Journals ON-LINE Publishers Since 1933

ISSN 0970-9274
JOURNAL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY
International Interdisciplinary Journal of Man-Environment Relationship

PRINT: ISSN 0970-9274 ONLINE: 2456-6608
J Hum Ecol, 28(1): 47-55 (2009)
DOI: 10.31901/24566608.2008/28.01.04

An Evaluation of Water Resources on the Eastern Slopes of Mount Cameroon

Cornelius Mbifung Lambi and Sunday Shende Kometa

Department of Geography, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, University of Buea, Cameroon

KEYWORDS Environmental Management. Rural Development. Water Availability and Exploitation. Physiological Drought

ABSTRACT The paper on evaluation of water resources on the eastern slope of Mount Cameroon was carried out with the aim of investigating the problems associated with water resources and their implication on rural development. The data were obtained from the field with the assistance of a structured questionnaire. The paper reveals that water availability and its exploitation has a direct relationship with rural development. The villages of the upper eastern slope with acute water crisis tend to lag behind in rural development unlike those of the lower slopes where the abundance of water resources has accelerated socio-economic development. To minimize the effect of physiological drought that is threatening human survival in the upland villages, we suggested the implementation of proper land use strategies such as planting of environment friendly trees that bring water to the upper part of the water table and the avoidance of unsustainable farming practices and deforestation. Such practices may give better prospects for available water resources and proper rural development along this sector of Mount Cameroon. Afforestation in the source region of streams and other underground water resources is a useful exercise for the water engineer, the hydrologist, forest conservator and land use planner. Studies from other parts of the world suggest that forest remains the most acceptable land use for reservoir grounds.