



# Local Content Policies and the Oil and Gas Industry in Mozambique: An Ethnographic Exploration

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## Abstract

Local Content Policies (LCPs) in Mozambique's oil and gas sector are designed to promote domestic industry participation, yet their effectiveness is debated. An ethnographic study was conducted, involving participant observation and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders such as government officials, private sector companies, and community representatives. Data collection lasted for six months, allowing an in-depth understanding of LCPs implementation and outcomes. The analysis revealed that while the Oil Sector Development Programme (OSDP) aims to increase local content from 10% to 25%, only about 18% of contracts awarded have incorporated Mozambican-owned companies, indicating a significant gap between policy intent and practice. This disparity is particularly pronounced in upstream sectors like exploration and production. LCPs struggle to achieve their objectives due to various factors including bureaucratic inefficiencies, market dynamics, and the lack of incentives for Mozambican firms to participate actively. To enhance LCP effectiveness, there should be a stronger focus on capacity building for local enterprises, improved regulatory frameworks, and clearer communication between stakeholders regarding policy goals and implementation strategies. The empirical specification follows  $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-1} p X + \text{varepsilon}$ , and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Oil and Gas Industry, Anthropology, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Community Engagement, Participatory Research, Development Dynamics*

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