



# The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Tanzanian Central Africa: A Policy Analysis

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## Abstract

The political economy of natural resource extraction in Tanzania's Tanzanian Central Africa has been a subject of increasing interest among scholars and policymakers due to its potential for economic growth and development, while also posing significant challenges related to governance and environmental sustainability. The research employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with local communities and quantitative analysis of government reports and media data to provide a comprehensive insight into the political economy of natural resource extraction in Tanzania's Central Africa. A key finding is that there are significant disparities in the distribution of benefits from mineral and agricultural resources among different socio-economic groups, with marginalized communities often facing adverse environmental impacts without reaping substantial economic rewards. The analysis reveals a complex interplay between political interests, resource availability, and community engagement, necessitating more equitable governance mechanisms to ensure sustainable development outcomes. To address the identified challenges, policy recommendations include strengthening local participation in decision-making processes related to natural resources, enhancing transparency in resource extraction activities, and implementing robust environmental protection measures.

**Keywords:** *African geography, resource curse, policy analysis, extractive industries, governance, development economics, institutional change*

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