



Indigenous Communities' Empowerment in Sustainable Forest Management Practices: A Longitudinal Study in Western Kenya's Baringo District

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Abstract

Indigenous communities in Western Kenya's Baringo District have been engaged in traditional forest management practices for generations. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and remote sensing data was employed. There was a significant increase in tree cover density by 20% within the study area compared to baseline measurements taken ten years prior, indicating improved management practices. Community empowerment through sustainable forest management has led to enhanced ecosystem services conservation and improved resource governance. Further research should focus on scaling up successful community-led initiatives and integrating them into national policies for biodiversity protection. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African Geography, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Participatory Monitoring, Community-Based Management, Ecosystem Services Assessment, Forest Dynamics Modelling, Ethnobotany*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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