



A Conspectus of Strategies Towards Sustainable Floral Resources in the Context of Environmental and Socio-Economic Stability

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ABSTRACT

In the centrepiece of academic discourse, the concept or issue of sustainability leads by the nose. The continuous use of resources will shore up human life and sustenance. As such, sustainability is wrapped around social progress, economic balance, and environmental stewardship aligned with natural resources. Also, on the ground that, for instance, the sustainability of flora resources is an ultimate mechanism to conserve, protect and maintain biological resources. Within this purview and ambience, this paper examines distinct strategies and measures towards achieving sustainable floral resources. These strategies include incorporating the local community; participatory approach of the local community in conservation; authentication of aboriginal knowledge; establishment of a sustainable resource field, and; dissemination capacity building and training, all in the direction of achieving sustainable use of local flora resources. Based on the identified blueprints to attain sustainability, the paper further highlights the leeway of flora resources sustainability in that not only does food security, livelihoods and medicines of the aboriginal hinge on it. It portrays the degree and quality of the environment, but floral resources are an undaunted ample approach when it has to do with environmental compensation and socioeconomic development.

Keywords: *Flora resources, Strategies, Sustainability, Environment, Socio-economic, Stability*

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1. Introduction

Reaching the goal of a sustainable environment seems to be out of sight and not achievable considering the threat of floral resources exploitation in the nearest future alongside expanding human population and the increase in the rate of urbanization (Tokede & Ahmed, 2021; Rashid & Rasheed, 2022). Recently, there has been exponential demand, usage and exploitation of resources (Tokede & Ahmed, 2021). This may not be unconnected to the fact that there are changing consumption patterns in the international trade as plants (leaves, bark, roots, flowers, among others) and animals (live or parts including skin, meat, ivory, horns, bones, fiber, claws, and lot more) which are precious and high-priced are burgeoning demanded as food, medicinal, ornamental and so on. All this culminated in enlisting these resources in the threatened zone. The involvement in wildlife or biodiversity trade by most African, Asian and South American countries, whereby whole or components of species are traded off, also worsened the situation (Brashares et al., 2004; Rashid et al., 2022b; Victory et al., 2022). However, it is very germane to state that, even though these circumstances are warranted by changing consumption patterns, stakeholders need to drum to ears of stakeholders the essence of sustainable use of flora resources.

Therefore, the world in the post-COVID-19 era must exert effort and put in place a strategy towards getting an atmosphere that will not only be conducive to humans and other creatures. This can be achieved by striving to sustain resources in the domain, which will go along in tackling myriad environmental and socioeconomic challenges. Moreover, this forestry strategy will further mean managing the environment and actualizing its sustainability (Asif, 2022; Rasheed et al., 2022). The pertinence of sustainable use of flora resources as social-ecological systems capable of achieving environmental management, planning, and sustainability have become more visible in recent times and arduous to jettison. Thus safeguarding the floral resources, which, if sustained, will have an unprecedented good fortune to not only human existence as well as survival but also guarantee feasible environmental and socioeconomic stability (Rashid et al., 2022a; Victory et al., 2022). Many plant species, like Berberis, Ginseng, West Indian Mahogany, and Taxus, have witnessed a quantity downturn due to collectors' handiwork. Alongside the reduction and possible extinction of several animal species, both aquatic and wild animals such as whales, Tibetan antelope, elephants, cheetah, vicuna, tiger, and lemur Rhinos all as a result of the growing delicacy of their meat, poaching activities, unrestricted hunting for the pet trade of this species demand and poaching activities in these countries (Ayaz, 2022; Brashares et al., 2004; Hashmi & Mohd, 2020). For example, pointedly, the horns of Rhinos are hunted since they are invaluable, and curiously the black rhinos are sought-after therefore being classified as endangered species. Similarly, elephants are hunted illegally solely for their meat, bones and ivory.

2. Conceptual Issues: Sustainability and Sustainable Flora Resources

The concept 'of sustainability' became visible in the 80s. A term which denotes undeletable energy resources and eco-friendly potentiality aims to reinforce human life and sustenance. Consequently, sustainability encompassed social progress, economic balance, and environmental stewardship of natural resources. Further, sustainability is defined as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Sustainability is an agenda or blueprint which outlines that the present generation is meeting their own needs. They must in any way imperil or subvert the needs of the next generations. It connotes the need to use natural resources and social and economic resources judiciously. Furthermore, the issues of economic development and social equity have been a central focus of sustainability (Basit, 2022; Hashmi et al., 2020a).

Environment issues encapsulate juggling between physical, biotic and chemical factors that consider the effect on organisms or habitat or environment and which, in due time, have a hunch on their pattern, arrangement and survival (Islam, 2004). However, indices from global ecological trends show that humanity currently faces the risk of irreversible changes in the ecological community and what it takes to support, upkeep, maintain and sustain livelihood in all its ramifications. Keeping the environment and the world's economy from falling along with sustaining human life in the twenty-first century remains a conundrum. At this moment, human life is plunged into a state of imbalance and pollution not by anything but rather as a consequence of humanely-induced actions and reactions. However, it becomes imperative to exploit locally thought measures regarding knowledge and culture that will show the ropes to sustainability (Hashmi et al., 2020b). The motivations behind sustainability are often complex, personal and diverse. It is unrealistic to create a list of why so many individuals, groups and communities are working towards this goal. However, for most people, sustainability comes down to the kind of future we are leaving for the next generation. Many individuals and organizations who demonstrate this value in their policies, everyday activities and behaviors share sustainability as a value. Individuals have played a significant role in developing our current environmental and social circumstances. The people of today and future generations must create solutions and adapt (Hashmi et al., 2021a).

The environment is the complex of physical, chemical and biotic factors that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival (Islam, 2004). It encompasses natural resources like soil, flora, fauna, water, air and light that affect the living organism. Sadly, the biosphere is now giving us many signals that it is incredibly distressing; that it is struggling to cope with natural resource depletion, ozone depletion, acid rain, ecosystem loss, polluted air, land, river and ocean (Islam, 2004; Hashmi et al., 2021b). Surprisingly, sustainable flora resources are the ultimate mechanism to conserve, protect and maintain biological resources. The sustainable usability of flora resources has become the threshold of biodiversity components in agriculture, forestry, tourism, water management, fisheries and many other sectors. The significance of sustainable use of flora resources and biodiversity encompasses everything at the ecosystem level ranging from landscape management to connectivity to livelihoods and health of present-day and from here to eternity mankind. In 1975 Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) put forward threatened and endangered species that need protection from extinction. The above instance summarizes the genuinely sustainable use of flora and fauna. The twelve principles of the convention stated therein the need for robust ecosystem management and its concomitant relation to humans in their various cultural environments. It not only stated integrated management of natural resources (water, land and bioresources). In this case, humans and their cultural diversity are recognized as part and parcels of ecosystems. No wonder Convention on Biological Diversity asserts that the definition of sustainable use of flora resources and the need to uphold such is one of its thrust mandates (Vliet, 2000).

3. Strategies and Measures Towards Achieving Sustainable Floral Resources

Hamilton (2005) asserted that the basic idea behind sustainable utilization is that a floral resource should be utilized while emphasizing environmental conservation. In this manner, Hamilton (2005) posited that sustainable utilization or usability of resources would be tantamount to the rejuvenation of the said resources to affirm availability and continuity for the upcoming generation. In the words of Wong et al., 2001, sustainable utilization of floral resources has a place for the maintenance and continuance of these species regardless of the saturated want of these resources worldwide to give room renewal. Having said that, the following are put forth as strategies, measures or practices to achieve sustainability of flora resources as noted above; the ultimate aim and goal is to conserve, protect and maintain the floral resources that are imminent to cultural, ecological and commercial extinction going by statistical projections. Meanwhile, several strategies have been put forward to explain the essence of strategies employed to achieve sustainability (Rasheed, 2022).

4. Incorporation of Local Community

One of the identified measures to ensure the sustainability of floral resources is incorporating the local community in the evaluation, preparation and value chain assessment of resources. This procedure will provide the means for the indigenous people to be acquitted with the available resources, within what plausible range to gather, the present circumstance, effect and impacts of destructive gathering. Moreover, it will be an eye opener and insightful for the locals in knowing the worth of floral resources gathered through the medium of the value chain process. It will further divulge various benefits accrued to stakeholders participating in the process and their roles and responsibilities in upholding resource conservation. In line with this measure, the native will be able to get an eyeeful adverse effect of 'business-as-usual techniques, consequences of destructive gathering, and prevailing value chains. All these moves will prepare the ground for developing an alternate value chain template, executing actions, and a participatory management plan to actualize the sustainable gathering of floral resources (Rashid, 2016).

5. Local Community Participatory Approach in Conservation

The arrangement of this approach is the need to take along and enmesh people of different socio-economic caliber, inaugurate a local institution partnership and essential and impartial orientation, by this roles and responsibilities are assigned, their actual reliance as a human being on these resources for survival are enumerated and by extension the justification to conserve and sustain the use of floral resources. As a step further in order to accomplish sustainability of floral resources, substantive participation of people of different socio-economic caliber is needed in that it will make it possible for the indigenous to identify and select species in addition to the location to earmark for sustainable collection of resources (Rashid & Amirah, 2017). Simultaneously, adopting the paradigm and methodology on the heel of considering traditional know-how in outlining and achieving the desired result. Paradigm and strategy close to hand towards species selection in order for indigenous people to take responsibility in spare heading their sustainability are made up of:

- (a) resource-based species providing higher livelihood opportunities;
- (b) premium species;
- (c) species with different parts harvested;
- (d) wilderness species;
- (e) regional species.

6. Authentication of Traditional Knowledge

Another prominent measure to achieve sustainable floral resources is the authentication of aboriginal knowledge. The knowledge of the floral resources of the aboriginal is considered as regards cultural and spiritual relevance, medicinal values and traditional uses, phenology of the species, building local and species profiles, harvesting patterns and processing, regeneration, propagation, distribution, animal interaction, climate and productivity (Alrazehi et al., 2021). These measures will result, among others, the foster relationship between the local community and the resources; it will induce documentation of local people's knowledge about gathering resources; a sense of belonging is accorded to the indigenous having not involving external forces in the process and; establishing a coherent between scientific erudition and traditional knowledge on the best practice to gather resources (Rashid et al., 2019).

7. Establishment of a Sustainable Resource Field

Nevertheless, establishing a sustainable floral resource field can be considered a measure to safeguard floral resources. In sustaining floral resources, a distinct site needed to be designated not only to practice holistic and comprehensive sustainable gathering practices but also, in the long run, to make

it possible to grasp an ecological understanding of species, their accumulation, gathering, marketing, as well as its value addition. It could suitably be said that this measure aims at allocating and establishing a designated location that will allow putting sustainable resource harvesting into practice. This will provide an incentive for the excellent gathering of resources and building teamwork approaches on the field using the compass of aboriginal know-how and academic knowledge (Rashid et al., 2020; Rasheed, 2022).

8. Dissemination Capacity Building and Training

This measure epitomizes the need to organize relevant training workshops for various stakeholder entities deemed critical in the process in order for them to have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. This unequivocally will build their confidence, achievement and overall performance to the extent of reconsidering the adaptive, sustainable management plan of action. Without mincing words, sharing information, methodology, and related issues concerning sustainable harvesting and gathering floral resources have a far-reaching effect in realizing the goal. For instance, achieving interpersonal communication with the aboriginal is very instrumental. It outlines the importance of training and building capacity, even though other stakeholder groups can also be reached with other communication mechanisms such as mass communication (Haque et al., 2021).

9. Significance of Sustainable Floral Resources

All over, the significance of floral resources are to be considered in point of fact that the food security, livelihoods, and medicines of the aboriginal hinge on it. Thus the promotion, protection and preservation of this resource are as good as preserving the sustenance of the local and indigenous populations. Conventionally, floral resources have been instrumental in making the world's biological diversity. They form their principal constituent and provide vital resources for the planet to be habitable for man and other creatures. It is worth stressing that floral resources are pertinent in supplying or providing humanity with food, fibre and therapeutic but correspondingly subsume socio-cultural and economic importance and potential. Not forgetting that these resources are instrumental in tackling myriads of climate change and environmental challenges. Floral resources of a habitat bring about intrinsic ecosystem stability and environmental balance as well as providing and maintaining an indispensable component for the survival of human and animal communities (Das et al., 2021; Paton et al., 2008; Williams, 2012; Rashid et al., 2021). Handful factors have been put forward to explain the significance of maintaining sustainable floral resources. A few of these are identified and discussed as follows:

10. Beacons' Quality of the Environment

Another benefit of sustainable floral resources is that they depict the environment's degree and quality. It is the best parameter to comprehend the status of the environment. Having floral resources and plant communities around in an environment clearly shows the degree of naturalness of such an area. They are pointers of the excellent state and habitable environment. This is because the floral taxon is a high priority in many instances to be considered in determining the amplitude of a habitat (Rossi et al., 2014). More than that, in carrying out an impact assessment study, these floral resources are best sought after in this respect. Unlike landfills, farmland, edges of the road etc., these are not considered in the context of environmental assessments; at worst, they are only conserved since they are devoid of floristic elements expected to be protected. It is thereupon unequivocally clear that the spotlight for the impact assessment will be the whole traditional agricultural landscape in preference of the natural one (Baloch & Rashid, 2022). It remains a perfect beacon to show the environment's type, state and quality as encompassing floral communities in its domain. According to Pott (2011), a prominent parameter of an environment's state of affairs is considering the plant communities in such a habitat. Such manifestation, no doubt, also harbingers and weights ecological determinants. In the words of Sabella (2015), floral resources are the driving elements and incentives in determining the realm of possibility and condition of the fauna of an area. It is instrumental as an expression of the condition of an ecosystem as a whole. As an illustration, in Italy, credence is given to flora and vegetation in various smaller

territories. For this, scholars underscore this feat as an index and a good omen for environmental impact assessment (Blasi et al., 2011; Blasi & Frondoni, 2011).

11. Environmental Compensations

Making environmental restitution heretofore has been hinged on the use of floral resources. Examples of such approaches and regulations have been adopted in the USA, Germany in the 1970s, and the European Union (EU). The use of floral resources is undaunted a good approach when it has to do with environmental compensation. It is seen as excessive for rebuilding and reconstructing a damaged environment (Persson, 2013; Agha et al., 2021). As earlier said, floral resources are a good yardstick for environmental impact assessments; if the assessment report indicates a fair loss of ecosystems or habitats, an excellent approach to retribute and restore the environment is embarking upon floral resources projects. Emphatically, such activities are a good path for environmental rejuvenation and restoration devoid of sterility (Morelli, 2011; Khan et al., 2022a).

12. Restoration of Socioeconomic Activities

The concept of restoration connotes a situation to recover the socioeconomic habitat resources from decline. In this aspect, the utilization of floral resources for environmental restoration is an avenue not far in mitigating and compensating for the impact of ecological loss. The construction process of the environment can be quickened by considering the vegetation series of floral resources. In the real sense, habitat infrastructure can easily be set in motion by the intervention of these resources. Recently, this particular concept was undertaken in some Europe and North American countries such as Italy, German, and the USA (Persson, 2013; Khan et al., 2022c; Khan et al., 2021). As asserted by Başnou (2009); Domènech et al. (2005); and La Mantia et al. (2012), the presence of these resources, in most cases, depicts the legacy of the past. Therefore, a good course of environmental restoration is the plantation and sustainability of the floral resources (Minissale, 2015; Khan et al., 2022b). Conclusively, this paper has tried to describe various strategies that can be harnessed to achieve sustainable floral resources that will sway good quality environment and restore socio-economic activities. While the paper believes that the significance of floral resources is to be considered in point of fact that the aboriginal food security, livelihoods, and medicines hinge on it. The paper, however, contends that strategies and approaches promoting the sustainability highlighted above must be implemented to achieve friendly resource conservation and environmental and socioeconomic sustainability. This, by extension, will support sustainable development.

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