



Water Scarcity and Conflict Mitigation Practices in the Nile Basin of Malawi: An Ethnographic Inquiry

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Abstract

Water scarcity is a critical issue in Malawi's Nile Basin, affecting agricultural productivity and socio-economic stability. An ethnographic study was conducted through participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions with over 50 community members. Community leaders reported that water shortages led to reduced crop yields by up to 40% in some areas. Conflict mitigation strategies included seasonal water sharing agreements among neighboring villages. Communities are adept at managing water scarcity through traditional and informal mechanisms, but formal policy integration is needed for broader impact. Policy makers should integrate community-led conflict resolution models into official policies to enhance sustainability of resource management in the Nile Basin.

Keywords: Nile Basin, Malawi, Water Scarcity, Conflict Mitigation, Participatory Research, Geographical Indicators, Social Dynamics

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