



Local Community Rights and Natural Resource Governance Law in DRC and Senegal: A Comparative Perspective

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Abstract

Natural resource governance in developing countries often faces challenges related to balancing economic development with environmental sustainability and local community rights. The analysis is based on a comparative legal framework review, focusing on legislation, case law, and stakeholder perspectives from both countries. In DRC, the 'Law on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources' () mandates community participation in resource management committees; in Senegal, the 'Code Forestier' () includes provisions for local community involvement in forest governance councils. These frameworks have seen mixed implementation and enforcement. Both countries benefit from strengthening legal protections for indigenous communities over natural resources, but significant improvements are needed in policy enforcement and stakeholder engagement. Implementing effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with community rights laws is crucial. Additionally, fostering collaborative partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities can enhance resource governance outcomes.

Keywords: *Democratic Republic of Congo, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Customary Law, Legal Pluralism, Sustainable Development, Jurisprudence, Conflict Resolution*

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