A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY OF UGANDA: LESSONS FROM CANADA, ANGOLA & USA.

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ABSTRACT

The Albertine Graben in Uganda harbors multiple wealth of natural resources including petroleum which was declared in commerciality around 2006. Exploration activities have an immense impact on the environment, farming, fishing and it also affects the tourism industry that has availed foreign exchange to Uganda for quite a long time.

To investigate fully what is at stake and how the exploration can exist besides other natural endowments in the Albertine this research analyses how international instruments have responded to environmental sustainability vis-à-vis exploration. Perhaps through strengthening biodiversity laws as well as agreeing upon a particular biodiversity target and penalties with an aim of reducing biodiversity losses at all levels of the petroleum industry.

That be as it may, this research analyses the existing laws for environmental sustainability in the petroleum industry of Uganda. The legal operationalization of ecological sustainability is a concern at all levels of legal control.

This coupled with other mechanisms and initiatives, the control of environmental degradation in the petroleum industry can be a success, not forgetting the different stakeholders such as the companies and civil society organizations.

The research also makes a comparative analysis of legal regimes from specific states that have proved to be a success and other mechanisms to propose changes in the existing laws to strengthen both implementation and enforcement.

The research adopts a doctrinal methodology of reviewing both secondary and primary sources such as statutes, conventions and case law analysis. And on analysis of those texts, the basis for environmental regulation in the petroleum industry in Uganda is streamlined.