



Access to Justice Through Traditional Dispute Resolution in Gabon: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms play a significant role in access to justice in Gabon's legal landscape. The research combines exploratory interviews with local communities and structured surveys among judicial actors. Quantitative data is analysed using descriptive statistics, while thematic analysis informs the qualitative findings. Interviews revealed that TDR mechanisms are primarily used in resolving minor disputes (80% of cases), with a notable preference for mediation over other forms of resolution. Traditional dispute resolution significantly contributes to access to justice in Gabon, particularly in mediating small claims. Further research is recommended to explore its impact on larger disputes and systemic reforms. The government should consider integrating TDR into the formal legal system to enhance accessibility and efficiency of justice delivery.

Keywords: *African conflict resolution, ethnography, grounded theory, indigenous legal systems, qualitative analysis, participatory observation, situational justice*

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