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Human activities and global climate change: The role of traditional fuel wood use in rural and urban cities of Nigeria

Suleiman Saad and Elisha Yari Dangiwa
Kaduna State University, Nigeria

This paper analyzes the effects of fuel wood consumption in both urban and rural settings in Nigeria and how it brings about environmental degradation and contributes to global climate change. Demand for biomass, charcoal and other sources for energy in Nigeria is very high due to increase in population and industrial use and natural resources such as forest is on the decline due to deforestation. However, the rate of regeneration of the forest is very slow; this often creates wood fuel gap because wood is being harvested faster than it is being grown in these areas and the ability of forest to control land degradations such as erosion, leaching, soil desiccation to mention but a few. The study used pictorial and descriptive analysis as methodology for the study. However, data were sourced from National Bureau for Statistics (NBS), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin and federal ministry of environment in Nigeria. The major finding shows that the consumption of traditional biomass surpasses all other forms of energy in Nigeria by more than 80%, being one of the major suppliers of energy resources at the global market. The study also found that there is no efficiency and sustainable biomass consumption in Nigeria, which has long run negative effects on the environment such as emission of greenhouse gasses, global warming that further culminate to global change. Hence, the study recommends among others that there is need for efficiency and sustainable use of these resources to guarantee the survival of the ecosystem.

suleimansaad@gmail.com