

Review of: "Customary Land Tenure, Mining, and the Development Question: Insights From a Transitional State"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is considered to be of great value as it refers to a case study on customary land tenure and mining conflicts in the Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe District (UMP) of Zimbabwe. However, it is not clear what the original contribution of the work is with respect to other studies on the subject in other regions. It is suggested to incorporate bibliography that contrasts its results with similar studies.

E.g.:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2009.11.001>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2021.100973>

DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2021.1965871

www.cmi.no/publications

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.105229>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.04.014>

The abstract is not fully informative. It is suggested to include the work methodology used (including the number of interviews and documents collected), the conceptual framework used, and the main conclusions reached.

The work does not have a concise theoretical and methodological foundation. It mentions that it will use two types of information sources: 1) legal documents and existing bibliography on the subject, and 2) interviews with community informants. However, in relation to the documents, only some of them are detailed, and there is no supplementary material detailing the totality of the documents analyzed and the main information they contain. It is suggested that a list of the documents reviewed be made in order to account for the material reviewed and taken into account for the study.

The number of interviews conducted (88) is seen as positive, but it is not possible to get a complete insight into the new data that emerges from them. On the other hand, it is not clear what criteria were used to select the key informants. How many men and how many women were part of the sample? What did most of them do? (Could they establish the percentage or number of interviewees by profession? E.g., "n" small-miners, "n" farmers, "n" government agents, etc.). It is suggested to incorporate the above information in the next version of the article.

The paper mentions that it will use "the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) to analyze the complex dynamics of customary land tenure, mining, and the development question". This approach mentioned should be present earlier in the article, even as part of the keywords, title, and/or abstract of the paper. It should also be mentioned in the methodology section, since this approach will be used for the analysis of the documentation compiled by the authors and to use this approach for the analysis of the information compiled in the interviews. Likewise, it is suggested to incorporate quotes on the work approach in case studies where the SLF is applied.

E.g.:

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10745-023-00454-5>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-015-0872-2>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.02.024>

The article requires reorganization to make it clearer and more concise for the reader and requires a general revision before it is ready for publication.