

POLITICKÉ RÁMCE A SPRÁVA PRO UDRŽITELNÉ LESNICTVÍ: POSTŘEHY Z ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY A NIGÉRIE

POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY: INSIGHTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND NIGERIA

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Abstrakt

Tento dokument zkoumá politické rámce a správní struktury, které podporují udržitelné lesnické praktiky v České republice a Nigérii, a zdůrazňuje, jak různé environmentální, ekonomické a sociální kontexty ovlivňují strategie hospodaření v lesích v každé zemi. Využitím srovnávací analýzy tato studie odhaluje účinnost různých politických nástrojů a mechanismů řízení při podpoře udržitelného lesnictví. V České republice silný důraz na legislativu a zapojení komunity podpořil dobře regulovaný lesnický sektor vyznačující se vysokou úrovní dodržování předpisů a zapojením veřejnosti. Tento přístup je podporován rozsáhlou sítí chráněných oblastí, pokročilými pěstitelskými technikami a důkladným prosazováním ekologických předpisů. Naopak Nigérie čelí významným výzvám kvůli méně přísným regulačním rámcům, problémům s prosazováním a socioekonomickým omezením. Navzdory těmto výzvám dosáhla Nigérie pokroku prostřednictvím komunitních manažerských iniciativ a mezinárodní spolupráce, jejichž cílem je zlepšit správu lesů a podporovat místní správu lesních zdrojů. Článek zdůrazňuje důležitost adaptivních

strategií řízení, zapojení zainteresovaných stran a integraci tradičních znalostí do formálních lesnických politik. Jsou nabízena doporučení k posílení správy lesů v obou zemích, přičemž je zdůrazněna potřeba soudržnosti politik, budování kapacit a přijetí osvědčených postupů přizpůsobených místním podmínkám. Analýza těchto různorodých přístupů přispívá k hlubšímu pochopení dynamiky ovlivňující udržitelné obhospodařování lesů a nabízí poznatky, které mohou být zdrojem informací pro vývoj a implementaci politiky v různých globálních kontextech.

Klíčová slova:

Udržitelné lesnictví, Politické rámce, Správa lesů, Lesnictví České republiky, Nigérijské lesnictví, Komunitní management, Environmentální předpisy, Zapojení zainteresovaných stran, Lesnické postupy, Mezinárodní spolupráce.

Abstract

This paper examines the policy frameworks and governance structures that underpin sustainable forestry practices in the Czech Republic and Nigeria, highlighting how different environmental, economic, and social contexts influence forest management strategies in each country. By employing a comparative analysis, this study reveals the effectiveness of various policy instruments and governance mechanisms in promoting sustainable forestry. In the Czech Republic, a strong emphasis on legislation and community involvement has fostered a well-regulated forestry sector characterized by high levels of compliance and public participation. This approach is supported by an extensive network of protected areas, advanced silvicultural techniques, and robust enforcement of environmental regulations. Conversely, Nigeria faces significant challenges due to less stringent regulatory frameworks, enforcement issues, and socio-economic constraints. Despite these challenges, Nigeria has made progress through community-based management initiatives and international cooperation, aimed at enhancing forest governance and promoting local stewardship of forest resources. The paper underscores the importance of adaptive management strategies, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of traditional knowledge

into formal forestry policies. Recommendations are offered to strengthen forest governance in both nations, emphasizing the need for policy coherence, capacity building, and the adoption of best practices tailored to local conditions. By analyzing these disparate approaches, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamics influencing sustainable forest management and offers insights that can inform policy development and implementation in diverse global contexts.

Keywords:

Sustainable Forestry, Policy Frameworks, Forest Governance, Czech Republic Forestry, Nigeria Forestry, Community-based Management, Environmental Regulations, Stakeholder Engagement, Forestry Practices, International Cooperation

Introduction

Sustainable forestry is a cornerstone for balancing environmental conservation, economic development, and social welfare. The responsible management of forest resources, guided by effective policy frameworks and governance structures, is critical to achieving this balance. In this study, we delve into the governance systems of the Czech Republic and Nigeria, examining how these nations each with their distinct forest sizes, institutional stability, and historical traditions navigate the complex terrain of sustainable forestry.

Good governance is pivotal in aligning economic activities with the principles of sustainability, ensuring that forestry practices do not come at the expense of the environment or societal well-being (FAO, 2020). By focusing on key features of good governance such as incentivizing responsible practices, enforcing authoritative measures, and fostering deliberative processes this study evaluates whether the governance systems in the Czech Republic and Nigeria effectively promote these values. The choice of these two countries, with their contrasting contexts of a developed nation and an emerging economy, provides a rich backdrop for exploring international forest policy processes and contributes new insights into the theoretical development of governance concepts. The findings from such

a comparative analysis are not only policy relevant but also crucial for raising public awareness on a global scale (Balcarová, Šarapatka, & Dlouhá, 2014).

Forestry is not just an economic asset; it is fundamentally rooted in the health of our environment. It supports human well-being by contributing to biodiversity, climate regulation, water resources, cultural identity, and recreation (Adedayo, Oyun, & Kadeba, 2010; FSC, 2024). Achieving sustainable forestry requires a cross-sectoral approach, ensuring that forest goods and services are managed in a way that benefits both society and the environment (Ajake & Abua, 2015). However, the implementation of governance concepts in forestry varies widely from one country to another, shaped by differing socio-political and historical factors (Arnstein, 1969; Kooiman, 2003; Fukuyama, 2012).

Today, the global understanding of governance emphasizes a multi-layered approach, involving a broad array of stakeholders and integrating policies across various sectors (Vančura, Pacourek, & Řezáč, 2004). Sustainable forestry, therefore, requires a delicate balance of economic, social, and environmental objectives, each with competing claims that must be carefully managed.

Through this study, we explore how the Czech Republic and Nigeria, despite their differing contexts, strive to achieve this balance, offering insights that are essential for the ongoing development of global governance strategies in sustainable forestry.

Research Objectives

Forest governance plays a crucial role in shaping the sustainability of forest management across the globe. In both developing tropical regions and industrialized temperate forests, the quality of governance is often the decisive factor that determines the long-term health and productivity of forest ecosystems (FAO, 2020). In these regions, policies are designed to address and mitigate unsustainable practices, such as short-term monoculture, poor working conditions, and extractive behaviors that pose significant risks to the environment. Instead, these policies promote sustainable approaches like long-term silviculture, creating favorable

working environments, and fostering responsible, protective practices (Agrawal, Chhatre, & Hardin, 2008).

However, the strategies each country employs to achieve these goals vary significantly, influenced by the level of government intervention, which may range from direct involvement to more minimal, hands-off approaches. These strategies are shaped by a variety of factors, including national and regional economic conditions, political landscapes, social values, and the extent to which stakeholders are represented in decision-making processes. The governance structures that emerge from these factors differ in their levels of pluralism, decentralization, and public participation (Kaimowitz & Angelsen, 1998; Colfer & Capistrano, 2012).

This study seeks to unravel the complexities behind the similarities and differences in the policy frameworks and governance approaches to sustainable forest management in the Czech Republic and Nigeria. By examining these two nations, we gain insight into how diverse contexts ranging from Nigeria's status as a post-independence developing country to the Czech Republic's experience of political transformation and integration into the European Union shape their approaches to forestry governance. The distinct socio-political and historical backgrounds of these countries provide a unique opportunity to test research methodologies and explore how different governance and policy strategies impact sustainable forest management (Watson et al., 2000; Geist & Lambin, 2002).

Through this comparative analysis, the study aims to reveal how each country's unique conditions, perceptions of forestry, and interpretations of sustainable development influence the creation of policy frameworks and governance initiatives. These insights are vital not only for understanding the challenges and successes in these specific contexts but also for contributing to the broader discourse on global sustainable forestry governance.

Methodology

This study adopts a comparative case study approach to examine and analyze the

policy frameworks and governance structures for sustainable forestry in the Czech Republic and Nigeria. The methodology is structured into several key components to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter:

Literature Review

Sustainable forestry is a multifaceted approach that seeks to harmonize environmental conservation, economic development, and social welfare. Through the responsible management of forest resources, sustainable forestry aims to preserve biodiversity, support rural economies, and enhance the well-being of communities. The literature on sustainable forestry has extensively explored its ecological, economic, and social benefits, while also examining the policy frameworks and governance structures necessary to support these goals in different regional contexts.

Ecological Benefits and Research Focus

The role of forests as carbon sinks has been well-documented, with numerous studies highlighting how forests absorb and store carbon dioxide, thereby playing a critical role in mitigating climate change (Watson et al., 2000). Similarly, research has emphasized the importance of forests in regulating the water cycle and preventing soil erosion, both of which are vital for maintaining ecosystem health and supporting agriculture (Calder, 2005; Lal, 1998). The preservation of biodiversity within forests, which supports ecosystem resilience and maintains essential services such as pollination and nutrient cycling, has also been a key focus of ecological studies (MEA, 2005).

Economic Contributions and Scholarly Insights

Economically, forests are recognized for their provision of raw materials essential to various industries, from timber for construction to non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like resins and medicinal plants, which are crucial for both local and international markets (FAO, 2020). The literature also underscores the role of forestry

in supporting rural economies by providing jobs and income, particularly in developing regions where alternative livelihoods may be limited (World Bank, 2020). Additionally, the potential of forests to contribute to eco-tourism has been explored, with research indicating that eco-tourism can generate significant revenue for local communities and serve as a powerful incentive for forest conservation (Honey, 1999).

Social and Cultural Dimensions: A Broader Perspective

On the social front, studies have delved into the role of forests in providing food, medicine, and cultural value to communities. Forests are integral to the diets and healthcare of many indigenous and local populations, offering a critical source of nutrition and traditional medicine (Shackleton, Shackleton & Shanley, 2011). Moreover, the cultural and spiritual significance of forests is well-documented, with research exploring how forests contribute to the cultural heritage and identity of various communities (Tsing, 2005). The literature also highlights the benefits of forests for mental and physical health, demonstrating that access to green spaces can significantly enhance overall well-being (Pretty et al., 2005).

Policy Frameworks and Governance: Comparative Approaches

While there is substantial research on the ecological, economic, and social benefits of sustainable forestry, the literature on the policy frameworks and governance structures that support sustainable forestry in different regions is less comprehensive. In developing tropical regions and industrialized temperate forests, the level of governance is recognized as a critical factor influencing the sustainability of forest management practices (FAO, 2020). Policies in these regions often aim to discourage unsustainable practices, such as short-term monoculture and extractive behaviors, while promoting long-term silviculture and protective practices (Agrawal, Chhatre & Hardin, 2008).

However, the approaches that countries take to achieve these objectives vary widely, shaped by factors such as the extent of government intervention, economic and

political conditions, and the degree of stakeholder representation in decision-making processes (Kaimowitz & Angelsen, 1998; Colfer & Capistrano, 2012). The governance structures that emerge from these conditions can range from highly centralized to more decentralized and participatory models.

Gaps in the Research

Despite the existing body of work, there are notable gaps in the literature, particularly concerning the comparative analysis of governance and policy frameworks in different national contexts. For instance, while some studies have examined governance in specific countries or regions, there is limited research that directly compares the governance structures of countries with contrasting socio-political backgrounds, such as Nigeria and the Czech Republic. The impact of these differing contexts on sustainable forestry practices remains underexplored, leaving a gap in understanding how various governance models influence the effectiveness of sustainable forest management.

Furthermore, while the literature has extensively covered the ecological and economic aspects of sustainable forestry, the integration of cultural and social values into governance frameworks is less frequently addressed. Understanding how these values are incorporated into policy-making processes, and how they influence the success of sustainable forestry initiatives, is an area that warrants further investigation.

This study seeks to address these gaps by conducting a comparative analysis of the policy frameworks and governance structures for sustainable forestry in Nigeria and the Czech Republic. By exploring how different objective conditions, perceptions of forestry, and concepts of sustainable development shape governance in these countries, this research aims to contribute new insights to the discourse on global sustainable forestry. This work not only fills a gap in the existing literature but also provides valuable guidance for policymakers and stakeholders involved in the management of forest resources worldwide.

Policy Frameworks and Governance Structures in the Czech Republic and Nigeria

Sustainable forestry is a global imperative, requiring a robust interplay between policy frameworks and governance structures to ensure the responsible management of forest resources. This narrative examines how the Czech Republic and Nigeria, two countries with markedly different historical, economic, and environmental contexts approach sustainable forest management. Through this comparative analysis, we gain insights into the strengths and challenges of each country's policy frameworks and governance structures, and we identify gaps in the existing literature that warrant further exploration.

Policy Frameworks in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has developed a comprehensive policy framework that integrates environmental, economic, and social goals to achieve sustainable forest management. Central to this framework is the **National Forest Programme (NFP)**, which sets strategic goals for sustainable forest management. The NFP prioritizes biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and socio-economic development, promoting a multifunctional approach to forest use that balances timber production with ecological and recreational functions (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, 2024). The NFP's focus on enhancing forest resilience and improving economic viability reflects the country's commitment to sustainability.

The **Forest Act** serves as the legal foundation for forest management in the Czech Republic, mandating sustainable practices such as reforestation, environmentally friendly logging, and the protection of forest health (Czech Statistical Office, 2023). This legislation ensures that forestry operations align with sustainability principles, providing clear guidelines for forest owners and managers.

Moreover, the widespread adoption of **certification schemes** like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) underscores the Czech Republic's commitment to responsible

forest management. These certification schemes enhance the transparency and accountability of forestry practices, offering market advantages for certified products and assuring consumers of their sustainability (FSC, 2024).

Governance Structures in the Czech Republic

The success of the Czech Republic's forestry policy framework is bolstered by strong governance structures. The **institutional framework** is characterized by a decentralized approach, with the Ministry of Agriculture overseeing policy implementation and regional forest management authorities handling operational aspects (Švihla et al., 2016). This structure facilitates effective monitoring and enforcement while enabling collaboration among various stakeholders, including forest owners' associations, environmental NGOs, and academic institutions.

Public participation is a cornerstone of Czech forestry governance, with mechanisms such as consultations, stakeholder meetings, and community involvement in decision-making processes. This participatory approach enhances transparency and ensures that diverse perspectives are incorporated into forest management decisions (Balcarová et al., 2014). Additionally, significant investments in **research and education** have been made to support sustainable forestry. Institutions like the Czech University of Life Sciences contribute to the development of innovative management practices and public awareness initiatives (Jandová et al., 2018).

Policy Frameworks in Nigeria

In contrast to the Czech Republic, Nigeria's forestry sector faces considerable challenges, including deforestation, illegal logging, and weak policy implementation. However, Nigeria has made strides in developing a comprehensive policy framework aimed at promoting sustainable forestry. The **National Forest Policy** seeks to ensure sustainable forest management by emphasizing conservation, enhancing forest productivity, and improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities (FAO, 2020). The policy advocates for community-based management and legal reforms to

secure land tenure for local communities, with strategies focused on reducing deforestation, promoting reforestation, and enhancing the economic value of forest resources.

Nigeria's participation in the **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT)** initiative marks a significant step towards combating illegal logging and promoting legal timber trade (EU FLEGT Facility, 2019). FLEGT aims to ensure that timber products entering the European market are legally sourced and sustainably managed, which is crucial for enhancing the country's forest governance and international trade relations.

Moreover, **community-based forest management** has emerged as a key policy approach in Nigeria, empowering local communities to manage forest resources sustainably (Akinyemi & Okechukwu, 2017). This approach involves developing local forest management plans, building community capacity, and ensuring that benefits from forest resources are equitably shared.

Governance Structures in Nigeria

Nigeria's forestry governance structures are currently undergoing reforms to address issues such as inadequate funding, corruption, and lack of coordination among government agencies. Efforts to **decentralize forest management** aim to improve efficiency and accountability by transferring decision-making authority to state and local levels (Nwosu, 2017). However, effective decentralization requires substantial capacity-building and resource allocation to local management units.

Anti-corruption measures are also being implemented to enhance governance, including the establishment of independent oversight bodies and the introduction of transparent procurement processes (Odewumi et al., 2013). Additionally, **international cooperation** plays a vital role in strengthening Nigeria's forest governance. Collaborations with international organizations and donor agencies provide technical assistance, funding, and capacity-building support, which are

essential for addressing the challenges faced by Nigeria's forestry sector (Oyebo et al., 2010).

Gaps in the Research

While the literature provides a comprehensive overview of the policy frameworks and governance structures in both the Czech Republic and Nigeria, there are notable gaps that require further investigation. For instance, there is limited research that directly compares the effectiveness of different governance models in achieving sustainable forestry across varying socio-political contexts. The impact of decentralization efforts in Nigeria, particularly in relation to capacity-building and anti-corruption measures, also remains underexplored. Furthermore, the role of public participation in shaping forest management decisions, especially in community-based approaches in Nigeria, warrants more detailed examination.

In the Czech Republic, while the existing research highlights the success of institutional frameworks and public participation, there is a need for more studies on the long-term effectiveness of certification schemes and their impact on forest biodiversity and economic viability. Additionally, the integration of climate change adaptation strategies into national forestry policies is an area that could benefit from more focused research, particularly in understanding how these strategies are implemented and monitored.

This comparative analysis of the Czech Republic and Nigeria's forestry policy frameworks and governance structures reveals both strengths and challenges in their approaches to sustainable forest management. While the Czech Republic has established a robust framework supported by strong governance, Nigeria is making significant strides in addressing its challenges through policy reforms and international cooperation. However, gaps in the literature suggest that further research is needed to fully understand the effectiveness of these governance models and to identify best practices that can be applied globally to promote sustainable forestry.

Comparative Analysis: Policy Frameworks and Governance Structures in the Czech Republic and Nigeria

Sustainable forestry requires robust policy frameworks and effective governance structures tailored to each country's unique context. The Czech Republic and Nigeria, despite their different socio-political and environmental landscapes, offer insightful case studies on how these elements are implemented to manage forest resources. This comparative analysis examines the effectiveness of their policies, the strength of their governance structures, and the role of community involvement in promoting sustainable forestry.

Policy Effectiveness

The Czech Republic has established itself as a leader in sustainable forest management, thanks to the effective implementation of its policies. The **National Forest Programme (NFP)** and **Forest Act** are key components of the country's policy framework, ensuring that forest management practices are both environmentally sustainable and economically viable. The success of these policies is largely attributed to strong institutional support and an emphasis on public participation, which facilitates transparency and accountability (Kučera et al., 2015). The Czech Republic's policies are not only comprehensive but are also effectively enforced, leading to tangible outcomes such as increased forest resilience and biodiversity conservation.

In contrast, Nigeria's policy framework, while comprehensive on paper, faces significant challenges in implementation. The **National Forest Policy** and Nigeria's participation in the **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT)** initiative represent important steps toward sustainable forestry. However, these policies often struggle to achieve their intended impact due to governance challenges such as inadequate funding, capacity constraints, and corruption (Nwosu, 2017). The gap between policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria highlights

the need for stronger governance mechanisms and better resource allocation to ensure that sustainable forest management objectives are met.

Governance Structures

The governance structures in the Czech Republic are well-defined and effective, providing a solid foundation for sustainable forest management. The country's institutional framework is characterized by clear roles and responsibilities across different levels of government and among various stakeholders, including forest owners, environmental NGOs, and academic institutions (Švihla et al., 2016). This centralized yet participatory approach ensures that policies are consistently enforced and that there is coordination among all parties involved in forest management.

On the other hand, Nigeria's governance structures are more decentralized, with forest management responsibilities distributed across federal, state, and local levels. While this approach holds potential for greater local involvement and tailored management practices, it also presents challenges related to coordination and capacity-building (Odewumi et al., 2013). The effectiveness of Nigeria's decentralized governance is often hampered by insufficient resources at the local level and a lack of clear guidelines for inter-agency cooperation. Strengthening local institutions and enhancing coordination among various levels of government are critical steps needed to improve the effectiveness of Nigeria's forestry governance.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is recognized as a crucial element of sustainable forestry in both the Czech Republic and Nigeria. In the Czech Republic, public participation is deeply integrated into the governance structure. Mechanisms such as public consultations, advisory committees, and stakeholder meetings ensure that the views and concerns of communities are taken into account in forest management decisions (Balcarová et al., 2014). This participatory approach not only enhances transparency

but also fosters a sense of ownership among community members, contributing to the success of sustainable forestry initiatives.

Nigeria is also making strides in enhancing community involvement, particularly through **community-based forest management** policies. These policies aim to empower local communities by providing them with legal rights and responsibilities for managing forest resources (Akinyemi & Okechukwu, 2017). Nigeria's approach focuses on building the capacity of local communities to manage forests sustainably and ensuring that they share in the benefits derived from these resources. While these efforts are commendable, there is still a need for further support in terms of capacity-building and legal reforms to fully realize the potential of community-based management in Nigeria.

The comparative analysis of the Czech Republic and Nigeria reveals significant differences in their approaches to sustainable forestry, shaped by their distinct governance structures and socio-political contexts. The Czech Republic's success in sustainable forest management is largely due to its strong institutional frameworks, effective policy implementation, and well-established community involvement mechanisms. In contrast, Nigeria faces ongoing challenges related to governance, policy implementation, and capacity constraints, despite having a comprehensive policy framework in place.

However, both countries demonstrate a commitment to improving sustainable forestry practices, with the Czech Republic serving as a model of effective governance and Nigeria showing potential through its efforts to decentralize management and empower local communities. Addressing the gaps in governance and policy implementation in Nigeria, particularly through enhanced coordination and capacity-building, will be crucial for advancing sustainable forestry in the country. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the Czech Republic's experience can provide valuable insights for other nations seeking to strengthen their forestry governance and policy frameworks.

Policy Recommendations: Enhancing Sustainable Forestry in the Czech Republic and Nigeria

Drawing on the comparative analysis of the Czech Republic and Nigeria's approaches to sustainable forestry, several targeted policy recommendations can be made to bolster the effectiveness of forest management in both countries. These recommendations focus on strengthening governance, enhancing community involvement, combating corruption, promoting sustainable practices, and leveraging international cooperation.

Strengthening Governance

Czech Republic: The Czech Republic has established a strong governance framework that has contributed significantly to its success in sustainable forestry. To maintain and enhance this effectiveness, it is crucial to continue strengthening institutional frameworks and public participation mechanisms. By doing so, the Czech Republic can ensure that its policies remain adaptive and responsive to emerging challenges, thereby preserving the health and productivity of its forests.

Nigeria: Nigeria faces more complex governance challenges, particularly at the local level. Enhancing capacity-building efforts for local institutions is essential to improve the implementation of forestry policies. Additionally, improving coordination among government agencies will help streamline efforts and reduce inefficiencies, leading to more effective forest management (Nwosu, 2017). By focusing on these areas, Nigeria can build a stronger governance framework that supports sustainable forestry.

Enhancing Community Involvement

Czech Republic: While the Czech Republic already has a well-established participatory approach to forest management, there is always room for improvement. Increasing community engagement through educational programs and participatory management practices will deepen public involvement and foster a stronger connection between communities and their local forests (Jandová et al., 2018). This

approach not only enhances transparency but also ensures that local knowledge and needs are integrated into forest management decisions.

Nigeria: For Nigeria, securing land tenure rights for local communities is a critical step in promoting sustainable forestry. By providing legal recognition and protection for these communities, Nigeria can empower them to manage forest resources sustainably. Additionally, promoting community-based management practices will ensure that local communities have a vested interest in the long-term health of their forests (Akinyemi & Okechukwu, 2017). This approach is vital for reducing deforestation and encouraging sustainable land use.

Combating Corruption

Czech Republic: Transparency and accountability are key strengths of the Czech Republic's forest management practices. To maintain this integrity, it is important to continue upholding high standards of transparency in all forestry operations. This includes regular audits, clear reporting mechanisms, and active oversight by independent bodies to prevent any potential abuses of power.

Nigeria: Corruption remains a significant barrier to effective forest management in Nigeria. Implementing robust anti-corruption measures is essential for reducing illegal logging and other unlawful activities in the forestry sector (Odewumi et al., 2013). Strengthening monitoring systems and enhancing the enforcement of forestry laws will help curb corruption and promote legal and sustainable forestry practices.

Promoting Sustainable Practices

Czech Republic: The Czech Republic should continue to lead by example in promoting sustainable forestry practices. One effective way to do this is by expanding the adoption of certification schemes like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). These certifications not only ensure that forestry operations meet high environmental and

social standards but also provide market benefits for sustainably produced forest products (Forest Stewardship Council, 2021).

Nigeria: To encourage the adoption of sustainable forestry practices in Nigeria, it is important to increase awareness through targeted training and extension services (FAO, 2020). Providing education and resources to forest managers and local communities will help them understand the benefits of sustainable practices and equip them with the tools needed to implement these practices effectively.

Leveraging International Cooperation

Czech Republic: Engaging in international collaborations can provide the Czech Republic with opportunities to share its best practices in sustainable forestry while also learning from other countries. These collaborations can lead to the development of innovative management strategies and enhance global efforts to combat deforestation and promote sustainable land use.

Nigeria: For Nigeria, strengthening partnerships with international organizations and donor agencies is crucial. These collaborations can provide the technical assistance and financial support needed to address the challenges facing Nigeria's forestry sector (Oyebo et al., 2010). By leveraging international cooperation, Nigeria can gain access to the expertise and resources necessary to implement effective and sustainable forest management practices.

The Czech Republic and Nigeria, while different in their forestry contexts, can both benefit from targeted policy enhancements. The Czech Republic should focus on maintaining its strong governance and expanding community involvement, while Nigeria needs to address its governance challenges, secure community rights, and combat corruption. Both countries can advance sustainable forestry through continued promotion of best practices and by leveraging international cooperation to share knowledge and resources. These recommendations provide a roadmap for enhancing sustainable forest management, ensuring that both nations can protect their forests for future generations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of forestry policies and governance structures in the Czech Republic and Nigeria underscores the critical role that tailored, context-specific approaches play in achieving sustainable forest management. The Czech Republic's success is a testament to the power of robust regulatory frameworks, strong institutional support, and active stakeholder engagement. These elements have allowed the country to align its forest management practices with both national goals and broader European Union environmental standards, ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of its forest resources.

On the other hand, Nigeria's journey towards sustainable forestry is marked by significant challenges, including weaker policy enforcement and socio-economic constraints. Yet, the country's progress in community-based forest management and its engagement in international cooperation offer a promising path forward. By integrating local communities into the management process and recognizing the value of indigenous knowledge, Nigeria is laying the groundwork for more sustainable and inclusive forestry practices.

The lessons drawn from these two countries highlight the importance of adaptive management strategies that are sensitive to local environmental, social, and economic conditions. The Czech Republic and Nigeria, despite their differences, both demonstrate the need for policy coherence, enhanced stakeholder participation, and the integration of sustainable practices to strengthen forestry governance.

As global challenges such as climate change and deforestation continue to threaten our natural resources, the insights gained from this analysis are invaluable. They provide a roadmap for policymakers worldwide who are striving to enhance the sustainability of their forestry sectors. By learning from the successes and ongoing efforts in both the Czech Republic and Nigeria, the global community can work towards more effective and resilient forest management practices that will safeguard our forests for future generations.

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