

Abstract

Climatic, demographic and socioeconomic trends and projections indicate enormous challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa. Its rapidly growing population requires increasingly more space, food and resources. At the same time, anthropogenic climate change increases the pressures on already scarce and overexploited resources. Poverty and inadequate education oblige large parts of the population to continue exploiting resources to sustain their livelihoods. This increases the continent's vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters.

Agroforestry can contribute to solving this dilemma, as it integrates various land uses. The diverse services it provides include climate resilient agricultural production, poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation. It can thus reduce competition for and pressures on land. This thesis analyses ways to use the potential of agroforestry in sub-Saharan Africa. Two case studies and a literature review identify important aspects to consider during the promotion of agroforestry initiatives. An integrated approach comprising among others political accountability, secure tenure, participatory and inclusive management, and the provision of enabling economic infrastructure help promote agroforestry initiatives for climate change adaptation and resilience in sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: agroforestry; climate change; natural resource management; project implementation; sub-Saharan Africa