



Environmental Justice Movements in Resource-Rich Eswatini: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

The Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), a small country in southern Africa known for its abundant natural resources, has faced significant environmental challenges exacerbated by economic development and resource extraction policies. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including activists, government officials, and community leaders. Data collection also involves document analysis of relevant policies and media reports. Findings indicate that EJMs in Eswatini have successfully mobilized communities around environmental concerns such as deforestation and water pollution, notably involving at least 30% of the country's rural population in advocacy efforts. The study underscores the importance of grassroots activism for fostering dialogue between various stakeholders on environmental issues. It highlights the potential for EJMs to drive policy reforms that balance economic growth with ecological preservation. Recommendations include strengthening collaboration between EJM leaders and government agencies, enhancing public education about environmental rights, and incorporating EJMs into national planning frameworks.

Keywords: *Africanization, Grassroots Movements, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Participatory Research, Sustainability Perspectives, Community Empowerment, Ethnography*

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