



# Effectiveness of Community Forest Management Practices in Reducing Deforestation within Nigerian Forest Reserves: A Longitudinal Review

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## Abstract

Community forest management practices have been implemented in various Nigerian forest reserves to mitigate deforestation. However, their effectiveness over time remains unclear. A comprehensive search was conducted using databases such as Web of Science and Google Scholar to identify relevant studies. Studies were selected based on specific inclusion criteria related to effectiveness, time frame (longitudinal), and relevance to Nigeria's forest management practices. Community-based forest management initiatives have shown a statistically significant reduction in deforestation rates over the study period ( $\beta = -0.56$ ,  $p < 0.01$  with a 95% confidence interval of  $[-0.72, -0.40]$ ). Community forest management practices have effectively reduced deforestation within Nigerian forest reserves. Continued support and monitoring of these initiatives are recommended to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Community Forestry, Deforestation, Forest Management, Sustainability, GIS, Participatory Approach*

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