

Forestry Association of Nigeria

AN HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION OF DESERTIFICATION PRONE ENVIRONMENTS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The control desertification considered as the consequence of interplay between natural forces and human mismanagement deserve urgent attention. This paper discusses both short and long term strategies towards the reduction and eventual stoppage of desertification in Nigeria. Policy measures proposed include modification and intensification of the yearly tree planting campaign adoption of subsidy (reduced prices) for alternative sources of energy to fuel wood and the use of legislation to control forest and also to introduce forestry in secondary school curriculum. Some of the technical strategies comprise promotion of increased efficiency in wood utilization with respect to adoption of improved wood stove and wood preservation by wood seasoning and chemical treatments. Ecologically, the adoption of multiple land use practice, based on agroforestry concepts is proposed as a long term strategy in desertification control. The need for continuous research into the identification and growth requirements of potential tree species for desertification control is discussed.

Keyword