



# Local Community Rights and Natural Resource Governance in DRC: A Comparative Analysis with Chad's Legal Framework

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## Abstract

Natural resource governance in DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Chad is crucial for sustainable development, yet local communities often lack legal protections over their resources. This paper examines how these countries' legal frameworks address local community rights within natural resource management. A comparative analysis will be conducted using secondary data from legal texts, policy documents, and academic literature. The analysis aims to identify how these countries' laws enable or restrict local communities in managing natural resources. In both DRC and Chad, there is a notable gap between the legal provisions that should protect local communities and the actual implementation of these protections on the ground, suggesting a need for stronger enforcement mechanisms and community engagement strategies. This study underscores the importance of aligning legal frameworks with practical realities to ensure effective natural resource governance at the local level. Recommendations include strengthening legal safeguards and enhancing community participation in decision-making processes. Local governments should prioritise the development of detailed implementation guidelines that integrate legal provisions with community needs, while civil society organizations should advocate for more robust enforcement mechanisms.

**Keywords:** *Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Jurisdictional Designation, Customary Law, Indigenous Rights, Legal Pluralism, Community-Based Resource Management*

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