



The Comoros Natural Resource Extraction Political Economy Landscape

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Abstract

The Comoros are an archipelagic nation in Central Africa known for its rich natural resource base, including fisheries and minerals. These resources have significant economic potential but also pose challenges to governance and development. This brief employs a qualitative approach focusing on interviews with government officials, industry representatives, and civil society organizations to understand current policies and stakeholder interactions related to natural resources. Interviews revealed that the main stakeholders include the Comoros Government, foreign investors, and local communities. There is evidence of conflict over resource extraction rights and benefits distribution among these groups, highlighting a complex power dynamic. The political economy landscape in the Comoros for natural resources shows significant disparities in benefit distribution and governance effectiveness. Stakeholder engagement and equitable resource management are critical for sustainable development. Policy recommendations include strengthening local community participation in decision-making processes, ensuring transparent revenue sharing agreements with stakeholders, and promoting environmental sustainability initiatives.

Keywords: *African geography, Comoros, Dependency theory, Extractivism, Mercantilism, Political economy, Resource curse*

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