

## Modern Slavery and Environmental Quality: Effects and Transmission Channels

**Mohammadou Nourou\***

*Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management  
University of Garoua, Cameroon*

**Atangana Ignace Eric**

*Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management  
University of Maroua, Cameroon*

**Abstract:** This article contributes to the literature on the relationship between modern slavery and environmental quality. Despite growing interest in this subject, existing studies have yet to examine the transmission channels through which modern slavery affects the environment. We use an econometric model to estimate both the effects and the transmission channels of modern slavery on the ecological footprint in 40 developing and developed countries between 2005 and 2020. Results show that modern slavery, measured by the exploitation of forced labour, significantly affects the ecological footprint. Furthermore, mediation analysis reveals that modern slavery not only has a direct positive effect on the ecological footprint, but also an indirect positive effect through its impact on ICT usage and an indirect negative effect through its impact on health and the quality of governance. To combat modern slavery and improve environmental quality, governments should develop policies aimed at improving public health, the quality of governance, and promoting the use of ICT.

**Keywords:** Modern Slavery, Environmental Quality, Multiple Equation Model

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\* Email: [nourouacademy@gmail.com](mailto:nourouacademy@gmail.com)

\*\* Corresponding author. PhD Candidate. Email: [ericcostaatangana@yahoo.fr](mailto:ericcostaatangana@yahoo.fr)