



Community-Based Agroforestry and Ecosystem Services in Zanzibar: Farmer Participation and Conservation

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Abstract

Community-based agroforestry initiatives have emerged as a promising strategy for biodiversity conservation in Zanzibar Islands, particularly through farmer participation in ecosystem services. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis from local surveys to explore farmer participation and ecosystem service contributions. Findings indicate that approximately 70% of participating farmers reported significant improvements in soil fertility and water retention due to agroforestry practices, highlighting the importance of community engagement for effective biodiversity conservation efforts. The study concludes that while farmer participation is crucial for the success of agroforestry initiatives, further research is needed to identify sustainable policy mechanisms that encourage wider adoption and long-term benefits. Recommendations include fostering stronger partnerships between local communities, government agencies, and NGOs to enhance resource management practices. Additionally, policymakers should consider implementing incentives for farmers who engage in ecosystem service provision through agroforestry.

Keywords: *Geography, Africa, Zanzibar, Conservation, Biodiversity, Farming, Participation, Agroforestry, Community Engagement, Forestry, Ecosystem Services, Indigenous Knowledge, Traditional Practices, Local Governance, Local Communities, Policy Analysis, Resource Management, Environmental Justice, Climate Change Adaptation*

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