



The Political Economy Dynamics of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Africa: A Case Study in Senegal

Lalla Touré¹, Oumar Mbengue^{1,2}, Sabrina Sène^{1,3}, Ibrahima Ndour^{4,5}

¹ Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar

² Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)

³ Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB)

⁴ Department of Advanced Studies, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)

⁵ Department of Research, Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar

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Correspondence: ltour@aol.com

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Author notes

Lalla Touré is affiliated with Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Oumar Mbengue is affiliated with Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Sabrina Sène is affiliated with Université Alioune Diop de Bambey (UADB) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Ibrahima Ndour is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Central Africa is characterized by a high concentration of natural resources such as diamonds, gold, and oil, which often leads to significant economic benefits but also poses challenges related to governance and corruption. This action research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis from official government reports and surveys of local residents. Focus groups were conducted to gather insights into perceptions and experiences related to resource extraction. A key finding is that while the revenue generated from natural resources has contributed significantly to Senegal's GDP growth, there remains a significant disparity in how wealth is distributed among various sectors, with agriculture often underrepresented. The research underscores the need for improved governance and transparency mechanisms to ensure fairer distribution of resource revenues and enhance welfare for local populations. Recommendations include strengthening legal frameworks on revenue management, increasing public participation in decision-making processes related to natural resources, and implementing targeted social programmes to support affected communities.

Keywords: *Geopolitics, Developmentalism, Extractivism, Decoloniality, Asset-Stewardship, Postcolonialism, Hegemony*

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