

A Customary Land Conflict Resolution Process Under the Asafo Land Secretariat

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Key words: Land Conflict; Traditional leader; ADR

SUMMARY

Customary land disputes in Ghana's Traditional Stool Lands poses a complex problem with significant socio-economic and cultural consequences. The purpose of this study is to investigate the complexities of land conflicts under Asafo Stool Lands and how they can be resolved. The study utilized a mixed-method approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods with spatial analysis, to thoroughly investigate land conflict issues in specific towns. The data analysis prioritized detailed interpretation, employing content analysis to comprehensively understand complex land conflict scenarios in the study area. This approach facilitated a deep exploration of both the conflicts and their spatial context. The study explored community preferences for conflict resolution techniques, revealing mediation as the most popular option and demonstrating cultural preferences for collaboration. Demographic factors such as gender, age, and educational background exhibited nuanced impacts on these preferences. Using a Likert scale, we explored the effectiveness of existing conflict resolution processes. Although most respondents expressed comfort with the transparency of decision-making procedures, concerns arise regarding the representation of vulnerable or marginalized groups. This highlights a crucial area for improvement. Stakeholder interviews amplify these findings, emphasizing the need for improved communication and sensitivity to diverse community needs. The study also incorporated spatial analysis to uncover the geographic nuances of land conflicts. The Global Moran's I statistic indicated a dispersed pattern of conflicts, challenging assumptions of uniform spatial distribution. Notably, specific areas like Atwima Darko emerged as a conflict hotspot zone, demanding targeted interventions. These spatial patterns revealed a dynamic landscape of conflict, emphasizing the need for tailored strategies. Findings indicate that education levels significantly influence the choice of resolution mechanisms, calling for tailored training programs. Additionally, localized interventions should be prioritized based on spatial characteristics, with a special focus on identified hotspots. Inclusion of marginalized groups in the resolution process remains crucial. This research offers a crucial

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resource for refining conflict resolution strategies within the Asafo Traditional Stool Lands, highlighting the necessity for nuanced, data-driven approaches to address this intricate socio-cultural issue.

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