

Assessment of Sustainability in the Wulo Abiye Watershed, Central Highlands of Ethiopia

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Abstract : Assessing the sustainability of watersheds holds significant importance for regional natural resource management and to achieve sustainable development. This study investigated the sustainability of the Wulo Abiye watershed, central highlands of Ethiopia. The sustainability status of the watershed was evaluated by using 17 indicators representing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development goals (SDGs) based on the local and existing conditions of the watershed. The results indicated that environmental sustainability was at a 'high' level, while social and economic sustainability and the aggregate index were at 'moderate' levels. The overall level of community participation in the planning and evaluation phases of watershed management was at 'low' levels. The implementation phase was at a 'high' level. Overall, the sustainability status of watershed management and level of community participation were at 'moderate' levels. The study concluded that integrated support is needed to overcome the identified challenges to achieve sustainable development in watersheds.

Keywords : WuloAbiye watershed, community participation, watershed management, sustainable development

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