Does Community Inclusion in Protected Areas' Governance Reduce Income-Environment Conflict? A Cross-Country Analysis of Tunneling Through Environmental Kuznets Curve

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To what extent community inclusion in protected areas' governance affect income-environment relationship, is the main question that this paper attempts to answer using the extraordinary datasets of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPAs) and the Redlist of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). We hypothesize an inverted-U shaped relationship between income and biodiversity threat in Sub-Saharan African Countries and attempt to tunnel through this relationship by exploiting the variations in protected areas' governance. The results suggest a stronger effect of community inclusion in protected areas' decision making on the per capita income of these countries which ultimately lead to lessen the income-biodiversity conflict. This paper contributes to the idea of "win-win" policies that yield both economic and environmental gains, pre-empting environmental harm through inclusion of local communities and fine-tuning economic policies to avoid severe environmental damages (Munasinghe, 1993, 1999; Sachs et al., 2015).

Key Words: Community Inclusion, Governance, Income-Environment Relationship

Bibliography

Inayat Ullah has just recently completed his PhD in Public Policy from Korea Development Institute, School of Public Policy and Management, Republic of Korea. He has served as lecturer at the University of Peshawar, Pakistan for three years and currently serving as a faculty member at the COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan. His research interest revolve around governance and sustainable development in the face challenges posed by climate change and economic development.

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