



CALL FOR PAPERS

Natural Resources in Africa: The Role of Management Research



Deadline for submission: September 1, 2016
Special Issue Workshop: December 2016

Guest Editors:

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Co-sponsored with the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, Accra Ghana

Why do countries rich in natural resources have poor economic outcomes? For over two decades economists, political scientists and development researchers have examined this question resulting in two major propositions (Van der Ploeg, 2011). One proposition – the natural resources curse – suggests that natural resource abundance is associated with negative national outcomes (see Humphreys, Sachs, and Stiglitz, 2007; Sachs & Warner, 2001). Consistent with this view, a large volume of research has identified several factors important to the economic impact of natural resources including institutions, economic mismanagement, culture, and types of natural resources. The second proposition – the natural resources blessing - contends that natural resource abundance is associated with positive national outcomes. The resource windfall enables resource-rich countries to support economic activities that they otherwise might not have been able to do (Brunnschweiler, 2008). These two perspectives, particularly the former, are so pervasive that they are now adopted by the major international bodies such as the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Current research comes from various disciplines. Economic, sociological, and political science research has identified drivers, mediators, moderators, and outcomes of the natural resources curse and blessing (see Frankel, 2010; Humphreys et al., 2007). Some drivers of the curse include the type of natural resources, geographic location, and ethnic diversity. Common mediators and moderators include varieties of institutional dimensions – regulatory, political, economic, and social. Major outcomes identified empirically have ranged from negative (e.g., conflict and slow economic growth) to positive (e.g., infrastructure investment). Missing from this literature are management studies. Given that management contributes to economic development (Bloom, Genakos, Sadun, and van Reenen, 2012), and the majority of the natural resource-cursed countries are in Africa (see Humphreys et al., 2007; Sala-i-Martin & Subramanian, 2013), it seems likely that by investigating the natural resource curse and blessing from a management perspective, we might uncover mechanisms by which firms contribute both positively and negatively to buffering, enhancing, or constraining the curse in natural resource-rich contexts. First, studies that examine the effects of natural resources contexts on organizational effectiveness are particularly important. Organizational effectiveness is defined broadly to encompass the indicators and typology suggested by Zoogah, Peng, and Woldu (2015). Second, studies that investigate how firms, NGOs, public-sector companies, social movements, and so on influence natural resources countries will be welcome.



This **special issue** therefore seeks studies that explore the following questions:

- 1) How do firms contribute to economic development of natural resource endowed countries?
- 2) How do natural resource contexts influence firm performance?
- 3) What factors alter the effects of natural resource endowments on firm performance?
- 4) What mechanisms intervene in the relationship between natural resource endowments and firm performance?
- 5) What is the role of multinational corporations in environmental degradation or preservation in natural resource rich countries?
- 6) What management theories inform the debate about the natural resources curse and blessing?
- 7) Do firms in natural resource rich countries outperform those in natural resource deprived countries, and what factors explain the differential performance?
- 8) What is the role of capabilities, institutions, and agency in the relationship between natural resource endowments and firm performance?
- 9) What are the interrelationships between NGOs, firms, and social movements related to the natural environment?
- 10) What is the ecological footprint of natural resources companies on natural resources-rich countries?
- 11) Which cooperative mechanisms – private-private; private-public; public-public - are effective in minimizing environmental degradation in natural resources rich countries?
- 12) How does natural resources governance influence organizations?
- 13) What role does gender play in natural resources endowed countries?
- 14) How do small and medium companies (e.g., local artisanship) perform in natural resource endowed countries?
- 15) How do natural resources affect financial systems in endowed countries relative to poor ones?
- 16) What is the link between natural resources and the global supply chain (e.g. Middle East, China, Southeast Asia)?

These questions are neither exhaustive nor exemplary; they are just meant to provoke interest and curiosity. Other questions consistent with the theme could be explored.

Submission Process

By **September 1, 2016**, authors should submit their manuscripts to the following the Africa Journal of Management, <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rajm20&page=instructions#.VILVYf5dFPZ>

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the *Africa Journal of Management* Guidelines for Authors available at <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rajm20&page=instructions#.ViEhs7QWorx>
All submitted manuscripts will be subject to the *Africa Journal of Management* blind review process.

Questions about the Special Issue may be directed to the guest editors:

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Workshop/Write-shop

Authors of selected papers may be invited to a **workshop (write-shop)** in **December, 2016** to be held at *The United Nations University, Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, GHANA*.

Sponsorship: Interested institutions (or individuals) that would like to sponsor the workshop may contact the guest editors at the following addresses: David B. Zoogah (David.Zoogah@morgan.edu) or Elias Ayuk, (ayuk@unu.edu).

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