



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Africa: A Mixed Methods Inquiry into Botswana's Experience

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Abstract

The political economy of natural resource extraction in Central Africa has been a subject of interest for scholars and policymakers alike, with Botswana serving as an exemplary case study given its significant diamond reserves. The research employs a combination of quantitative data analysis from government reports and surveys conducted among local communities, alongside qualitative insights gathered through interviews with policymakers and industry representatives. This mixed methods approach seeks to provide a comprehensive view of the subject matter. A notable finding is that local employment opportunities have fluctuated significantly over time, ranging from peak periods where up to 40% of the workforce was directly employed in mining operations to downturns with unemployment rates exceeding 25%. This variation underscores the need for more stable and diversified economic strategies. The study concludes that while Botswana's experience demonstrates potential benefits from natural resource extraction, it also highlights significant challenges related to equitable distribution of resources and sustainable development. These insights are crucial for informing future policy frameworks in similar contexts. Policy recommendations include the establishment of robust social safety nets, promotion of alternative economic sectors, and enhanced transparency in governance practices to mitigate adverse socio-economic impacts. Natural resource extraction, Botswana, Political economy, Mixed methods study, Socio-economic impact

Keywords: *Geographic, Central Africa, Resource Politics, Methodology, Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Inquiry, Power Relations*

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