

Impact assessment of conservation initiatives in the Uluguru Mountains and their sustainability, Morogoro District, Tanzania

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Context: Environmental degradation is a result of human activities in the struggle against poverty. Poverty and environmental degradation are interlinked. Globally, various conservation initiatives have been launched to curb the environmental damage. The damage include the climate change, global warming, floods, low agricultural productivity and land cover destruction like deforestation to mention a few. Ensuring the global environmental sustainability is among the goals of the millennium development with the corresponding target that “Halve by 2015 the proportion of population drinking safe and clean water”. The world conservation of the environment is crucial to bring life of the biodiversity into existence. The conservation aims at preserving the current biodiversity without compromising the future. Land cover is among the components of biodiversity. Forestry is universally important in housing the ecosystem as well as the biodiversity. A number of international organizations have been involved in conservation initiatives such as Global Environment Fund (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Nairobi, Kenya. The other organizations include the World Bank, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF).

International organizations and national governments have declared environmental damage as a disaster that requires urgent actions to reduce the magnitude of the problem. Many countries in Africa South of the Sahara, including Tanzania, have developed strategic interventions to control the environmental degradation through various conservation initiatives. Despite

these measures, environmental degradation is still a public environmental problem in Tanzania. Conservation initiatives so far undertaken to reduce effects of environmental damage are inadequate. Uluguru Mountains are among the worlds 25 hotspots housing a variety of biodiversity ranging from plants to animals. The Mountains are also among the worlds 11 hotspots which are facing extinction. The best strategy for fighting environmental damage is prevention. A better knowledge of the conservation initiatives and their sustainability is pertinent.

Objectives: The objective of the study is to assess the impact of conservation initiatives in the Uluguru Mountains. Specifically, the study determines institutions and other stakeholders involved in conserving Uluguru Mountains for a period of ten years (1996 – 2006); identifies conservation activities and technologies applied by the different institutions on the specified period and assesses knowledge they have contributed towards conservation of land resources.

Methodology: The study, is to be conducted in August, 2007, employing a cross-sectional design with involving all institutions involved in conservation initiatives in the Uluguru Mountains which are less than 20, spreading from South West of Morogoro District to South East of the Morogoro District. Data analysis will be conducted using SPSS.

Results: Findings are expected to show how many institutions are involved in conservation initiatives in the Uluguru Mountains, percentage of proportion of NGO against Governmental institutions will be known; activities carried out by various institutions by what percentage do contribute to conservation of the Uluguru Mountains; by what percentage are the technologies contributing to conservation of the Uluguru Mountains.