



Struggle or creative appropriation of gender?

Women's struggles for women facing interventions in the governance of natural resources in the DRC

By

Patient M. POLEPOLE, MSc

Doctoral student, IACCHOS (UCLouvain)

Research Associate – Angaza Institute (ISDR-Bukavu)

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Plan

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1. State of the art

Struggles over access to natural resources
(Inherent in processes of societal transformation)

Depoliticization of struggles
(Marginalized Groups – IP, Youth & Women)

Inaudible Claims and Alteration
(PA, youth & women)



Alteration of demands exacerbated in the peasant environment
(Legal pluralism, war and conflicts, climate change, weak land governance, ANE intervention)

Retrograde " traditions

ANE intervention

Alleviate pressure on NRs
(Conservation & global sustainability)

Mitigate/eradicate systemic injustices /disparities

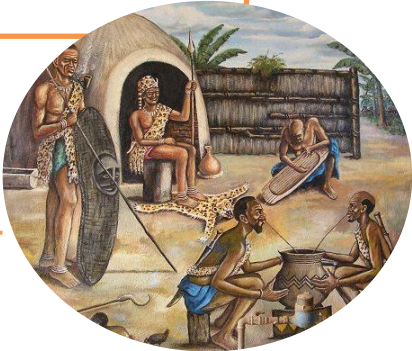
2. Problematic



State decay

Multiplicity of crises
(economic, political and security)

Amplification of international interventions



Co-construction
(Interventions, structural, economic and political changes and struggles)



Interventions
(Access - Local situation vs the global agenda)

Land security
(ZOA, SFCG, IRC
UN-Habitat
IFDP & ASOP
APC)

Biodiversity conservation
(World Bank
Caritas Congo
UEFA)

How does exposure to these projects/programs affect women's representations and demands in relation to their access to land and/or forest products?

How does this translate into new practices of access and land security for women?

What ways and means allow a lasting structural improvement in women's access to RN?

3. Methodology



- Qualitative approach (feminist Politics ecology)
- Methods: ethnographic
- South Kivu Province (DRC)
- 4 chiefdoms (Kabare, Kelehe , Uvira, Plaine de la Ruzizi and Walungu)
- A city (Bukavu)

Disintegration
 (Comments from the women of the large ensemble - database of two projects 2019 - 2023)

Area	Focus Groups		Individual interviews		Conference
	Homogeneous	Heterogeneous	Structured	Semi-structured	
Kabare	6	13	10	13	0
Kalehe	17	26	8	12	0
Walungu	2	3	5	10	1
Ruzizi plain	7	11	9	20	0
Bukavu	0	0	10	18	2
TOTAL	32	53	42	73	3



4.1. Representation – Claim



- **Representations**

- Positive land law
 - Men and women equality
- Customary land law
 - Land: social fixation element (collective property vs. private property)
 - Land: structuring element of social relations and power relations (political, economic, etc.)
- Creation of a certain new social order

- **Claim**

- Non-discrimination linked to gender
- Respect for gender parity (land reform & inheritance)
- Representation in land management structures (Quota & Education)



4.2. Mechanisms

- “formal” and/or “real” mechanisms
- Struggles: Individual & Collective



- **Legal**
 - Complaint (legal clinics, courts and tribunals)
- **Socio-cultural**
 - Officialization of the marriage
 - Legacy of girls/women
- **Socioeconomic**
 - Empowerment of women
 - Creation of NGOs and associations
- **Policies**
 - Civil vs. Army Struggle
 - Female candidates for elections

5. Conclusion

- **Political struggles vs Access struggles** : Struggles and demands of peasant women for **access** to land often reduced to food and agricultural considerations.
 - Struggles for access and interventions (part of the global fight for social and environmental justice)
 - Representation within decision-making structures
 - Aspiration for the position of PA spokesperson
- **Resistance and creative appropriation** : Gender issues are transversal but not at the heart of the project (**Resistance**)
 - Use CSOs and project activities to express other demands (literacy)
 - Roles and land ambitions of women explicitly expressed
- **Influence** within emerging structures
 - Positions of responsibility within the new structures
- **“Formal” and/or “real” mechanisms** : Women struggle and re-negotiate their access to social, political and economic benefits through “formal” and/or “real” mechanisms.
 - Gender-specific social roles are little questioned
 - The collective nature of the earth
 - Heterogeneity of social rules





Thanks you !