



# Community-Based Forest Conservation Initiatives in the Congo Basin Rainforest: Tree Growth and Livelihood Sustainability Outcomes Over Two Decades in Malawi

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## Abstract

The Congo Basin Rainforest in Malawi is a crucial habitat for biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Community-based forest conservation initiatives have been implemented to manage this resource sustainably. Field surveys were conducted in multiple communities across Malawi's forested areas. Data collection included tree height measurements, species diversity assessments, and interviews with local residents to gauge economic benefits from conservation efforts. Tree growth varied significantly between different species, with some species showing annual increases of up to 30 cm. The community-based initiatives have contributed to both ecological resilience and socio-economic stability in the region, though challenges persist regarding long-term funding and governance structures. Enhanced monitoring systems and improved financial support are recommended to sustainably manage forest resources in Malawi's Congo Basin rainforest.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Community forestry, Conservation biology, Participatory research, Sustainable development, Ecosystem services, Forest management*

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