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Review

Status and trends of deforestation: An insight and lessons from Enugu State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

In recent time, concern on the trends and status of forest and associated deforestation activities in developing countries like Nigeria, Enugu State inclusive, has increased. This concern has prompted a range of researches into the causes and the effects of deforestation by different authors as well as the investigation of the possible economic contributions of this sector to the national growth and development indices. This paper examines the imprint trends and status of deforestation across the Nigerian nation with particular reference to Enugu State. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis in this research paper. We found out that forest resources of Enugu State are under pressure from urbanisation, infrastructure development, residential construction, population growth, and expansion of agricultural crop cultivation. Evidence of these pressures is the growing degradation of both community and state forest within the country especially in the study area, Enugu State. Therefore, notwithstanding the economic contributions of deforestation through income and employment generation to the state and national GDP, we recommend that there is need for the sustenance of the community and state forests. This is required so that non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and non-wood forest products (NWFPs) which are needed in promoting rural welfare, income and employment generation, urban and rural livelihood sustenance, poverty reduction and sustainable forest management in the state and the country at large can be retained.

Keywords: Non-wood forest products, development, forest, employment, poverty reduction.

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INTRODUCTION

Before colonial times, forests in Nigeria and Enugu State in particular were managed by the people who lived in and around them. But the advent of colonization brought in its wake global interest that led to the reservation or nationalization of many forests and the change in forest management technology from local to foreign as reported by UNEP 2012. It also led to the loss of many indigenous resource management practices that ensured the maintenance of diversity in forests, even if these were not the direct aim. All over forested Nigeria, and even in Enugu State conflicts between the inherited policies of the colonial government and the indigenous use systems have been a major cause of mismanagement of forest land according to Eboh et al. (2005). To a large extent, lack of clarity of rights over products of the forest seems fundamental to the speed with which the country's forests have been depleted. Thus, the sustainable, conservative and cyclical uses that tended to characterize the communities that lived in balance with their forest resources are no longer practiced, because the market-driven economy feeds most benefits of the forest into the global system but pay few of the environmental and other costs (Neely, 1996). Clearly, many of these costs are borne by the local people, who must live with the consequences of resources management decisions forced on them from outside, and who perceptibly lose both their resources and their knowledge of traditional resources management.

Meanwhile, according to the World Resources Institute (WRI), in Arnoldo (2000) the world has lost about half of

its forest cover. Despite a number of initiatives to stop forest decline, the world continues to lose some 15 million hectares of forests every year. Deforestation over the period 1980 to 1990 reached 8.2% of total forest area in Asia, 6.1% in Latin America and 4.8% in Africa. Most modern deforestation takes place in developing countries, particularly in tropical areas. The process generates large amounts of carbon dioxide equivalent to 20% of global emissions from fossil fuels, making deforestation the second most important contributor to global warming and results in annual degradation of some 12 million hectares of fertile land and loss of thousands of species (estimates range between 8,000 and 28,000 per year) according to EFC 2010. Deforestation and forest degradation directly threaten as many as 400 million people including 50 million forest indigenous people who depend on forests for subsistence in sub-Sahara Africa as reported by Eboh et al. (2005).

Forest decline, resulting from the enormous human ability to alter large forest ecosystems is the source of intense conflicts between rural populations, governments, commercial interests and, increasingly, sections of the public at large. Forest decline is often an undesirable phenomenon. Nevertheless, it is not always harmful. As with most human interventions, forest decline due to deforestation yields positive and negative impacts. A judgment on whether deforestation and forest degradation are undesirable depends on an assessment of their positive and negative impacts on the economy, environment and other dimensions of life, and on the importance that various groups in society attach to those impacts. Thus, for some, deforestation is desirable because it results in financial gain. For others, the negative environmental and social impacts of deforestation may be more important. Perspectives and values can be very different. An assessment of the positive and the negative is not an easy task because it is necessarily loaded with value judgments.

However, much of the human-induced deforestation and forest degradation is, in varying degrees, economically wasteful and environmentally negative, as well as socially undesirable. Often, just a few individuals benefit as stated by Uyanga (2012). The process usually induces adverse effects on the social condition of weaker sectors of society and leads to the progressive impoverishment of ecosystems. Some types of deforestation and forest degradation result in costs to society that amply exceed benefits (no matter how these are measured), and are simply inappropriate. If this is so, one outstanding question that one needs to answer is/are why do inappropriate deforestation and forest degradation occur especially in Enugu State?

Meanwhile, according to Eboh et al. (2005), the forest resources of Enugu State are under pressures from urbanisation, infrastructure development, residential construction, population growth, nomadic farming, and expansion of agricultural crop cultivation. Evidence of these pressures is the growing degradation of both community and state forest. Eboh et al. (2005) found that about 25% of forest cover was lost from 1991 to 2003 with the remaining forest now standing at about 16 to 17% of total land area. Forest loss is threatening rural household incomes and consumption of non-wood forest products (NWFPs). Loss of forest resources is also raising the cost of household energy. Deforestation threatens the energy supplies to 83% of households in Enugu State who depend on fuelwood (FOS-NLSS, 2005).

Nigeria's forest cover in 2000 was estimated at 13.5 million hectares compared to 17.5 million hectares in 1990 (FAO, 2001), indicating a forest cover loss of close to 400 thousand ha per annum, or a decline of about 2.6%. Forest/woodlands now stand at only 13% of the total land area (FAO, 2001).

Data on land use and vegetation (LUV) change shows a decline in most of the forest categories from 1976 to 1995 totalling 16% over the period. While, disturbed forest increased from 1.6 to 2.1% of total land area, undisturbed forest declined from 2.9 to 1.3%, and riparian forest declined from 0.8 to 0.6% (FORMECU, 1998). However, forest plantation increased from 0.1 to 0.2%.

Regional breakdown of changes from 1979 to 1995 shows that total forest declined by 48% in the North Central, 7% in the North East, 60% in the North West, 53% in the South East, 13% in the South-South, and 12% in the South West. The summary of changes in areas of individual forest categories is shown in Table 1.

It should be noted that the FAO and LUV (FORMECU) forest data are not comparable. The LUV data on forest in Table 1 do not include savanna woodlands. Savanna woodland losses amounted to 90,000 sq km from 1976/78 to 1993/95 according to LUV data reported in FORMECU (1998). Moreover, the quality of forest is also deteriorating, as brought out by the LUV data on changes in various types of forest categories and losses in vegetation density in both the nation and Enugu state in particular.

Further information by Eboh et al. (2005) confirm that beyond timber and fuelwood, forests supply a variety of NWFPs to both urban and rural households in Enugu State which makes it deforestation constant by the urban and rural house users. These products (NWFPs) which urban and rural dwellers degrade constitute an important means of income, subsistence and livelihoods for rural people, especially the forest-dependent households.

NWFPs are exploited by rural households for a wide range of goods and services that can be categorised as food and fruits, forage, medicines and pharmaceuticals, biochemicals aromatics and toxins, environmental/ ornamentals and religious functions. The individual products, services and uses characterised under NWFPs are given in Table 2.

Traditional forest management tended to focus on production of timber and fuelwood, based on consideration

Table 1. Changes in forest categories (1976/78-1993/95).

Forest category	1976/78		1993/95		Change
	Sq. km	% of country	Sq. km	% of country	
Disturbed forest	14573	1.6	18990	2.1	4417
Undisturbed forest	25951	2.9	12114	1.3	-13387
Mangrove forest	9994	1.1	9977	1.1	-17
Montane forest	6762	0.7	6759	0.7	-3
Riparian forest	7402	0.8	5254	0.6	-2148
Forest plantation	997	0.1	1573	0.2	576
Teak plantation	628	0.1	1156	0.1	528
Total	66307	7.3	55823	6.1	-10484

Source: FORMECU (1998).

Table 2. Types of non-wood forest products, services and uses.

NWFP category	Products, services and uses
Food	Edible fats and oils, spices and flavourings, salt substitutes and sweetners, beverages, meat tenderizers, thirst quenchers
Forage	Food for livestock, food for bees and insects, food for birds
Medicines and pharmaceuticals	Drugs and purgatives, ointments and lotions, anaesthetics
Toxins	Hunting, ordeal poisons, hallucinogens, pesticides and fungicides
Aromatics	Essential oils for cosmetic and perfume
Biochemicals	Waxes, gums and latex, dyes, tannins, plastics and coatings, paints and varnish
Fibre	Cloth, matting, cordage or rope making, basketry, brooms, pillows, handicrafts and weaving materials
Ornamentals	Aesthetics and horticultural

Source: Adapted from Eboh et al. (2009).

that forests are primarily sources of wood products. Current knowledge however underscores that the relationships between forests and rural households transcend timber and fuelwood. NWFP are integral elements of the people-forest dynamics, hence they cannot be ignored. The reality is that NWFP are often overlooked so much that that forest areas which yield little timber or fuelwood are considered marginally useful and soon converted to alternative land uses (FAO, 1995). The roles of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in promoting rural welfare, employment, livelihood sustenance, poverty reduction and sustainable forest management are not fully appreciated.

Estimates based on survey data shows that NTFPs income accounts for about 23% of rural household expenditure in Enugu State (comparable to 20-25% in Niger Delta and Hadejia-Nguru according to World Bank, 2003).

The fact that NTFPs generate incomes which represent about 23% of total rural household expenditure indicates the significance of non-timber forest resources in rural household livelihoods and their potential role in rural poverty reduction. It also reveals the potential consequences of unabated forest degradation and deforestation for the rural economy of Enugu State as shown in table 3.

FOREST DEGRADATION AND DEFORESTATION IN ENUGU STATE

Forest degradation and deforestation is a threat to sustainable agriculture and economic growth in Enugu State. Forest plantation has declined from about 3000 ha in 1997 to about 1500 ha in 2003 (Figure 1), owing to poor forest management and tree regeneration policies.

Similarly, government forest reserves have shrunk from more than 35,000 ha to less than 33,000 ha from 1991 to 2003 as shown in Figure 2.

This indicates the management of forest reserves has been ineffective and calls to attention the need to re-appraise the forest reserve method of forest management at both community and public forest. Problems of illegal

Table 3. Shares of individual NTFPs in total annual NTFP income in Enugu State 2003 (for a sample of farmers).

Non-timber forest products	% share in NTFP income
Fruits and Nuts	27.9
Palm products	24.2
Wild life	18.0
Fuelwood	12.5
Honey	11.6
Medicinal Plants	5.8
Total	100%
NTFPs income per farmer	₦46,612 ($349)
NTFPs income as % rural household total expenditure (NLSS, 2004)	23

Source: Enugu State Forestry Department (2004).

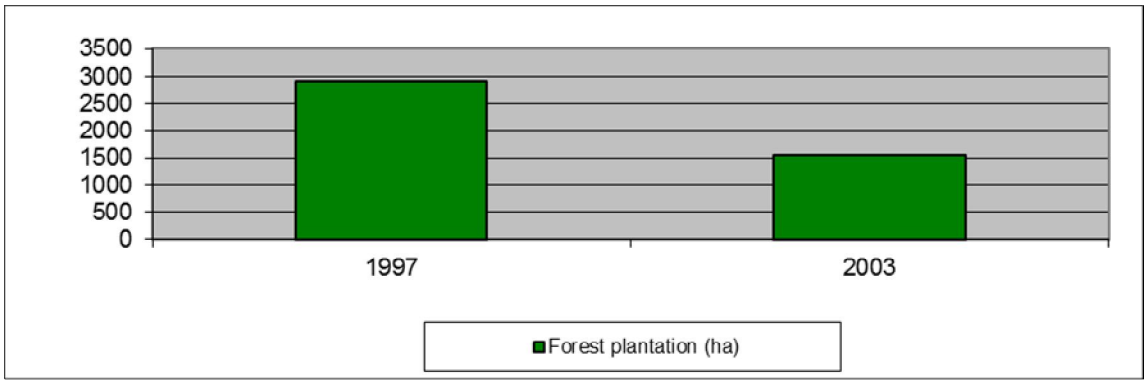

Figure 1. Forest plantation in Enugu State (ha). Source: Enugu State Forestry Department (2004).

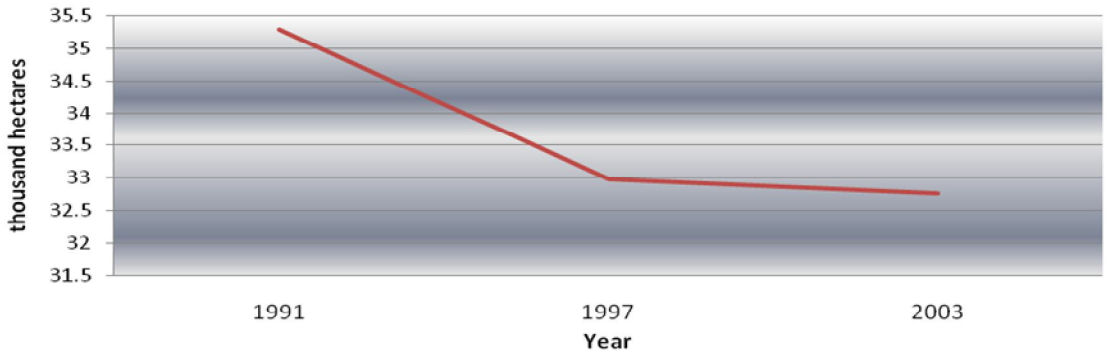

Figure 2. Government reserves in Enugu State. Source: Enugu State Forestry Department (2004).

logging, encroachment of crop cultivation into forest reserves and breakdown of forest management plans are critical threats to the prospects of forest reserve system of management.

Community forests are similarly poorly managed. Poor management of community forests is evidenced by the decline in community forests from more than 140,000 ha in 1991 to about 120,000 ha in 2003, as shown in the Figure 3.

Decline in community forests reflect increased market and demographic pressures on the forests, gradual decline in community management systems owing to growing individualisation of resource use rights and the failure of community-state interface in forest management and sustainability. Besides, market penetration and increased commercialization of economic activities in traditional communities may erode local, informal and indigenous tenurial systems by opening up new and varied avenues for social and economic mobility. This in

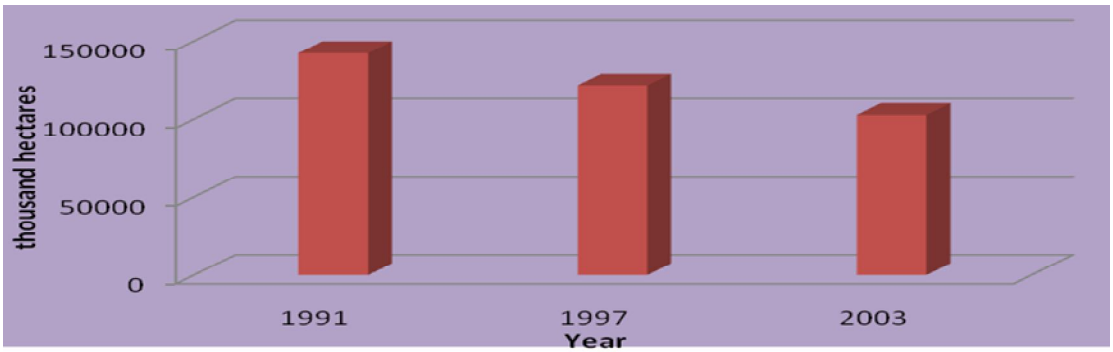

Figure 3. Community forests in Enugu State. Source: Enugu State Forestry Department (2004).

turn stimulates the overt expression of individualistic propensities among the users of the community's natural resources (Baland and Platteau, 1996). As time passes on, deepening market orientation loosens the web of traditional social relations, undermines old systems of locally based authority and weakens community institutions (including common resources). Hence, individual interest becomes disentangled from those of the local community and old cooperative ties start to dissolve as market incentives push personal advantage to the forefront (McCay and Acheson, 1987; Berkes and Kislalioglu, 1989).

GLOBAL TREND OF DEFORESTATION: CAUSES AND PROCESSES

Throughout history, the fates of the world's forests have strongly reflected the pattern and intensity of land use by societies. Demand for agricultural land, timber, and other forest products, as well as technological change in agriculture, significantly impacts the mode and rate of transformation of forested areas. In the views of Kapos (2000), biophysical triggers may also play a role, such as fire dynamics, which are linked to agricultural activities or other natural phenomena. These demands are often linked to present-day developing countries experiencing deforestation which even affect our country Nigeria and Enugu State.

The total world's forest area according to Adeofun (1991), has diminished considerably, from about 5 to 4 billion hectares, over the last one hundred years. In the views of Mathews (1983), temperate closed forest suffered the greatest losses of about (32 to 35%), the subtropical woody savannas and deciduous forests declined by about 21 to 24% while the tropical diminished to the tune of 15 to 20%. These estimates revealed that the tropical rain forests suffered the least exploitation over the period. This was adduced to the fact that they were inaccessible as at that period.

Deforestation has however intensified in the tropical rain forest since the Second World War. This is because the growing rural population invades the forests in search of land for their crops, fuelwood for cooking, and fodder for their animals. Also most tropical nations in an attempt to raise foreign exchange earnings to execute economic development programs, turn to the forests as a readily exploitable resource. As a result of this relentless exploitation most world tropical forests are diminishing (Table 4).

In most developing countries like Nigeria especially in Enugu State, deforestation is fast accelerating. About 11 million hectares of forest are cleared for other uses annually in developing countries according Adeofun (1991). Nigeria's forest cover in 2000 was estimated at 13.5 million hectares compared to 17.5 million hectares in 1990 (FAO, 2001), indicating a forest cover loss of close to 400 thousand hectares per annum, or a decline of about 2.6%. Forest/woodlands now stand at only 13% of the total land area (FAO, 2001). Between 1950 and 1983, Melillo et al. (1985) reported that forest and woodland areas declined by about 38% in Central American and 24% in Africa. These estimates represent only the area completely cleared for uses. The forests and woodlands are also deteriorating in quality. Each year 4 million hectares of natural tropical forests are exploited, thus becoming "secondary regrowth forests" according to FAO (2001). But in the recent time, as reported by Adams (2012) Africa suffers from extensive deforestation, having lost 34 million hectares from 2000 to 2010. Furthermore, Adams 2012 stated that Brazil lost 2.6 million hectares of forest each year between 2010 to 2013.

The prevailing traditional utilization practices only allow for the mature stems of those few tree species with high merchantable value to be removed and this, according to Guppy (1984), usually accounts for about 10 to 20% of the standing volume. Apart from this, another 30 to 50% of the trees are also destroyed during logging operations thereby leaving the soil to be highly disturbed to impede regeneration. In the open woodlands and savannas, fuelwood and fodder demands are out-stripping forest regeneration as population increases and forest stocks decline. Anderson and Fishwick (1984) reported that fuelwood consumption now exceeds natural regeneration

Table 4. Deforestation rate of some countries total cum primary forest cover 2000-2005.

Country	Total land area ('000ha)	Total forest cover						Primary forest cover						
		Area 2005 ('000ha)	Area 2005 (%)	Annual change 1990-2005 (ha)	Total change 1990-2005 (%)	Annual change 1990-2000 (%)	Annual change 2000-2005 (%)	Area 2005 ('000ha)	Area 2005 (%)	Annual change 1990-2005 (ha)	Total change 1990-2005 (%)	Annual change 1990-2000 (%)	Annual change 2000-2005 (%)	Rate of change 1990-2000 vs. 2000-2005
Nigeria	92,377	11,089	12.2	-409667	-35.7	-2.38	-3.12	326	0.4	-82000	-79.0	-5.27	-11.14	111.41
Viet Nam	33,167	12,931	39.7	237867	38.1	2.52	2.06	85	0.3	-19933	-77.9	-5.13	-10.91	112.64
Cambodia	18,104	10,447	59.2	-166600	-19.3	-1.09	-1.90	322	1.8	-29600	-58.0	-4.05	-5.88	45.22
Sir Lanka	6,561	1,933	29.9	-27800	-17.7	-1.14	-1.43	167	2.5	-6000	-35.0	-2.33	-3.05	30.46
Indonesia	190,457	88,495	48.8	-1871467	-24.1	-1.61	-1.91	48,702	25.6	-1447800	-30.8	-2.06	-2.59	25.88
Panama	7,552	4,294	57.7	-5467	-1.9	-0.16	-0.06	3,023	40.0	-45533	-18.4	-1.26	-1.33	5.84
Guatemala	10,889	3,938	36.3	-54000	-17.1	-1.14	-1.28	1,957	18.0	-26800	-17.0	-1.14	-1.28	12.82
Papua New Guinea	46,284	29,437	65	-139067	-6.6	-0.44	-0.46	25,211	54.5	-266600	-13.7	-0.94	-0.95	0.50
Brazil	851,488	447,698	57.2	-2821933	-8.1	-0.52	-0.63	415,890	48.8	-2974867	-9.7	-0.59	-0.80	34.99
Brunel	577	278	52.8	-2333	-11.2	-0.80	-0.69	278	48.2	-2333	-11.2	-0.80	-0.69	-13.06
Senegal	19,672	8,673	45	-45000	-7.2	-0.48	-0.51	1,598	8.1	-10733	-9.2	-0.60	-0.67	10.43
Bolivia	109,858	58,740	54.2	-270333	-6.5	-0.43	-0.45	29,360	26.7	-135200	-6.5	-0.43	-0.45	4.50
Peru	128,522	68742	53.7	-94267	-2.0	-0.13	-0.14	61,065	47.5	-123000	-2.9	-0.11	-0.36	214.69
French Guiana	9,000	8,063	91.8	-1867	-0.3	-0.03	0.00	7,701	85.6	-13867	-2.6	-0.19	-0.15	-17.37
Colombia	113,891	60,728	58.5	-47400	-1.2	-0.08	-0.08	53,062	46.6	-52800	-1.5	-0.09	-0.11	11.03
Madagascar	58,704	12,838	22.1	-56933	-1.6	-0.49	-0.28	10,347	17.6	-10400	-1.5	-0.12	-0.07	-43.61
Congo	34,200	22,471	65.8	-17000	-1.1	-0.07	-0.08	7,464	21.8	-5600	-1.1	-0.07	-0.07	0.75
Total	1,731,305	880,795	43.5	-5793267	-8.3	-0.57	-0.62	666,558	38.5	-5253067	-10.6	-0.67	-0.84	25.6

Source: FAO, 2005.

by 70% in Sudan, 75% in Northern part of Nigeria, about 150% in Ethiopia and 200% in Niger. Majority of the population that depends mostly on fuelwood are cutting wood faster than it is growing back (FAO, 1983). This has made the woodlands to become progressively sparser and eventually disappearing at a faster rate.

It is interesting to note that deforestation has a number of repercussions, which include among others deforestation that can lead to soil erosion or impoverishment, especially in tropical areas where soils tend to be thin and nutrient-poor. Deforestation is linked to habitat loss and biodiversity loss, particularly in humid tropical forests. Furthermore, Geist and Lambin (2002) reported that deforestation affects the hydrological cycle through changes in evapo-transpiration and run-off and even concluded that deforestation, and particularly forest burning, contributes to green-house gas emissions that bring about climate change. Despite its apparent ease of detection, deforestation rates are still a matter of debate.

Today, roughly 39 million square kilometers (29%) of the world's land surface is under forest cover (FAO, 2000), and of that 28 million square kilometres is in so-called "closed forests" of 40%

canopy cover or above (Singh et al., 2001). Since the end of the last ice age, approximately half the world's forest cover has been lost, most of it due to the expansion of human activities and settlements (Kapos, 2000). In terms of primary forest (that is defined as a forest that has never been logged and has developed following natural disturbances and under natural processes, regardless of its age), in contrast to secondary forest (that is defined as forests regenerating largely through natural processes after significant human or natural disturbance, and which differ from primary forests in forest composition and/or canopy structure), or other successional forests, (like any forest type that has in its interior significant areas of disturbance by people, including clearing, felling for wood extraction, anthropogenic fires, road construction, etc) much less remains. The WRI (1997) estimates that only one-fifth of the world's original forest cover remains, largely in blocks of undisturbed frontier forests in the Brazilian Amazon and boreal areas of Canada and Russia.

DEFORESTATION ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

Agriculture is the main causes of deforestation in African countries according to Persson (1987), added to this is deforestation caused by pasture and by harvesting wood for fuel or industrial uses as stated by Adams (2012). The forests of this continent now cover less than half the area for which they are considered the natural climax. The greatest forest cover changes are occurring in West Africa where large population exits. Howard and Lanly (1975) in their views reported that the forest area in Cote d'Ivoire has been reduced by 30% in a ten year period. But according to FAO (2003) in the same Cote d'Ivoire the annual rate of change of forest from 1999 to 2000 is put at -3.1%. However, deforestation is most severe in the dry sub-tropical woodlands of the Sahel zone. This is because more than 90% of the population in this zone depends on fuelwood for cooking and their average annual per capital consumption of fuelwood ranges from 225 to 450 kg (Eckhom, 1976). Furthermore, Club de Sahel (1978) stated that in this zone wherever population densities exceed twenty five persons per square kilometer, total deforestation is inevitable. In Nigeria, FAO 2011 reported that the country lost 55.7% of its total primary forests between 2000 and 2005, and the rate of forest change increased by 31.2 to 3.12% per annum.

The spread of deforestation is most noticeable near urban areas. The growth of urban areas brings about appreciable demands for fuelwood, charcoal and sawn wood and this account for much of the observed decline in forest stocks. The cost of the cooking with fuelwood or charcoal will continue to be lower than the cost of other commercial alternatives as long as local wooded areas and forests are not depleted. Thus, the demand for fuelwood in urban areas will remain strong and continue to account for much of the spread of deforestation in Africa, the opportunities of substituting fuelwood with commercial fuels in these areas notwithstanding.

Another important deforestation issues in Africa is as regards land clearing by farmers. It is a known fact that land clearing is taking place extensively and perhaps contributes as much as/or more than fuelwood consumption to deforestation in Africa. Timberlake (1985) reported that population growth and migration into coastal country side also play vital role in land clearing. As estimated, five million hectares of forests were converted to agriculture in Cote d'Ivorie between 1966 and 1980 while farmers destroyed some 300 million cubic metres of merchantable timber, far more than was exported during the period. Felling of trees on farmlands is also widespread. In Nigeria for example, unpublished surveys in the south and northern zones revealed that farm tree densities have declined from 15% per hectare in 1950's to 3% per hectare in 1970's (Anderson, 1986). Meanwhile, FAO (2003) reported that annual rate of change of forest in Nigeria from 1990 to 2000 stood at -2.6%.

Deforestation estimates for some African countries have been given by Lanly (1983). For example, the rate of forest depletion in Cote d'Ivorie and Nigeria is estimated as high as 5 to 6% per year while Ochanda and Epp (1982) stated that in Kenya the indigenous forest now covers only 1.9% of the land area and remote sensing have shown that about 16% of the forest is being lost in each ten year period. For Africa as a whole Parry (1986) reported that only 6% of the land area is forested and that if clearance continues at the present rate, the forest cover would have been reduced to 5% by the year 2000.

Meanwhile, the forests of Nigeria contribute substantially to the national gross domestic product (GDP) and sustenance of the livelihood of the people. This may be the reason why the trend of deforestation across the country and even in Enugu State seems to be very high.

According to Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (2006), forestry contributions to Nigeria's GDP vary from time to time. From CBN (2006) forest contribution to GDP in the country are 0.92% in 1981, 0.89% in 1982, 0.97% in 1983, 1.00% in 1984, and 0.91% in 1985. Further observation of CBN (2006) shows that forestry contributions to GDP of the country were 0.99% in 1986, 1.01% in 1987, 0.96% in 1988, 0.68% in 1989 and 0.45% for the year 1990. In-depth analysis of the forestry contributions to the national GDP indicated that forest contributed 0.67% respectively from the year 1991 to 1993. But, forest contributions to GDP in the country were 0.69% in 1994 and 1995, 0.66% in 1996, 0.65% in 1997, and 0.64% for both 1998 and 1999. Critical diagnosis of the forest contributions to GDP of the country further revelled as 0.62% for 2000, 0.60% for 2001, 0.58% for 2002, 0.54% for 2003 and 2004, and

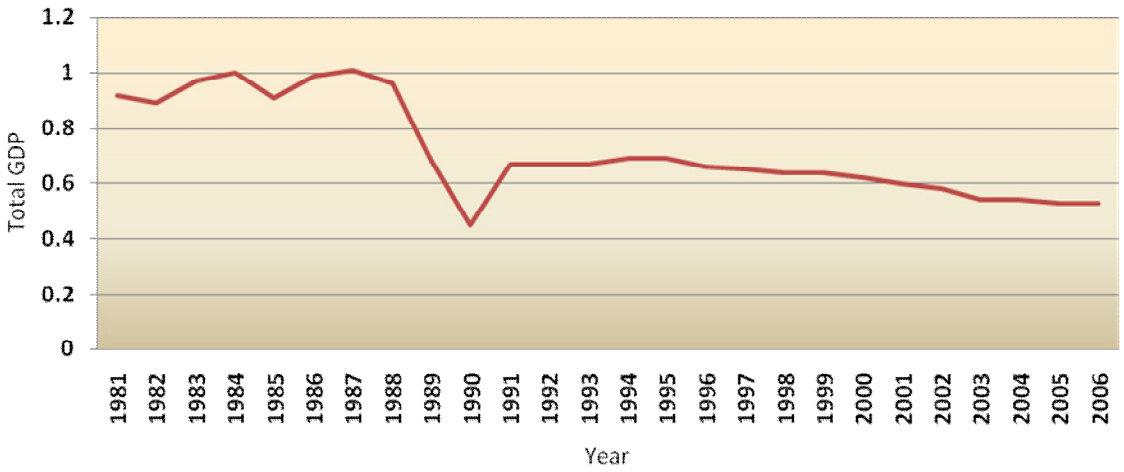

Figure 4. Forestry GDP as percentage of total GDP in Nigeria. Source: CBN, 2006.

0.53% for both 2005 and 2006. From this analysis of Figure 4, the contribution to the national GDP by forestry sector was high in the early 80's up till 1987. After the year 1987 there was a sharp decline in the contribution of forest to the national GDP. The decline in the forest contribution to the GDP of the nation may be attributed to heavy deforestation activities in the country due to poor forestry management. It is truth that the trend of forest management in Nigeria is well documented in literature as reported by (Umeh, 1992; Kio et al., 1992), there is need for modern methodological approach to this so that the nation and Enugu State will have both community and public forests at both short and long run. This will assist the incoming generation to have the natural resources from this area to use for both economic and entertainment assistance in this livelihood especially in the rural areas.

CONCLUSION

It has clearly been established that, deforestation and degradation of forest across the country and Enugu State in particular is an ongoing problem in most communities, especially the government-ignored villages. The tragedy is seriously crippling human development in the rural area of Enugu State due to the loss of income and employment generation from this sector. Therefore, proper identification of preventive and control measures which include among others adequate advocacy in this area of the negative effects of deforestation activities, afforestation projects across the state would be very useful. The key ways forward in this respect are the proper education of local people on the importance of NWFPs and NTFPs in their livelihood. In addition, as MDGs goal 7 is toward ensuring environmental sustainability across the globe; and as Nigeria/Enugu State is environmentally rich, there is constant need for all stakeholders in the sector to ensure adequate budgetary provision in forestry management.

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