset and thus keep it
- ✓ Obey the Government regulations and put them into practice.

POETIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Poetic recommendations are included in the following touristic poems: Mount Goma, Kivu Kake, Lac Vert, Virunga National Park, Kilijiwe II.

The Lake Kivu

The fresh water lake for two neighbouring States
With many settlements as Goma on the shore,
Miscellaneous businesses adore
You with their goals: hotels, ships, fishing boats.
A potential overturn of Kivu Lake
Carbon dioxide and outgasing of methane,
People and animals might all be slain
Thus various creatures' lives might be at stake.

Your population, species, firms you around
and inside would rather all be at ease
If no enough methane concentration
Though all of them to you willingly bound,
Carbon dioxide methane plan to release
Can heartily please, when starting extraction.

Source: IRARERA KIJANJA Robert (May 2021)

Kivu lake has positive sides related not only to tourism but also and mainly to businesses in the lake and around despite the negative ones particularly carbon dioxide and outgasing of

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methane if not extracted quickly. The main message is that Kivu Lake favours various businesses and the quick carbon dioxide methane extraction can please the population.

“Mont Goma”¹

The most important hill the city own,
Your herbs and trees as green as manioc leaves,
Your four antennas at top are your own.
No tourist can without having glance leaves.

It is worth reminding all citizens
Nearby, around their offices as now
Provincial Health Inspection, each listens
to main radio, television thanks to You.

You tourist willing to view city well,
and climb the golden hill, hurry and book
at touristic office to gaze La belle,
Foot bridge, the lake, the cars, centre to look.

You citizens watch it, care much for it.
You neighbour; guard it, from it many eat.

Source: IRARERA KIJANJA Robert (May 2021)

Mount Goma praises the value of Goma, from which any tourist can view the town. The sender invites the hearer or the reader to officially visit it. He also invites the neighbour and citizens to **protect** it. The sender considers Mount Goma as a beautiful woman (La Belle) due to its landscape.

“Lac Vert”²

In quarter located bearing your name,
You, the Green Lake are known the world over.
Beyond limits your name reached great fame.
Since childhood I have forgotten you never.

My classmates descended and I to see
that green, contrary to normal lake water.

¹ It means ‘Goma Mount’

² It means Green Lake

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Surprised, touching, it was like any sea
water and came back after knowing better.

Live more the “greenish” water experience
of Green Lake and its hollow location
and be aware a lot its existence,
eternal, and you filled satisfaction.

To you, young kids and women do not descend
that hollow for water fetch, life can end.

Source: IRARERA KIJANJA Robert (May 2021)

Situated in the Quarter bearing its name, Lac Vert is to be protected and guarded. The population should not throw household wastes and garbage in it. Kids have to be forbidden to descend to that hollow lake so that tourists can visit it joyfully.

Virunga National Park

You are along the international borders

With Uganda and Rwanda in the East.

You own varied faunal species, mammals

As lions, mountain gorillas and monkeys,

Reptiles as crocodiles, and various birds-

Though many, damaged by illegal hunting.

Thank to Belgian Congo for creating you.

Soon you will celebrate a century.

The “ICCN³”,

The national and provincial governments,

³ ‘Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature’ (French)/or Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation

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*All your ethnic groups around: Nande, Hutu, Tutsi, Pygmies,
and others have all a must to protect you.*

*Your Armed rebel groups operating inside you
have all to cease and leave you to safeguard
population, tourists, and their belongings.*

Your lawbreakers have to stop poaching and clandestine fishing,

Your anarchists have to stop smuggling charcoal,

Your lawless gangs have to stop kidnapping,

Our wild youth and elders inside our park have to quit and cease to rape.

Push them out to regain the normal and peaceful life.

You hold two calamitous volcanoes,

Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira,

*the former specifically goes on attracting
tourists, though.*

Source: IRARERA KIJANJA Robert (May 2021)

The park is highly touristic to both Congo Kinshasa and Rwanda. It holds, apart from many lawless gangs, various faunal and floral species and two active volcanoes, Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira in Democratic Republic of Congo. It is worth protecting.

KILJIWE

*Your name is famous all over the town
Beside you was born Jiwe Institute
What have you done to merit this renown?
How did you have to be here down, set foot?
Is it our Nature who did miracle?*

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*Your hollow must be deep and dangerous.
It might possess hostile creatures as snakes
But, yet your body needs protecting, caring.
For, you can generate income from tourists.
Long live Kilijiwe in Goma town.*

Source: IRARERA KIJANJA Robert (May 2021)

The sender message is that, though ‘Kilijiwe’ can contain hostile creatures such as snakes, it is worth protecting because, if done, it can generate income from tourists.

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