



Natural Resource Governance Law and Local Community Rights in DRC and Liberia: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

DRC and Liberia are resource-rich countries facing challenges in natural resource governance that affect local communities' rights. The study employs comparative legal analysis to assess the effectiveness of national legislation addressing resource extraction and its implications for affected communities in both countries. Both countries exhibit significant disparities in how natural resources are managed, with DRC generally having weaker legal protections for local communities compared to Liberia. The Liberian system includes more comprehensive community consultation mechanisms that have led to better socio-economic outcomes for impacted populations. Legal frameworks significantly influence the relationship between resource extraction and local community rights. Comprehensive community engagement is a key factor in achieving equitable benefits from natural resources. Governments should adopt or enhance legal provisions that prioritise community rights alongside resource exploitation, particularly in DRC where such protections are currently lacking.

Keywords: *African geography, tenure systems, customary law, natural resources, indigenous rights, legal pluralism, comparative jurisprudence*

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