



Resource Governance Law and Community Rights Frontiers in DRC and Senegal

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Abstract

The DRC and Senegal are African countries grappling with natural resource governance challenges, particularly in relation to local communities' rights. This study employed a comparative analysis approach, examining laws, policies, and case studies from DRC and Senegal to understand their impact on local communities. In both countries, there are significant disparities in how resource governance laws protect community rights. For example, the proportion of land disputes resolved through legal channels is notably higher in Senegal compared to DRC. While both nations have made strides in recognising and protecting local communities' interests, further legislative reforms are needed to ensure comprehensive legal protections. Both governments should prioritise implementing and enforcing laws that safeguard community rights more effectively, with a focus on improving dispute resolution mechanisms.

Keywords: *African geography, resource law, community rights, customary laws, comparative jurisprudence, indigenous knowledge systems, decentralised governance*

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