



# Natural Resource Governance Law and Community Rights in DRC and Namibia: A Comparative Study

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**Published:** 21 May 2004 | **Received:** 17 February 2004 | **Accepted:** 12 April 2004

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18804510](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18804510)

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## Abstract

Natural resource governance in developing countries often faces challenges related to local community rights, particularly in contexts where customary laws and international legal frameworks intersect. Qualitative methods were employed, including interviews with stakeholders and document analysis of relevant laws and regulations. Focus groups were conducted in both countries to gather insights from community representatives. In DRC, there was a notable trend where customary land rights coexisted with statutory provisions, often leading to conflicts over resource exploitation. In Namibia, the implementation of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) has significantly improved local consultation processes. The study highlights the importance of integrating traditional knowledge into modern legal frameworks and improving stakeholder engagement in natural resource management decisions. Local communities should be actively involved in decision-making processes regarding natural resources, and there is a need for more comprehensive training on environmental laws for all stakeholders.

**Keywords:** *African, customary law, community rights, governance, jurisprudence, legal pluralism, qualitative methodology*

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