



The Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Conservation Practices within Liberia: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) plays a significant role in environmental conservation practices across diverse cultural landscapes. A systematic review method was employed to identify, select, and critically evaluate studies that explored the integration of traditional ecological knowledge in environmental conservation efforts in Liberia. Peer-reviewed articles from databases such as Web of Science and Google Scholar were systematically searched and analysed using predefined inclusion criteria. The analysis revealed a notable trend towards increased utilization of TEK for biodiversity management, with over 70% of reviewed studies highlighting the positive impact of integrating traditional ecological knowledge in conservation projects. However, challenges related to capacity building among local communities and formal recognition of TEK were also identified as significant barriers. The review underscores the potential of TEK in enhancing sustainable environmental management practices. However, there is a need for more robust institutional support and policy frameworks to ensure its effective integration into conservation strategies. Policy-makers should prioritise capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening local communities' engagement with TEK. Additionally, formal recognition and integration of traditional ecological knowledge within national conservation policies are recommended to enhance its effectiveness in environmental management. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African, Conservation, Ecological, Integration, Knowledge, Methodology, Traditional*

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