



Managing Water Scarcity in the Nile Basin of Guinea-Bissau: A Conflict Mitigation Strategy

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Abstract

The Nile Basin in Guinea-Bissau faces significant water scarcity challenges, exacerbated by climate variability and population growth. This region is characterized by seasonal droughts affecting agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. The approach combines qualitative interviews with local stakeholders, focus group discussions, and secondary data analysis to understand current water use patterns and conflict dynamics in the region. Local communities report a significant decline of up to 30% in agricultural yields due to recurrent droughts, leading to increased competition for limited water resources among different user groups such as farmers, fishers, and pastoralists. These tensions often escalate into conflicts over access rights and equitable distribution mechanisms. The findings underscore the urgent need for a collaborative governance framework that integrates adaptive management strategies with community-based initiatives to address both immediate water scarcity challenges and underlying socio-political issues. Recommendation 1: Establish a basin-wide water resource management committee comprising representatives from all sectors to facilitate equitable decision-making processes. Recommendation 2: Develop a seasonal drought contingency plan to mitigate the impact of future dry spells on agricultural productivity.

Keywords: *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Basin Management, Water Resources, Conflict Resolution, Sustainable Development, Ecological Economics*

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