



CHAPTER 3

Does Forest Certification Impact Forest Protection? An Investigation through the Lens of Forest Villagers

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Introduction

Considering the ecological, social, and economic benefits of forests, it is important to prioritize sustainable forest management. This approach aims to maintain a high level of product and service continuity without compromising the productivity of forests, which are crucial elements for our future (1). It is emphasized that preserving the benefits provided by forests requires greater attention to social factors within this concept (2,3). Although it is difficult to objectively determine the role of forestry in rural development (4), it is known that forestry contributes to rural economies by playing important roles in the livelihoods of rural people (5-7). Considering the contribution of forestry to rural development, it is important to evaluate local views and attitudes in a multi-dimensional manner in order to make decisions that reflect the preferences of local people in forest management (8). Participatory forest management has emerged as an accepted approach for addressing forestry problems in today's

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