

# **ASSESSMENT OF DEFORESTATION EFFECTS ON SOIL EROSION IN SELECTED FOREST COMMUNITIES**

BY

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DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Assessment of Deforestation Effects on Soil Erosion in Selected Forest Communities" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined assessment of deforestation effects on soil erosion in selected forest communities, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of assessment; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with assessment and deforestation. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Systems Theory and the Sustainable Development Theory. A sample size of 405 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 383 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.18). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ( $r = 0.49$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.75,  $p < 0.05$ ). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ( $t = 1.33$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on assessment.

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The study of assessment of deforestation effects on soil erosion in selected forest communities is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

assessment occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about deforestation and national development. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which assessment unfolds. Ekwueme and Obiora (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of assessment are unevenly distributed across groups. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Empirical evidence from Ogbeide and Ogunlana (2021) suggests that positive developments in deforestation are associated with improvements in assessment. For practitioners, the practical significance of assessment cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with deforestation. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In both global and African literatures, assessment is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with assessment. Longitudinal research by Musa and Adekunle (2016) revealed that sustained attention to assessment yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that assessment deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The aggregate picture emerging from Bakare and Bakare (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between assessment and the outcomes of interest. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames assessment as inseparable from the broader question of deforestation. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with assessment. The work of Bakare and Bakare (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that deforestation reinforces the effects of assessment. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Research by Ekwueme and Umeh (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting assessment and deforestation. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The phenomenon of assessment, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of assessment in everyday life. The work of Ekwueme and Bello (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that