

Submitted Abstract

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First Author First Name Last Name	Sarah Karam
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Sarah Karam
Correspondence	sk172@aub.edu.lb
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Hamadeh, Shady
Organisations	Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
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Abstract

Interrelated social, economic and environmental factors at local, regional and global scales have been affecting food security in its different dimensions: food availability, food access, utilization, and stability. Unsustainable economic development has been threatening the livelihoods of poor communities and exacerbating food security risks especially in developing countries and rural contexts. Ecological limitations, inadequate socio-political systems, limited access for small-scale farmers to market, information, green technology, infrastructure and finance, conflicts and wars, natural resources overexploitation, and poverty are all significant factors affecting food security. On top of that, climate change highly threatens food security specially impacting poor small-scale farmers who are the least resilient.

In response to some of the above-mentioned challenges, protected areas have significant potentials in promoting food security through their high abilities to mitigate and adapt to climate change; their provision of ecosystem services; and their promotion of sustainable livelihoods. However, the impact of protected areas on local communities has been highly contentious.

This paper looks into the role played by protected areas to promote food security while taking Lebanon as a case study. For this aim, management plans of five different protected areas are revised. One of these protected areas is selected as pilot in which locals are interviewed for the aim of capturing the protected area's impact on the locals' livelihoods. Being a pilot in focusing on protected areas' contribution to food security in Lebanon, this paper shall highlight the role that protected areas are playing or could be playing in promoting food security and recommend on best practices to support efficient contribution to food security.