

Traditional Knowledge in the Use and Management of Forest Ecosystem for Livelihoods and Food Security in Nigerian Savanna

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ABSTRACT Indigenous traditional knowledge and biodiversity are complimentary phenomena essential to human development and sustainable resource management. The rural communities have a significant role to play in maintaining the integrity of ecosystems to ensure that they continue to support livelihood activities. This paper focuses on the use of traditional knowledge in the management of forest resources in the Nigerian savanna and how this knowledge has been used to improve the livelihoods of the people. It combines focus group discussions, key informants interviews and household survey in 11 communities across 10 local councils with vegetal surveys. The study reveals that the respondents possess wide knowledge of the natural resources they use. It recommends that strategic programmes are more likely to succeed if land degradation, biodiversity loss and ecosystem services are considered in poverty alleviation and food security.