

The Impact of Land Use on Peri-Urban Forest in the Akuapem South Municipal

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the Akwapim South Municipality in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Methods used in this study were focus group discussions through the use of questionnaires, identification of the different land use types through ground trotting and deliberate field inventorying of flora in three broad zones along nine (9) different belt transects in the study area. The study indicated that there has been considerable loss of forest and forest resources in the study area. Livelihoods of the people have been affected negatively due to the loss of forest and forest resources in the forms of high cost of living, loss of supplementary income, increase in the incidence of illnesses and diseases and the drying up of rivers and streams.

Different land use types were identified in the study area, these include; forest and forest patches, sacred groves, recreational fields, agro forests, settlement development and expansion, quarry and sand winning activities, mixed crop farms, roads and monocrop farms. Many of the forest patches identified were on steep inaccessible slopes. Sacred groves serve as a good repository for conservation as compared to other land use types. Pineapple mono crop eliminate all tree species and other flora prior to planting.

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