

## CLIMATE CHANGE, PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) AND THE STATUS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES OF KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

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The humid drylands of some rural communities in Katsina state of Nigeria are a rich diversity of natural ecosystem resources. However, climate change, deforestation, overgrazing, etc. threaten the aforementioned. Participatory Rural Appraisal as a diagnostic tool is used to generate information, identify needs, and help strengthen the capacity of rural communities to plan, make decisions, and take action toward improving their situation. This approach was developed in the early 1990s as a considerable shift in paradigm from a top-down to a bottom-up approach and as a blueprint for the learning process. This study is a Community Needs Assessment (CNA), through the use of community-level information (CLI), in which the community people are involved in generating the information. The findings indicate that despite various interventions by various tiers of government, non-governmental organizations, and donor agencies together with the efforts of the communities' members, desertification and forest degradation continue. As most of the interventions are done in such a way that the communities are not involved in the planning and execution of the projects. The study recommends the need to enable the participation of community members in all projects thereby promoting behavioral changes to innovations and interventions.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Participation, Poverty, Rural Community, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

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