Sustainable Community-based Management of Natural Forests in El Ain Area, North Kordofan State, Sudan

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ABSTRACT

The broad objective of this research was to tackle the effect of policies on the management of natural resources to guarantee the sustainability of the resource use. The research hypothesis was that the forest resources in El Ain area could be managed through the participatory approach in such a way that it is environmentally sound, sustainable and socially acceptable and fulfills the objectives of rural development. This study uses both primary and secondary data. The source of the secondary data used included El Ain natural forest management projects' documents and consultancies. The primary data were collected using key informants' interview, farmer's interview, foresters' questionnaire, natural regeneration assessment and participatory rapid appraisal. The statistical analysis was commenced through exploratory manipulations of the data. This process was accomplished by critically examining the data through the use of simple techniques of analysis. The main tools were construction of simple tables, graphs and selected cross-tabulations. The results showed that there were some factors that affected community–based natural forests management. The main ones were the local physical conditions, the socio-economics, the roles and responsibilities of the institutes for integrated management of forest resources and identification of social, cultural and gender issues.

Key words: Participatory approach; forest management; policies; El Ain

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