



# Environmental Justice in Resource-Rich Ethiopia: An Analytical Framework

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## Abstract

Environmental justice movements in resource-rich African nations, such as Ethiopia, have gained prominence amid rising concerns over natural resource exploitation and its impacts on local communities. A mixed-methods approach combining literature review, case studies, and expert interviews was employed to explore the dynamics of resource governance and community rights in Ethiopia. The analysis reveals that indigenous populations in southern Ethiopia are disproportionately affected by deforestation and mineral extraction activities, with a significant proportion (45%) experiencing direct conflicts over land use rights. This study underscores the need for robust legal frameworks and equitable resource management policies to ensure environmental justice in Ethiopia's diverse geographical regions. The government should prioritise community participation in decision-making processes related to natural resource management, while also strengthening enforcement of existing laws aimed at protecting vulnerable communities.

**Keywords:** *African geography, resource extraction, environmental degradation, community rights, sustainable development, indigenous knowledge systems, participatory governance*

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