



Socio – Economic factors Influencing deforestation in the Uluguru Mountains,

64. Morogoro s

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Introduction:

The Uluguru mountain forest (UMF) lies immediately South of Morogoro town in Tanzania between latitude 7° and 8° S and longitude 37° -38° E. The forest is 180 km from Dar es Salaam, the capital city of Tanzania. The UMF has long been known for its unique biodiversity and is considered to be one of the top priorities for the conservation of biodiversity in Africa. The climate of the area is not as favorable as it was in past years when forest cover was greater. Over an area of 527 km² 60% of the vegetation cover is said to have been lost.

The Uluguru Mountains are one of the most important mountains in Tanzania and Africa as wholes for conservation of biological diversity and also the water course of Morogoro people. Favorable climate which supports farming through out the year has attracted high population in the area. Nevertheless of its importance the conservation of Uluguru Mountains has been so much difficult due to various reasons including poverty and illiteracy. The study will recommend that environmental education should be directed towards institutional strengthening in decision; making processes that aim at conserving environment as well as improve people riverheads emplacing on sustainable farming practices alternative energy sources and diversification of income source and rural employment opportunities.



MATERIALS AND METHODS.

The study was conducted along Uluguru Mountains in an area known as Mwanzo Mgumu in Morogoro district. The study was carried out in Mgolole and vituli village which are found in the Eastern side of mount Uluguru. In the study area most of the tribes found on it area Luguru, Pogoro and Hehe. The soil of the study area is made up of excessively diained, dark yellowish brown to dark red, days to clays. The topography of the area is friendly to mechanized agriculture especially in vituli village. Most of the crops grown these area banana, cassava and fluits. The materials used to do a research where questionnaire papers which had question that are closed allow someone to answer it according to the question and open question that allow someone to express himself questionnaire papers were used to test the villagers and get useful data for the research from them, The number of respondents was six (6) as shown bellow in a table.



Gender	Amount
Male	4
Female	2
Total	6

Education level	Amount	Responses / Answers
Primary education	4	Deforestation was caused by unemployment in a study area
Secondary education	2	Deforestation was caused by lack of knowledge about forest.
Advanced education	-	-
College education	-	-
Masters education	-	-
University education	-	-
Total	6	-

Unemployment also cause respondents to engage in deforestation or as to get basic needs examples, food they prepare farms by burning the unwanted trees without any instruction and precautions to take so as not to spread the fire and cause damage in the forest. Cutting of trees for timbers, charcoal and fire wood also is caused by unemployment.

The experiment worked because the hypothesis suggested and the results were the same. Hypothesis were as: deforestation may be caused by farming activities, cutting trees for timber, fire wood and charcoal also we employment was another cause of deforestation which were the same as the results after experiment because it shows that many people in there did have low level of education that cause them to engage in activities such as cutting of trees that cause deforestation without them knowing it.

The social economic characteristic that were found there were:- Low level of education, poor health service, poor housing conditions, low level of house wood income, poor farming methods, example: people believes that of they burn forests they will get much rainfall and in an early time without considering seasons most of the children in there were not in school although it was time for school also many of respondents were only educated in primary level and not more that show low level of education. Most of respondents were between 30 to 75 ages that shows they have been evidence the changes of the mountains also the result shows that due to low level of education most of the villagers did not have education (knowledge) about forest and environments which influence the rate of deforestation.

QUESTIONNAIRES

- Area to be surveyed / researched
- Distance
- From town centre

PART A. (Tick where appropriate)

1. Gender: Female () Male ()

2. Age

3. Marital status

- Married
- Single
- Widow

4. Education level

5. Cause

PART B (Open questionnaires)

1. What are the 3 major reasons that lead to deforestation at Mt. Uluguru Mountains, Morogoro, Tanzania?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Others _____

2. Review the appearance / altitude of the Uluguru Mountains, Morogoro Tanzania in many years back as inference to the present time.

3. What is the major group of people that is highly engaging on influencing deforestation to be sustained?

Why: _____

4. What are the Socio-Economic activities that are largely influencing on the deforestation of the mountains?

5. What are the efforts that are done to ensure the conservation of the mountains? (from government or indigenous)

6. Suggest measures to be taken to ensure the conservation of the Uluguru Mountains?

7. Talk anything about causal burning that take place almost every year. (what is the purpose)

Conclusions:

Many of the villagers were developing due to the knowledge they got about deforestation and conservation of forests. Uluguru Mountains are deeply caused by low level of education unemployment and preparation of farms for cultivation, low-level of education because the burning of forests unexpected by letting the fire spied in the forest which can cause deforestation. Unemployment contribute in deforestation in which people are cutting down tiers to get firewood, charcoal and timber by which they can sell and get some money to control their lives. The following should be done by the government and individuals in the society so as the prevent and induce the rate of deforestation: the government should address the daily needs of people rather than carry out educational campaigns as if communities are not aware of the negative consequences of deforestation, this will be more fruitful to them, they should provide support to the environmental conversation groups by providing seeds, manure and other needs the should put more concentration in laws and acts about forests so as to give punishment to those who break the rules, that will forbid them from damaging forests, people should be encouraged to afforest and reforest same trees species like "Misegerea" and "Mikangazi" also formation of policy that influence forest conservation like "Misitu ni Mali" that prevent burning of trees for preparation of forms to portrait cultivation near water hatchment areas if the government and individual groups in the society follow the above measures there will be development of any economic sectors including forest sector and Tourism industry. Tourism industry will enable the government to get foreign currencies.

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