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(*) Papers should range between 3000-5000 words.
(*) Typing should be clear, double spaced and on one side of paper.
(*) A margin of 1/4 inches should be left on the right in case of Arabic, on the left. in the case of papers in either English or French.
(*) Sources and footnotes should be typed on separate sheets at the end of the paper, but reference to them should be indicated by numerical figures throughout the paper, the figures must also be between brackets.
(*) Authors are requested to indicate their qualifications, their present occupation, address etc.
(*) The author should enclose with his paper a signed letter to certify that the paper has not been published in part or whole before. He should also undertake not to pass it to any other publisher before the journal decides on it. On the other hand the editors will decide whether or not the paper is accepted for publication not more than three months after it has been received.
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Dr. Abd al-Rahman Ahmed Osman
FOREWORD

Many Muslims scholars in Africa feel that there is a pressing need for a journal to bridge the academic gap between Africa and the rest of the Muslim world, and also to serve as a forum through which scholars can exchange ideas and develop research ties.

This task is being taken up by the INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA. This is an academic institution set up for the purpose of strengthening Islamic culture in "Africa South of Sahara". One of the challenges which we have to face is the lack of accurate information about this areas and the many misunderstandings about its history and societies. Such areas of study have, in the past, been the monopoly of a few Western scholars who have not always been unbiased vis-a-vis Islam and African Muslims.

The time is now ripe for Muslim scholars, who specialize in this area, to come forward and bring some balance to the world of research.

We are accordingly inviting our readers, to join hands with us, so that we may set this project moving. We hope that you will be able to participate by sending papers on any of the subjects mentioned below. It will also help if you would kindly circulate this journal among your colleagues and (or) draw our attention to any scholars whom you feel will be able to help in realizing this project.

Dirasat Ifriqiyya takes special interest in the following areas of specialization:

1. Islamic education in Africa.
2. The Arabic language in Africa.
3. The spread of Islam in Africa.
4. Islamic Da’wa and Christian missionary activities in Africa.
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6. Social, economic and political relations between Africa and the rest of the Muslim World.
7. Institutions of scholarship in and (or) having to do with Africa.

The journal will publish essays in Arabic, English, or French. It will initially be published twice annually.

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Il est temps que les chercheurs musulmans dans ce domaine se montrent et établissent un certain équilibre dans le domaine de la recherche. Nous vous écrivons maintenant pour vous inviter, en tant que chercheur accompli, à nous donner la main pour relancer ce projet.

Nous espérons que vous pourrez y participer en envoyant des études consacrées aux sujets mentionnés ci-dessous:

Il serait très utile si vous pouviez faire circuler cette lettre parmi vos collègues et/ou nous signaler les chercheurs qui vous paraissent capables d’aider à la réalisation de ce projet.

Les domaines de spécialisation du journal sont les suivants:-
1- L’Education Islamique en Afrique.
2- La langue arabe en Afrique.
3- L’extension de l’Islam en Afrique (perspectives historiques et sociologiques).
4- La Da’wah islamique et les activités missionnaires chrétiennes en Afrique.
5- Les relations sociales, économiques et politiques entre l’Afrique et le reste du monde musulman.
7- Les établissements de Bourses en Afrique et/ou en rapport avec L’Afrique.
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Titre: “Dirassat Ifriqiyya” (Etudes Africaines).
Langue: Les articles doivent être rédigés en arabe, en anglais ou en français.
Durée: Le journal sera publié, au début, deux fois par an.

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Dans l’attente de vous lire bientôt, nous vous remercions d’avance et nous vous prions d’agréer l’expression de nos sentiments distingués.
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The Role of Natural Forests and trees in livelihood
Support in Africa Drylands :Towards Peaceful Use

Elnour Abdalla Elsiddig
Faculty of Forestry, University of Khartoum

Introduction
The total area of forest land in Africa approximates 60.0 million hectares representing 15.5% of world total. However the rate of change in forest area is the highest among the world's regions' with an annual net loss estimated at -5.3 million hectares corresponding to -0.78 percent annually (FAO 2000).

Forest zones in Africa contain variation in annual rains, forest formation and extent of change. The tropical rain forests (1000 – 2000 mm/annum) were once dense rich forests but gradually changed to secondary forests and grasslands. The evergreen and dry woodland of the tropical moist deciduous forests (800 – 1500 mm/annum) are widely disturbed and extensively changed in grassland leaving relics of forests in addition to the coastal mangroves. Under drier conditions of 500 – 1000mm/annum, tropical dry woodlands predominate. The Sahelian, zone where rainfall is in the range 200 – 1000 mm/annum, is covered with wooded grassland in its southern areas and grassland with scattered trees and shrubs in the drier north. In addition to these four main forest zones, special sites exist and have climate conditions as a result of the mountain system or coastal conditions. The tropical mountain system are the highlands in central and west Africa characterized by lower temperature and higher rains than the

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The Role of Natural Forests

surrounding lowlands a diverse vegetation. The sub-tropical mountain system of north and south Africa is another area of special sites receiving 500 – 1000 mm/annum with vegetation cover different from the semi-arid areas surrounding them. The subtropical humid forests constitute coastal strip along east coast of south Africa receiving 800 – 1200 mm/annum covered with evergreen or semi-evergreen forests. Much of the forest cover of this site has been changed. The subtropical dry forests in the Mediterranean climate with winter rainfall 400 – 1000 mm/annum. Most of the forests have been replace by scrubs as a result of human disturbance.

1. Land tenure and land allocation system used to be under customary regulations and traditional leadership control was becoming under government domain. Land use is presently more oriented towards monoculture cropping and agricultural expansion towards marginal lands. Large areas are allocated for large schemes mechnized farming under lease to individual farmers and investors. Extensive forest areas are cleared for agriculture resulting in exposure of fertile soils to erosion leading to land degradation. Agricultural productivity declined and result nomadic and sedentary pastoralists lost their grazing areas and movement routes. Conflicts chrsacterized land use practises as a result of overlapping between land tenure and users rights.

The wide range of climatic zones in Africa are associated with a diversity of ecological classes and biodiversity of useful tree species. The large population groups of African communities living throughout these zones use the resources in different ways to satisfy their needs for food, wood, fodder, shelter and income. Trees and forests are part of the resources that contribute in providing some of the communities needs. Trees and forests exist in a wide range of ecosystems that may be managed at local, national and in regional context. These resources require some
approaches to maintain their existence under sustainable management systems in which the communities are involved. A wide variety of factors impact the sustainable existence of trees and forests including the nature and value of the resources, property rights, tenure systems and institutional control. Concern about forest management varies between countries and regions of Africa. Priority of management planning is directed towards economic species. However there is increasing concern about decentralization and its linkage with sustainable management of the forest resources. Although all African countries have recognized the economic, social and environmental importance of the forest resources, the development and management of these resources are confronted with some problems including the lack of statistics, the need for strengthening of the technical and institutional capacities and involvement of the rural communities in the resources management.

**Trees and Forests**

Most of the local communities of the rural areas in African are aware about the importance and uses of natural and planted trees and forests. The benefits and uses of trees and forests include wood and non-wood products in addition to their environmental protection role.

Wood may be the most important forest product used by the African communities. Besides their contribution in the supply of fuel wood and poles, the forests produce sawn timber and saw logs from several species. Wood is used for fuel by approximately 75 - 95 % of the households in the rural area of Africa (FAO 1994) and that percentage may continue to use woodfuel for long time before other alternatives may become available in the markets. With increasing population of the big cities and with improving roads construction connecting these cities to the areas rich in forest resources, the use of wood for fuel may increase.
Other important use of timber in Africa includes furniture and crafts. Crafts production is developing with increasing market demand in the big cities. However, saw logs production from natural forests is not based on management plans in spite of the wide experience of the professional foresters, (Elsiddig et al. 1996).

A diversity of tree species, existing as single trees, part of natural stands or in plantation, is known to be of importance for the production of non-wood forest products and other benefits. Non-wood forest products contribute significantly to the livelihood of the rural communities in Africa. Some provide food, fodder, shelter and ornaments and they constitute a source of income generation. Table 1 presents tree species that produce non-wood forest products that indicate their importance to the local communities. Functional grouping of the tree species according to the type of products is possible as indicated by Table 1. Table 1 indicates that 25 tree species provide non-wood forest products beside other benefits. Fifteen of the species that produce non-wood forest products constitute a source of food. Examples from countries in the region may indicate the value of the non-wood products. In the Sudan, about forty tree species in Darfur provide fodder for livestock for the sedentary and nomadic pastoralists.

Non-wood forest products used as food are of the most important benefits provided by trees for the local communities. Although the agrarian communities depend primarily on the crops they cultivate in the fields and in the gardens around their compounds, they also use many tree species for food. Various forest products like fruits, leaves, roots and honey are used for food for subsistence or for market supply. Domestic use of fruits for soft drinks includes the fruits of Tamarindus indica, Adansonia digitata, Grewia tenax, Hyphaene theabaica and Cordia africana. The drink made from fruits of Tamarindus indica is believed to
cure malaria fever and that from *Grewia tenax* is used against anemia.

Table 1. Non-wood forest products and other benefits shown against tree species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-wood products</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruits for Food, oil</td>
<td><em>Cordia Africana</em>, <em>Lannea spp.</em>, <em>Ficus spp.</em>, <em>Hyphaene thebaica</em>,</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And honey by beekeeping</td>
<td><em>Sclerocarya birrea</em>, <em>Balanites aegyptiaca</em>, <em>Ziziphus spina-christi</em>,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ziziphus mauritiana</em>, <em>Diospyrus mepliformis</em>, <em>Tamarindus indica</em>,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Grewia tenax</em>, <em>Adansonia digitata</em>, <em>Vitellaria paradoxa</em>, <em>Parkia</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>biglobosa</em>, <em>Eloea guineensis</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibers (cottage industry)</td>
<td><em>Hyphaene thebaica</em>, <em>Borassus aethiopum</em>, <em>Khaya senegalensis</em>,</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Adansonia digitata</em>,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk (industry)</td>
<td><em>Ceiba pentandra</em>, <em>Bombax costatum</em></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder</td>
<td><em>Faidherbia albida</em>, <em>Boswellia papyrifera</em>, <em>Ziziphus spina-christi</em>,</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Kharoub</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicinal</td>
<td><em>Tamarindus indica</em>, <em>Khaya senegalensis</em>, <em>Grewia tenax</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gum</td>
<td><em>Acacia senegal</em>, <em>Acacia seyal</em>, <em>Boswellia papyrifera</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanin</td>
<td><em>Acacia nilotica</em>, <em>Arad</em></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil protection</td>
<td>All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade and ornamental</td>
<td><em>Mahogany</em>, <em>Gimbeel</em>, <em>Aradeib Sahab</em>, <em>Junjia</em>, <em>Kafur</em>, <em>Haraz</em></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the fifteen trees (source of food) mentioned in table 1, many other trees constitute potential resources for food

Trees provide the environment for honey production. A wide range of tree species that flower at different seasons provide suitable environment for beekeeping for honey production and honey sales as common practices in Africa. Usually, honey is produced from wild hives. In some communities, hollow trunks of trees are used as hives. The interior of the hollow Trunks are covered with woven grass where the bees build combs.

Many trees provide fibers for cottage industry for the production of ropes, hats, baskets, woven mats, food covers and ornaments. Income generation from these products could be increased by raising the quality of the products sold in the local markets for tourists and exported to other areas. Some of the non-wood forest products like grasses are not produced by trees but are perceived as part of the forest products used for grazing. The availability of grasses, fodder trees and waters inside forests attract the nomads during the dry season. Grasses are of great importance for huts and home fence construction. The majority of the houses, shades and fences of home yards are thatched with grass supported by strong skeleton of building poles. The grasses provide the raw material for thatching industry and some families are completely dependent on the income from this business. The products are transported to many areas for sales.

Non-wood forest Products like gums from Acacias and oils from Vitelaria paradoxa are export commodities that earn income for the community and contribute to the countries GDPS. Gums (Gum Arabic from Acacia senegal and Acacia seyal) gum myrrh from Commiphora and frankincense from (Boswellia papyrifera) are known as important marketable commodity. They are gaining national and regional emphasis in the dry lands of Africa in addition to their importance at the local level. Gum Arabic has a wide application in the food, pharmaceutical, textile and other
industrial uses. The main uses of myrrh and frankincense are in the pharmaceutical industries and fragrances.

Virtually all the gum of commerce comes from Africa with Sudan accounting for up to 80% of the world production (Acacia Operation 2002). The remaining 20% produced by 12 African countries stretching in the Sahel from Senegal in West Africa to Somalia in the Horn of Africa. Frankincense is a product of two species; *Boswellia papyrifera* distributed in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia and *Boswellia neglecta* distributed in east Africa. Myrrh is produced by the *Commiphora* species including *C. myrrha*, in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

The kernels of *Vitellaria paradoxa* are known in West Africa to have a high value for the local people as a source of cooking fats (Lamien 1996), edible fruits, protection material against insects and medicinal use (Boffa 1999). At the international level the kernels contribute in the economy of the west Sahelian countries through export earnings (World Bank 1989). The fats have a high demand in the food and cosmetic industries in Europe and Japan.

**Tree resource management**

Presently, interest in wood and non-wood forest products and their role in communities needs satisfaction, has developed initiatives for promoting their use for food security and their commercialization to improve income generation and contribute to poverty alleviation of the rural populations. The recognition of the role of non-wood forest products in community-level livelihood support has been important in stimulating interest in bringing these products as a component of forest management and conservation of existing forests based on community involvement. As stated by FAO (2001), interest in non-wood forest products is focused on objectives such as income generation for rural development, more equitable sharing of benefits of forests and involving local people in forest management. The potentiality of the forests as
non-wood material producers adds to the possibilities that local communities can get involved in protecting and managing those resources (Elsiddig et al. 2000; Elsiddig 2004). Experience indicates the important role plaid by communities in natural resource management and in land use practices based on indigenous experience. Community-based forest resource management (Awimbo 2004) and integrated land use based on agroforestry systems (Rocheleau et al. 1988) increased the opportunities for food security and income generation based on natural resource management and agroforestry systems including trees and their products.

Community-based natural resource management

Community-based natural resource management considers the opportunities that facilitate the involvement of local communities in managing the resources from which they obtain benefits in the form of products and services. Experience and practices are reviewed in the literature indicating success stories of practical contribution of communities in developing and managing forest resources. The experience in the IGAD Region has been presented in a comprehensive investigation in each of the seven countries that indicated the linkages between the communities and forest resources based on the uses provided by the diversity of products including wood and non-wood products (Awimbo et al. 2004). Experience of the communities in the IGAD Region indicates that the over-arching influence for any community-based natural resource management activity is the nature, security and complexity of people's livelihood strategies related to rights for natural resources use.

Agroforestry

Most of the trees producing valuable non-timber products are distributed in the African countries in association with the farming system. Trees exist in various spatial arrangement in agricultural fields. The trees are integrated with crop cultivation
because their products constitute an important source of revenue for the farmers particularly in the Sahelian zone. The agroforestry system is widespread in Africa in the semi-arid or subhumid tropics from west Africa to the east on both sides of the Equator (Campbell et al. 1991; Maghembe and Seyani 1991; Boffa 1999). The development and distribution of the tree species on-farms contributes in production of food, gums, fibres and fodder and facilitates the development of the dry land regions of Africa. Stabilisation of supply, quality and prices of the products of these resources can contribute to commercial development.

The system is usually in multiple forms and for multiple purposes. The existence of trees facilitates multiple land use practices under two main categories. When the system is composed of grassland with scattered trees and used for cattle raising by pastoralists and collection of non-tiber forest products it is defined as silvo-pastoral system (Boffa 1999). In this system trees are usually natural in open woodlands. The system is used by the nomadic pastoralists during their movements between the dry and rainy season in response to changing climatic conditions. Recently agricultural development resulted in the decline of the pathways and created conflicts between land users (Elsiddig 2005). In another system, the African farmers modified the plant and tree species structure and composition by conserving the desired species and using the land for multiple forms and purposes including cultivation, animal raising and tree products to support the life of sedentary agropastoralists (Pullan 1974). The Africans in the rural areas are well experienced in developing and managing the system components (trees, crops and animals) where there is both ecological and economic interaction between the trees and other components (Bonkoungou et al. 1994).

Forty five tree species are known in association with agroforestry systems in Africa but certain species are more prefered by people because of their economic importance to the communities. However, every single species has some important
contribution in the livelihood support for the African communities. Climatic conditions and species preference govern the existence and distribution of species. Some species, like *Acacia senegal*, *Acacia seyal*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Boswellia papyrifera*, *Vitellaria paradoxa* and *Parkia biglobosa*, are distributed in a continuous belt through the Sahelian zone while some others are limited in extent of distribution. Rainfall limits the species distribution as Table 2 shows.

**Table 2. Distribution of some important species within rainfall belts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Rainfall belt (mm)</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acacia senegal</em></td>
<td>250 – 500</td>
<td>Sudan, Nigeria, senegal,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Boswellia papyrifera</em></td>
<td>300 – 700</td>
<td>Sudan, Central Africa, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Adansonia digitata</em></td>
<td>200 – 800 (800 +)</td>
<td>In 29 countries north and south of the equator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Balanites aegyptiaca</em></td>
<td>200 – (400 - 800) -1400</td>
<td>In 12 countries in the Sahelian zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Faidherbia albida</em></td>
<td>300 – 1400</td>
<td>From Senegal to Ethiopia and through east Africa up to Angola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vitellaria pardoxa</em></td>
<td>600 – 1400</td>
<td>15 countries from west to central and east Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Parkia biglobosa</em></td>
<td>800 – 1500</td>
<td>15 countries from west to central and east Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ziziphus spinachristi</em></td>
<td>300 – 1200</td>
<td>Natural in 16 African countries through the Sahelian zone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the practice of agroforestry systems in Africa succeeded in integrating tree resources development in association with agriculture its sustainability is handicapped with some problems related to land tenure and land use policies in Africa.
Land ownership

There are three types of land ownership systems in Africa: private land holdings; community holdings and land under government control. Most of the private land holdings may not be registered in users' names but rights are acquired on the basis of usufruct. Communal land refers to unregistered land managed under customary regulations and traditional leaders who are responsible for land allocation to individuals or families. The traditional leaders also participated in natural resources protection. In the majority of African countries, the land under these two categories represent small fraction of the country's land. Most of the lands are registered in government name or brought under government control by law. The objective behind reservation is to ensure protection conservation and sustainable management. Local people access to these forest lands is controlled by legislation and only permitted for limited rights such as passage, water, grass collection and dead wood gathering (Elsiddig 2005).

Land tenure is an issue of interest that impacts management of forests and tree resources. Success in clearly understanding existing rights in land and trees is essential for any activity focusing on integrated land use development incorporating trees and people. Bruce (1989) defines tenure as a set of rights which a person or some private or public entity holds in land or trees as recognized by law or custom in particular societies. Tenure rights are usually defined by statements of ownership, usufruct, lease or contracts.

In most African communities, tribes developed tenure and usufructs rights, to trees and other critical resources as water and dry-season grazing areas, under the tribal management system. They minimize opportunities for over use and degradation. Trees, in particular, gained special interest to tribal systems with respect to tenure, rights and usufructs as they provide edible products and fodder during the dry season. Experience shows that trees
constitute an important source of income to meet contingencies of the rural poor (Chamber and Leach 1987).

Recently, decentralization has started in many of the African countries considering ownership and clarifying the role of resources (FAO 2000). Consideration of land tenure, user interest and problems of conflicting uses have let to increased decentralized management of the resources for the benefit of local people (Dupuy et al. 1999). Local people participation in forest management and tree planting programmes has increased since early 1980 as a result of changing attitudes of governments influenced by donor funded projects' participatory approach concepts in many African countries. Some projects aimed at sustainable forest management for forest products utilization based on the transfer of management responsibilities for renewable natural resources (but not the property) from the State to the local population (Bellefontaine 2000). Yet, land and resource tenure is, in many cases, very complex because of overlapping land tenure rights and uses particularly in savanna regions and even more in sahelian zones where forest, pastoral and agricultural domains overlap (Bellefontaine et al. 2000).

Most of the African countries realize that indigenous forests and trees are able to provide a variety of valuable products when properly managed. Previous policies are revised and changed into sound policies and contained statements that take in consideration the needs and participation of the communities. People participation in forest management is increasing in some African countries but in other countries participation is still limited.

Conclusions and recommendations

Forest cover in Africa is progressively declining as a result of deforestation caused by multiple factors including population growth, poverty and government policies that failed to adapt decentralization. Desertification, land degradation, productivity decline and failure to satisfy peoples' needs from forest products are becoming common features in most parts in Africa. Experience
and good practice in land use and management of trees and forests provide good examples for approaching addressing problem solving.

It is recommended that:

- Inventory of forest cover changes and evaluation of the factors causing forest and tree losses in the different zones, should be carried periodically.
- The importance of the economic, social and environmental values of forest resources should be recognized in order to enhance adoption of sustainable management approach of the resources.
- Trees and forests should be managed for multiple functions including wood and non-wood products and for industrial processing to supply local markets and for export.
- The functions of trees and forests for conservation of biodiversity, protection of soils and water and for combating desertification should be considered.
- Agricultural policies should be changed towards support of integrated land use based on agroforestry and agrosilvopastoral systems.
- African countries should develop energy policies aiming at reducing the dependence of African communities on wood energy by using alternative and adopting wise use.
- Community-based natural resource management should be enhanced by securing rights of use of the land and the resources.