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Power struggles and resource control in Sudan: Analyzing the dynamics of local communities, regional elites, and the state in Sudan's natural resource governance

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Abstract

This paper discusses the complex dynamics of natural resource governance in Sudan, focusing on the interactions between local communities, regional elites, and the state. With abundant natural resources such as oil, minerals, and fertile agricultural land, Sudan has great potential to advance its economic development. However, historical legacies of marginalization, socio-political inequalities, and centralized models of governance have turned this into a landscape marked by power struggles and conflict.

Local communities, often dependent on these resources for their livelihood, experience issues related to their exclusion from decision-making, receiving low compensation, and environmental depredation. Regional elites position themselves as brokers, and use their socio-political influence to gain benefits from both the state and corporate actors at the expense of the local population. Meanwhile, central state governance strategies of national revenue generation often align with external investors and widen the rift with local and regional stakeholders.

This paper highlights the fundamental causes of resource-related conflicts and inequalities in Sudan through a critical analysis of historical contexts, power dynamics, and governance frameworks. It advocates for an urgent need to adopt inclusive and decentralized governance structures that give priority to equity, sustainability, and the active participation of local communities in decision-making. The findings contribute to broader discourses on natural resource governance, conflict resolution, and sustainable development in resource-rich but politically complex nations.

Keywords: Natural Resource; Sudan; Power Dynamics; Regional Elites, Resource Conflicts; Political Stability

1. Introduction

The governance of natural resources in Sudan is a microcosm of broader socio-political and economic tensions, where the interaction between local communities, regional elites, and the state determines the distribution of benefits and access to critical resources. Sudan is endowed with vast natural wealth, including oil reserves, gold deposits, and fertile agricultural land, positioning it as a potentially prosperous nation. Paradoxically, this natural resource wealth has not translated into either genuine development or stability; instead, it has only served to heighten the level of competition, worsen inequality, and fan the embers of historical grievance into a focal point of economic development and political conflict.

Local communities are often excluded from meaningful participation in resource governance, yet they are frequently located in areas with high levels of resource endowments. Many such communities face systemic land expropriation, underrepresentation, and environmental degradation, while regional elites use their political and economic connections to capture benefits at a level disproportionate to their local bases. These actors often function as intermediaries and

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brokers of power, with their actions frequently resulting in alliances with state and corporate actors at the expense of the interests and rights of local populations.

The role of the state adds further complexity, as governance strategies oscillate between centralization and decentralization, driven by national revenue needs and external pressures. Historical governance models, shaped by colonial legacies and post-independence policies, have entrenched inequalities and fostered conflict. These dynamics are further complicated by global actors, including multinational corporations and international organizations, whose involvement in resource extraction often prioritizes economic gains over equitable resource distribution and sustainability.

This study investigates the interaction of power among these stakeholders, considering how historical legacies, socio-political structures, and governance frameworks shape resource-related conflicts and development outcomes. Placing the experiences of the marginalized communities, ambitions of regional elites, and the state's evolving strategies in the spotlight, this research hopes to light pathways toward more inclusive and equitable governance of Sudan's natural resources. It identifies the root causes of marginalization, while fostering collaborative governance frameworks, as key to securing political stability, sustainable development, and social cohesion within the nation.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to critically analyze the interaction between local communities, regional elites, and the state in the governance of natural resources in Sudan. It, therefore, tries to:

- **Analyze Power Dynamics:** Examine how power relations among these stakeholder's impact resource allocation, benefit distribution, and decision-making processes.
- **Understand Historical Contexts:** Investigate historical and socio-political contexts, including colonial legacies, that have shaped the current governance framework.
- **Identify Key Challenges:** Emphasize the systemic problems that create marginalization, inequality, and resource-related conflicts.
- **Propose Governance Solutions:** Offer recommendations on the development of inclusive, fair, and sustainable governance systems that address the root causes of conflict and allow for political stability and socio-economic development.

The current study will add to the wider debate on resource governance by bringing in new knowledge about the complex dynamics in Sudan and exploring pathways for reform and conflict resolution.

2. Research Methodology

The qualitative research method is the one used in this research since it concentrates on the analysis of previously published reports, documents, and references in order to better comprehend the topic of environmental resource management discourses in the context of Sudan. This methodology has the goal of understanding the intricacies of social, political, and economic factors without any desire to collect and quantify data. This study integrates previously published materials to attempt to uncover social structures, trends, and stories that define the role of communities, regional elites, and the state in the management of natural resources.

2.1. Research Design and Approach

The objectives of the research are ultimately descriptive and analytical with the aim of enhancing knowledge on the democratization of the management of natural resources in Sudan considering the impact of technology and decentralization on the governance architecture. The use of secondary data which include reports, publications, and scholarly articles is vital to this study. These sources address the various problems of resource governance and document them and these will be qualitatively reviewed to determine the significant issues and how they relate to each other.

2.2. Data Collection

Collection of data in regard to this research is carried out through documentary analysis method of data collection especially deals with reports, publications, articles and even non-governmental organizations' documents that are concerned with the management of natural resources in Sudan. This method includes:

- Government and institutional reports: These reveal the policies, strategies, and official documents regarding resource management, its struggle for decentralization, and local government agencies.
- NGO and civil society reports: These aids in addressing the perspective of policy advocacy and the local communities concerned with the problem of resource extraction, local strategies and planning, and environmental issues.
- Scholarly articles: Articles that have gone through a peer-review process in a journal or collection of papers that are academic in nature provide theories, cases, and even comparative aspects related to the subject of focus, natural resources governance.
- Media reports and policy briefs: These serve as a window to events as they unfold or take place, including the polemics, disputes and references on issues or developments in Sudan today.

2.3. Data Analysis

Data analysis in this case identifies and interprets in detail the meaning contained within what has been categorized and coded across the different data sources. Thematic analysis involves inductive reasoning. It consists of the following main steps:

- Reading and Familiarization: The captured identified work in question and reports are read to appreciate their meaning and whys and wherefores. This first step allows for determining the main themes or concepts that will be taken into consideration throughout the analysis.
- Coding: The main points of the reports and documents are coded against certain criteria or variables as new categories or themes are emerging. These may be such topics as the nature of stakeholders' participation, the role of regional elites, state relations, devolution, and the role of technology in the governance of resources.
- Categorization and Theme Development: The resources reported have been interpreted into more global typologies which are tested and refined to resolve the objectives of the research. Thereafter, those themes are then related to the other sources in explaining the governance context of Sudan.
- Interpretation and Synthesis: In the last phase of analysis the themes are also identified and categorized and the researcher then restates the findings to specifically address the research questions. It integrates information from many sources in order to answer how resource governance operates in the case of Sudan.

2.4. Validity and Reliability

The following strategies are adopted for the validity and reliability of the findings which have been established.

- Triangulation: Employing different sources such as government reports, documents of the NGO, academic articles or media reports allows getting additional information and thus increases the correctness and consistency of the information needed.
- Reflexivity: The researcher reflects on their own biases and assumptions and how they might affect the data interpretation. The principle of reflexivity is meant to maintain the integrity of the analysis in relation to the data.
- Source Credibility: The chosen reports and documents are searched for their relevance, credibility and the capabilities of their authors or publishers. Among the sources considered include academic articles that have undergone peer review as well as government documents for quality data.
- Transparency in Methodology: Whenever it is necessary to repeat the study, they are able to do so since the process of data collection and its analysis has been well documented, and this eases the process of understanding the research process and its purpose.

2.5. Ethical Considerations

Given that this research is based on secondary data, the most significant ethical problems are concerned with proper referencing of sources and the degree in which information is used appropriately. The prescribed ethical practices are implemented to ensure that every report and publication is referenced properly in order to maintain research ethics. Given that this study is not reliant on human participants and their responses, the ethical issues are in relation to publicly available documents and reports.

Limitations

- Availability of Sources: qualitative approach through document review tackles facets but still features the following imperfections:

- Sources Availability: Some reports or some documents could not be accessed due to political justification or restriction to share data, this may limit the comprehensiveness of the research.
- Sources bias: Political bias could be present for the different parties, e.g., government agencies, NGOs, media and this could shape the report content. Such a politically sensitive and inaccurate bias is noticed reasonably and is looked at in detail in order to avoid dubious generalization.
- Generalizability: In other words, the results from the qualitative study cannot be generalized to all parts of Sudan because of the fact that the analysis is done on available documentation which may not encompass the wide range of local experiences and local viewpoints.

3. Literature Review

In Sudan, resource control is a complex problem involving local communities, regional elites and the state. Each of these groups has its own interests and objectives, which often leads to cooperation and conflicts. Local communities, which rely on natural resources such as water, earth and minerals for their livelihoods, seek to protect these resources against external influences. Meanwhile, the regional elites aim to exploit these resources for economic gain and political power, often prioritizing their interests on those of the local population. The State plays a crucial role in this dynamic because it formulates policies and applies laws that govern the allocation of resources. However, the state authority is sometimes disputed by local communities and regional elites, leading to disputes over control and access to resources.

Recent studies, such as the work of Sempijja and El Hassani (2024), highlight the urgent challenges of resource governance in Sudan. They underline that the interactions between these groups can lead to important implications for governance and social dynamics within the country. When the State does not take into account the needs and rights of local communities in favor of regional elites, this can lead to feelings of marginalization and privilege between these communities. This supports social fabric and can cause resistance or conflict, further complicating the landscape of governance.

In addition, Sempijja and El Hassani (2024) argue that these conflicts on resource control affects not only economic structures but also have deeper implications for social cohesion and political stability. The fight for resources is not only an economic problem; It is also deeply linked to the problems of identity, power and legitimacy. As different actors compete for control, current tensions can lead to a cycle of violence and instability, especially in areas rich in resources.

Understanding these dynamics is essential to develop effective governance strategies that balance the interests of local communities, regional elites and the State. The literature suggests that for sustainable governance, it is essential to include local votes in decision -making and to ensure that resource management policies are fair and just. This approach could help fill the gaps between local communities and elite players, promote better relationships and reduce conflicts on resources. Thus, the interaction and the conflict on the control of resources in Sudan present both challenges and governance opportunities, reflecting the broader social dynamics in the country., In Sudan, the historical context of resource control is crucial to understanding current interactions between local communities, regional elites and the State. Throughout its history, Sudan has experienced a series of governance structures that have shaped how resources are managed and disputed. According to Patey (2024), the colonial period had a lasting impact on the exploitation of resources in Sudan, in particular concerning natural resources such as oil and gold. The British-Egyptian administration focused on the extraction of resources for the benefit of colonial interests, often ignoring the needs and rights of local communities. This exploitation has created a model of inequality and marginalization which continues to influence the resource policy today.

After obtaining independence in 1956, the governance structures of Sudan continued to reflect the inequalities established during the colonial reign. State control over resources has remained centralized and the regional elites began to emerge, in competition for influence and wealth derived from these resources. Patey (2024) argues that government's favoritism towards certain regions, which were rich in resources, have led to tensions with marginalized communities. This created a dynamic where local communities felt deprived of their rights and excluded from the advantages of their natural resources.

The discovery of petroleum at the end of the 20th century intensified conflicts on the control of resources in Sudan. The government has strongly invested in oil extraction, in particular in the southern and Darfur regions, which housed ethnically and culturally diverse communities. These areas were often faced with significant environmental degradation and a social disturbance due to extraction activities. The regional elites, who wanted to capitalize on these resources, have aligned themselves on the state, sometimes leading to violent confrontations with local communities. Patey (2024)

stresses that these struggles were not only on resources but also on identity and power, because various groups live for recognition and influence in the governance process.

In addition, approaches to historical governance, including centralized decision -making and low local institutions, have made it difficult for local communities to assert their rights to resources. Efforts to decentralize governance in Sudan have often encountered the resistance of state elites and regional, which fear losing power. Consequently, local communities remain marginalized and their voices are often overlooked in the decision -making process linked to resource management. This lack of commitment has further fueled social tensions, because local populations believe that their needs and perspectives are not sufficiently represented.

In addition, the implications of this historical context extend beyond simple governance. The current conflicts on the control of resources have often led to the violence and the displacement of communities, contributing to a broader social dynamic in the country. As Patey (2024) notes, these conflicts also promote a cycle of distrust between communities and the State, complicating efforts to build a cohesive national identity. With the control of resources related to power and privilege issues, Sudan's social fabric remains tense, influencing the potential for conflict resolution and sustainable governance.

Understanding this historic backdrop is essential to analyze current interactions and conflicts on resource control in Sudan. While local communities, regional elites and the state face these inheritances, their relations will shape the future of governance and social dynamics in the country. The interaction between executives of historical governance and the control of resources continues to highlight the complexities of power and identity in the socio-political landscape of Sudan., The local communities in Sudan have unique perspectives on the control of resources and governance. These points of view are modeled by their daily experiences and struggles with the regional elites and the state. According to Fiseha (2024), the idea of devolution has become important in the functioning of local governance. The devolution refers to the transfer of power and responsibility from the highest levels of government to local authorities and communities. In Sudan, this process affects how local populations interact with state and regional elites regarding their rights to resources.

Local communities often see state and regional elites as competing forces. While regional elites can try to control resources to their advantage, local communities depend on the same resources for their means of subsistence. For example, in the regions rich in natural resources, local people often feel that their needs are neglected by both local authorities and government. Fiseha (2024) observes that when power is donated, local governance can better reflect the needs and priorities of people. However, this is not always the case. Sometimes local leaders can act as intermediaries, giving priority to their relationships with the state on the interests of the community.

Relations between local communities, regional elites and the state are complex and can lead to conflicts. Many members of the community feel marginalized, especially when their voices are not listened to in decision -making processes. Often they must navigate in a network of power dynamics, in which regional elites can promise development but cannot keep these promises. Fiseha (2024) underlines that this gap between promise and reality can create distrust between local communities and authorities, making resource management even more demanding.

In addition, local communities often employ various strategies to assert their rights to resources. They can engage in protests, form cooperatives or appeal to non -governmental organizations for support. In this way, they aim to negotiate better terms for access and control of their resources. The effectiveness of these strategies can vary widely. In some cases, basic movements can lead to significant changes in governance, while in others, they can face harsh repressions from the state or regional elites.

In addition to these conflicts, social dynamics within local communities also change due to resources control problems. Competition for resources can exacerbate tensions between community members, leading to divisions along ethnic or tribal lines. This fragmentation can make collective action more difficult, as Fiseha suggests (2024). Since local populations resist external pressure, they must also manage internal disputes, complicating their efforts to support better governance.

Ultimately, the local communities in Sudan play a crucial role in modeling discussions on resource control. Their perspectives highlight the importance of listening to different voices in governance processes, in particular in contexts marked by inequality. Understanding these dynamics is vital for the development of equal and inclusive policies that meet the needs of all the interested parties involved in the management of resources., The regional elites in Sudan play an important role in the dynamics of resource control and governance. Ayal (2024) underlines how these elites use their access to natural resources to strengthen their influence on local communities and state mechanisms. In many regions

of Sudan, these elites are often considered as intermediaries between the community and the State, using their resources to gain political power. They take advantage of the wealth generated from resources such as oil, minerals and land to establish a bastion of local policy.

One of the crucial strategies used by regional elites is the creation of customer networks. By distributing selective resources and advantages, these elites promote the loyalty of community leaders and influential personalities. Ayal (2024) shows that this system allows the manipulation of local populations, resulting in dependence on the regional elite for economic support and political representation. This creates an environment where local communities can withstand the authority of the State but are based simultaneously on these elites for resources, thus complicating governance.

However, competition between regional elites can lead to conflicts and tensions. Ayal (2024) stresses that different groups can compete for control of lucrative resources, resulting in tensions between the rival elites. This competition can lead to violent confrontations, undermining social cohesion within communities. The struggle for power often manifests itself in the form of conflicts which not only affect the elites but also have deep impacts on local communities, divisions and additional instability.

The relationship between regional elites and the state is also marked by conflicts. Although the State can seek to control the resources of national income, regional elites often resist these efforts to maintain their power. Ayal (2024) suggests that this tension can weaken state governance capacities, producing a situation where local governance is essentially fragmented. State representatives can be co-opted by these elites, which makes governance more on maintaining the status quo rather than meeting the needs of the population.

In addition, regional elites can handle state structures to their advantage. They can engage in lobbying or use their financial resources to influence decision-making at higher government levels. Ayal (2024) develops in cases where the regional elites have managed to put pressure for tax relief or favorable regulations that benefit their companies. Consequently, state policies can reflect the interests of powerful elites rather than the collective requirements of local communities. This situation strengthens inequalities and can lead to great dissatisfaction among those who feel marginalized.

In addition, the interaction between regional elites and local communities is characterized by a complex network of social dynamics. Ayal (2024) notes that local communities can present both resistance and acquiescence towards these elites. While certain factions can repel the domination of the elite, fearing the loss of their resources or their autonomy, others can seek alliances with them in the hope of gaining favor and access to the advantages. This duality leads to a fragmented social fabric, further complicating the landscape of governance in Sudan. The need for regional elites to maintain local support while managing conflicts with the State and their competitors creates a precarious balance of powers which continues to shape the political landscape in Sudan. The role of the State in the management of resources in Sudan is complex and often leads to conflicts between different groups. State policies concerning resources have fluctuated over time, creating a tension and competition environment. According to Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024), these state policies have a significant impact on food security and how the resources are allocated, which in turn affects social dynamics within local communities.

States often control significant resources such as land, water and minerals. In Sudan, local communities are counting on these resources for their livelihoods. However, state policies can limit access to these resources for local populations, often prioritizing economic growth or the needs of regional elites. This creates a situation where local communities feel marginalized and excluded from the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) point out that when the state neglects local needs, this can lead to food insecurity for many. This negligence results from policies that promote large agricultural businesses or foreign investments compared to local farmers in difficulty. The emphasis on the extraction or export of resources does not always correspond to the daily needs of people, aggravating existing social inequalities. While local communities find it difficult to ensure their food needs, their frustrations and their conflicts with the regional elites and the state may increase.

Regional elites also play an important role in resource management. Often, they align themselves with the interests of the State to guarantee their power and access precious resources. This alliance can lead to the exploitation of local communities. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) discuss how regional elites can manipulate state resources to their advantage, further deepening the gap between themselves and local populations. These dynamics can lead to a lack of confidence and cooperation between communities and the State, which makes governance more difficult.

In addition, conflicts often emerge when different interests compete on control of resources. For example, when the state applies policies that promote large -scale agriculture, local communities can resist, leading to disputes over land use. These disputes can turn into violent confrontations, as shown in various regions of Sudan. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) point out that such conflicts disrupt not only local economies, but can also have broader implications for national stability.

The governance structure in Sudan is also affected by these current conflicts. When local communities and regional elites compete for resources, the state's ability to govern effectively is undermined. Resource control becomes a focal point for power struggles, distracting essential governance functions. As local grievances increase, the state can strengthen its military presence in these regions, further exacerbating tensions. This militarization can lead to human rights violations and a cycle of violence that undermines social cohesion (Ali, 2024).

In summary, state fluctuating policies in Sudan considerably affect resource management. As Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) explain, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State on the control of resources shapes food security and social dynamics, leading to conflicts and challenges in governance. Conflicts on Sudan resources have significant implications for governance structures. Minko (2024) analyzes how these conflicts contribute to governance failures and affect state legitimacy and cohesion among various social groups. In Sudan, local communities often fight against regional elites and the state to control essential resources such as land, water and minerals. These struggles reflect deeper questions of power and inequality that challenge the state's ability to maintain order and provide services to its citizens.

Minko (2024) points out that competition for resources leads not only to direct conflicts, but also to a governance crisis. For example, regional elites can explore resource -rich areas to strengthen their power and wealth, often driving local communities away. This creates feelings of alienation between these communities, which can see the state as not responding to their needs. As a result, the legitimacy of the state weakens because it is seen as favoring a small group of elites rather than serving the wider population.

In addition, the lack of effective governance in areas rich in resources exacerbates social divisions. Minko (2024) highlights how communities affected by resource extraction usually suffer from marginalization. When local voices are ignored in decision -making processes, it creates resentment and fuels conflicts that can become violence. These tensions not only disturb local governance, but also spread to broader national implications, making it difficult to maintain the state's social order.

The interaction of local communities, regional elites and the state thus creates a complex landscape of governance. As Minko (2024) discusses, when local communities are involved in protests or resistance to the exploitation of resources, they challenge state authority. This situation can lead to a cycle of violent conflict, as the state can respond hard to maintain control, further alienating these communities. In this context, the state struggles to balance the demands of different actors while trying to defend their sovereignty.

In addition, resource conflicts usually reveal existing complaints, such as ethnic tensions or historical injustices. This aspect further complicates the scenario of governance, as Minko (2024) suggests that these underlying issues should be addressed for sustainable solutions to arise. The tensions that arise from competing interests about resources can make it difficult for local communities to collaborate, preventing the formation of effective governance structures.

In short, conflicts on Sudan's resources control significantly affect governance, affecting state legitimacy and social cohesion. The results of Minko (2024) illustrate that without addressing the root causes of these conflicts and promoting inclusive governance, state and local communities can remain trapped in a cycle of instability and distrust. This creates a challenging environment, where sustainable development and social harmony become increasingly difficult to achieve. International powers played an important role in the conflicts of resources in Sudan, influencing interactions and conflicts between local communities, regional elites and the State. Nandan and Deshpande (2024) explore how governments and foreign companies have invested in the rich natural resources of Sudan. These investments often come with political support, which strengthens state control over these resources. They argue that such foreign involvement tends to strengthen the authority of the Sudanese government, allowing it to affirm greater power over local communities. For example, the Sudanese state often collaborates with foreign companies to exploit resources such as oil and gold, which increases state revenues. This increase in financing can be used to improve military capacities and strengthen state governance, thus set out local governance structures.

In addition, Ingman (2024) notes that foreign interventions can lead to a complex local response from communities that feel marginalized by the interests of the state and foreigners. This situation generates resentment and undermines local

governance. Local communities often consider the state alliance with international powers as a violation of their rights to natural resources. This conflict is particularly pronounced in the fields rich in resources where local residents depend on these resources for their livelihoods. Nandan and Deshpande (2024) argue that when international powers support state control over resources, they involuntarily make local communities more alienated and helpless.

The implications of this dynamic are significant. According to Ingman, the presence of international actors often leads to an increase in social tensions. Local communities can use demonstrations or other forms of resistance against government and international companies. This resistance reflects a struggle not only on resources but also on identity and autonomy. The communities claim the right to participate in decision-making processes concerning the management of resources, which, according to them, should involve local votes. However, as Nandan and Deshpande (2024) indicate, any attempt to reform local governance is frequently compromised by state dependence on foreign investments.

In addition, the role of international powers can create disconnection in priorities. While local communities prioritize the sustainable management of resources and the equitable distribution of advantages, international companies can focus on maximizing profits. Ingman (2024) stresses that this gap can lead to environmental degradation and social injustice, which can fuel additional conflicts. Local communities, in turn, can get involved in informal economies or illicit activities as a means of survival, which further complicates relations with the interests of the State and international interests.

The involvement of international powers thus introduces a layer of complexity in the way in which local communities interact with the regional elites and the State. Instead of promoting collaboration and sustainable governance, foreign interests often worsen inequalities and existing conflicts on resource control. These challenges highlight the broader implications for social dynamics in Sudan, showing a clear intersection between international participation and local governance struggles. Nandan and Deshpande (2024), as well as Ingman (2024), illustrate that the path to the management and governance of fair resources in Sudan is heavy with difficulties shaped by these complex relationships and conflicts. The interactions between local communities, regional elites and in Sudan on the control of resources reveal a complex network of relationships marked with both cooperation and conflict. Local communities often depend on natural resources for their sustenance, such as water, arable land and minerals. These resources attract the attention of the regional elites and the state, which try to exploit them for economic profit. In this struggle for control, tensions derive since local communities can resist elite initiatives that threaten their traditional rights and ways of living. Opongo (2024) highlights this struggle, noting that local voices are often marginalized in decision-making processes, leading to grievances and alienation among the members of the community.

The regional elites often play a double role, acting as intermediaries between local communities and state authorities, also pursuing their interests in the extraction of resources. This can lead to alliances, but it can also encourage resentment between the premises that feel exploited or set aside. According to Jha (2024), the regional elites can exacerbate conflicts on resources when they give priority to profit with respect to social cohesion. This highlights the need for a critical examination of how the elite exploit their influence to model governance in their favor, sometimes at the expense of sustainable practices and local commitment.

The role of the state in the control of resources further complicates these dynamics. The Sudanese government has historically centralized the authority and resources, which often translate into unfortunate power relationships. This centralization can erode the trust between state and local communities, undermining cooperation and creating fertile land for conflicts. Local communities can perceive the state as an external entity more focused on the extraction of resources than on the support of local development, leading to resistance and sometimes violent clashes.

In addition, the implications for governance are significant. As the local communities face growing pressures both from the regional elites and from the state, their inclusion in resource management becomes crucial to promote peace and guarantee sustainability. Opongo (2024) supports a shift towards more inclusive governance practices that prioritize local knowledge and participatory decision-making process. He suggests that recognizing the rights of local communities and involving them in the governance of resources can help create a more equitable distribution of benefits and mitigate the conflict.

Likewise, Jha (2024) underlines the importance of improving local commitment through policies that enhance communities. This includes access to resources and decision-making processes, which not only support local subsistence means, but also strengthens social cohesion. By recognizing and respecting the local community's agency, governance can become more effective, reducing the probability of conflicts on resources.

In summary, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and in Sudan is characterized by tension, conflict and struggle for resource control. Addressing these problems requires nuanced approaches to governance that integrate local knowledge and perspectives. By promoting inclusive practices and recognizing the importance of the commitment of the community, it is possible to create paths towards the sustainable management of the resources that honors the needs and rights of all the interested parties involved.

4. Discussion

4.1. The Complex Dynamics of Natural Resource Governance in Sudan

The governance of natural resources in Sudan is characterized by a multifaceted interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state, generating significant implications for the political panorama of the nation. The country is equipped with a series of natural resources, including oil, minerals and fertile agricultural land, which have a substantial potential for economic development. However, the governance of these resources is ruined by complexity and conflicts, often exacerbated by historical inheritance of marginalization and inequality. The interaction between the various actors involved in the governance of resources can be perceived as a dynamic arena in which power relationships play a crucial role in modeling the distribution of benefits and decision -making processes.

The local communities in Sudan act as fundamental actors in the governance of natural resources, which have indigenous knowledge and traditional rights on earth and its resources. Their commitment is of fundamental importance, as they are the main parties affected by the exploitation of resources. However, these communities often face challenges relating to their lack of representation in governance structures. Many of these locations are often located in remote areas with little access to infrastructure or state services, making it difficult for their voices to be listened to in wider political dialogues. The marginalization of local voices is aggravated by the attention of the state to the action of resources for national economic benefit, leading to a perceived expropriation of lands and common resources.

At the same time, the regional elites emerge as cardinal intermediaries in the governance landscape, exploiting their socio-political influence to negotiate with state and corporate entities. These elites often have both political connections and economic resources that guarantee them considerable power in the decisions of allocation of resources. Their roles can be double, as they can act as supporters of local interests while at the same time they align with state agendas or corporate desires, thus creating an intricate network of alliances and conflicts. This relationship often generates a dynamic of power in which regional elites work both as beneficiaries and potential threats to local communities, sometimes perpetuating the exploitation practices that undermine community well -being in favor of personal gains.

The role of the state in the governance of natural resources is equally complicated, oscillating between authority and abdication. Historically, the Sudanese state has framed its governance strategies around a centralized model, often giving priority to national interests on regional or local considerations. The dependence of the state to the drawing of natural resources for the generation of revenue, in particular in the oil sector, strengthens a low approach to resource management. This approach can marginalize local governance systems and exacerbate tensions between state and local populations, in particular in cases of expropriation of the soil for extraction projects. In addition, the governance of the state is influenced by external actors, including international societies and global economic entities, which further complicates its strategies and priorities in the management of natural resources.

In summary, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state in Sudan highlights the significant dynamics of power that affect not only on the governance of resources but also the wider political climate of the nation. Understanding these interactions is crucial for the analysis of the underlying socio-political tensions and illuminating paths for a governance of the fairest and sustainable natural resources in Sudan., The historical context of the distribution of Sudan's natural resources and its governance framework is essential to understand the dynamics of power between local communities, regional elites and the state. The rich natural resources of Sudan, including oil, gold and agricultural land, were both a source of potential economic prosperity and a catalyst for conflicts and power struggles. Historically, the governance of these resources has been modeled by colonial heritage, state policies and by socio-political structures that have emerged post-independence.

4.2. The Historical and Contemporary Struggles Over Natural Resource Governance in Sudan

During the colonial period, British and Egyptian administrators implemented governance paintings of exploitation that gave priority to the action of resources for the benefit of the colonial economy. Local communities were often marginalized and their rights to resources were mined. This heritage of exclusion laid the foundations for future

tensions. After obtaining independence in 1956, Sudan inherited a governance model that mainly favored the central state and regional elites, leaving the local communities with limited agency on the resources located in their territories. The initial post-colonial government has issued policies that have further concentrated control of resources in the hands of some, often promoting the elites aligned with the central authority.

In the 70s, the discovery of oil reserves in regions such as the territories of South Sudan further complicated the panorama of the governance of resources. The state, under the guidance of President Jaafar Nimeyri, tried to nationalize and manage oil resources centrally. This move was welcomed with resistance by the regional elites and local communities, who felt right to the lack of an equitable distribution of resources. The conflict intensified the existing complaints, in particular between the groups marginalized in the South and the Darfur, which in the end culminated in prolonged civil wars and deeply rooted tensions that underlined the fragility of the state authority.

The 1998 oil law marked a significant change in the governance of Sudan's natural resources, leading to the effective privatization of exploration and oil production. This transition benefited from a network of regional elites and foreign investors, exacerbating competition and conflict on the control of resources. Southern Sudan, in particular, has experienced a power vacuum cleaner and greater militarization, while local communities allied themselves with different factions in the run for the control of oil income. The wealth generated by oil has not passed to local populations; Instead, it has become a point of dispute that fueled further disorders.

The signature of the global peace agreement in 2005, which led to the independence of South Sudan in 2011, created a new geopolitical panorama. However, the struggle for the governance of resources continued while the new and old elite groups attempted to assert control over the remaining resources. In Darfur, the emergence of various armed groups highlighted the dispute in the course of the rights of resources, in which the local communities have often mobilized in response to the state policies that marginalize their interests.

At present, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and State in Sudan remains complex. Recent changes in governance following political upheavals in 2019 reiterate the challenge in progress to integrate local voices in the national speech on the governance of resources. The efforts for decentralization and the reform were welcomed with skepticism, while dynamics of power rooted persist. The historical picture illuminates the persistent inequalities associated with the governance of natural resources, which continue to influence the political stability and the socio-economic development of Sudan., Local communities in Sudan play a fundamental role in the governance and management of natural resources, a situation that is increasingly significant in the context of the country's political panorama complex. These communities are deeply intertwined with their natural environment, depending on local resources for their livelihoods, cultural practices and social structure. Its influence on resource management and property is marked by both traditional authority systems and by contemporary pressures emanating from state and market forces.

The relationship between local communities and natural resources is fundamentally relational, based on collective stories, cultural traditions and social practices that establish norms around the use of resources. Local communities define the rights of natural resources through usual land tenure systems, which often come into conflict with state laws and policies that promote the centralized government of resources. This discord can result in a power struggle, since local communities affirm their rights in the context of government initiatives that favor regional elites or foreign investments. Such tensions highlight the struggles of local communities for recognition and agency in the resources government.

In addition, local communities often participate in informal agreements and negotiations with regional elites, which mediate their access to resources. These elites can influence navigation of the bureaucratic landscape of natural resources management, serving as intermediaries between state and local populations. However, this relationship can also be exploiting, since regional elites can take advantage of their power to deprive local communities of equitable access, resulting in unequal benefits of resources extraction. The accumulation of wealth by these elites often exacerbates economic disparities within local communities, which can lead to social disturbances and development efforts.

In Sudan, the governance of natural resources, particularly oil, gold and agricultural land, has become a controversial issue. The State has promulgated policies aimed at maximizing the income of these sectors, which leads to the marginalization of the interests of local communities. For example, the allocation of land for large-scale agricultural projects often occur without adequate consultation or compensation for those who inhabit or depend on the earth. This situation reflects a broader trend in which local voices are systematically set aside in favor of state and elite interests, asking questions about the legitimacy of such governance practices.

In addition, the impact of armed conflict and political instability in Sudan has intensified the challenges faced by local communities regarding the management of natural resources. In regions plagued by conflicts, such as Darfur, the struggle for the control of resources has often been a main driver of violence. Armed groups can capitalize on local complaints related to the deprivation of resources, effectively using natural resources as a tool to mobilize the support or control of the exercise. This dynamic further complicates relations between local communities, regional elites and the State, since power struggles are not only manifested in the government but also in the broader context of national policy.

Finally, the role of local communities in resource management is also evolving due to global environmental speeches that advocate conservation led by the community and sustainable practices. International organizations and NGOs have increasingly recognized the importance of local knowledge and participation in resource governance. These approaches can promote a more equitable distribution of the benefits derived from natural resources, changing the dynamics of power towards greater empowerment of the community. These movements advocate legal and institutional frameworks that recognize the rights of local communities and provide them with a platform to participate in decision-making processes surrounding resources governance, with the objective of re-evaluating the influences of local communities in front to state and regional elites.

In summary, local communities in Sudan are critical players in the Government of Natural Resources, however, their roles are loaded with challenges and complexities that affect the broader political landscape. The interaction of local interests, regional elite ambitions and state policies continue to shape the dynamics of resource management, underlining the need for inclusive governance structures that respect the rights and voices of local populations. The governance of natural resources in Sudan is inextricably linked to the influence exerted by regional elites, whose dynamic power is essential to shape the commitment of local communities with the State. These elites, often emerging from historical, economic and social contexts, have substantial control over the allocation and management of resources, precipitating both cooperation and conflict within broader political frameworks. Its authority is based on a confluence of factors, including economic capital derived from the extraction of resources, social networks based on kinship and ethnicity, and political connections with state mechanisms.

4.3. The Role of Regional Elites, Local Communities, and the State in Shaping Governance

In the context of Sudan, the regions rich in resources, particularly Darfur, Kordofan, and the Blue Nile are significant rebels' sites, in which regional elites play an influential role in the negotiation of access to natural resources. These elites are often positioned as intermediaries between local communities and the State, taking advantage of their power to extract concessions or form alliances that can facilitate access to lucrative resources such as oil, gold and agricultural land. The process by which these resources are governed reveals an intricate dynamic of power that not only affect economic distributions but also reinforce social stratifications throughout ethnic and regional lines.

The political fabric of Sudan, characterized by the intermittent civil conflict and changing government structures, further complicates the role of regional elites. During periods of central government weakness or fragmentation, regional elites have taken advantage of local complaints and aspirations, exercising autonomy that allows them to consolidate power. For example, in the abundant southern Kordofan of resources, local elites have established informal governance structures that parallel to state institutions, thus challenging the legitimacy of the State while increasing their influence on local decision-making processes. Its ability to exercise power is often exacerbated by the inability of the State to provide adequate public goods or guarantee an equitable distribution of resources, which generates situations in which regional elites assume roles that are generally reserved for the State.

In addition, the interaction between regional elites and the State can lead to the formation of sponsorship systems, where elites offer tangible benefits for local communities in exchange for loyalty and support. These systems can induce an elites' dependence, undermining the base mobilization potential and civic commitment. This political agreement tends to legitimize the domain of the elite by framing its control over resources as necessary for the development of the community, despite promoting entrenched inequalities. Consequently, the alignment of elite interests with state policies often marginalizes local communities, which can find that their voices decrease even more in the sands of the governance of natural resources.

Interestingly, the extraction of resources has also captured the ambitions of local elites to ascend to national political platforms. The history of the revolts and the uprisings in Sudan underlines how regional elites can transform their regional power into national political capital, thus seeking representation in higher levels of governance. This trend reflects an essential aspect of the political landscape of Sudan, in which the premises becomes national, impacting the government structures and the political discourse of the country. When aspiring to influence state policies, regional

elites not only challenge existing power dynamics but also navigate the complexities of the Ethno-political Panorama of Sudan, where identity policy often plays an important role.

Therefore, the influence of regional elites in the governance of natural resources in Sudan personifies a fluid relationship with state and local communities, characterized by symbiotic tension. Through their governance strategies, regional elites shape the patterns of resource distribution while negotiating their position within the national political sphere, which further complicates the narration of resource governance in Sudan. As such, understanding the ramifications of its influence requires a nuanced examination of the socio-political contexts in which these dynamics develop, revealing the deep repercussions on the general political landscape of the nation. The role of the State in mediation between local communities and regional elites in the governance of natural resources of Sudan is fundamental, characterized by a dynamic interaction that reflects broader political realities and power struggles. The complexity of this mediation is underlined by the various interests of the State and the socio-economic contexts of local communities and regional elites, which makes it a crucial factor to understand the governance of resources in the country.

Historically, the Sudanese State has oscillated between autocratic governance and decentralized management attempts, impacting their relationship with local communities and regional elites. Central government policies often prioritize national interests, which can collide with local aspirations. In many cases, the State has deployed a sponsorship framework to manage local complaints, favoring regional elites that can reinforce national agendas. The elites serve not only as intermediaries but also as power runners that negotiate access to resources, which often results in a reinforcement of existing inequalities within local communities.

In addition, dependence on the central state in regional elites to maintain control over natural resources can lead to the exacerbation of tensions between these elites and local stakeholders. For example, in areas rich in resources such as Darfur and Kordofan, regional elites have frequently appropriate resources from local populations, generating resentment and resistance. The complicity or perceived negligence of the State in this appropriation is manifested in the conflict, undermining its legitimacy and promoting a mature environment for disturbances.

In response to the pressures of local communities that demand an equitable distribution of resources, the State has occasionally assumed the role of referee, with the aim of balance the power of elite by mitigating the discontent of the community. This equilibrium act is full of challenges. Local communities often mobilize and form coalitions to take advantage of their demands for access and control of resources, leading to possible clashes with state and regional elites. These dynamics force the State to adopt a reactive position instead of proactive, reducing its effectiveness as a mediator.

In addition, the extraction of natural resources often takes place within a framework that favors short-term economic gains on sustainable development. The State approach tends to prioritize foreign investment and income generation, leaving aside the rights and needs of local communities. This neocolonial perspective in the governance of resources not only alienates local components, but also contributes to a fragmentation of social cohesion, since different groups can compete for the attention and recognition of the State.

The complexities of state mediation are also reflected in the established government structures to manage natural resources, which often lack transparency and responsibility. Legal frameworks often empower regional elites and limit community participation, exacerbating perceptions of exclusion and inequality. The lack of genuine consultation mechanisms reinforces a cycle of distrust and conflict, since local communities perceive that the State favors elite interests on collective well-being.

It is also essential to recognize that the mediating role of the State is defined by the fluctuating political landscape in Sudan, made up of historical conflict legacies and continuous power struggles. The evolution of governance structures after periods of political agitation or change, such as the fall in autocratic regimes, can lead to changes in power dynamics between local communities, regional elites and the State. In summary, the mediation role of the State is disputed and fundamentally intertwined with broader social power relations, configuring the accessibility and governance of the natural resources of Sudan, while directly impacting the socio-political fabric of the nation. The discourse surrounding the governance of natural resources in Sudan has attracted increasing academic attention, particularly in the context of the complex relations between local communities, regional elites and the State. Several studies have tried to elucidate the implications of these interactions in the national policy management frameworks and resource management, contributing to an understanding of the dynamics of power within the country. The center of this body of literature is the recognition of the fragmentation of the State as a fundamental factor that influences the structures and practices of governance.

Sempijja and El Hassani (2024) offer a critical exploration of state fragmentation in Sudan, arguing that the loss of central government authority in peripheral areas has catalyzed a transformation in the governance of resources. His research postulates that interests between regional elites and local communities have led to the appearance of competing government structures, which often challenge the state's ability to manage natural resources effectively. When analyzing case studies in different regions, Sempijja and El Hassani illustrate how this fragmentation results in a mosaic of agreements and informal practices that govern resources, the application and exchange of benefits.

Confirming the findings of Sempijja and El Hassani, other academics have emphasized the role of local communities in resource governance, particularly in areas such as Darfur and Kordofan. Studies indicate that local populations, adapted to a perception of negligence and marginalization of the State, have developed their own government systems to manage critical resources for their survival. These local systems often cross the interests of regional elites, which negotiate control over resources so that they reflect their aspirations of power and economic gain. The rights of workers and environmental impacts of the extraction of resources further complicate these local governance dynamics, as highlighted by recent field work in mining communities that underlines the fragile balance maintained between community rights and maneuvers elite power.

In addition, the variation in the endowment of resources in Sudan complicates governance problems. Academics such as Abdallah (2023) commented on how oil -rich and mineral areas tend to attract a more substantial state and elite intervention, creating high tensions with local communities. In these contexts, local entities are often trapped in a network of conflicting interests, with state and elite actors that frequently negotiate access to resources and associated benefits without adequately involving communities that are directly affected by These decisions.

Another critical aspect of literature is the analysis of the historical context of the governance frames of Sudan, particularly the decentralization policies implemented since the early 2000s. Although theoretically aimed at promoting local governance and improving the control of resources by resources by Part of the communities, policies have often been co -opted by regional elites to strengthen their political power. Academics such as Mohamed (2022) indicate that, instead of promoting genuine local participation, decentralization has led, in many cases, the reinforcement of existing elite hierarchies, exacerbating inequalities in the distribution and governance of resources.

In summary, literature on resource governance in Sudan reveals a complex interaction of the dynamics of local and regional power characterized by the fragmentation of the State and the growing influence of local communities and elites. This intricate relationship of relations has deep implications for the Government of Natural Resources in Sudan, which finally shapes both local media and the broader political panorama. Understanding these dynamics is crucial to address continuous challenges related to governance and resource management in the country., The interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State in the Governance of Natural Resources of Sudan illustrates a complex political landscape where the wealth generated by resources not only feeds economic growth, but also exacerbates political conflicts. According to Patey (2024), the policy surrounding the extraction of resources in Sudan is characterized by a struggle for power between these actors, which often results in conflicts about the control and distribution of natural resources. The dependency of the state of income from resources, particularly oil and mineral of resources.

4.4. The Political Economy of Resource Governance in Sudan: Elites, Local Communities, and the Struggle for Equity

The richness of natural resources in Sudan serves as a catalyst for the economic opportunity and a potential source of political struggle. The concentration of resources, the oil predominantly in the south and the minerals in several regions, has established a framework of inequality that feeds factionalism. In this environment, regional elites often take advantage of their influence to negotiate energy agreements that prioritize their interests at the expense of local communities. As Patey (2024) stands out, these elites often collaborate with the State, creating a client list system that marginalizes the basic voices, particularly those of rural populations directly affected by the extraction of resources. The consequent erosion of the community agency can cause complaints, which leads to collective actions that challenge the authority of regional elites and state actors.

In addition, the governance of natural resources in Sudan is deeply affected by the historical legacies of colonial exploitation and subsequent construction efforts of the postcolonial state. The allocation of the richness of resources has been historically unequal, favoring certain regions and ethnic groups over others. Such disparities further strengthen local and regional inequalities, inciting conflicts as local communities fight for the recognition and legitimate statements of the resources extracted from their lands. The challenges report the controversy dynamics where the

demands for resource control are intrinsically linked to broader political aspirations, including autonomy and self-determination.

Patey (2024) also analyzes how international actors and foreign investment complicate these dynamics. The external interests in the natural resources of Sudan add layers of complexity to the interaction between local communities, elites and the State, since foreign companies are often aligned with regional powers while overlapping the needs of the local community. This external participation can exacerbate existing tensions; When it is perceived that resource governance benefits foreign investors and regional elites disproportionately, local communities can resist through organized protests or disturbances, further destabilizing the region and polarize political alignments.

The state's response to these conflicts tends to oscillate between concession and repression, which demonstrates a reactive position instead of proactive in the management of local complaints. In regions where resource extraction has led to a significant socio-political disorder, such as Darfur and Kordofan, the militarized state approach to quell the dissent often intensifies the feelings of deprivation of deprivation between local populations. This, in turn, reinforces a cycle of violence and resistance that undermines national stability. As Patey (2024) argues, the state response reflects an acute awareness of the richness of the resource of power gives armed groups and regional elites, which culminate in a strategic effort but often ineffective to maintain authority over frantic regions.

The interdependencies created by the governance of resources complicate the political landscape of Sudan, positioning the wealth of natural resources as a tool for the illegal accumulation of power by elite groups and a focal point for legitimate local statements, which finally It contributes to sustained political conflicts and instability throughout the country., The distribution of income from resources in Sudan, in particular with regard to local communities, has been a central factor in economic inequality that permeates the country's socio-political landscape. In the context of the governance of natural resources, the disparity between the richness generated from resources such as oil, gold and the various minerals and the advantages transmitted to local populations are striking. The State, often perceived as the main authority of resource management, has always been involved in the allocation of income which frequently promotes regional elites rather than marginalized local communities, which are directly affected by the extraction processes.

The income distribution model can be included through the objective of the dynamics of power that exists between local communities, regional elites and the central state apparatus. Local communities, which often support environmental and social costs associated with the extraction of resources, receive minimal remuneration or support in exchange for their sacrifices. This inequitable distribution is emblematic of a system of governance which favors the interests of regional elites which order a significant influence within the structures of the State. These elites act frequently as intermediaries between state communities and local communities, channeling the income of resources in their own networks while not meeting the needs and well-being of the members of the community which should logically be the main beneficiaries of the wealth of resources.

In addition, the contractual provisions surrounding the extraction of natural resources often lack transparency and responsibility, exacerbating local grievances. Such arrangements are generally designed in a way that benefits the actors of the state and elite, further anchoring economic inequalities. The absence of framework for sharing fair income means that although the State can raise a considerable wealth of natural resources, local populations continue to fight against high levels of poverty and underdevelopment. The reports indicate that regions rich in natural resources, such as Darfur and southern Kordofan, are faced with infrastructure deficits, inadequate social services and limited investments in community development. This dissonance promotes dissatisfaction and perpetuates the cycles of marginalization, because local voices are systematically excluded from conversations that shape their own economic future.

Corruption plays a central role in this dynamic. When state income derived from natural resources are not subject to rigorous responsibility measures, the possibilities of corruption proliferate. Regional elites, collusion with state representatives, often exploit their positions to siphon income, which could otherwise benefit local communities. These practices erode public confidence in state institutions and fuel perceptions of injustice among the population. The resulting economic disparity affects not only the livelihoods of local communities, but also national development efforts, because the broad economic growth potential is compromised by rooted inequalities.

The ramifications of economic inequalities extend to the political sphere, because local communities deprived of their rights can use other forms of organization and resistance in response to their marginalization. This often catalyzes social movements or armed rebellions, contributing to the instability that has characterized the Sudan's political landscape for decades. The interaction between local community grievances and elite interests illuminates a critical aspect of

broader governance challenges with which the State is faced, where the inequitable distribution of income acts both as a symptom and a catalyst of political discord.

By analyzing the interaction of local communities, regional elites and the State in the context of governance of natural resources in Sudan, it becomes obvious that the fight against economic inequalities is essential to promote sustainable development and political stability. The restoration of confidence between the State and its citizens is based on the creation of fair and transparent mechanisms for the distribution of income, ensuring that local communities are not simply considered as passive recipients of the exploitation of resources but as active participants in the governance processes that ultimately shape their destiny. The relationship between ethnic diversity and governance of natural resources in Sudan clarified by El Dakroury (2024) presents a nuanced understanding of the intersectionality of identity, power and allocation of resources in a context marked by a multifaceted socio-political dynamics. The analysis of El Dakroury puts in the foreground the role of ethnic identities both as a catalyst for the mobilization of the community and as a tool for negotiating resources, ultimately influencing governance structures at local, regional and national level.

In Sudan, where ethnic diversity is pronounced, local communities often have distinctive statements on natural resources based on historical rights, cultural practices and social norms. El Dakroury stresses that these statements are not simply symbolic; They incorporate material realities that inform local governance structures and the distribution of resources such as land, water and mineral deposits. This localized governance is often in contrast with the state-imposed policies imposed by the regional elites which, in the pursuit of economic profitability and political capital, give priority to the action of resources on the rights and needs of indigenous communities.

The tension between regional elites and local communities is particularly pronounced in areas rich in resources such as Darfur and Kordofan, where historical exclusion and marginalization generated conflicts. El Dakroury states that regional elites often manipulate ethnic divisions to consolidate power and justify the appropriation of resources, leading to the renewal of inequalities that aggravate ethnic tensions. This manipulation underlines a strategic use of ethnicity in governance, in which political actors exploit the existing social cracks to navigate in the complex panorama of the governance of resources.

El Dakroury also highlights how ethnic diversity can act as a double-edged sword in the governance of resources. In some cases, it has favored collective action between local communities against exploitation practices, leading to basic movements that require allocation and governance of the most equitable resources. These movements challenge both local elites and state apparatuses, creating an intense political environment in which the dynamics of power are perpetually contested. In addition, this collective mobilization reflects broader implications for the state authority, since the legitimacy of governance is increasingly examined in light of the requests led by the community.

In addition, the state's response to ethnic diversity in the governance of resources reveals an ambivalence that complicates the political panorama. El Dakroury observes that the Policies of the Sudanese government often oscillate among the attempts to incorporate and the exclusion of various ethnic groups, leading to degrees oscillating commitment or violence. State efforts to promote national unity often clash with the lives of ethnic diversity, in which local communities affirm their rights and identities in ways that challenge the centralization of power by the regional elites and the state apparatus.

Overall, El Dakroury provides a critical picture to understand the interaction between ethnic diversity and governance of natural resources in Sudan, highlighting the intricate network of power dynamics that permeate the political landscape. The analysis reveals that any effective governance framework must face the realities of ethnic interactions and the consequent political mobilizations, thus requiring an examination of how these elements come together to influence not only the management of local resources but also the largest trajectories of politics national in Sudan. The intricate dynamics of power between local populations and regional leaders in the areas rich in Sudan resources are essential to understand the governance of natural resources and its wider implications for local and national politics. Babunde and Ibnouf (2024) clarify the ways in which local and regional authorities negotiate control over precious mineral, oil and agricultural resources, highlighting the interests and divergent strategies used by these actors.

Local communities in Sudan, often dependent on natural resources for their means of subsistence, exert Agency in the context of the governance of resources. Their relationship with the regional elites, however, is characterized by an asymmetry of power; Regional elites often capitalize on their political connections and institutional authority to consolidate control over resource management processes. This exploitation is aggravated by the historical negligence of local communities by the state, which has often favored the regional elites in the distribution of economic benefits derived from the extraction of resources.

Babunde and Ibnouf (2024) argue that the interaction between local populations and regional leaders is manifested in different forms of resistance and negotiation. The local communities, motivated by grievances and the desire for greater inclusiveness in governance, actively commit themselves to the defense to ensure that their items are listened to in the decision-making processes relating to the management of natural resources. This local agency often assumes the form of protests, organization of the community and partnerships with NGOs, with the aim of challenging the dominion of the regional elites that give priority to their economic interests on local needs.

In addition, the regional elites, although powerful, are not monolithic. Their interests can diverge according to ethno-political affiliations, leading to tensions between elite factions regarding the governance of resources. Babunde and Ibnouf (2024) illustrate that these internal power struggles among regional leaders can sometimes benefit from local communities, since the competing elites can compete for local support to strengthen their legitimacy. In such cases, local populations can exploit their position as a key component to negotiate more favorable terms in resource management or to guarantee development initiatives that meet their immediate needs.

Furthermore, the role of the Sudanese state in this dynamic cannot be underestimated. The central government policies towards the extraction of resources often strengthen elite power at regional level by at the same time undermining local governance structures. The dependence of the state on the regional elites to facilitate the extraction of resources creates an addiction that limits local control and access to resources, exacerbating existing inequalities. Babunde and Ibnouf (2024) note that this regional elite partnership of the central state often leads to the marginalization of local communities, which further gears their right to have deprived within the political landscape.

The involvement with international companies also alters the dynamics of power in the regions rich in resources. These entities often establish partnerships with regional elites, questioning local voices and perpetuating a governance model that emphasizes the extraction on sustainability. The resulting alienation of local communities from the benefits of the wealth of resources creates fertile land for conflicts and resentment, highlighting the need for a fairer framework of governance that integrates local inputs in the decision-making process.

In summary, the interaction between local populations and regional elites in the governance of Sudan's natural resources is complex, with both cooperation and conflict. Through the goal provided by Babunde and Ibnouf (2024), the understanding of these dynamics is essential to appreciate the way they model not only local economies and political structures, but also the largest trajectories of Sudan's national politics. The governance of oil resources in Sudan presents a case of critical study to explore the intricate dynamics between local communities, regional elites and state, significantly informing the understanding of power and political authority in the country. Oil emerged as a central pillar of the Sudan economy, representing a substantial part of national revenue. However, the management and distribution of oil revenues have revealed rooted power struggles that influence the governance framework through various levels.

4.5. Oil, Elites, and Local Struggles: The Complex Governance of Natural Resources in Sudan

Historically, oil was discovered in Sudan at the end of the twentieth century, leading to the creation of an oil industry that has since become a focal point in the interaction of local, regional and national interests. The governance model adopted by the state mainly reflects centralized control, with the central government of Khartoum which maintains most of the authority on oil production and revenue distribution. This centralization has historically marginalized the local communities, in particular those located in the regions rich in oil by Southern and western Sudan, leading to significant socio-economic disparities and grievances regarding the allocation of resources. The absence of a significant participation for local communities in the decision-making processes related to oil governance creates a sense of alienation and distrust of the state, with consequent localized conflicts and resistance movements.

The regional elites have also played a fundamental role in modeling the governance dynamics of oil. In many cases, these elites have been able to exploit their links with the central government to take control over regional resources, often giving priority to personal and political gains at the expense of the wider well-being of the community. The phenomenon of the regional elites that engage in patronage networks allows the perpetuation of power structures that give priority to a few selected by excluding larger populations from equitable benefits derived from oil wealth. This agreement not only aggravates socio-economic inequalities, but also generates political instability, since marginalized groups pursue alternative means to affirm their statements on natural resources and political representation.

The relationship between state road and oil governance is further complicated by external interactions. Foreign investments have significantly influenced the oil sector of Sudan, with international companies that often create partnerships with the central government. These external actors can amplify existing dynamics of power, since their interests can align more closely with the elite factions in Khartoum rather than with local communities affected by oil

extraction activities. Since the external entities commit themselves to the extraction of resources, the ability of the state to affirm the authority can be undermined, in particular when local populations express opposition to the foreign exploitation of their natural resources.

In addition, the impacts of oil governance have wider political implications, which have an impact on state authority and strengthening conflict cycles. For example, the Darfur conflict, which intensified in the early 2000s, can be partially attributed to competition for natural resources, including oil. While various groups competed for control over the territories rich in resources, the resulting violence contributed to the fragmentation within the state authority, requesting a reevaluation of governance approaches to adequately deal with the intersection of local grievances and national interests.

In summary, the case of oil governance in Sudan illustrates the complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state, encapsulating issues of dynamics of power, economic disparities and resistance movements. While oil continues to act as a catalyst for both economic development and conflicts, the understanding of these dynamics becomes imperative to analyze the wider outlines of the nation policy and the evolution nature of the state authority in the context of the governance of resources natural. The governance of natural resources in Sudan is characterized by a complex interaction of formal and informal networks that shape local access to these resources. These networks usually function outside the official regulatory structures established by the state and may facilitate or obstruct community involvement in exploration and resource management. Informal networks, which cover a number of actors, including local leaders, tribal chiefs and community organizations, shape the distribution of resources and the dynamics of power between local communities and regional elites.

4.6. The Role of Informal Networks and External Actors in Sudan's Natural Resource Governance: Power, Resistance, and Resource Conflicts

In many regions of Sudan, particularly in areas rich in natural resources, such as oil, gold and agricultural lands, informal networks emerged in response to the inadequateness and inefficiencies of the formal structures of governance. These networks are crucial to local communities that seek access to resources, as they create ways for negotiation and collaboration with regional elites and state authorities. For example, local leaders usually take advantage of their social capital and establish relationships within these informal networks to mediate disputes, negotiate access to resources, or ensure employment opportunities for community members in resource extraction industries. This highlights the importance of social confidence and local authority to facilitate the governance of resources, as communities usually depend on these informal mechanisms to navigate the challenges placed by formal bureaucratic processes that are often perceived as they do not respond or corrupt.

However, the role of informal networks is not evenly positive. Although they may improve the local agency, they can also reinforce existing power inequalities, especially when local elites align with regional authorities or state interests. In such cases, the control exerted by few powerful can marginalize broader wishes of the community and exacerbate competition between different groups for access to resources. Informal networks, therefore, can cultivate an environment in which elite capture occurs, in which a small segment of society benefits disproportionately from resource extraction, while local communities remain excluded from significant participation. This dynamic raises critical issues about democratization and equitable distribution of resources in a political scenario marked by historical complaints and socioeconomic disparities.

In addition, the legal ambiguity around land ownership and resource rights in Sudan complicates the role of informal networks. The state often states control over land and resources through policies and legislation that may exclude local communities from formal recognition. As a result, informal networks can act as contestation arenas, where local groups mobilize to challenge state authority and affirm their rights. In this sense, informal networks serve as crucial places for the expression of local complaints, contributing to a deeper political contestation that can destabilize the established dynamics of power between the state, regional elites and local communities.

The impact of informal networks on resource governance is also evident in interactions between local communities and transnational companies. In many cases, these companies seek to browse the complex socio-political scenario of resource extraction in Sudan, engaging with local elites or using informal channels to gain access to resources. This can lead to a form of governance that neglects local needs and preferences, as external actors can prioritize the maximization of profit on sharing equitable benefits with affected communities. Consequently, informal networks can become tools for negotiation and conflict, where local communities are captured between developmental aspirations and exploration realities.

Thus, the role of informal networks in the governance of natural resources of Sudan emphasizes the dynamic intricate of power at stake. They facilitate local access to resources and simultaneously present challenges for equitable governance, allowing empowerment and exploration potential. Understanding these networks is essential for a comprehensive analysis of the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state, particularly when Sudan faces political transitions ongoing and resource -related conflicts. Conflicts about the land and natural resources in Rural Sudan have been a source of tension between local communities, regional elites and the state. Fiseha (2024) elucidates the complexity of these disputes, emphasizing as the intersection of historical complaints, socioeconomic disparities and the distribution of power shape the landscape of conflict in Sudanese rural areas. The governance of natural resources, particularly in regions rich in minerals, oil and fertile land, led to a multifaceted nexus of conflict that reflects the broader political dynamics in play in the country.

Land disputes are often rooted in traditional claims versus modern state initiatives, where local communities affirm their pre and colonial land use standards against state -led resources. The imposition of large -scale agricultural projects and state extraction activities by the state and allied private entities, usually without proper consultation with local populations, exacerbates local complaints. Fiseha (2024) highlights specific cases, such as Nuba and southern Kordofan mountains, where disputes on land possession have not only caused local restlessness, but also greater regional violence, as groups mobilize to defend their rights and subsistence means against perceived invasions.

The role of regional elites cannot be underestimated in this dynamic. Often acting as intermediaries between state and local communities, these elites can explore their positions to manipulate land possession and distribution of resources for personal gain. Fiseha (2024) documents how regional elites often align with state interests, using their influence to ensure concessions that marginalize local populations, thus feeding resentment and conflict. In addition, alliances between the elites and the state facilitate an approach from above the governance that prioritizes the extraction of sustainable development, removing traditional practices and indigenous knowledge systems that historically supported local resource management strategies.

The interaction of local and national interests contributes to a volatile environment, where conflict is exacerbated by the lack of transparent governance structures. Local communities, often captured on an exploration network, are involved in resistance movements or negotiate through informal channels to contest their marginalization. Fiseha (2024) Notes that this resistance can manifest itself in various ways, from peaceful protests to armed revolts, drawing attention to state inadequacies to meet basic rights and needs in relation to access to land and resources.

In addition, growing competition for natural resources in Rural Sudan created not only the tensions between communities, but also the conflict between local groups that vie for the state's favor. As regional elites takeover power and resources, they can cause divisions within communities, undermining traditional social cohesion and leading to a busy political scenario. The resulting conflicts not only reflect local discontent; They resonate on a national scale, intertwining with broader political struggles that challenge the state's legitimacy and ability to effectively govern.

As Fiseha (2024) argues, the consequences of these conflicts extend beyond immediate rural realities, impacting national politics and policies. Failure to properly address the complaints of local communities can lead to increased instability and even conflict, challenging state authority in rural areas and causing international scrutiny. In this context, understanding the dynamics of land and resources disputes in Rural Sudan is crucial to analyze the broader implications of natural resources governance and its intersection with local, regional and national policy. The struggles of power that followed not only reflect the competing interests of various stakeholders, but also evoke critical questions about equity, rights and the future of governance in Sudan. The interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state apparatus in the governance of natural resources of Sudan is increasingly complicated by the participation of external actor such as the Wagner Group. This private military company, linked to the Russian government, has become a significant player in the country's resource extraction panorama, particularly in mining gold operations. The commitment of the Wagner group encapsulates a broader tendency where external actors exploit local governance, often lead to erosion of traditional authority structures and exacerbate the dynamics of power existing between local and regional stakeholders (Nandan and Deshpande, 2024).

Local communities in Sudan historically depend on their resources for economic support and political leverage, confront significant challenges against external intervention. The presence of the Wagner group not only interrupts traditional governance frames, but also allows the appropriation of resources without adequate consideration for the consent or well -being of the community. This phenomenon illustrates a change in the dynamics of power where local communities are in a subordinate position, since external actors are often aligned with regional elites or state officials, undermining local authority. Consequently, local populations are frequently marginalized in negotiations on the allocation of resources, which leads to greater resentment and social disturbances (Nandan and Deshpande, 2024).

In addition to altering local governance, the Wagner Group activities intersect with the interests of the regional elites of Sudan, which can see associations as ways to consolidate power and access wealth. Regional elites, although initially benefit from the influx of resources and protection offered by external actors, can also find their compromised autonomy. The dependence on external military and financial support can create a dim relationship between these elites and the local populations they intend to represent. This situation not only accentuates existing cracks within local communities, but also incorporates an external influence that can lead to instability and factionalism, particularly if several groups compete for the favor of foreign actors (Nandan and Deshpande, 2024).

In addition, the resource government model formed by the Wagner group's actions contributes to a broader framework in which the role of the State is disputed and often decreases. The State, which traditionally has the authority to regulate resources and administer local governance, faces challenges to maintain legitimacy when external actors operate within their borders. The fantasy of sovereign political control becomes increasingly fragile as local communities are witnesses of the obvious alignment between regional elites and foreign entities at the expense of their own interests (Nandan and Deshpande, 2024).

The implications of this external interference extend to the scope of national politics. The consolidation of power between regional elites and their alignment with the Wagner group changes the balance of political power, which can lead to fragmentation and greater competition between several factions. Such political panorama complicates the perspectives of effective governance and encourages a distrust environment, where loyalty is frequently determined by access to foreign support instead of a commitment to local well-being. In this sense, external actors not only participate in the extraction of resources; They actively participate in the remodeling of the political ecology of Sudan, with deep consequences for their government structures and the socioeconomic fabric of local communities (Nandan and Deshpande, 2024)., The political implications of the curse of resources in Sudan are deeply intertwined with the established governance structures and the participation of citizens at several levels. The curse of resources, often characterized by a paradox of abundance, suggests that countries with abundant natural resources often experience less economic growth, less democracy and worse development results than countries with less natural resources Autesserre, S. (2010). In Sudan, the abundance of resources such as oil, gold and cultivable land has exacerbated existing inequalities and created a dynamic of complex power that influence political behavior and governance.

At the state level, the Sudanese government has historically centralized the authority to administer and exploit the natural resources of the country. This concentration of power has allowed the State to control the significant income of these resources, which consequently has led to the marginalization of local communities that are often the custodians of these resources. The dependency of the Sudanese government in the extraction of resources has promoted a pattern of government that prioritizes elite interests on the needs of the broader society. The political elites, often aligned with the central government, have taken advantage of the richness of resources to solidify their authority, creating a feedback cycle that reinforces their control while pre-drainage systematically local populations (Sharkey, 2003).

This dynamic is particularly evident in regions rich in natural resources, where local communities are in conflict with state authorities and regional elites. The lack of inclusion in resource decision-making processes has led to a generalized and private political discontent, promoting a sense of alienation among local populations. Consequently, these communities, often marginalized by state actors and regional elites, can resort to forms of resistance, such as protests, local insurgency or alliances with external actors to affirm their claims on land and resources. Khan, A. (2018). These actions, although indicative of the local agency, also reflect the systemic failure of government structures to address the needs and complaints of the community.

In addition, the governance models used by the Sudanese state often exacerbate these tensions instead of relieving them. Resources, instead of serving as development engines, have become focal points of corruption and sponsorship networks that serve the interests of elite and perpetuate the inefficiencies of governance. Political loyalty promoted by the richness of resources often leaves a broader democratic commitment or the responsibility of citizenship. On the other hand, localities may experience a governance structure strongly influenced by elite negotiations, which leads to unequal development results and perpetuating complaints related to inequality and exclusion (Burgis, 2015).

The implications of this resource extend to the scope of citizen commitment. The prevailing deprivation of the deprivation of rights and the lack of reciprocal responsibility between the State and its citizens hinder participatory governance, contributing to feelings of disappointment and distrust of official political structures. High levels of corruption and inefficiency in resource management exacerbate even more the disconnection of citizens, which limits their ability to mobilize for change or influence politics. As civilians perceive that political structures do not respond, they often withdraw from formal governance processes, thus undermining democratic principles and lead to greater self-confidence (Weber, 2016).

In summary, the political implications of the curse of resources in Sudan reveal a worrying interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State. The governance structures that arise are marked by centralization, exclusion and corruption, resulting in significant barriers for significant citizen participation. This complex panorama of the dynamics of power continues to shape the political fabric of Sudan, highlighting the urgent need of inclusive frameworks that can close the division between state policies and the interests of the local community. The governance of natural resources in Sudan is marked by a complex interaction between local resistance movements and state interventions, which significantly influence the trajectory of resource extraction processes. This sectional analysis seeks to elucidate the dynamics that define the relationship between local communities, state apparatus and regional elites, particularly in the context of mineral extraction, such as gold mining, which became increasingly fundamental to Sudan's economy.

4.7. Power, Resistance, and Resource Governance in Sudan: Dynamics of Local Communities, Elites, and State Interventions

Local communities in Sudan, usually having deep historical connections with roots with the earth and its resources, exhibit varying degrees of resistance to state-sanctioned extraction activities. This resistance is typically motivated by concerns about environmental degradation, the loss of subsistence means and the perceived inequality in the distribution of wealth derived from resources. For example, communities located in regions such as Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile mobilized against national policies and the interests of powerful regional elites. Activism of local farmers and pastors against invasive mining practices reveals increasing assertiveness centered on their rights to land and sustainable resources management. In this sense, resistance assumes various forms, including protests, legal battles and formation of local coalitions designed to negotiate better terms for community involvement in resource governance.

On the other hand, state intervention in resource extraction is often characterized by a double approach that not only seeks to maximize revenue from natural resources, but also to maintain control over political power. In many cases, the Sudanese government has been involved in partnerships with foreign companies and regional elites, thus removing the interests and concerns of local communities. This strategic alignment highlights a broader political calculation in which the state seeks to consolidate power, creating economic dependencies that favor specific elite interests under the pretext of national development. Consequently, this can lead to a systematic marginalization of local populations, whose voices are typically overshadowed by the general reasons for the accumulation of wealth persecuted by the state and the elites.

In addition, the relationship between local communities and the state is punctuated by an inherent tension that arises from historical complaints and contemporary sociopolitical realities. Many local communities perceive state interventions such as coercive and explorers, often leading to violent confrontations and more complaints of complaints. A pertinent example is the conflict in progress in Darfur, where the government-supported militias were involved in violently suppressing local resistance against expropriation and environmental degradation linked to resource extraction. This perspective is aggravated by the perception that state policies disproportionately benefit regional elites and foreign investors, while the local population supports the weight of adverse consequences.

The interaction between local resistance and state interventions therefore reveals a broader narrative on governance and dynamics of power in Sudan. While local communities strive to affirm their rights and seek equitable resources management, the state usually responds with a militarized approach that tries to suppress the dissent. This application of state power not only exacerbates social cleavages, but also complicates the general legitimacy of the state in the eyes of local populations. The cyclic nature of this dynamic emphasizes a significant barrier to effective governance and sustainable resource management, as efforts for the distribution of equitable resources and local empowerment remain consistently harmed by state-led initiatives, focused mainly on revenue generation.

In short, the complex interaction between local resistance and state interventions is emblematic of the dynamics of power in play in the Sudan's natural resources governance scenario. Understanding these relationships is essential to analyze how resource extraction processes shape and are shaped by the socio-political context in progress. Political transitions in Sudan, particularly in the context of natural resources governance, present a convincing case study of the complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state. As highlighted by Asrat and Getachew (2024), dynamic changes in the political scenario are an integral part of understanding how resource governance operates in the midst of competing interests. These transitions are not merely bureaucratic or administrative; They reflect the dynamics of deep power that influences local and national policy.

In recent years, Sudan has witnessed a significant political revolt, characterized by the overthrow of longstanding regimes and subsequent attempts to establish representative governance. Omar al-Bashir's autocratic rule in 2019 created a vacuum that regional elites and local communities sought to fill in, usually with conflicting priorities. Although

local communities, particularly in regions rich in resources, such as Darfur and South Kordofan, pressured for greater autonomy and part of the wealth derived from their regions, regional elites usually intended to consolidate power and maintain control over resource allocation in a more centralized level. This tension highlights the different interests between the base populations that advocate redistribution and local governance and elites seeking to maintain influence within a transitional political environment.

Asrat and Getachew (2024) emphasize that the governance of natural resources in Sudan has traditionally favored a top to bottom approach, marginalized local voices and allowed regional elites to maneuver within the political void created by the change of national alliances. The historical neglect of the state of local governance structures resulted in a complex matrix of clientele and sponsorship networks that regional elites exploit, complicating the transition process. For example, areas rich in gold and oil witnessed local complaints, along with elite capture, which obstructs equitable management of resources and feeds insurgent movements designed to challenge the central authority.

In addition, the interaction between the state and natural resources is underlined by the struggle for legitimacy. Post-revolutionary governments have sought to legitimize their government by addressing resource governance issues that resonate with local populations. However, the legitimacy of these transition authorities usually depends on their ability to mediate conflicts and understand the distinct local socioeconomic realities of various communities. Negotiations in progress between local communities that require inclusive management of natural resources and a state that seek to stabilize their authority reveal the fragility of political transitions in Sudan, as unresolved competition on the governance of resource threatens nascent democratic initiatives.

The current discourse on governance of natural resources also reflects broader regional trends in governance and social resilience. Confidence in resource wealth has historically generated conflicts and instability rather than sustainable development. Thus, the challenge remains: How can a regime balance the immediate political demands of local populations against the comprehensive influence of regional elites? As political transitions unfold in an environment full of historical complaints and socioeconomic disparities, the need for comprehensive reform of governance becomes evident. However, these reforms require a genuine state commitment to decentralize power and engage with local stakeholders, promoting a participatory approach to natural resources management.

Asrat and Getachew's analysis further illuminates the ways to possible models of conflict resolution and collaborative governance that can reshape the future of Sudan's political and economic scenario. The following way is uncertain, especially in a context in which historical injustice fed by the unequal allocation of resources persist. Understanding these dynamics is essential for policy and scholars' formulators, as they sail the intricate tissue of the post-revolution of Sudan. The governance model in Sudan is characterized by significant institutional weaknesses which hinder effective management of natural resources. These gaps reflect a broader systemic context, where the dynamics of power between local communities, regional elites and the state complicate fair distribution and resource management. The interaction between these actors is fundamentally marked by competing interests and different levels of authority, often exacerbating the challenges of governance.

One of the main weaknesses of the Institutional Framework of Sudan is the lack of decentralized governance structures capable of adequately respond to local needs and prioritize community comments in resource management. The centralization of power in the state apparatus has historically marginalized local communities, reducing their role to simple spectators in decisions with an impact on their land and their resources. This marginalization is aggravated by the dependence of the State with regard to the regional elites, which often exert a disproportionate influence on the allocation of resources and governance decisions, leading to a system which favors the interests of elite on those local populations. Therefore, this perpetuates a cycle of privilege for communities which depend directly on these resources for their means of subsistence.

In addition, the regulatory environment governing natural resources management is subject to inconsistencies and lack of application, resulting from both deficits of institutional capacity and the omnipresent influence of corruption on several levels of governance. The absence of robust legal frameworks and regulatory institutions weakens responsibility mechanisms, allowing regional elites to exploit natural resources without supervision or consideration required for environmental sustainability. This reality has divergent implications: on the one hand, it facilitates a short-term economic gain for the elites; On the other, it generates long-term socio-economic instability which has a disproportionate impact.

The commitment of local communities in the governance of resources suffers not only from institutional negligence but also from the fragmentation of civil society. Various and often conflicting interests within local communities make it difficult for them to present a united front against the encroachments of the elites and the authorities of the State. This

internal disunity is still amplified by the historical heritage of conflicts and marginalization, which have eroded social cohesion and confidence within communities. Consequently, when conflicts related to resources occur, they often degenerate violent confrontations, stressing the helplessness of weak institutional frameworks to effectively mediate disputes.

In addition, the historical inheritances of colonial governance have left an imprint on contemporary institutions, where resource management practices have been designed mainly to serve imperial interests, rather than on local needs. This colonial heritage perpetuates inequitable power relations and decreases the local agency in decision-making processes. The resumption of local identities and the reintegration of customary governance systems have potential avenues to rectify these weaknesses; However, such transitions are heavy with challenges given the rooted nature of the current dynamics of power.

Insufficient institutional arrangements of Sudan for the governance of resources reveals the underlying tensions which define relations between the State, the regional elites and the local communities. These dynamics not only affect how natural resources are managed, but also influence broader political stability. The inability to combat institutional weaknesses is directly correlated with the perpetuation of systemic inequalities, which hinders the emergence of a model of transparent and responsible governance which could promote sustainable development and peace. Consequently, understanding of these interconnections is essential to approach the political ramifications of the governance of resources in Sudan and to design complete reform strategies. The current conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has profound implications for the governance of natural resources in Sudan, dictating the dynamics of power among local communities, the regional elites and the State. The SAF and the RSF, both hinged players in the political landscape of Sudan, are engaged in a struggle not only for military supremacy but also for the control of lucrative resources, often located in disputed territories. This militarized competition exacerbates tensions within local communities, while simultaneously influencing the strategic calculations of the regional elites and state actors concerning the governance of resources.

Historically, the RSF emerged from the Janjaweed militia, notorious for its involvement in the Darfur conflict. Over time, he has moved to an official paramilitary force, obtaining the recognition and support of the State as a counter-insurgency tool. The SAF and RSF rivalry amplifies existing fractures within Sudanese society, because the two forces try to exert their influence on regions rich in natural resources, such as gold and hydrocarbons. This competition often leads to violent confrontations that disrupt local economies and undermine community governance structures, more wrapping an instability cycle.

The implications of this conflict on the governance of resources are significant. SAF, as a more established military institution with historical links with the Khartoum political elite, maintains a nationalist narrative. He often presents himself as the protector of the interests of the State, which is closely aligned with its control over strategic natural resources. Conversely, the RSF adopts a populist approach, positioning itself as a defender of the communities underrepresented against the oppression of the central state. This contrasting account creates dualist perceptions of authority, shaping community allegiance and participation in resource management.

The fraction relationship between the SAF and the RSF leads to a fragmented governance approach concerning natural resources. The control of resources becomes an essential aspect of political patronage and the financing of war, the two forces seeking to legitimize their complaints by the appropriation and exploitation of local resources. Local communities find themselves taken in a complex allegiance network, often forced to support a faction compared to the other under the threat of violence or by promises of economic gain.

In addition, the regional elites take advantage of this conflict to negotiate their positions in the structure of power, by cultivating relations with the SAF or the RSF according to their respective interests. These elites often act as intermediaries, ensuring that local communities are either incorporated into the governance of resources, or excluded from critical decision-making processes. This dynamic subverts local governance systems, as regional elites become key players to determine access to resources, often prioritizing their political survival and their financial advantage over community well-being.

The implications for governance are still aggravated by the challenges of responsibility and transparency. The two military factions operating in resource-rich areas, the lack of surveillance makes it possible to proliferate corruption and embezzlement. Resource income reports are siphoned for military spending rather than community development highlight the negative effects of this conflict on broader governance structures.

Consequently, the interaction between the SAF and the RSF, characterized by their contradictory stories, their dualistic control over the resources and the resulting impact on local communities underlines the dynamics of complex power at stake within the governance of Sudan natural resources. The consequences of this current conflict extend beyond the immediate control of resources, shaping the overall political landscape of Sudan and its sustainable governance capacity. Thus, as the dynamics between these military forces evolve, they will continue to inflict a significant influence on the mechanisms of governance of resources in Sudan, with potential ramifications for stability and societal cohesion., Food security in Sudan is intrinsically linked to the governance of natural resources, reflecting the complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state. As highlighted by Jaspars and Kuol (2024), governance structures around agricultural and water resources are not merely technical issues; They are deeply rooted in the dynamics of political power that influence community access to these critical resources. Resource allocation and access disparities directly affect food security, highlighting how natural resources governance can mitigate or exacerbate vulnerabilities between local populations.

In Sudan, the state's ability to manage natural resources was effectively challenged by a multitude of factors, including economic instability, armed conflicts and weak institutional structures. Regional elites often take advantage of their political influence for preferential access to resources such as land, water and minerals, thus distorting the landscape of governance. This preferential access not only perpetuates inequalities, but also diminishes the agency of local communities, which often depend on these resources for their subsistence means. Jaspars and Kuol (2024) argue that when local communities are marginalized in decision -making processes regarding resource management, they become increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and economic dislocation.

The interaction between local governance and state is evidenced by generalized informal practices that emerge in response to failures in formal resource governance. Local communities often resort to alternative strategies to ensure access to resources - such as local agreements or informal commercial networks - that coexist along with formal regulations, but rarely align with state -wide governance strategies. This phenomenon creates a duality in food security governance, whereby local communities operate within a governance structure that is in disagreement with state policies. Since Jaspars and Kuol (2024) observe, these informal agreements, although adaptable in the short term, introduce complexities that challenge security and long -term sustainability.

In addition, the role of conflict in the formation of food security problems cannot be underestimated. Sudan armed conflicts often interrupt agricultural production and pastoral practices, leading to a significant drop in food availability. Regional elites often exploit these conflicts for their own benefit, influenced the distribution of resources and using food as a tool for political manipulation. The resulting instability further hinders effective governance and exacerbates food insecurity, creating a vicious cycle that corrodes the capacity of state and local communities to ensure food safety. Jaspars and Kuol (2024) emphasize that the interdependence of safety and food governance requires a comprehensive understanding of how power dynamics affect the availability and accessibility of food resources.

Approaching food security in Sudan requires a different understanding of these dynamics of power and their implications for governance. Effective governance of natural resources should consider the voices and needs of local communities, recognizing their critical role in sustainable resource management. The marginalization of these voices not only threatens food security, but also impairs political stability, as groups devoid of privileges can resort to agitation to recover their rights. Therefore, it is imperative that policy formulators adopt an inclusive approach that reconfigures relations between local communities, regional elites and the state to promote a governance structure that enhances food security and promotes the equitable distribution of resources. In this context, Jaspars and Kuol (2024) advocate policies reforms that prioritize community engagement and redistribution mechanisms as ways to improve food safety and address the deep power imbalances in Sudan's resource governance landscape., Regional development strategies play a fundamental role in managing disputes on natural resources in Sudan, in particular in an environment of socio-political context characterized by competing interests between local communities, regional elites and state. These strategies not only outline the framework for resource management, but also reflect the underlying dynamics of power that shape the relationships between these actors. With the abundance of natural resources of Sudan - ranging from oil and minerals to the sowing land - the management of these resources has become a controversial focal point both in regional and national policy.

The meaning of regional development strategies can be understood through their potential to mediate conflicts by addressing the needs and aspirations of local communities, simultaneously welcoming the interests of the regional elites and state authorities. Effective regional strategies can encourage participatory governance, allowing local communities to exercise agency in the decision -making processes of resources and therefore reducing the tensions that often intensify in disputes. This inclusiveness is essential, given that local populations often support resources exploitation costs, including environmental degradation and social dislocation, while they collect limited benefits.

However, the effectiveness of these regional strategies is significantly influenced by existing power structures. In Sudan, regional elites often exploit their social, economic and political connections to access resources and decision-making processes. This dynamic can exacerbate the feelings of marginalization between local communities, leading to further disputes, in particular where the assignment of resources appears disproportionate or unjust. Therefore, the successful regional development strategies must critically evaluate these imbalances of power and try to enhance local interested parties, ensuring that governance structures reflect the diversity of interests within each region.

In addition, regional development strategies should incorporate sensitive approaches to the conflict that proactively identify potential sources of friction on the governance of resources. These strategies must include mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts and the dialogue between local communities, regional elites and state representatives. The incorporation of traditional conflict resolution practices can be particularly precious in this context, since they resonate more with local populations and can favor a greater construction of consent.

Economic diversification also plays a vital role in the effectiveness of regional development strategies for the management of disputes on natural resources. By decreasing dependence on a single good, such as oil, regional strategies can mitigate the intensity of the conflicts related to resources. Diversification can lead to a suspension of agricultural sectors, improve local infrastructures or promote alternative means of subsistence that reduce competition between the local parties for limited resources.

In addition, regional development initiatives must give priority to transparency and responsibility in the governance of resources. The corruption and the lack of reliable information regarding resource management were persistent issues within Sudan, leading to further distrust between local communities and regional elites. Establishing solid monitoring mechanisms and facilitating open communication channels can act as fundamental components of regional strategies aimed at reducing tensions and promoting cooperative governance.

In summary, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state in the governance of Sudan's natural resources requires shaded regional development strategies capable of dealing with the complexities of power dynamics. Through inclusiveness, sensitivity to conflicts, economic diversification and a commitment for transparency, these strategies can significantly mitigate the disputes deriving from the management of natural resources, while improving political stability in Sudan. Civil society in Sudan plays a critical but challenging role in holding state and elite actors responsible for natural resources governance. The complexities of this relationship are incorporated into a broader context of the dynamics of power that shapes political interactions and resource management in the country. Civil Society Organizations (OSC), including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), base movements and local community groups, emerged as essential actors in defending transparency, responsibility and distribution of equitable resources.

4.8. Exploring the Role of Civil Society in Resource Governance and Power Dynamics in Sudan: Historical Legacies, Regional Disparities, and Political Challenges

Historically, the Sudanese state has exhibited an authoritarian trend, often suppressing dissent and limiting the operational space for civil society. However, several civil society actors persisted, leveraging national and international platforms to express concerns about issues such as land rights, environmental degradation and sociopolitical marginalization of local communities. Their defense efforts are particularly significant in a context where regional elites tend to monopolize the richness of resources, usually at the expense of local populations that depend on these resources to their means of subsistence.

The effectiveness of civil society on the influence of resource governance can be evaluated through various dimensions. Firstly, they provide critical counterweight to state and elite power, facilitating public dialogue and community involvement around resource management. This is evident in initiatives where OSCs mobilize local communities to participate in decision-making processes on the exploitation of appeals. Such participatory approaches not only enable communities, but also challenge the top-down governance structures in Sudan. Although these efforts have had varying degrees of success, they represent a growing demand for accountability and assets in the distribution of resources.

In addition, civil society acts as a guard dog to monitor the activities of state and elite actors in resource governance, employing tools such as research, defense campaigns and legal action. For example, NGOs that focus on environmental protection has conducted extensive research on the impact of oil drilling and mining activities on local ecosystems and communities. By spreading this information, they increase awareness of environmental issues, pressuring state and regional elites to adopt more sustainable practices. In addition, civil society organizations were successfully involved in the legal reform lobby that promote transparency in allocating resources and environmental protection.

However, the scenario of civil society in Sudan does not fail to have challenges. The Sudanese government's repression of dissent, particularly after recent political revolts, led to greater vigilance and restrictions on OSCs. Political repression undermines its ability to operate effectively; Many organizations face financing restrictions and are often accused of being agents of foreign influence. In this context, the regional elites, which often pour with state actors, can explore such vulnerabilities in civil society to further consolidate their power and control over resources.

In addition, the fragmentation of civil society can dilute its collective influence on resource governance. While some organizations focus on specific issues such as human rights, gender or environmental concerns, the lack of cohesive movement can limit the effectiveness of broader defense efforts. This fragmentation is aggravated by varying degrees of legitimacy and ability among civil society actors, which can affect their ability to get involved constructively with state and elite actors.

In assessing the role of civil society in holding the state and elite actors in the governance of natural resources of Sudan, it is important to recognize the interaction of opportunities and restrictions. OSCs have the potential to be transforming agents in promoting responsibility and social justice, but operate in an environment full of challenges that can undermine their efforts. Understanding this dynamic is crucial to comprehensively outline the political scenario of resource governance in Sudan, as well as power relations that define interactions between local communities, regional elites and the state., The historical legacy of the exploitation of colonial resources in Sudan has deeply influenced contemporary power relations between local communities, regional elites and the State. The British colonial domain, which began in the 19th century, established resource extraction systems that prioritized the needs of the imperial administration, often ignoring local populations. This legacy created an inequitable distribution panorama of intended resources and hierarchies that continue to shape the socio -political dynamics of Sudan.

During the colonial period, the British authorities implemented a double policy of "indirect rule", which allows traditional local leaders to maintain a certain appearance of authority, while stripping these leaders of a significant power over resource management. Local communities were often marginalized in decision -making processes with respect to land and natural resources, which led to a disconnection between authority and local needs. This disjunction encouraged resentment and served to strengthen the regional elites that collaborated with the colonial state, facilitating the extraction of resources in exchange for political legitimacy and personal enrichment. Therefore, the colonial approach not only assured the extraction of the abundant resources of Sudan, such as gold, Arab gum and agricultural products, but also established a framework in which regional elites obtained a disproportionate influence on community's premises.

As Sudan made the transition to independence in 1956, the remains of the colonial resources government system persisted, which resulted in durable inequities. The centralized state continued to favor private regions and elite groups that maintained connections with the old colonial powers. For example, the control of vast agricultural lands in the fertile regions throughout the Nile became a point of discussion, exacerbating tensions between marginalized communities in the peripheral regions and the State supported by the southern elites. This system perpetuated existing inequalities and facilitated the appearance of conflicts, since the local groups that were previously marginalized fought to affirm their rights over the resources within their territories.

The oil rise of the 1990s is illustrative of the historical interaction between state power, regional elites and local communities. With the discovery of oil reserves, the Sudanese government intensified its focus on the extraction of natural resources, further strengthening the role of regional elites that had experience and connections to benefit from the flourishing industry. This resulted in continuous tensions as local communities persisted in looking for a part of the profits generated from oil production, which often leads to violent clashes. The dependency of the Sudanese State of these elites in the oil -rich regions reflected a broader dependence on coercive strategies instead of inclusive governance, leaving many local communities without agency or access to their resources.

In summary, the historical legacy of the exploitation of colonial resources in Sudan has significantly molded contemporary power relations characterized by a central state that navigates relations with regional elites while marginalizing local communities. This dynamic has fed political instability and ongoing conflict, revealing the complexity of Sudan's natural resources governance. As resources continue to be a source of wealth and containment, understanding these historical contexts is crucial to analyze the current political landscape and predict possible future developments in Sudan governance structures., Regional disparities in access to natural resources in Sudan significantly form the governance framework and the dynamics of power between local communities, regional elites and the State. The unequal distribution of wealth derived from natural resources, such as oil, minerals and fertile agricultural land, explains how geographical nuances inform the socio -political landscape throughout the country. The northern regions, particularly those rich in oil reserves such as southern Kordofan and the contentious Abyei region, exhibit marked

contrasts in the allocation and governance of resources compared to marginalized and less rich areas in resources in the parties Western and oriental, personified by Darfur and the Red Sea Region.

4.9. Regional Disparities, Elite Control, and Social Movements in Sudan's Resource Governance: Navigating Power Dynamics and Marginalization

In areas with abundant resources, regional elites often exert considerable influence on local governance structures. These elites use their positions to accumulate wealth, which allows them to establish sponsorship networks that can manipulate local leaders and undermine base governance. In such contexts, local communities can find their access to resources governed not by equitable frameworks, but by the interests of those who take advantage of their regional power to obtain personal gains. This dynamic encourages a culture of dependence, where communities must negotiate their existence within the systems that prioritize elite interests on communal needs. As such, local governance seems less reflection of the interests of the community and more as an extension of elite maneuvers within the state apparatus.

On the contrary, the regions characterized by the shortage of resources often experience a different set of challenges. The communities in Darfur, for example, face deep socioeconomic difficulties exacerbated by environmental degradation and conflict, largely rooted in the competition for decreasing resources. Here, the interaction between local communities and the State is marked by exclusion and marginalization. In these contexts, the State governance framework often does not address local concerns, which leads to the deprived of rights and disturbances. Resistance movements can arise as communities try to claim their agency, positioning themselves against both regional elites, which can exploit the control of resources for their purposes and the central government, which has historically neglected their needs.

The state's response to these regional disparities often further complicates the governance of resources. In an attempt to maintain control over valuable resources, the central government can participate in coercive strategies, including militarization and direct intervention in regions rich in resources. This tendency to centralize authority leads to the weakening of local governance structures and undermines regional autonomy. These actions not only inhibit the effective management of resources, but also exacerbate tensions between state and local communities, generating conflict cycles and perpetuating inequalities.

In addition, the role of external actors, including multinational corporations and foreign governments, affects the dynamics of power with respect to the resources government. These actors are often aligned with regional elites to ensure favorable contracts for the extraction of resources, often leaving aside local communities in negotiation processes. This dynamic further strengthens inequalities as local stakeholders are marginalized in decision-making processes that directly affect their livelihoods.

In summary, regional disparities significantly influence the access of local communities to resources and reflect broader problems within the framework of Sudan governance. The interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State create complex social and political landscapes characterized by competition, negotiation and resistance. Understanding these dynamics is crucial to address governance challenges derived from the allocation of resources and to promote equitable development in Sudan., In the context of Sudan, social movements emerged as critical agents in contesting elite control over natural resources, particularly in regions with valuable commodities such as gold, oil and various minerals. These movements usually arise from grassroots initiatives that seek to address the socioeconomic complaints of local communities, which have historically been marginalized in decision-making processes on resource governance. The dynamics of these movements are influenced by a confluence of factors, including historical injustices, economic disparities and political privileges.

Local communities, organized through informal networks and civil society organizations, often mobilize to defend their land rights and natural resources. Their efforts usually reflect resistance against state policies and monopolistic trends in the regional elites that have historically leveraged their positions to appropriate resources without equitable benefits distribution. For example, in the context of gold mining in northern Sudan, local populations confronted private companies and state employees, alleging neglect of environmental standards and human rights violations. This base mobilization not only questions the legitimacy of elite resources control, but also increases awareness about its dependence on local consent to extraction activities.

The role of social movements in the challenge of elite control is even more complicated by the interaction between local aspirations and national political narratives. As communities articulate their demands for better governance of natural resources, they often find solidarity with broader social movements that seek political reform and greater transparency. The nexus between local and national levels can be observed during significant uprisings, such as the 2019 protests,

where complaints related to economic difficulties - including the growing life and mismanagement of mineral wealth - played a central role. The convergence of local concerns with national justice requests illustrates the potential of social movements to interrupt the dynamics of established power and defend comprehensive policy reforms.

In addition, these social movements operate in a highly volatile political scenario, where state responses may vary from repression of co-optation. The Sudanese government periodically sought to suppress the dissent through authoritarian measures, including arbitrary arrests and violent repression of protests. However, the resilience of social movements is usually in their ability to adapt, employing innovative strategies to support their defense. Digital platforms have become increasingly a vital tool for mobilization, allowing communities to document injustices, share narratives and obtain international support. This activism demonstrates the ability of local communities to challenge dominant narratives perpetuated by regional elites and state actors.

The intersection of social movements and resource governance also highlights the importance of identity policy, where ethnic and geographical affiliations play fundamental roles in the mobilization of support. In regions such as Darfur and Kordofan, social movements forged coalitions that transcend local boundaries, uniting various groups in the fight against local elites and the state. This solidarity is often based on the shared historical experiences of marginalization and the collective recognition of resource inequalities. The ability of these movements to present a united front against elite control means an important change in the political scenario of Sudan.

In short, social movements in Sudan serve as a critical counterweight to control elite resources, leveraging local complaints to instigate broader dialogues about governance and justice. Its role emphasizes the importance of recognizing the local communities' agency in the search for equitable management of natural resources and highlights the potential for transformative political changes when base mobilization aligns with broader social aspirations. The governance of natural resources in Sudan implies complex interactions not only between local communities, regional elites and the State, but also the gender dimensions that significantly influence the dynamics of power. The intersections of gender governance and resources in Sudan illuminate how traditional patriarchal structures cross with contemporary forms of authority exercised by state actors and regional elites, consequently, they shape the local community agency and participation in the Resource management.

4.10. Gender, Power, and Resource Governance in Sudan: Examining the Role of Local Communities, Elites, and State Actors

In Sudan, natural resources such as oil, gold and agricultural lands are fundamental for economic and political landscape. The exploitation and governance of these resources have often marginalized women, who, despite their critical role in agricultural and subsistence economies, are often excluded from decision -making processes regarding resource management. Gender norms integrated into local communities dictate the responsibilities of women to a large extent to national and agricultural tasks, which reinforces its limited agency in government discussions that dictate the allocation and use of resources. This marginalization not only affects women's livelihoods, but also affects the broader community resilience and adaptive capacity to external pressures, such as climate variability and economic interruption.

On the contrary, the interaction between regional elites and the State reveals a complex layer of gender dynamics. Regional elites, largely composed of male actors who have significant power over the extraction and management of resources, often reinforce gender hierarchies within their governance structures. These elites capitalize the existing social norms to maintain control, often leaving aside the voices of women in favor of groups dominated by men. An example can be found in extractive industries, where benefits are frequently distributed along gender lines, exacerbating inequalities. In this context, women's access to resources and their ability to influence governance is limited even more.

However, local communities are not monolithic, and the women's agency is often unexpected. Base movements led by women have become fundamental players in the governance of local resources, challenging state and regional elites. Women organize around land rights, environmental conservation and equitable distribution of resources, taking advantage of both traditional knowledge and contemporary activism strategies. These movements, often rooted in the need for sustainable livelihoods, illustrate how gender dynamics can empower women to negotiate their positions within broader governance frames. This agency is particularly evident in the regions where traditional practices value women's roles in agriculture and their impact on food security, which allows them to claim claims in resource governance.

The intersection of gender and resources governance is further complicated by state policies and development agendas that tend to overlook women's contributions to resource management. The policies aimed at "empowering" local communities often fail to specifically address the unique barriers faced by women, undermining their potential to impact governance processes effectively. It is essential that state interventions recognize and incorporate gender perspectives in the governance of natural resources to promote inclusive decision making that raise all community members.

Ultimately, while the dynamics of traditional power in Sudan society often decreases the roles of women in the resource government, the women's agency persists, which demonstrates resilience in the midst of systemic marginalization. The active participation of women in local governance can serve not only as a mechanism to improve their rights, but also as a vital process to achieve equitable and sustainable resources that benefits entire communities. Understanding these intersections offers valuable information about the broadest discourse of resource governance in Sudan, highlighting the need for transformative approaches that prioritize inclusion at all levels of decision making. The environmental accounts surrounding the governance of natural resources in Sudan are deeply linked to the socio-political contexts of local communities, regional elites and state actors. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) emphasize that these stories serve not only as executives to understand environmental issues, but also as political negotiation platforms and the affirmation of power. In Sudan, where natural resources such as oil, gold and water are abundant but unequally distributed, the shock of interests between the various stakeholders reveals a dynamic of complex power that shapes the governance landscape.

The local communities of Sudan often find themselves at the bond of these dynamics, having traditional knowledge and direct interest in the sustainable management of natural resources. However, their perspectives and voices are often marginalized in favor of elite and state interests. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) identify the centralization of power in the hands of the regional elites which exploit their control over the resource -rich areas to influence state policies and guarantee economic benefits. This results in a governance framework where local communities, although they are directly affected by the exploitation of resources, are far from decision -making processes.

In addition, the authors emphasize how the accounts built by local communities can contest or strengthen existing power structures. For example, basic movements in Sudan have become important players in the discourse on environmental management and land and resources rights. These movements use narrative strategies that intertwine ecological concerns with socio-economic grievances, thus attracting a wider audience and questioning the legitimacy of elite accounts which prioritize the extraction on conservation. In this way, local communities mobilize environmental accounts not only as a means of asserting their rights, but also as tools for social cohesion and collective identity training.

On the other hand, the regional elites often frame their stories around the governance of resources in a manner which legitimizes their authority and their decision -making capacity. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) discuss how these elites often invoke nationalist speeches or historical history to justify the exploitation of resources, presenting themselves as development guards while obscuring the harmful impacts on local ecosystems and communities. This creates a disconnection between the official stories approved by the State and the lived realities of people at the local level.

The State, operating frequently through a matrix of interests which include both regional elites and international actors, initiates complex negotiations which further influence the governance of natural resources. Thanks to policies that prioritize economic growth and revenue generation, the state is often away from environmental considerations. Sennesael and Verhoeven (2024) argue that this prioritization reflects wider geopolitical accounts which frame the extraction of resources as essential to national development, often to the detriment of local ecological and social stability. Consequently, state accounts become crucial to shape public discourse, where environmental degradation is standardized in the service of economic imperatives.

In short, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State in the governance of natural resources in Sudan is dynamically articulated by environmental accounts. These stories reflect and strengthen the dynamics of power inherent in the framework of governance, shaping not only the material impacts of the extraction of resources but also the political landscape of the nation. Understanding these stories is essential to analyze the broader implications of the governance of natural resources in Sudan, in particular with regard to questions of power, equity and environmental sustainability. The complex tapestry of Sudan of social, political and environmental dynamics has given rise to several initiatives led by the community that illustrate the potential for sustainable resources management amid the challenges presented by regional elites and state governance. The following case studies elucidate the ways in which local communities sailed successfully and occasionally transformed existing paradigms of power around natural resources governance.

The experience of the Dinka Community in South Sudan, although politically distinct, offers a relevant comparative lens for Sudan. Dinka historically trusted cattle as a means of subsistence, forging a symbiotic relationship with the environment. In response to the increased degradation and drying of the earth, community leaders began a rotational grazing system that was based on traditional ecological knowledge. This basic initiative not only relieved the pressure on pasture lands, but also promoted collaboration between neighboring communities, creating a united front against the appropriation of land imposed by the state and the exploitation of elite resources. Dinka's approach demonstrates the viability of community-oriented approaches that prioritize sustainable practices rooted in local customs and community cooperation.

A remarkable case in Sudan is the collaborative management program implemented in Jebel Marra, a region characterized by its rich biodiversity and traditional lands under threat of degradation and environmental conflict. In this initiative, local communities have partnered with NGOs and state agencies to establish community management agreements. These agreements enable local stakeholders to actively participate in decision-making processes on resource allocation, establishing conservation practices that are culturally relevant. By integrating traditional governance structures into modern legislative structures, Jebel Marra's initiative exemplifies how local communities can affirm their rights to natural resources in negotiating the dynamics of power with regional elites and national government.

In addition, the experience of the Kordofan region with the Arabic gum trade provides a deeper view of the dynamics of initiatives led by the community. Local farmers' cooperatives have made significant advances in establishing fair trade practices that directly benefit producers, maintaining sustainable harvesting methods. The participatory model adopted by these cooperatives facilitated negotiations with national and international markets, ensuring that profits are reinvested in community development projects. Gums trade, often overshadowed by more profitable sectors, highlights the potent role of indigenous knowledge in sustainable natural resources management. Here, the capacity of the local community to negotiate with state actors demonstrates a change in the dynamics of power that favors the community agency about elite monopolization.

This interaction between local communities and the state is further illustrated by the case of the state of the Nile Blue, where Nuba's indigenous peoples have been involved in efforts to recover their land rights amid the invasions of large-scale agricultural companies. Through a basic organization and legal advocacy, members of the community have successfully made lobbying by establishing land use rights that recognize their historical claims. His struggle caused a reassessment of state policies in relation to land governance and highlighted the need to incorporate local voices into discourse around resource management.

These case studies not only emphasize the resilience and ingenuity of local communities in Sudan, but also reveal the implications of their initiatives to understand the dynamics of change in the broader context of state governance and elite control. The implications extend beyond the governance of local resources; They resonate with trends of participation and political agency within a national structure, indicating that trained communities can really influence policy results and challenge established hierarchies. Through these efforts, the intersections of local knowledge, ecological administration and political defense illustrate ways to sustainable management of resources that align with the interests of the community, even in the face of complex socio-political landscapes., International organizations have played a fundamental role in the configuration of the governance of local resources in Sudan, particularly in the context of their rich and various natural resources, such as oil, gold and agricultural land. These organizations have been involved with local communities, regional elites and state devices to facilitate the most equitable and sustainable governance of these resources. The dynamics evolved within the framework of international development and humanitarian assistance strategies, which often emphasize participatory governance and the empowerment of the community.

The participation of international organizations is often manifested in several outstanding ways: defense, construction of financial capacity and investment. For example, organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank have initiated programs aimed at promoting transparency and responsibility between local government structures. These interventions are designed to reinforce the capacities of local authorities, which allows them to participate more effectively in the management of natural resources. The emphasis on construction capacity can be seen as a mechanism to level the playing field between local communities and regional elites, which historically exercise considerable control over resource management decisions.

In addition, international organizations have tried to mediate in often adverse relations between local communities and the State. The complex link of the dynamics of power in Sudan frequently results in the marginalization of local populations in decision-making processes regarding the extraction and resource management. International

organizations have struggled to close this gap by facilitating the dialogues that bring together local communities, state officials and commercial interested parties. Through such dialogues, there is a potential to advocate the rights of local populations while influencing state policies to be more inclusive.

In addition to promoting dialogue, the role of international organizations includes financial incentives linked to resource governance frameworks. The programs designed to improve local livelihoods, promote sustainable practices and mitigate the adverse effects of resource extraction can act as catalysts so that local communities affirm and negotiate their resource rights more effectively. For example, projects financed by international donors often prioritize community -based approaches, with the aim of training local stakeholders through resource exchange agreements that include fair compensation and environmental protections.

However, the commitment of international organizations is not exempt from challenges and criticism. Traditionally hierarchical relationships, integrated into the sociopolitical fabric of Sudan, can complicate the effectiveness of these organizations. In many cases, regional elites can co-opt the initiatives of international organizations, thus undermining the benefits provided for local communities. This can reinforce existing power imbalances, since elites take advantage of their influence to capture resources to obtain personal gains, often alienating local populations of their rights to participation and sharing benefits.

In addition, evolving geopolitical panorama and the variable interests of international actors can lead to inconsistencies in policy implementation and priorities. The Sudanese State, dealing with its political and economic crises, has sometimes shown resistance to governance frameworks imposed externally, leading to tensions between local demands for autonomy and government measures that prioritize state control over natural resources. In this context, international organizations must navigate a complex land where the aspirations of local communities for self-determination must be balanced against the rooting interests of regional power corridors and the State.

In general, the interaction between international organizations and the governance of natural resources in Sudan remains a dynamic and critical research area. Its participation, characterized by both empowerment opportunities and the risks of reinforcement of existing inequalities, reflects the multifaceted nature of resource governance in a context marked by complex socio-political realities. Armed conflicts significantly complicate the governance of natural resources in Sudan, as they exacerbate the dynamics of power between local communities, regional elites and the state. The prolonged civil wars and rebellions that have characterized the political scenario of Sudan since its independence in 1956 led to a fragmentation of authority, resulting in the erosion of the state's ability to regulate extraction and resource management effectively. Like Kumba et al. (2024) note that high risks associated with natural resources - such as oil, minerals and fertile lands - have made these goods a focal point of conflict, often intertwining economic interests with political power struggles.

One of the most pressing challenges placed by armed conflict is the creation of parallel governance structures by regional elites, which usually take advantage of state weaknesses to usurp control over resource-rich areas. Armed factions and local militias often exploit the extraction of resources as a means of funding their operations, thus complicating traditional governance structures. In many cases, these actors operate regardless of the state, establishing informal tax systems that can undermine state authority and further strengthen the local energy dynamics. Darfur's case exemplifies this, where local tribes and armed groups have developed intricate systems to control gold extraction and trade, usually leading to violent confrontations on these valuable resources (Kumba et al., 2024).

In addition, the state itself often becomes complicit in these dynamics. In an attempt to consolidate its power, the Sudanese government has historically been inclined to forge alliances with regional elites and armed groups, providing them with legitimacy and resources needed for control over specific areas. This collaboration, however, brings the risk of alienating local communities, which may have their own claims and rights to these resources. As local populations are marginalized in favor of elite alliances, discontent can lead to more violence and instability. This conflict cycle exacerbates social divisions, undermining efforts to govern sustainable resources and the equitable distribution of resource benefits.

The branches of these dynamics of power also extend to national politics. Dependence on armed groups for resource extraction and governance leads to a normalization of violence in political discourse, reducing opportunities for decent and peaceful negotiations. Political factions can prioritize loyalty to powerful militias leaders on state loyalty, promoting a fragmented identity that prioritizes interests located on national unity. This impairs the legitimacy of the state and its ability to apply laws and regulations around the governance of natural resources. Like Kumba et al. (2024) argue that this polarization increasingly hinders the establishment of coherent resource management policies as local complaints about resource allocation intertwine with broader political narratives.

The interaction between armed conflict and governance of natural resources also invites a consideration of actors and external interests. Foreign companies and nations are usually involved with Sudanese regional elites and armed groups, seeking access to resources and surrounding unstable governance structures. This external involvement can further distort the dynamics of local power and complicate governance structures, as it usually prioritizes profit on sustainable development or the good -to -be of the community. Such practices not only preserve the cycle of conflict, but also entrenched regional disparities as the wealth of resources focuses on the hands of some, while the wider population remains impoverished.

In short, armed conflicts in progress in Sudan have substantial challenges for the effective governance of natural resources, interrupting established hierarchies, promoting the rise of non -official power structures and diluting the authority of the state. The resulting dynamics of power has critical implications for the country's policy, leading to greater competition on resources, the entry of local complaints and the normalization of violent interactions in local and national contexts. The need for comprehensive and inclusive governance structures that explain these challenges is critical to addressing the complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state in the context of Sudan's natural resources management., Agricultural policies in Sudan have not only shaped the framework of rural livelihoods, but have also had profound implications for the governance of natural resources, which leads to a complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the authority of the state. As Elkreem and Jaspars (2024) the agricultural policy in Sudan is deeply linked to historical permanence systems, the intervention of the State and the interests of local populations and the regional energy brokers. The resulting dynamics have often led to disputed access and control over vital resources, considerably affecting the socio -political fabric of rural communities.

Impact of Agricultural Policies on Resource Governance in Sudan: Power Dynamics, Local Marginalization, and Environmental Consequences

A notable aspect of the agricultural policy of Sudan was the prioritization of large -scale commercial agriculture, often to the detriment of subsistence agricultural practices. Government's dependence on agrarian reform strategies that promote industrial agriculture results in marginalization of local farmers who depend on traditional methods for their livelihood. This strategic pivot, largely orchestrated by the regional elites looking for an economic gain and a political lever effect, often ignores the needs and the voices of the local populations, thus exacerbating tensions between them (Elkreem and Jaspars, 2024). In addition, the impact of these policies is not uniform; On the contrary, different regions have distinct responses based on pre-existing socio-economic and ecological contexts, complicating the landscape of resource governance.

In addition, agricultural policies have anchored existing power hierarchies. The regional elites, equipped with resources and political influence, often engage in negotiations with the authorities of the State, which results in regulatory frameworks which promote their interests. For example, land rental agreements and investment incentives are generally designed to benefit large agricultural companies, facilitating the appropriation of community land without compensation or adequate consultation (Elkreem and Jaspars, 2024). This model reveals the dynamics of existing power in which local communities are made powerless to modify the terms of the governance of resources that dictate their livelihoods.

Erosion of local autonomy in decision -making processes concerning resource management is also a critical result of agricultural policies in Sudan. While the state is increasingly centralizing power and decision -making concerning agricultural production, local communities are excluded from essential conversations for the governance of their resources. This inconvenience is exacerbated by the lack of transparency and responsibility in the implementation of agricultural policies, where local voices are often overshadowed by the interests of powerful elites (Elkreem and Jaspars, 2024). The resulting marginalization fuels the dissatisfaction of the rural population, thus activating wider socio-political disorders which have implications for national stability.

In addition, the environmental repercussions of these agricultural policies play an important role in the formation of rural livelihoods and governance structures. The emphasis on high -efficiency and monoculture practices often leads to environmental degradation, an impact on soil health and essential water resources for sustainable agriculture (Elkreem and Jaspars, 2024). Local communities are then faced with the double challenge of adapting to the evolution of agricultural practices which undermine their traditional knowledge systems while simultaneously competing for the accelerated depletion of natural resources on which they depend for their survival. This scenario illustrates the complex link between agricultural policy, the governance of resources and the lived realities of rural populations in Sudan.

In summary, an examination of agricultural policies reveals multifaceted implications for rural livelihoods and the governance of natural resources in Sudan. The governing architecture, strongly influenced by the regional elites,

continues to perpetuate inequalities and to underestimate local communities, leading to an exacerbation of tensions and conflicts on resource control. The dynamics of the resulting power reiterates the need for inclusive governance executives which empower local voices and hierarchy the sustainable management of resources, ensuring that agricultural policies align with the needs and realities of the most affected people., The influence of global market dynamics on the control of local resources and the profits of the elite in Sudan is a multifaceted phenomenon that emphasizes the complexities inherent in the governance of natural resources. Global resource commodification, particularly oil, minerals and agricultural products, reformulated local energy structures and promoted economic dependencies that significantly affect regional elites and local communities. Since Sudan is richly endowed with natural resources, including oil, gold and fertile lands, interaction between stakeholders and external market forces becomes fundamental to understanding the scenario of resource governance.

4.11. Global Market Dynamics and Local Resource Governance in Sudan: Elite Influence, Community Marginalization, and the Path to Sustainable Solutions

Sudan integration into the global economy has made governance of local resources increasingly susceptible to market fluctuations. For example, the demand for oil and gold has fueled competition between various factions in Sudan, as regional elites seek to capitalize on these resources to obtain personal gains, usually at the expense of local communities. Alignment of regional elites with multinational companies and international investors has been critical to ensuring favorable contracts that prioritize elite interests on community benefits. This convergence of local elites and global capital not only exacerbates energy imbalances, but also inhibits local communities' skills from affirming control over their natural resources.

In addition, global mineral demand has driven the resource extraction industries to areas traditionally occupied by local communities. In such cases, land rights become highly contested, with regional elites usually leveraging their political connections to facilitate resource extraction processes. This dynamic is even more complicated by the role of the Sudan State, which, driven by the tax imperatives associated with the involvement of the global market, showed the desire to endorse policies that favor the obtaining of elite profit. Consequently, local populations are often marginalized, facing the double challenges of land expropriation and environmental degradation.

The relationship between local communities and elites is marked by containment and cooperation. Although elites can act as intermediaries between their communities and the state, capitalizing their positions to attract investments and infrastructure development, this usually leads to a reconfiguration of local energy dynamics. The distribution of resource revenues often reflects existing inequalities, in which elite actors guarantee substantial benefits while local populations remain devoid of privileges. As foreign investment flows to natural resource sectors, local benefits are not guaranteed, leading to increased complaints in communities, which in turn affects local political stability and socioeconomic development.

In addition, the global market has facilitated the emergence of informal economies governed by local actors seeking to navigate and explore the dynamics of resource control. These informal networks, while promoting a degree of autonomy, are often overshadowed by the comprehensive influence of regional elites coupled with the state. The intertwining of informal economies with formal market structures reveals the adaptive strategies of local communities in response to their marginalization, but also expose the vulnerabilities that arise from dependence on floating global trends.

In short, the dynamics of the global market profoundly influence local resource control and elite profit in Sudan, creating a landscape characterized by competing and dynamic interests of change. The intersection of these factors not only affects regional stability and governance, but also shapes the broader political scenario in the country, highlighting the critical need for a different understanding of the governance of resources that takes into account the implications of global economic forces on local realities ., By examining the complexities of the governance of natural resources in Sudan, it is instructive to make comparisons with other African nations which are struggling with similar challenges. This comparative analysis elucidates the multifaceted interaction between local communities, regional elites and state devices in different contexts, highlighting the dynamics of divergent and convergent power.

South Sudan, for example, presents a parallel scenario characterized by the centrality of oil resources in political governance. Here, control of petroleum income has become a focal point of conflict between various ethnic groups and political factions. Similar to Sudan, the emerging regional elites of South Sudan exploit the property of resources to solidify their political influence, often put the touch of local interests. However, the ethnic fragmentation pronounced and recent civilian conflicts in South Sudan create a unique environment where resources governance is not only a question of political power but also a strategy of ethnic survival. These factors complicate the relationship between local

communities and state authority, by amplifying tensions and promoting a cyclical scheme of violence and displacement, which is reflected in various areas of conflict in Sudan (Alredaisy, 2024)

In addition, the comparison of Sudan with Nigeria, in particular with regard to the Niger Delta region, reveals common threads in the impact of natural resources on the dynamics of local-population state. In Nigeria, the governance of resources has long been practiced in the mismanagement of petroleum income, resulting in generalized local grievances and an environmental degradation. The wrestling of the people has gone against the oil companies and the government's professional fault illustrates the growing alienation of local communities of advantages from their land. Similar to Sudan, where the marginalization of local communities in regions with oil, gold and other mineral deposits reproduce dissatisfaction, local populations frequently use manifestations and violence as a means of articulating their requests allocation and governance of fair resources. The resulting conflicts often find regional elites exploiting these grievances to question the authority of the state, further complicating the landscape of governance (Craze, 2024).

In addition, the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) offers critical information on the role of resources in the formation of the political dynamics of power. The DRC has a richness of mineral resources, but the diversion of income by state and multinational societies reflects the account of the curse of Sudan resources. In the two contexts, the disability or the reluctance of the State to regulate the extraction of resources fairly exacerbates local priority. The involvement of regional elites in the artisanal mining sectors of the DRC also reflects a complex relationship between local communities and the power of the state. In Sudan, regional elites often fill the emptiness of governance when the central state does not provide basic services, taking advantage of the control of resources to establish localized authority and negotiate its position in national policy.

Each of these cases underlines a critical observation concerning the intersection of the governance of natural resources and political power: the role of the State is often reduced in favor of the regional elites which capitalize on instability and local dissent. The use of income from the extraction of resources not only facilitates the accumulation of wealth for the elites, but also cement their political influence and legitimizes their authority. For Sudan, the implications of this dynamic resonate powerfully, in particular given the colonial heritage of the nation and the fragmentary nature of its post-colonial governance structures, which promote an environment for the elite of resources natural and more welcome local grievances.

Thanks to this comparative objective, it becomes clear that the struggles in the context of governance of Sudan resources are part of a broader continental phenomenon, in which local communities are looking for the agency in the midst of competing interest in regional elites and Actors of the State, which deeply shape the political landscape and further exacerbates socio-economic inequalities., Future prospects for natural resource governance in post-conflict Sudan are inextricably linked to the intricate network of relationships between local communities, regional elites and state. A critical examination of the dynamics around natural resources management reveals a landscape full of potential for conflicts and collaboration. The decentralized governance model that emerged after the prolonged civil agitation challenges the conventional state authority, paving the way for an evolution interaction between several stakeholders involved in extraction and resource management.

Historically, the governance of natural resources in Sudan was marked by a series of controversial commitments characterized by overlapping claims and competing interests. The monopolization of central government's wealth of resources marginalized local communities, usually leading to conflicts as these groups seek recognition and rights over resources that directly affect their means of subsistence. It is essential to consider how peacebuilding efforts that prioritize local voices can alter the dynamics of power between state and local populations. The potential for returned governance structures that enable local communities to participate in resource management presents an opportunity for more democratic and equitable governance structures.

In addition, the role of regional elites complicates the scenario of governance. These elites usually have a substantial influence on local affairs due to their economic capital and political connections, allowing them to act as intermediates between local communities and the state. Its involvement can facilitate access to resources for local populations or consolidate existing inequalities, depending on the alignment with the interests of the state and the capacity of liability mechanisms. Understanding the motivations and strategies of regional elites in resource governance is crucial to assess the outlook for the equitable distribution of resource benefits in the future of Sudan.

The concept of sharing equitable resources should also be contextualized within the broader structure of state federalism and reconstruction efforts. As Sudan embarks on a journey of political transition, the recognition of local property rights and the establishment of participatory governance mechanisms can forge new alliances between local

communities and regional elites. However, this approach would require a change in the way the state is involved with its citizens, moving toward a model that promotes dialogue, transparency and mutual benefit in resource governance.

In addition, the impact of international and global actors cannot be neglected by discussing the future of natural resources governance in Sudan. As foreign investment in resource extraction increases, it presents opportunities and risks to local communities. The potential for international actors to defend sustainable practices and management of equitable resources could lead the Sudan to adopt policies that better align with local needs. However, the risk remains that external pressures may exacerbate existing inequalities if local voices are not incorporated into decision-making processes.

In short, the future of natural resource governance in post-conflict Sudan depends on the ability to navigate the complexities of power dynamics between local communities, regional elites and state. Sustainable governance structures that promote the inclusion, responsibility and distribution of equitable resources are essential. Interrelationships between these stakeholders will profoundly influence not only the governance of natural resources, but also the broader political scenario of Sudan, as it seeks stability and development in a post-conflict context. The results of this multifaceted interaction will be critical to determine the effectiveness of political initiatives designed to transform resource governance into a peace and equity tool in the country. The integration of the voices of the community in regional governance structures in Sudan is fundamental, in particular when examining the intricate balance of power between local communities, regional elites and the state in the governance of natural resources. This interaction is marked by a historical context of marginalization and conflict, in which local communities are often found in contrast with state and elite actors who exert considerable control over the exploitation of resources. To encourage an Equal Governance, the framework for the commitment of the community must explain these dynamics, while promoting the participatory mechanisms that amplify local interests.

A potential picture is the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate dialogue between local communities, regional elites and state representatives. These platforms could serve as a forum for the exchange of information, concerns and aspirations as regards the management of natural resources. This approach aligns with collaborative governance theories, which affirm that a different involvement of the interested parties can lead to more sustainable and accepted results. The success of these platforms, however, requires the recognition of existing power imbalances, in particular the influence exercised by the regional elites, which can perceive the commitment of the community as a threat to their authority and economic interests.

In addition, the integration of the community's items could be operational through legislative reforms that institutionalize participation in governance processes. For example, the creation of community councils with legally defined authorities to manage local resources could provide a systematic means for the local input in the regional decision-making process. This model is based on community-based resources management theories, which support local resources as a mechanism to improve responsibility and sustainability. Furthermore, establishing clear paintings for the allocation of resources that prioritize the needs of the local community can mitigate the tensions that derive from the capture of elite of resources.

The capacity construction initiatives are also crucial to allow communities to effectively engage in governance processes. Training programs that improve the skills of the members of the community in negotiation, in legal literacy and in the management of resources can facilitate a more active participation in regional governance. These initiatives could be informed by the principles of the share capital theory, which underlines the importance of networks, rules and trust in effective governance. By supporting the skills of the local interested parties, the regional elites will confront each other with a more organized and competent resistance, which could lead to more Equal power relationships.

A further size provides for the integration of customary governance systems with formal state mechanisms. Recognizing and legitimizing traditional authorities' structures can promote trust and cooperation between the various actors. This approach does not respect only cultural contexts, but also recognizes the informal power structures that exist within local communities. Political paintings could therefore be developed that allow the coexistence of state and customary governance, provided that mechanisms for responsibility and transparency are established to prevent the exploitation of these systems locally built by the regional elites.

Finally, the use of technology and social media platforms can play a transformative role in facilitating the involvement of the community in governance. These platforms can provide a space for local voices to express grievances, mobilize the support and disseminate information on the governance of natural resources. Their accessibility allows a wider participation, in particular among the marginalized groups that may not have traditional paths for the Empowerment.

The effectiveness of these technological interventions, however, depends on the existing socio-political context, including the will of the state to allow the dissent and the ability of the communities to effectively exploit these tools.

These frameworks represent a multifaceted approach towards the integration of the voices of the community in Sudan regional governance structures, underlining the need to recognize the dynamics of power and promote collaboration between local communities, regional elites and was for effective governance of resources natural., The implications of state fragility and fragmentation present significant challenges to the management of resources in Sudan, as articulated by Ylönen (2024). Fragility refers to the inability of the state to establish effective governance and provide basic services, while fragmentation concerns the division of authority and control between the various actors, including local communities, regional elites and state. Together, these conditions create a complex environment in which natural resources, crucial for economic stability, become points of dispute rather than collective activities.

In Sudan, the governance of natural resources is often characterized by interest in competition between local communities, which have traditional statements and knowledge on the use of resources, the regional elites that exert significant power through their connections with state institutions and a State apparatus often perceived as distant and not responding. This disjunction can lead to a scenario in which the exploitation of resources is conducted without adequate consideration of the social and environmental consequences, exacerbating the tensions between the interested parties. Ylönen (2024) maintains that the fragmentation of the authority eventually hinders the ability of the state to formulate coexist policies for resource management, thus strengthening local grievances and contributing to conflict cycles.

One of the branches of state fragility is the emergence of a scenario of "curse of resources", in which the abundance of resources such as oil, gold and agricultural land does not translate into benefits for development for the wider population. Instead, elite capture of these resources may occur, in which regional elites form alliances with state actors to monopolize control over the wealth of resources, undermining the potential of inclusive governance. This control focused on the Local Communities often marginalized, which are excluded from the discussions on the governance of resources and private individuals of fair benefits from the exploitation of resources. Consequently, the fabric of the local society is tense, since communities can resort to resistance or alternative governance methods, which can further destabilize the national political landscape (Isshaq et al, 2024).

In addition, Ylönen (2024) explains how these dynamics can create feedback circuits that perpetuate the fragility of the state. When local communities perceive that the state does not act in their interest, they can withdraw their support, destabilizing the already tenuous relationship that exists between the population and state institutions. This retreat can manifest itself in various forms, including protests, insurrections or formation of parallel governance structures, often led by regional elites that exploit the power of power resulting. The inability of the state to mediate these conflicts effectively not only further feed the fragmentation, but also compromise the legitimacy of the state authority.

The governance of natural resources in Sudan is further complicated by the different identities and historical complaints of its various local communities. The legitimacy of the regional elites is often intertwined with their ability to navigate in these identities and exploit local loyalty. Ylönen (2024) observes that in many cases, regional leaders are positioned as mediators between the community and the state, exploiting their status to negotiate results for their electoral colleges by simultaneously consolidating their power. However, this relationship can be precarious, since changes in political dynamics or changes in the governance of resources can quickly change the balance of power, leading to volatility and potential conflict.

In summary, the interaction between local communities, regional elites and state is framed of complexity in the panorama of the governance of Sudan's resources. The fragility of state institutions and the fragmentation of the authority have profound implications on the management of natural resources, suggesting the need for more integrated and inclusive governance approaches capable of meeting the wider local needs and national interests., The role of technology and sharing information in helping local governance of natural resources in Sudan has become increasingly a focal point to understand the interactions between local communities, regional elites and the state. The intersection of the technology and management of natural resources is complex, as it influences not only the way the resources are used, but also the governance structures that emerge around them. The advent of mobile technology, internet accessibility and remote sensing has created new paths for local communities to assert its voice and rights on the governance of natural resources, simultaneously facilitating the dynamics of power between local actors, elite and state.

4.12. Technological Empowerment and Decentralization: Transforming Natural Resource Governance in Sudan

One of the most significant transformations launched by technological progress is the reduced asymmetry of the information that local communities face about their natural resources. Traditionally, the local communities have been marginalized in the decision-making processes concerning governance and management of resources such as oil, gold and agricultural land. Armed with technology, in particular mobile devices and internet platforms, these communities can access critical information on allocations of resources, government policies and market trends. This access not only authorizes local populations, but also promotes transparency in governance, since communities can monitor extraction processes and revenue flows relating to their resources.

In addition, technology has allowed local communities to organize and mobilize more effectively than the exploitation or bad management of their resources. Social media platforms serve as essential tools for defense and awareness, allowing local actors to connect with larger civil society organizations and international stakeholders. For example, campaigns led by local supporters often use social media to raise awareness of environmental degradation, violations of the rights of the territory or the impacts of the extractive industries on the means of subsistence. This connectivity promotes a collective identity between local groups and can press pressure on the regional elites and state actors to engage in more equal governance practices.

In addition to improving information sharing, technology interacts with local governance through the implementation of participatory mapping tools. These tools allow communities to outline their land limits, document the use of resources and assert their statements more effectively in negotiations with regional elites and the government. Participatory mapping not only acts as a means of negotiating land rights, but also provides a framework for collaboration between local communities. The establishment of common resources management structures, informed by the data collected through the mapping of technologies, can lead to more sustainable practices and equitable benefits for local populations.

However, the interaction of technology and local governance is not without challenges. The state, with its powerful apparatus, often tries to regulate or repress the dissemination of information, in particular when threatening the interests of the regional elites or the political system itself. State control on telecommunications and the Internet can limit the flow of information, limiting the ability of local communities to engage effectively in governance. This dynamic creates a double-edged sword: while technology has the potential to enhance local governance, it also requires supervision against state interventions designed to maintain traditional power structures.

To further complicate this interaction is the reality that not all regional elites are contrary to the role of technology in governance. Some have strategically adopted technological solutions to improve their authority, using data analysis to optimize the extraction of resources and negotiate with national and international actors. In this context, the local governance of natural resources becomes a negotiation between competing interests, in which technological access can strengthen existing hierarchies or create new alliances.

Therefore, the role of technology and sharing information in the governance of natural resources in Sudan presents a multifaceted landscape. The dynamics of power between local communities, regional elites and state actors are continuously modeled by these progress, invoking questions about governance models, responsibility and any implications for the wider political panorama of Sudan as regards resources management. The concept of decentralization has attracted attention as a potential mechanism to improve the results of resource governance in Sudan, particularly in the context of the complex interaction between local communities, regional elites and the State. With a historical backdrop of centralized governance, where natural resources have often exploited with little consideration for local needs or environmental sustainability, a change towards decentralized governance could recalibrate the dynamics of power and promote the equitable management of the resources.

Decentralization implies the transfer of authority and responsibility of the central government to local institutions, which apparently allows greater local participation in decision-making processes. By granting local communities, greater participation in resource governance, can improve responsibility and adapt management practices to local conditions and needs. In Sudan, where various ethnic groups and regional disparities characterize resource endowments, localized governance structures could address complaints related to the allocation and exchange of benefits, thus promoting confidence between communities and the State.

However, the potential benefits of decentralization must be seen through a critical lens, particularly in the light of existing power structures. Regional elites often play an important role in local governance, which can complicate the decentralization narrative. These elites can co-opt local government institutions to consolidate their influence, thus perpetuating inequalities and undermining the expected democratic benefits of decentralization. The investigation has

indicated that without solid mechanisms to safeguard against elite capture, decentralized governance can simply reconfigure existing power imbalances instead of dismantling them.

In addition, the effectiveness of decentralization in the improvement of resources governance also depends on the capacity and legitimacy of local institutions. Many local governments in Sudan face challenges such as inappropriate funds, lack of technical experience and limited authority, which can hinder their ability to manage resources effectively. In cases where local governance structures are weak, the central state can maintain its control over resources, restricting the participation of local communities. As such, the efforts to be decentralized must include capacity construction initiatives that will enhance local institutions and improve their functionality.

The interaction of local and regional interests presents another layer of complexity in the governance of natural resources of Sudan. Although decentralization aims to train local communities, regional elite interests should also be considered, since they can resist changes in power that could reduce their control over the allocation of resources. This interaction can lead to confrontations between local autonomy aspirations and regional elite agendas, which requires a nuanced approach to formulation of policies. The strategies that promote dialogue and collaboration between local communities, regional elites and state representatives will be crucial to reconcile these interesting interests.

In addition, the historical context of conflicts and marginalization in several regions of Sudan adds an additional dimension to the debate on decentralization. The areas rich in resources have often been in the center of the struggle, where local communities claim claims on resources that have greatly benefited elite groups or external actors. Therefore, effective decentralization must commit to issues of historical justice and restitution, providing local communities not only for government authority but also the recognition of their rights and rights to natural resources.

Ultimately, although decentralization presents an opportunity to remodel the governance of natural resources in Sudan, its realization depends on recognizing and addressing the dynamics of deeply rooted power. Policy formulators must prioritize inclusive governance frames that involve local stakeholders in a significant way while simultaneously safeguarding against elite domain. Only through a concerted effort to commit to the complexities of local and regional dynamics can expect to achieve results of sustainable and equitable resources governance., Analysis of the interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state in Sudan reveals a complex network of power dynamics that significantly shapes the governance of natural resources and maintains substantial implications for the nation's broadest political scenario. The results indicate that local communities, usually seen only as passive recipients of state policy, are active agents with interests acquired in natural resources management. These communities are involved in various forms of resistance and negotiation, challenging the narratives established by state and regional elites.

Regional elites emerge as vital intermediaries that sail between local interests and state policies, generally taking advantage of their influence to ensure favorable agreements regarding access to resources and revenue distribution. Its position is reinforced by cultural legitimacy and economic power, allowing them to consolidate authority over local communities. This relationship is characterized by a duality; Although the elites can support local interests to maintain their power base, their alignment with state machines often impair community integrity and the equitable distribution of resources. Consequently, this dynamic of the local elite community creates friction, impacting social cohesion and increasing tensions that can light conflict.

The state governance structure, on the other hand, historically marginalized local communities in favor of centralization and bureaucratic control, often exacerbating inequalities and devoid of local populations. Resource governance is typically aligned with national agendas, by which the focusing focus on the accumulation of capital and political stability overshadows ecological sustainability and the good -of the community. State dependence on extractive industries to reinforce weakened economic structures required forcing partnerships with regional elites, more distributed from the community and corrode traditional resource management practices.

In addition, this interaction has significant implications for the country's political scenario. The marginalization of local communities promotes a sense of disenchantment and deprivation of rights, feeding social agitation and political instability. In recent years, there have been increasing requests for decentralization and more inclusive governance structures that recognize the rights of local communities, highlighting possible ways for political reform. The emergence of civil society organizations that advocate community rights and sustainable management of resources emphasizes the potential for mobilization and collective action in reformulation of governance paradigms.

The implications of this analysis extend beyond the immediate issues of resource governance. The interaction between local communities, regional elites and the state raises profound questions about legitimacy, authority and responsibility in the political evolution of Sudan. As the state deals with various crises, including economic challenges and social

agitation, recognizing and addressing these dynamics of power. It is crucial for the construction of a more equitable governance structure. Future policies should prioritize community involvement, equitable distribution of resources and collaboration with local actors to promote sustainable development and political stability.

In essence, the results underline the need for a paradigm shift in how natural resource governance is conceptualized in Sudan. Practical involvement with local communities is vital not only for legitimacy, but also to take advantage of local knowledge systems that can contribute to more effective and sustainable governance approaches. This change presents an opportunity to reconfigure the political fabric of Sudan, creating paths towards a more inclusive and participatory governance model that transcends historical complaints and enables sleeping social forces. Recognize and address the dynamic intricate between local communities, regional elites and the state will be fundamental to create a resilient political structure capable of mitigating conflicts and promoting socioeconomic development. The complexities inherent in the governance of Sudan's natural resources require a critical reflection on the often contrasting dynamics between local communities, regional elites and the state. The historical context reveals that the allocation and management of resources have often reflected wider political competitions, in which the interests of different parties concerned have been inadequately aligned, consequently generating conflicts and instability. This reality underlines the imperative for a fair governance framework that transcends traditional power hierarchies, facilitating the collaborative commitment between all the actors involved.

Local communities, fundamental for resources and management, often find themselves marginalized in decision-making processes. Their intimate knowledge of natural resources and local management practices remains underestimated within a governance paradigm that gives priority to regional and national agendas. As external actors - state or foreign actors are often being done - they exploit these resources with a limited commitment with local populations, social disorders and resistance often arise. These basic movements, although rooted in the legitimate claims to the governance of resources, are often encountered with state repression, further rooting the cycles of privacy and conflict.

At the same time, the regional elites play a double role within this interaction. As facilitators and gatekeeper of access to resources, they have the ability to influence state policies and redirect the flow of resources towards their interests. The convergence of elite interests with state agendas guarantees practically that local communities are systematically excluded from equitable benefits of resources. The resulting governance model generates an environment in which regional elites can exercise the power disproportionate to other interested parties, further exacerbating existing inequalities and undermining the potential of social cohesion and development.

In light of these dynamics, the need for reformed governance structures in Sudan emerges as an urgent priority. A framework of governance of fair resources must recognize the interdependence of local communities, regional elites and state actors while promoting a collaboration environment rather than competition. This requires the implementation of the participatory governance mechanisms that give power to local communities by granting them a substantial item in decision-making processes. Such an approach would not only take advantage of local knowledge and practices, but would also face the grievances that often push the community conflicts.

In addition, the state must recalibrate its relationship with local and regional actors to mitigate the voltages on the governance of resources. Political reforms aimed at improving transparency and responsibility within the management of natural resources will be fundamental in collecting trust between the various parties concerned. State mechanisms should be designed to ensure that the benefits derived from the extraction of resources are equally distributed, thus promoting a sense of shared property and reducing the propensity to the conflict.

Therefore, reaching an effective and right picture for the governance of natural resources in the cornerstones of Sudan on the recognition of the complex dynamics of power at stake. Giving priority to inclusion and fair resource distribution, the state can transform potential sources of conflict into collaborative governance opportunities. This approach not only deals with immediate governance failures, but also lays the foundations for sustainable political stability and resilience of the community in a nation deeply modeled by the competition on its rich natural resources.

5. Conclusion

Governance of natural resources in Sudan provides an important lens through which the complex interrelated dynamics of power, conflict, and development in Sudan can be examined. The local communities, regional elites, and state-which are central to this analysis-interact with one another in shaping how Sudan's resource wealth is allocated, exploited, and managed. The huge potential of Sudan's natural resources to spur economic growth and improve livelihoods has

been overshadowed by historical grievances, systemic inequalities, and governance deficits that have perpetuated marginalization and fueled socio-political tensions.

Local communities continue to be excluded from decision-making, are inadequately compensated, and suffer environmental degradation, while regional elites utilize their socio-political leverage to gain personal and political advantages, often at the expense of equitable development. This has been compounded by the state's centralized and often authoritarian way of governance, prioritizing revenue generation and external partnerships at the expense of inclusive and sustainable resource management.

The analysis underlines how these can be addressed only with transformative reforms in governance—a decentralized, inclusive, and equitable setup. Empowerment at the level of local communities, through transparency in benefit-sharing mechanisms and ensuring accountability on the part of elites, is a set of urgently needed steps towards conflict resolution. Moreover, history and acknowledgment of marginalization or incorporation of customary governance practice can go a long way towards rebuilding trust and strengthening social cohesion.

Therefore, in a nutshell, the system of natural resource governance in Sudan reflects broader global challenges confronted by resource-rich but politically fragile states. In this light, any quest for sustainable development and political stability within Sudan will have to sort out the complex interplay of power dynamics among its stakeholders and prioritize policies balancing economic growth with social justice and environmental sustainability. This study lays the foundation for further research and practical interventions in fostering inclusive governance frameworks so that Sudan's natural resources become a source of prosperity, not conflict.

5.1. Recommendation Based on the Research

These recommendations aim to develop a balanced, fair, and sustainable approach toward natural resource management in Sudan for the purposes of socio-economic development, conflict reduction, and political stability.

To address the entrenched challenges in Sudan's natural resource governance, the following measures are recommended:

5.1.1. Inclusive and Decentralized Governance Structures

- Shift from a centralized model to decentralized governance frameworks that empower local communities to participate actively in decision-making processes.
- Establish regional councils with equitable representation to ensure that all stakeholders, especially marginalized communities, have a voice in resource governance.

5.1.2. Legal and Institutional Frameworks

- Develop transparent and enforceable legal systems that clearly define land and resource rights.
- Establish accountability mechanisms to address corruption and ensure equitable distribution of resource revenues.

5.1.3. Improve Community Engagement

- Foster collaboration with local communities by incorporating traditional governance structures and indigenous knowledge into formal decision-making.
- Ensure that benefits from resource extraction accrue directly to the local people through community-driven development programs

5.1.4. Mitigate Environmental and Social Impacts

- Enforce strict environmental regulations to minimize resource extraction activities that degrade the environment.
- Provide fair compensation and viable livelihood options to communities displaced or affected by environmental degradation.

5.1.5. Address Power Imbalances

- Regulate the role of regional elites to prevent exploitation and elite capture of resource benefits.
- Ensure balanced power dynamics in negotiations between the state, communities, and private or international stakeholders.

5.1.6. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

- Use inclusive dialogue and mediation to resolve resource-related conflicts with a focus on equity and justice.
- Support such initiatives that aim at historical grievances, building trust, and reconciliation among the local communities, regional elites, and the state.

5.1.7. Promote Sustainable Development

- Bring natural resource governance in line with long-term sustainability objectives, balancing economic growth with environmental conservation.
- Adopt international best practices and technological innovations to improve the efficiency of resource management.

5.1.8. Monitor International Actor Influence

- Ensure foreign investments and partnerships are geared towards local development and ethical standards.
- Develop policies to regulate external actors and protect national sovereignty and community interests

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