



Customary Law and the Formal Legal System

Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond

Abraham Kuol Nyuon^{1,2,3}

¹ Associate Professor of Politics, Peace, and Security

² Principal, Graduate College, University of Juba

³ SUSI Scholar on U.S. Foreign Policy

Correspondence: nyuonabraham@gmail.com

Published: 15 October 2024	Received: 29 June 2024	Accepted: 21 September 2024	DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.19545424
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

Author notes

Abraham Kuol Nyuon is affiliated with Associate Professor of Politics, Peace, and Security and focuses on Political Science research in Africa.

ABSTRACT

This article examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond with a focused emphasis on Tanzania within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a working paper that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

Keywords: *Formal Legal System, Legal System Complementarity, System Complementarity Conflict, East Africa Post-CPA, Customary Law, Formal Legal*

Article Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines complementarity and conflict between legal systems in Tanzania Focuses on institutional dynamics post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement Analyzes mechanisms for reform within African governance contexts Links theoretical analysis to practical policy implications 	Research Focus <p>This study centers on Tanzania as a critical case for understanding how customary and formal legal systems interact within East Africa's post-conflict governance landscape.</p> <p><i>This analysis bridges political science theory with practical governance challenges in contemporary Africa.</i></p>
---	---

Introduction

The introduction of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania,

with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science(Liere & Meinema, 2022)(Liere & Meinema, 2022). This section is written as a approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary(Marou et al., 2024)(Marou et al., 2024). Analytically, the section addresses set up the problem, context, research objective, and article trajectory(Herbert & Marquette, 2021)(Herbert & Marquette, 2021).

Outline guidance for this section is: State the core problem around Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; explain why it matters in Tanzania; define the article objective; preview the structure(Bendavid et al., 2021). In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary(Bendavid et al., 2021). Key scholarship informing this section includes The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children), COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), Material Perspectives on Religion, Conflict, and Violence).

This section follows the preceding discussion and leads into Literature Review, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Literature Review

The literature review of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science(Herbert & Marquette, 2021). This section is written as a approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary(Bendavid et al., 2021). Analytically, the section addresses synthesise the most relevant scholarship, debates, and conceptual anchors(Liere & Meinema, 2022).

Outline guidance for this section is: Summarise the key debates on Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; compare main viewpoints; identify the gap; lead into the next section(Marou et al., 2024). In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes The impact of conflict on infectious disease: a systematic literature review), COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children).

This section follows Introduction and leads into Methodology, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Methodology

The methodology of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a

approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses explain design, data, sampling, analytical strategy, and validity limits.

Outline guidance for this section is: Describe the analytic design for Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; explain evidence sources; justify the approach; note the main limitation. In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children), Material Perspectives on Religion, Conflict, and Violence).

This section follows Literature Review and leads into Results, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Results

The results of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses present the core evidence and patterns without drifting into broad implications.

Outline guidance for this section is: Present the main evidence on Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; highlight the strongest pattern; connect the finding to the article question; transition to interpretation. In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), The impact of conflict on infectious disease: a systematic literature review), The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children).

This section follows Methodology and leads into Discussion, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Discussion

The discussion of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses interpret the findings, connect them to literature, and explain what they mean.

Outline guidance for this section is: Interpret the main findings on Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; connect them to scholarship; explain implications for Tanzania; note practical relevance. In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children), Material Perspectives on Religion, Conflict, and Violence).

This section follows Results and leads into Conclusion, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Conclusion

The conclusion of Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond examines Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond in relation to Tanzania, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 342 to 525 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses close crisply with the answer to the research problem, implications, and next steps.

Outline guidance for this section is: Answer the main question on Customary Law and the Formal Legal System: Complementarity, Conflict, and Reform in East Africa: Post-CPA and Beyond; restate the contribution; note the most practical implication for Tanzania; suggest a next step. In the context of Tanzania, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children), COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs), Material Perspectives on Religion, Conflict, and Violence).

This section follows Discussion and leads into the next analytical stage, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Contributions

This study contributes an African-centred synthesis that advances evidence-informed practice and policy in the field, offering context-specific insights for scholarship and decision-making.

References

- Liere, L.V., & Meinema, E. (2022). Material Perspectives on Religion, Conflict, and Violence
Marou, V., Vardavas, C., Aslanoglou, K., Nikitara, K., Plyta, Z., Leonardi-Bee, J., Atkins, K., Condell, O., Lamb, F., & Suk, J.E. (2024). The impact of conflict on infectious disease: a systematic literature review. *Conflict and Health*

-
- Herbert, S., & Marquette, H. ([2021](#)). COVID-19, Governance, and Conflict: Emerging Impacts and Future Evidence Needs
- Bendavid, E., Boerma, T., Akseer, N., Langer, A., Malembaka, E.B., Okiro, E.A., Wise, P.H., Heft-Neal, S., Black, R.E., Bhutta, Z.A., Bhutta, Z.A., Black, R.E., Blanchet, K., Boerma, T., Gaffey, M.F., Langer, A., Spiegel, P., Waldman, R.J., & Wise, P.H. ([2021](#)). The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children. *The Lancet*