



Conservation Practices in Grassland Ecosystems: A Qualitative Study of Community-Based Conservation Efforts in Nigeria's African Grasslands

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Abstract

Grassland ecosystems in Nigeria are facing significant biodiversity challenges due to human activities such as agriculture and pastoralism. Community-based conservation efforts have emerged as a potential solution to address these issues. The study employed qualitative research methods including semi-structured interviews with stakeholders such as farmers, herders, and traditional leaders. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to identify common themes and patterns of conservation practices. Community-based initiatives have shown promise in promoting sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation. For instance, a significant proportion (60%) of interviewees reported successful collaboration between different user groups towards shared goals. The findings suggest that community-led efforts can be effective in balancing human needs with environmental protection in grassland ecosystems. However, more structured support is needed to enhance their sustainability and effectiveness. Governments should provide more technical and financial assistance to communities to implement and sustain conservation projects. Additionally, policies promoting equitable land use agreements could further strengthen these initiatives.

Keywords: *African savanna, qualitative methodology, ethnography, conservation ethics, sustainable development, traditional ecological knowledge, indigenous practices*

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