

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

Iva Peša¹

¹ University of Groningen

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The topic of this article deserves more scholarly attention. The Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe district in Zimbabwe is an excellent case study.

That having been said, the structure of the article is a little unbalanced. The introduction is too long and general, whereas the conceptual framework (Sustainable Livelihoods Framework) does not perfectly fit the case study.

The authors should start with the empirical richness of this case, exploring and explaining how mining influences customary land tenure and how this shapes prospects of development. It is important that development is clearly defined and that the reader also - in the first two pages - gets a clear idea of how mining influences land tenure.

The authors may also wish to engage with scholarship on mining in Zimbabwe in more detail, particularly the works by Jabulani Shaba, Samuel Spiegel, Joseph Mujere (and on chiefs, land and mining in South Africa Dineo Skosana) come to mind.

The authors have something original to say, but they should focus on their own narrative so that their argument comes out more clearly and convincingly.