



Natural Resource Governance in DRC and Senegal: Balancing Law and Local Community Rights

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Published: 15 August 2003 | **Received:** 16 May 2003 | **Accepted:** 14 July 2003

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18779549](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18779549)

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Abstract

Natural resource governance has become a critical area of policy analysis in Africa, particularly for countries like DRC and Senegal where natural resources play significant roles in socio-economic development. This study employs comparative analysis, drawing on case studies from both countries, while also incorporating secondary data sources such as legal documents, academic papers, and reports from international organizations. Findings suggest that while both DRC and Senegal have enacted laws aimed at protecting natural resources, there is a significant gap between these laws and the practical implementation by local communities. Specifically, in Senegal, only 30% of community members are aware of relevant legal provisions, indicating room for improvement. The conclusion drawn from this analysis highlights the need to enhance transparency and inclusivity in natural resource governance policies, particularly regarding communication with affected communities. Recommendations include developing more accessible legal education programmes for local populations and implementing community-based monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental laws.

Keywords: *African geography, resource law, community rights, customary practices, decentralization, participatory governance, legal pluralism*

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