

Vegetation Status of the Zamfara Reserve: Prospects for Pastoralism

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ABSTRACT

The vegetation of Zamfara Reserve was studied, using point centered quarter method. Plant density, relative dominance and family dominance were investigated. Results showed that the reserve is characterised by few species of woody plant. These woody plants are represented by 21 species and 39 stands per hectare. The family Caesalpinaccae is the dominant family, followed by the Combretaceac and Bombacaceac. Piliostigma reticularum is the most abundant woody species, following by Anogeissus leiocarpus and Balantes aegyptiaca.

In general, the plant cover of Zamfara Reserve was found to be poor, due to over exploitation of the flora. The current vegetation cover of the reserve is inadequate for sustained livestock production (pastoralism). It is recommended that long time plans and actions to combat the problem be immediately instituted. These include in particular efforts at reforestation and efficient utilization of fuelwood.

Keyword