



Natural Resource Governance Law and Local Community Rights in DRC: An Action Research Study in Morocco

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Abstract

Natural resource governance in DRC is a critical issue affecting local communities, necessitating legal reforms and policy interventions. The study employed participatory action research methods involving interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis to gather insights from stakeholders including government officials, NGOs, and affected communities. Findings revealed that while the Moroccan legal system has made progress in recognising local community rights, there are significant gaps in its enforcement mechanisms, particularly regarding customary land tenure systems in DRC. The research highlights the need for enhanced legal clarity, improved implementation strategies, and greater stakeholder engagement to protect local communities' rights effectively. Recommendations include strengthening legislative frameworks to align with international human rights standards, enhancing judicial processes, and promoting community-led initiatives in resource management.

Keywords: *African geography, participatory action research, customary law, resource management, indigenous rights, community empowerment, legal reform*

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