



## **Development of a Sustainable Natural Resource Management Framework for Fostering Conservation of Biodiversity and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Biodiversity has social, economic, ecological and ethical value. Understanding ecological functions of biodiversity, respecting the ethics and social importance of biodiversity, and the appropriate exploitation and use of biodiversity are the global issues facing biodiversity today. Following inextricable links between indigenous peoples and local communities and the territories and resources upon which they depend, the loss of biological diversity fuels the loss of cultural and linguistic diversity and inter-generational transmission of knowledge and practices. Evident are human activities despoiling the planet, exacerbated by current climate change predictions and a model of human's unsustainable and conspicuous consumption. The unsustainable use of ecosystem services for supporting this emerging consumer culture while ignoring the ecological consequences to economies and other aspects of well-being has become quite entrenched. Biodiversity conservation constitutes a paramount concern worldwide to preserve the natural habitats of vulnerable Medicinal and Aromatic Plants' species and achieve sustainable exploitation in less vulnerable areas. Combating diminishing biodiversity and dwindling traditional knowledge requires access to and exchange of information amongst researchers, scientists, policy makers, and indigenous populations. This paper presents a sustainable natural resource management framework for fostering biodiversity conservation while at the same time maintaining traditional knowledge in ethnomedicine and conserving the local ecosystems, adopting Community-Based Participatory Research approach. Coordination between different stakeholders, indubitable improvement in national education standards, and a legal framework that provides a basis for co-management agreements would inevitably constitute critical success factors for viable and sustainable conservation agreements within the framework.

**Keywords:** biodiversity, framework, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, stakeholders