



Water Scarcity and Conflict Dynamics in the Nile Basin of Mozambique: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

The Nile Basin in Mozambique is facing significant water scarcity challenges, which have the potential to escalate into conflicts over resource distribution. Qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions in six rural communities across the Nile Basin of Mozambique. The research utilised participant observation, document reviews, and expert consultations to gather comprehensive insights into community perceptions and practices regarding water management. Water scarcity has led to a significant increase in conflicts over water resources between different social groups within the basin. Specifically, there is a notable trend where upstream communities often perceive downstream communities as using excessive amounts of water for irrigation purposes. The study underscores the importance of understanding local perceptions and practices regarding water management to effectively mitigate potential conflicts arising from resource scarcity. Local authorities should implement community-based conflict resolution mechanisms that incorporate traditional leadership systems, promote equitable water allocation policies, and enhance awareness programmes on sustainable water use strategies.

Keywords: *Ethnicity, Geography, Anthropology, Sustainability, Conflict, Community, Migration*

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