



Natural Resource Governance Law and Local Community Rights in DRC and South Sudan: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Natural resource governance in DRC and South Sudan has faced significant challenges due to weak legal frameworks and socio-political instability. The research employs a comparative legal analysis with interviews and secondary data collection methods from official documents and academic literature. Findings reveal that while South Sudan's new constitution includes stronger protections for communities, DRC's laws remain fragmented, leading to varying levels of community rights enforcement across regions. The study highlights the need for comprehensive legal reforms in both countries to ensure equitable resource distribution and strengthen local governance structures. Policy recommendations include enhancing legislative coherence, promoting inclusive decision-making processes, and strengthening institutional capacities at all levels.

Keywords: *African geography, community-based natural resource management, customary law, jurisprudence, legal pluralism, socio-legal studies, tenure systems*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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