

2009 School Seminar Series

Waikato Management School
Te Raupapa



The Link Between Poverty and the Environment in Malawi

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Demonstration of the Passport GMID Database

James Revell

University Library

Wednesday, 16 September 2009

1.10pm – 2:00pm

MSB.0.01

Abstract: Bentry Mkwara

Deforestation arising from conversion of forest areas into agriculture is a serious problem in Malawi. Cultivation of subsistence and cash crops is often cited as a major cause of this problem. This paper applies the von Thunen model to firstly, discuss competition for agricultural land and secondly, establish why the poor are closely associated with forests. Further, a regression analysis is conducted to examine the effects of changes in crop land use on changes in forest cover. Results indicate that cultivation of different crops has varying effects on deforestation. Cultivation of maize, primarily by the poor, appears to be the principal cause of deforestation while tobacco and pulses stand at second and third positions, respectively. Finally, a simple methodology is developed to estimate the extent of poverty-driven deforestation in Malawi

Abstract: James Revell

Passport GMID targets clients in the areas of Economics and Marketing, and is a source of international economic indicators and industry information, a brief description of the database is provided at <http://www.euromonitor.com/PassportGMID>.