



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Central African Societies within South Africa,

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Abstract

Central African societies within South Africa have experienced significant economic transformation through the exploitation of natural resources, particularly in forestry and mining sectors. An interpretative ethnographic approach was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with stakeholders including government officials, community leaders, and industry representatives. Data analysis focused on qualitative content and thematic synthesis. Key themes emerged regarding the uneven distribution of benefits from resource extraction among different social groups, highlighting tensions between state revenues and local livelihoods. The study underscores the complex interplay of national policies and local community interests in shaping resource governance outcomes. Policy recommendations include strengthening institutional accountability mechanisms to ensure equitable revenue sharing and enhancing community engagement processes in resource development projects.

Keywords: *Central Africa, Political Economy, Resource Exploitation, Forestry, Mining, Anthropology, Ethnography*

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