

## **Economic and Social Impacts of Forest Land Conversion in Africa**

Runwen Ruck<sup>1</sup>, Athen Perch<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

*\*Corresponding Author: Runwen Ruck*

Received: January 12, 2022

Revised: February 13, 2022

Accepted: February 20, 2022

### **Abstract**

For this essay, the focus is on how forest conversion affects Africa's people and economy. influence on the community As a tourist attraction, one method of showcasing culture is by using attractions that are commonly recognized, such as (natural resources, culture, social life and so on). The growth of the tourism sector has opened up chances for those who perform cultural acts at tourist sites such as the performing arts, which are typically performed at tourist sites, in addition to boosting the preservation of traditions and traditional arts. locals now have more possibilities for finding work because the Tourism Object is up and running. Because the firm can hire people and so reduce unemployment, it has an economic impact.

**Keywords:** Economic, Social Impacts, Forest Land Conversion

### **Introduction**

The growth of a place is influenced by its mainstay and better potential for regional original revenue. In order to raise people's living standards and quality of life in general, development must take into consideration not just economic factors but also non-economic ones, such as the desire for leisure time. Many tourist destinations are supported by vast natural resources in a tropical country. Because tourism is a major contributor to economic growth, this industry has a lot of room for expansion. This is what motivates the government to keep pushing forward with tourism-related development. Natural processes (such as sedimentation) and man-made processes (such as reclamation) create extremely minor changes in land area, making land a reliable development resource. People who live in cities utilize land for construction, while farmers use it to raise food and sustain their families. The urbanization of metropolitan areas is shifting the culture and customs, who have long been known for their agricultural prowess (Orsini et al., 2013). Due to the constant conversion of valuable agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes, the viability of the agricultural industry is under jeopardy. This shift in the usage of agricultural land has made it more viable to use it for real estate purposes, industries or infrastructure for other industrial operations. The land is a source of agricultural goods from which the production process and the outcomes of the production process can be derived (Li & Chen, 2020). Farmers place a high value on land since it provides them with the means to provide for themselves and their family through farming (Sabates-Wheeler, 2002).

## Land Function Transfer

Land conversion is the process of converting a piece of property from one use to another, sometimes with unintended consequences for the environment and the land's inherent potential (Johnson, 2001). Agricultural land use sustainability is threatened by land conversion, which has a long-term impact on national food security because the shift is irreversible (Long & Qu, 2018).

We may deduce from the premise that converting agricultural land to other uses is an allocation of land resources. There is a greater elasticity of demand for non-agricultural goods than for agricultural commodities, and here is where land conversion occurs. agricultural land designated for long-term food security, self-reliance, and sovereignty must have a long-term plan to maintain and develop the land in order to meet the nation's needs (Burdock & Ampt, 2017). As a result, the demand for non-agricultural goods grows at a faster rate than demand for agricultural commodities as a result of economic growth.

Because the demand for a product is a function of the amount of land needed to produce that particular item, an increase in income means an increase in the demand for non-agricultural land at a far higher pace than a rise in agriculture-related demand.

## Factors Transfer of Agricultural Land Functions

Several variables can contribute to the transfer of agricultural land to non-agricultural usage. There are three main reasons why agricultural land is being converted to the following: Policy factors are aspects of regulations issued by central and regional governments relating to changes in the function of agricultural land. (1) External factors are factors caused by urban growth, demography, and economics. (2) Internal factors are factors caused by socioeconomic conditions of land-use agricultural households. (3) Regulative weaknesses are mostly connected to legal force, penalties for violators, and accuracy of land items that are forbidden from being conserved.

Land use changes are a response to rising land demand, which is exacerbated by the fact that land supply is constrained (Monk & Whitehead, 1996). It is impossible to avoid changes in land use when putting a development plan into action. Two factors prompted this shift: first, the necessity to accommodate an ever-increasing population, and second, the growing need for a higher standard of living.

Land conversion is affected by two factors. An industrial or residential area that is located in a land conversion site becomes more accessible, which in turn attracts other investors or land speculators to want additional property in the region, which in turn enhances the value of that area's land. Second, a rise in land prices might encourage other farmers in the area to sell their property, resulting in a larger land market.

## Economic Impact

A well-planned tourism destination not only generates revenue that helps raise the living standards, quality of life, and general well-being of the community, but it also contributes to environmental improvement and preservation. When new tourist attractions are built, the number of people who visit and the amount of money that the local economy may generate goes up. Land conversion for the tourism area was shown to have good effects (Sudipa et al., 2020) such as the following: (1). The development of tourism areas increases the number of visitors

visiting, increasing the number of businesses the community may create along the tourist route and in the tourist region, increasing people's income. revenue will rise if this opportunity is fully used (2). As a result of the project's increased employment options for residents, the Tourism Object is now fully operational. This business is able to employ people, which helps to reduce the number of unemployed people.

It is possible to increase revenues and reduce difficulties with good management of tourist development. Local citizens play a critical part in the development of tourist attractions since they are necessarily involved in the day-to-day operations of the area's tourism industry (Goudie et al.m 1999). Because of the dangers associated with poorly designed and managed tourist attractions, it's important to make sure that they're properly planned and constructed. Negative effects on the economy include: (1) The decline in farmers' revenue, which only affects those who can still cultivate the land and farm laborers who utilize this land as a source of income.

### **Socio-Cultural Impact**

One way to showcase culture as a tourist attraction is through the use of attractions that can be easily recognised such (natural resources, culture, social life and so on. In addition to increasing the preservation of traditions and traditional arts, the development of the tourism object has opened opportunities for people who perform cultural performances at tourist sites such as the performing arts, which are traditionally performed at tourist sites.Changes in livelihoods, the results of research show that some respondents who previously had a farmer's livelihood have turned into employees in tourist areas, which becomes a direct means of introducing and preserving culture for tourists; There are some farmers who take advantage of this by becoming parking attendants, security officers, and other positions in the tourism sector nearby. Farmers' livelihoods are affected by the fact that their agricultural product revenue is less than their present income. Tourists, tourism management, nearby towns, and community leaders working together for the common good is referred to as a "relationship."

There will continue to be an erosion of the local community's culture and social life due to the inflow of visitors who bring in their own culture and social life. In order to limit the negative effects of tourist development on the socio-cultural community, it is necessary to raise awareness of the importance of cultural preservation and communal life in the local community. Interviews with respondent 6 who is the mayor of a nearby town revealed that there are regular commotions between inhabitants of tourist areas and their neighbors because of this tourist attraction's existence. It's obvious that this is bad for the people who live near tourist areas, but tourism managers can work with government officials/officials to address this, as the community itself bears responsibility for security. (2) Cultural values and community norms are being eroded, and research at tourist sites has found that this is happening due to the infiltration of outside influences. Even the worst behaviors of modern society may be picked up by tourists to tourist attractions, and if this trend continues, it will have a significant impact on the local population.

### **Conclusion**

Land use changes are a response to rising land demand, exacerbated by the fact that land supply is constrained. A well-planned tourism destination generates revenue that helps raise the living standards, quality of life, and well-being of the community. It also contributes to environmental improvement and preservation. Local citizens play a critical part in the development of tourist

attractions since they are involved in the day-to-day operations of the area's tourism industry. It is important to make sure that poorly designed and managed tourist attractions are not detrimental to the local economy. Farmers' livelihoods are affected by the fact that their agricultural product revenue is less than their present income. Cultural values and community norms are being eroded due to the infiltration of outside influences. Even the worst behaviour of modern society may be picked up by tourists to tourist attractions.

## References

- Burdock, R., & Ampt, P. (2017). Food sovereignty: The case and the space for community led agricultural autonomy within the global strategic framework for food security and nutrition. *J. Agric. Sci*, 9(1).
- Goudie, S. C., Khan, F., & Kilian, D. (1999). Transforming tourism: black empowerment, heritage and identity beyond apartheid. *South African Geographical Journal*, 81(1), 22-31.
- Johnson, M. P. (2001). Environmental impacts of urban sprawl: a survey of the literature and proposed research agenda. *Environment and planning A*, 33(4), 717-735.
- Li, S., & Chen, G. (2020). Agricultural waste-derived superabsorbent hydrogels: Preparation, performance, and socioeconomic impacts. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 251, 119669.
- Long, H., & Qu, Y. (2018). Land use transitions and land management: A mutual feedback perspective. *Land Use Policy*, 74, 111-120.
- Monk, S., & Whitehead, C. M. (1996). Land supply and housing: A case-study. *Housing Studies*, 11(3), 407-423.
- Orsini, F., Kahane, R., Nono-Womdim, R., & Gianquinto, G. (2013). Urban agriculture in the developing world: a review. *Agronomy for sustainable development*, 33(4), 695-720.
- Sabates-Wheeler, R. (2002). Farm strategy, self-selection and productivity: can small farming groups offer production benefits to farmers in post-socialist Romania?. *World Development*, 30(10), 1737-1753.
- Sudipa, N., Mahendra, M. S., Adnyana, W. S., & Pujaastawa, I. B. (2020). Tourism impact on the environment in Nusa Penida tourism area. *Journal of Environmental Management & Tourism*, 11(1 (41)), 113-124.