

The Study of Nongovernmental Organizations and International
Natural Resources Management: Forest Resource

Abstract

Environmental pollution still became worse and worse after Earth Summit was held in 1992. The Agenda 21 signed in Earth Summit clearly pointed out that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) would be the main forces to drive environmental protection in the future. Hence, the environmental NGOs increased rapidly in recent years, and so forth the forest resources management was brought up among the environmental issues.

This study uses content analysis and from the secondary data available would like to know that:(1) how the international NGOs engage in forest management issues;(2) the backgrounds of international environment protection treaties signed;(3) the present situation of the forest around the world and (4) uses the balance analysis to suggest what are the NGOs could have done and what will be their strategies in the future.

We found that the forest was decreasing continuously at areas of “Latin American and Caribbean” and “Sub-Saharan Africa” from 1990 to 1999, which are over the average of the whole world. Besides, if analyzed by income levels, the results showed that the forest was decreasing in areas of “Low Income” and “Upper Middle Income” more rapidly than other income levels. Lower income countries may have higher possibilities to earn income by export timber or woods.

Since we haven't seen any possibilities that the inter-governmental organizations could put forest-using management into effect, NGOs should intervene in this task. Several works need to be achieved in the future by NGOs to improve the balance between forest resource using and preserving:

- (1) Continue to put emphasis on education of environmental protection;
- (2) Continue to play the roles of monitor, advocator and policy provider;
- (3) Establish NGOs alliance in forest protection;
- (4) Establish an international forest-protection foundation.

Key words: nongovernmental organizations, NGOs, international natural resource, forest resource, balance analysis.