

Natural Resource Endowment and Sustainable Development Linkage in Ethiopia

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Abstract

Natural resource endowment in many economies of the world became a curse rather than blessing. The purpose of this study is to examine the link between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia over the period 1981 to 2016 using an Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) modeling approach. The findings suggest that natural resource endowment has no significant effect on sustainable development (measured by adjusted net national income) in Ethiopia in the long run but it has a statistically significant negative effect in the short run, supporting the hypothesis in the resource curse literature. Among the other variables included in the model of sustainable development, investment (gross capital formation) and human capital are found to have a significant positive effect while debt servicing is found to affect sustainable development in Ethiopia negatively in the long run. On the other hand, population growth and trade openness are found to have a statistically significant negative effect on sustainable development in Ethiopia both in the long run and short run. Policies towards increasing the human capital stock in the country, among others, are the policy options that the government could work on so as to tackle the possible problems of natural resource curse and achieve sustainable development goals in the country.

Keywords: Natural Resources Endowment; Sustainable Development; Resource Curse; Ethiopia.

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1. Introduction

There is a growing awareness of the increasingly sharp demands that human societies place on their economies and their natural environment, and of the corrosion of many social and political institutions. The sustainability movement calls for a more sophisticated and inclusive view of development and well-being that explicitly takes into account ecological health, natural resource stocks, vibrant and just communities, and democratic processes (Hackett, 2006).

In more detail, Kahn (1995) clearly shows the three imperatives of sustainable development: economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability. Economic sustainability, can be observed from point of view of, growth, productivity and trickle down whereas, social sustainability, can be observed from point of view of, equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, sharing, institutional stability and environmental sustainability, can be observed from point of view of, eco-system integrity, carrying capacity and biodiversity. Therefore, the extraction and consumption of resources should be in line with these objectives.

Ethiopia's economy experienced strong, broad-based growth averaging 10.3 percent a year from 2006/07 to 2016/17. Agriculture, construction and services accounted for most of the growth, with modest contribution from the manufacturing sector. The top ten exports of the country mostly comprises of primary commodities. Although the country has geological potential for the discovery of new, sizeable oil, gas and mineral deposits, most of its extractive industries are infant. Currently, there is one large scale gold mine in operation, 'Lege Dembi open pit mine', while a growing number of large mining projects are under development and exploitations for oil and natural gas is intensifying after significant discoveries in neighboring countries (WBG, 2018).

The question is what kind of relationship do exists between natural resources endowment and sustainable development? Can resource endowment matters for sustainable development? Mahatma Gandhi, rightly pointed out that, "The earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need, but not everyone's greed" (Singh, 2006).

Earliest growth theories indicates that significant revenues from natural resources should generate wealth, improves economic growth and reduces poverty. However, existing studies end up with mixed results, viewing natural resources as both a curse and blessing. In particular, after Sachs and Warner (1995,1997,2001), assert that resource rich countries grow slower while Ross(2001,2004), states that oil hinder democracy and fuels civil wars, the resource curse given too much attention. There are, however, a few countries that have managed to avoid this paradox which referred as exceptions of resource curse (Gylfason, 2010).

In the resource led-growth literature natural resource endowment leads to development. Conceptual frameworks such as the staples theory and the vent for surplus theory consider the presence of excess resources that are insufficiently exploited in economies usually small and closed and trade allows to foster exports and growth because natural resources are used productively (Barbier, 2007), mining promoted the establishment of prestigious educational centers and diffused knowledge to other activities (David et al., 1997; Wright, 2001).

However, in the resource curse literature natural resource endowment leads to underdevelopment. The allocation of resources between productive sectors with different spillover effects on aggregate growth emphasizes the role of specialization in economic development. Economies in which production is based on natural resource abundance, where manufacturing and services account for only a small share of the productive structure, will grow more slowly (Philip, 2007; Jalloh, 2013 and Nezhad, 2014), in addition, the so-called Dutch disease is an important concept in the literature on the natural resource curse hypothesis. Economies with abundant natural resources are subject to periodic rises and falls in their performance because commodity prices on world markets are variable and from time to time new exploitable natural resources are discovered. This process generates volatility in export and fiscal earnings and a real appreciation in the value of the country's currency, hurting other export industries (Willebald et.al, 2015).

Further, in a society with rampant corruption, more natural resources may hinder growth. In such countries more natural resources may stimulate predation, rent-seeking, and other destructive and/or non-productive activities, in turn creating negative externalities for the rest of the economy (Torvik, 2009), institutional quality can help reduce the curse or may even turn it into a blessing, but it is not obvious what type of institutional qualities is most beneficial in reaping the benefits of natural resources (Moshiri, 2017).

Why this study? prior works that examines the link between natural resource endowment and economic growth or development, didn't purely consider the issue of sustainable development, as far as the concept and measures of economic growth and economic development are different from sustainable development this consideration is vital. Furthermore, as far as our literature covers no previous empirical works exist in Ethiopia on this area. Therefore, this study tries to fill this gap.

There are wide range of ambitious development visions in Ethiopia, in order to achieve those goals a systematic examination of the link between natural resource endowment and sustainable development is crucial. Specifically, the study seeks; (1) To identify whether there is any co-integrating relationship between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia; and (2) To investigate empirically the short run and long run relationship between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia.

2. Methodology

2.1. Theoretical Framework

In specifying the model of sustainable development to be estimated, the theoretical framework for this study closely follows the specification given in Ding et al. (2016). Following the resource curse literature, the empirical specification in Ding et al. (2016) captures the effects of natural resource endowment on development based on a variant of endogenous growth model specified as:

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Z_t + \beta_2 TNRR_t + \varepsilon_t \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where y_t represents adjusted net national income, Z denotes a vector of control variables for sustainable development, (TNRR) represents total natural resources rents (% of GDP) which is a proxy for natural resource endowment, and ε is the error term that is assumed to be white noise.

2.2. The Econometric Approach

2.2.2. The Empirical Model in ARDL Framework

In the literature, a number of co-integration approaches such as the Engle-Granger (1987), Johansen (1988), and Pesaran et al (2001) ARDL approach, among others, are used. This study employs ARDL bounds testing approach to co integration advanced by Pesaran et al. (2001). The Pesaran et al (2001) ARDL approach has a number of advantages over other traditional co integration approaches (Yimer, 2017). Specially, it is comparatively more robust and efficient in small and finite samples consisting of 30 to 80 observations (Pesaran *et al.*, 2001). The above advantages of the ARDL technique over other standard co-integration techniques justify the application of ARDL approach in the present study. The methodological procedure in the ARDL framework involves first, it requires the checking of none of the variables have an integration order of 2 or higher. In order to do that, the augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test for checking the order of integration among the series is used. At the second step, the ARDL bounds testing approach to co integration developed by Pesaran et al. (2001) is applied. In order to do the bound test, the ARDL model used in this study is specified as

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 y_{t-1} + \beta_2 PGR_{t-1} + \beta_3 I_{t-1} + \beta_4 HCI_{t-1} + \beta_5 OP_{t-1} + \beta_6 DSR_{t-1} + \beta_7 TNRR_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_1 \Delta y_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_2 \Delta PGR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_3 \Delta I_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_4 \Delta HCI_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_5 \Delta OP_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_6 \Delta DSR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_7 \Delta TNRR_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t \dots (2)$$

Where, y_t represents adjusted net national income which is a measure of sustainable development, PGR is population growth rate, I is investment, HCI is human capital index, OP is trade liberalization, DSR is debt servicing ratio, TNRR is total natural resource rent, α_0 is the deterministic drift parameter and Δ denotes the first difference of the respective variables. ε_t is the white noise error term. p is the maximum lag length which is determined by the user.

In order to test co-integration among the variables, Pesaran *et al.* (2001) suggests the F-test for joint

significance of the coefficients of the lagged level of variables in Eq (2). The F-statistics for testing the joint null hypotheses(H_0) has to be compared with the critical values as tabulated by Pesaran et al. (2001). The H_0 to be tested on equation (2) is

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = \beta_5 = \beta_6 = \beta_7 = \beta_8 = \beta_9 = \beta_{10} = \beta_{11} = \beta_{12} = \beta_{13} = 0 \dots (3)$$

The alternative hypothesis against the null is given as

$$H_1: \beta_i \neq 0 \quad (4)$$

If H_0 hypothesis can be rejected then co-integration can be confirmed. Pesaran *et al.* (2001) provided two sets of critical values - lower and upper bound critical - for a given level of significance. Therefore, decision was made based on those values.

If the null hypothesis of no co integration is rejected, following the procedure in Pesaran *et al.* (2001), the error-correction model (ECM) will be estimated in the second step. The ECM is specified as follows:

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha_0 + \theta ec_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_1 \Delta y_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_2 \Delta PGR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_3 \Delta I_{t-1t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_4 \Delta HCI_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_5 \Delta OP_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_6 \Delta DSR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^p \delta_7 \Delta TNRR_{t-i} + v_t \dots (5)$$

Where, $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \delta_5, \delta_6, \delta_7$ are the short-run dynamic coefficients of the model's convergence to equilibrium, θ is the speed of adjustment from the short-run to the long-run equilibrium among the variables, and ec_{t-1} is the error-correction term.

2.3. Description of Variables and Source of Data

Dependant Variable

Sustainable development: According to Hanley et al. (2007) the best measure of sustainable economic development is green net national product or adjusted net national income which takes in to account consumption of fixed capital and natural resources depletion. In this study the proxy of sustainable development is adjusted net national income measured by GNI minus consumption of fixed capital and natural resources depletion. This data is extracted from world bank data base.

Explanatory Variables

Table 1: Summary of explanatory variables included in the study

Variables	Measurement	Expected sign	Source of data
Total Natural Resource Rents % of GDP (TNRR)	Sum of oil rents, natural gas rents, coal rents (hard and soft), mineral rents, and forest rents	?	World Bank
Population Growth Rate (PGR)	Annual population growth rate for year t is the exponential rate of growth of midyear population from year t-1 to t, expressed as a percentage	Negative	World Bank
Investment (I)	Total investment measured in millions of birr represents gross capital formation	Positive	National Bank of Ethiopia
Human Capital Index (HCI)	Based on years of schooling and returns to education	Positive	Penn world table/pwt9
Trade Openness (OP)	Ratio of the sum of exports and imports to GDP ratio.	Negative	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and primary income) (DSR)	Sum of principal repayments and interest actually paid in currency, goods, or services on long-term debt, interest paid on short-term debt, and repayments (repurchases and charges) to the IMF.	Negative	World Bank

Note: Explanatory variables are selected based on theory and empirical studies

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Introduction

In this chapter, the studies analyzed the collected data using STATA 14 software and present the result and discussions accordingly. All the data series that are obtained are transformed into logarithms to tackle possible heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation problems.

3.2. Pre-estimation tests

3.2.1. Test for Unit Root

Even though, the bounds test approach to co-integration does not need pre-testing for stationary of the variables included in the model, but still it is important to carry out stationary tests on all the series. This is because the ARDL bounds test to co-integration is not applicable if the order of integration is above I(1). It was therefore, necessary to test for stationary of the variables before regression analysis was done. It is notable that stationary properties of time series are investigated by testing for unit roots and there are several methods for testing for stationary. Thus, this study used the commonly used Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) (1981) unit root tests. The unit root tests results are presented in Table below.

Table 2: Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic (ADF Test)

Variables	At level		At first differences		Critical Values			Remark
	with trend	Without trend	With trend	Without trend	1%	5%	10%	
LANNI			-4.054***	-3.740***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LTNRR			-6.879***	-6.969***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LPGR			-5.515***	-6.703***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LHC			-3.575 **	-3.006**	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LDTSR			-6.335***	-6.421***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LIT			-5.465***	-5.555***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)
LOP			-6.199***	-6.280***	-3.689	-2.975	-2.619	I(1)

Note: ***, ** denotes stationarity at 1 percent and 5 percent level of significance respectively.

The above table shows unit root results of the series at level and first differences. The results ADF test suggest that all variables considered in the study are integrated of order one, I(1).

3.3. Co-integrating Results

In order to evaluate the ARDL bounds it is necessary to test for the existence of long-run relationship among the variables. The model was estimated by ARDL and the optimal lag was selected by Akaike Information criterion (AIC). After estimation we conducted an F-test on joint significance of the variables using ADRL bound Test the F-stat indicate there is a long run relationship at 1 percent, 2.5 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent between variables included in the model of sustainable development.

Table 3: ARDL Bounds test

ARDL Bounds Test		
Sample (adjusted): 1983 2016		
Null Hypothesis: No long-run relationships exist		
Test Statistic	Value	K
F-statistic	5.0497	6
Critical Value Bounds		
Significance	I0 Bound	I1 Bound
10 percent	2.03	3.13
5 percent	2.32	3.5
2.5 percent	2.6	3.84
1 percent	2.96	4.26

Note: The F-statistic tests the null hypothesis of no co integration.

3.4. The Long Run and Short Run Model

ARDL co integration technique proposed by (Pesaran, 2001) is the most appropriate method for estimation or to check the long run relationship among the variables.

Table 4: Estimated Results of Sustainable Development in ARDL Model

ARDL Co integrating And Long Run Form			
Dependent Variable: $\Delta(\log$ of Adjusted Net National Income)			
Selected Model: ARDL(1, 2, 2 1, 1, 2, 0)			
Sample (adjusted) : 1983 to 2016			
Short Run Coefficients			
Variable	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
$\Delta(\log$ of Total Natural Resource Rent)	-0.430***	-3.89	0.001
$\Delta(\log$ of Population Growth Rate)	-4.185**	-2.36	0.030
$\Delta(\log$ of Debt Servicing Ratio)	-0.075	-1.38	0.184
$\Delta(\log$ of Investment)	0.077	1.89	0.074
$\Delta(\log$ of Openness)	-1.242***	-4.77	0.000
<i>Error-correction Term</i>	-0.423***	-4.664	0.000
Long Run Coefficients			
Variable	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
\log of Total Natural Resource Rent	-0.277	-1.19	0.250
\log of Population Growth Rate	-5.016***	-3.04	0.007
\log of Debt Servicing Ratio	-0.245**	-2.37	0.029
\log of Investment	0.304**	2.75	0.013
\log of Openness	-3.179***	-4.61	0.000
\log of Human Capital	6.419***	3.19	0.005
Constant	-10.070***	-2.76	0.013

Note: ***, ** and * indicates 1 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent level of significance respectively
 Almost all variables included in the model has the expected sign in line with theory.

The empirical ARDL model in our study shows that natural resource endowment measured by total natural resource rent as percentage of GDP has a negative impact on sustainable development of Ethiopia in the short run supporting the hypothesis in the resource curse literature, holding other things constant increase in total natural resource rent by 1 percent decreases adjusted net national income by 0.430 percent in the short run and highly statically significant at 1 percent level of significance. Our findings are consistent with previous empirical works (Philip, 2007; Hussain et al., 2009; Jalloh, 2013; Godfrey et al., 2016) among others that justifies the cause of resource curse are inefficient control of the government on the economy and mismanagement of natural resource rents through rent seeking, high rate of corruption in the public sector and frequent civil conflicts. However, in the long run a negative but statistically insignificant relationship observed, this may be due to the possibility to rule out the impact of natural resource dependence on sustainable development in the long run.

Among other explanatory variables included in the model of sustainable development, holding other things constant increase in 1 percent of investment measured as gross capital formation increases adjusted net national income by 0.304 percent in the long run and 0.077 in the short run and statistically significant at 5 percent and 10 percent respectively. This indicates a positive short run and long run relationship between investment (gross capital formation) and sustainable development in Ethiopia.

More importantly, an increase in human capital by 1 percent increases adjusted net national income by 6.419 percent in the long run and highly statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance. Therefore, improvement in human capital has a positive and significant impact on sustainable development of Ethiopia in the long run. This may be due to the fact that human capital enables further innovation in all sectors of the economy and leads to increasing returns.

An increase in population growth rate by 1 percent decreases adjusted net national income by 5.016 percent in the long run and 4.185 percent in the short run and statistically significant at 1 percent and 5 percent respectively. Population growth rate adversely affects sustainable development of Ethiopia both in the long run and short run and the negative impact is highly significant in the long run.

An increase in debt servicing ratio by 1 percent decreases adjusted net national income by 0.245 percent in the long run and statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance but not significant in the short run. This indicates a negative relationship between debt servicing ratio and sustainable development in Ethiopia in the long run.

An increase in trade openness by 1 percent decreases adjusted net national income by 3.179 percent in the long run and 1.242 percent in the short run and highly statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance both in the short run and long run. Trade openness negatively affects sustainable development in Ethiopia both in the short run and long run. This may be due to the fact that the gains from trade for natural resource exporting countries is insignificant due to deterioration of their terms of trade.

The ECT is statistically significant at 1 percent and negative (-0.423) as expected showing that the deviation of adjusted net national income from equilibrium values is corrected by 42.3 percent in the following year.

3.5. Diagnostic and Model Stability Tests

The estimated model has a good fit as can be seen from R-squared and adjusted R-squared. R-squared is the square of the correlation coefficient between the values of the dependent variable and the corresponding fitted values from the model.

Table 5: Model Diagnostic Tests

Problems	Applicable Tests	Probabilities
Goodness of fit	R-squared	0.853
	Adjusted R-squared	0.733
Serial correlation	Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test	0.260
Functional form	Ramsey RESET Test	0.180
Normality	Skewness and Kurtosis of residuals	0.162
Heteroscedasticity	White's test	0.258

Note: The null hypothesis for Skewness and Kurtosis test is that errors are multivariate normal. The null hypothesis for Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM test is that there is no problem of serial correlation. The null hypothesis for White's heteroscedasticity test is that there is no problem of heteroscedasticity. The null hypothesis for Ramsey RESET test is that the model is correctly specified. Thus such tests indicate the acceptance of the null as their respective value is greater than 10 percent level of significance. Thus there is no problem of non-normality, autocorrelation, and heteroscedasticity in the errors. In addition, the model is correctly specified.

3.5.1. Test of Model Stability

The stability of long run estimates has been tested by applying the cumulative sum of recursive residuals (CUSUM) such tests are recommended by Pesaran (2001). CUSUM test indicate the model is significant at 5 percent critical value.

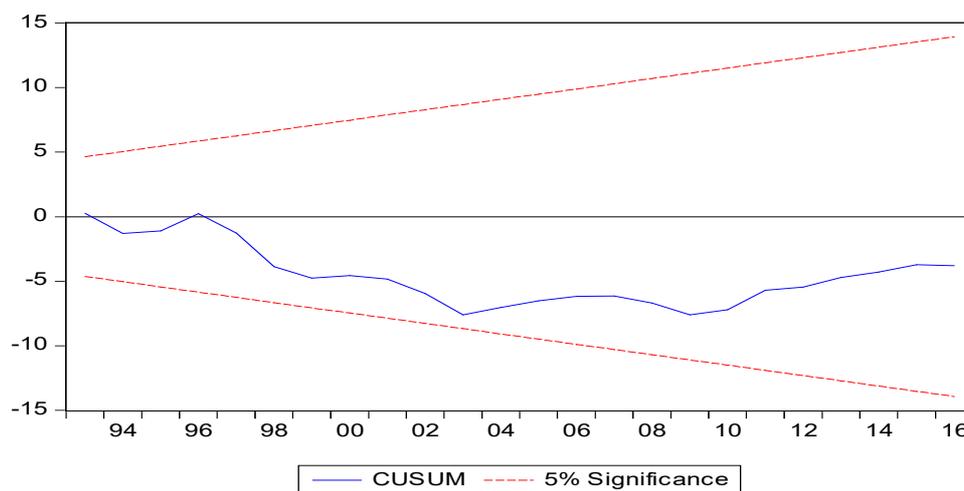


Figure 1: Parameter Stability Test

4. Conclusion and Policy Recommendation

4.1. Conclusion

This paper investigates the empirical relationship between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia during the period 1981–2016 by examining the long-run and short-run relationship between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia. The study used the Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bounds testing procedure to examine the presence of long-run and short-run relationship among the variables and to investigate the association between natural resource endowment and sustainable development.

The relationship between natural resources and economic growth can be expected to be complicated and controversial. Our results are not different from previous work done by different authors on this subject. The results of the study show that there is a significant negative short-run relationship between natural resource endowment and sustainable development in Ethiopia during the sample period which supports the hypothesis in the resource curse literature, however, there is no significant relationship in the long run. Moreover, previous empirical findings also support our results that the countries that are relatively abundant in natural resources unsuccessfully performed to sustain their development paths. Robustness of estimates has been checked for reliability of results. Among the other variables included in the model of sustainable development, investment (gross capital formation) and human capital are found to have a significant positive effect while debt servicing is found to affect sustainable development in Ethiopia negatively in the long run. On the other hand, population growth and trade openness are found to have a statistically significant negative effect on sustainable development in Ethiopia both in the long run

and short run.

4.2. Policy Recommendations

The findings of this study are hopefully important to design effective and critical policies in the resource sector. Based on the empirical analysis it is observed that in the short run natural resource endowment has a negative link with sustainable development implying the existence of resource curse in Ethiopia. Based on this finding we recommend that:-

- ✚ Policies towards increasing the human capital stock in the country is the best policy options that the government could work on so as to tackle the possible problems of natural resource curse and achieve sustainable development goals in the country.
- ✚ There is a need to establish an independent institutions in the natural recourse sector that are free from government authorities influence so as to improve the management of natural resources.
- ✚ The government better improve the way and method of collecting natural resource rents and rents from natural resources should be directed in to more productive investments to achieve sustainable development goals but rather than concentrating on the natural resource rents it is better to diversify the economy by improving other sectors.
- ✚ Strengthening of the gross capital formation (investment) process is highly vital to achieve long run sustainable development goals of Ethiopia.
- ✚ The study finally calls for interested researches on the resource curse to further strength or disprove the case in Ethiopia. Since we have used total natural resources rents (% of GDP) as a proxy for resource endowment, it would be possible for other researchers to employ other proxies such as agricultural commodity export as a percentage of GDP.

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