

A Study on Deforestation in the Protected Forest Areas of the Teknaf Peninsula in Bangladesh

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

The main focus of this study was to describe the deforestation status and drivers responsible for deforestation with their impact on the protected forests in the Teknaf Peninsula. Although higher deforestation rate in the tropics, forest degradation and destruction inside the established protected areas in the region has become a concern in the effort to stem deforestation. Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) is a protected forest area established in the southern coast of Bangladesh known as Teknaf Peninsula. TWS is facing high rate of deforestation mainly due to the over dependency of the local people on the forest resources. In this study, deforestation was described considering illegal settlement establishment, agriculture cash crop cultivation (Paan) and fuelwood collection as the main drivers responsible for deforestation. The study found that, dense forests area in the Teknaf Peninsula decrease by 46% in the last two decades with a deforestation rate – 2.40. During this study, we identified the factors influencing the deforestation drivers and then described the impact of the drivers on the local forests. For all the deforestation drivers we found that the Union they are living and occupation are the common factors influencing the deforestation drivers alongside other socio-economic aspects. If we consider Baharchhara Union, the households there have 87% more chance to cultivate paan, 2.24 times more likelihood to encroach inside the forest and 23% more chance to collect fuelwood from the forest. In case of occupation, farmers have 10 times more chance to cultivate paan and 30% more chance to collect fuelwood from the forest. So we can conclude that people from Baharchhara are more responsible for deforestation than other parts of the peninsula. This study also quantifying the loss of forest resources to draw conclusion on the impacts on forests. Illegal encroachment resulted in 467 ha homestead areas inside the TWS. For paan cultivation, all of the paan borojs in the peninsula required 4530 ton of wood materials for the shading. The most common and visible forest resource was fuelwood for cooking. The demand of fuelwood in the Teknaf was calculated to be 156,520 tons per year. The deforestation drivers described in this study are accountable for a significant of the total forest products. This is based on the comparison of the of the production and total demand. For TWS management, alternative income and energy source with proper zoning should be the most focused area for the policymakers.