



Legal Terrain for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in East Africa: A Nigerian Perspective

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Published: 21 November 2012 | **Received:** 17 June 2012 | **Accepted:** 09 October 2012

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18977106](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18977106)

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Abstract

The legal landscape for refugees and asylum seekers in East Africa is complex, with varying national policies reflecting regional dynamics. An analytical approach was employed to review existing legislation, judicial decisions, and policy documents related to refugee management in Nigeria. Comparative analysis with other East African countries was also conducted for cross-referencing purposes. Nigerian law mandates that all asylum seekers must apply for refugee status within six months of arrival; this requirement is consistent across the region but places significant administrative burdens on applicants. Despite regional similarities, Nigerian policies exhibit distinct features influenced by historical and socio-economic factors. These differences underscore the importance of understanding local contexts in devising effective refugee management strategies. Nigerian policymakers should consider revising the six-month deadline to align with best practices from neighboring countries, which often provide longer processing times for asylum applications.

Keywords: *Geopolitical, Refugee Law, Asylum, Human Rights, Jurisprudence, Regionalism, Empirical Analysis*

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