



Community Forest Management in Northern Cameroon: Effectiveness on Water Resources Conservation

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Abstract

Community Forest Management (CFM) is a conservation strategy that involves local communities in managing forest resources sustainably. In northern Cameroon, CFM has been implemented to address deforestation and enhance water resource management. CFM programme data from six selected districts were analysed using qualitative methods such as interviews with local stakeholders and document reviews to understand CFM implementation processes and outcomes. Community engagement in CFM was moderate, with a majority of participants (75%) reporting increased water access through improved forest management practices. However, challenges related to resource depletion and lack of institutional support were significant themes identified by respondents. While CFM shows promise for enhancing local water resources, its effectiveness is contingent upon sustained community involvement and supportive governance structures. Enhanced capacity building for local communities, including training in sustainable forest management techniques, should be prioritised. Additionally, stronger institutional partnerships between government agencies and CFM committees are essential to ensure long-term success.

Keywords: *Geographical Indicators of Sub-Saharan Africa, Community-Based Resource Management, Sustainable Forest Practices, Water Allocation Models, Ecological Economics*

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