The Political Ecology of Sustainable Community Development in Sierra Leone

Submitted by:

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Declaration

I confirm that:

This thesis represents my own work. The contributions of my Supervisors and others to the research and to the thesis were consistent with normal supervisory practices. All sources used are denoted in the references section. Any mistakes of facts, interpretation and presentation are mine.

Ahmed Ojullah Bangura

Date
ABSTRACT. Natural resources are in abundance but have not benefited resource-based communities. The mining industry, especially in developing countries, has fallen short of working towards sustainable community practices. Different governance initiatives adopted by governments to make the communities beneficiaries of these resources are yet to bring sustainable results. Government is seen as the sole actor on policymaking and its implementation, and the production and delivery of goods and services. Acknowledgement is not given to the roles and responsibilities of the resource-based communities to work as co-partners towards sustainable community development. Hence, this thesis argues that government policies should move away from seeing resource communities as recipients and representatives in policymaking towards co-partnership. As such, this thesis aims to explore the dynamics between resource use and achieving sustainable community development by exploring the barriers and potential for sustainable community development in diamond mining communities in Kono, Eastern Sierra Leone. To do this, the thesis uses data from a wide range of indebt semi-structured interviews, documents and focus group discussions from four case studies representing four chiefdoms to point out a shift from the governance approach of institutionalisation to adaptive governance approach that will make the resource communities self-determined and sustainable. The thesis deals with three objectives. First, a focus is put on the relationship between resource exploitation and community governance in mining communities through an analysis of key actors and their roles at a range of scales. Second, in an attempt to find out the scope of sustainability in resource-based communities, attention is given to the ways mining communities utilise their assets and undertake practices that contribute towards sustainable community development. Third, in finding answers from issues arising in these communities and the prospect for effective mining policies, the thesis attempts to identify both the structural and community-based barriers to promoting sustainable community development in mining communities and then make policy recommendations for community development in such communities.

Key Words: Resource Exploitation; Community Development, Community Governance, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Community Development
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APC: All People’s Congress
DACDF: Diamond Area Community Development Funds
DPC: Diamond Trading Company
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment
EO: Executive Outcome
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
KHL: Koidu Holdings Limited
KPCS: Kimberley Processing Certification Scheme
MAB: Man and the Biosphere
NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NDMC: National Diamond Mining Company
NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
NMJD: Network Movement for Justice and Development
NPRL: National Provisional Ruling Council
PAC: Partnership Africa Canada
PMMC: Precious Metal Mining Company
RE: Resource Exploitation
RUF: Revolutionary United Front
SAP: Structural Adjustment Programme
SEIA: Sustainable Environmental Impact Assessment
SLAF: Sierra Leone Armed Forces
SLPP: Sierra Leone Peoples Party
TNC: Trans-National Corporations
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WBG: World Bank Group
Map of Sierra Leone

Source: Maps.com
Map of Sierra Leone Showing Neighbouring Countries

Source: Maps.com

Map of Chiefdoms in the Kono District

Source: Map.com
http://www.faaqs.org/sec-filings/111017/Sterilite-Solutions-Corp_8-K.A/map5.jpg
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