

Infusing Justice, Harmony, Collaboration and Ubuntu into Environmental Mediation for Sustainable Peace in Africa

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**Infusing Justice, Harmony, Collaboration and Ubuntu into Environmental Mediation
for Sustainable Peace in Africa**

Kariuki Muigua*

Abstract

This paper critically interrogates how justice, harmony, collaboration and Ubuntu can be infused into environmental mediation for sustainable peace in Africa. The paper notes that Africa is highly susceptible to environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes which undermine peace and Sustainable Development in the continent. Consequently, the paper argues that environmental mediation is a suitable technique towards effective management of environmental and natural resource based conflicts and disputes in Africa towards sustainable peace and prosperity. It proposes ideas towards infusing justice, harmony, collaboration and Ubuntu into environmental mediation for sustainable peace in Africa.

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1.0 Introduction

Peace has been identified as a fundamental precondition for social and economic development¹. Without peace and stability, progress becomes an elusive dream². For instance, wars and conflicts disrupt economies, displace communities, create instability and exacerbate poverty and inequality thus undermining development³. Sustainable peace is therefore a prerequisite in the quest towards development. It has been observed that sustainable peace shifts actors away from conflicts and violence towards collaborative solutions and development⁴. The relationship between peace and development is recognised under the *United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*⁵ which acknowledges that there can be no Sustainable Development without peace and no peace without Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for Sustainable Development⁶.

Building sustainable peace is also a key priority for Africa. It has been argued that there is link between durable peace, inclusive development, security and stability in Africa⁷. However, building and sustaining peace has remained a key challenge in Africa for many decades. Africa has been highly susceptible to intra and inter- state wars and conflicts for many years⁸. There have been frequent conflicts across the Africa which are fueled by

¹ United Nations., 'Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions' Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

² United Nations Development Programme., 'Sustainable peace for sustainable development - A global challenge that calls for collective action' Available at <https://www.undp.org/rwanda/blog/sustainable-peace-sustainable-development-global-challenge-calls-collective-action> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

³ Ibid

⁴ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute., 'Sustaining peace and sustainable development in dangerous places' Available at <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2017/06> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

⁵ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ United Nations., 'Root Causes of Conflicts in Africa Must Be Addressed beyond Traditional Response, Special Adviser Tells Security Council Debate on Silencing Guns' Available at <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

⁸ Olaosebikan. A., 'Conflicts in Africa: Meaning, Causes, Impact and Solution.' African Research Review., Volume 4, No. 4 (2010)

various factors, including but not limited to natural resources, fight for political control, poverty, negative ethnicity, religion, environmental causes, and external influence, among others⁹. According to the United Nations, it has been difficult to build and sustain peace in Africa since the internal and external root causes of conflicts are not properly managed¹⁰.

In light of the foregoing challenges, it has been argued that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms can play a pertinent role in building and sustaining peace in Africa by preventing and managing conflicts and enhancing stability¹¹. In particular, mediation has emerged as a powerful tool towards amicable management of environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes in Africa towards sustainable peace and development¹². Harnessing environmental mediation is therefore crucial in the quest towards sustainable peace and development in Africa.

This paper critically interrogates how justice, harmony, collaboration and *Ubuntu* can be infused into environmental mediation for sustainable peace in Africa. The paper notes that Africa is highly susceptible to environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes which undermine peace and Sustainable Development in the continent. Consequently, the paper argues that environmental mediation is a suitable technique towards effective management of environmental and natural resource based conflicts and

⁹ Muigua. K., 'Towards Effective Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in Kenya.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Towards-Peacebuilding-and-ConflictManagementin-Kenya.docx-Kariuiki-Muigua-MAY-2021x.pdf> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

¹⁰ United Nations., 'Root Causes of Conflicts in Africa Must Be Addressed beyond Traditional Response, Special Adviser Tells Security Council Debate on Silencing Guns' Op Cit

¹¹ Uwazie. E., 'Alternative Dispute Resolution in Africa: Preventing Conflict and Enhancing Stability.' Available at Available at <https://africacenter.org/publication/alternative-dispute-resolution-in-africa-preventing-conflict-and-enhancing-stability/> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

¹² Muigua. K., 'Resolving Natural Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa through Negotiation and Mediation' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Resolving-Natural-Resource-Based-Conflicts-in-Africa-through-Negotiation-and-Mediation.pdf#:~:text=Negotiation%20and%20mediation%20are%20therefore,therefore%20promoting%20peace%20and%20stability74> (Accessed on 22/03/2025)

disputes in Africa towards sustainable peace and prosperity. It proposes ideas towards infusing justice, harmony, collaboration and *Ubuntu* into environmental mediation for sustainable peace in Africa.

2.0 Environmental Mediation in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

Africa is highly susceptible to environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes. The continent is rich in natural resources ranging from arable land, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, forests and wildlife¹³. It has been observed that Africa holds a huge proportion of the world's natural resources, both renewables and non-renewables¹⁴. Despite this position, conflicts and disputes over natural resources such as minerals, fish, and water are a common phenomenon in Africa¹⁵. Further, population growth and environmental degradation are intensifying competition over already scarce resources, such as land and water, and climate change threatens to increase such competition even further¹⁶.

The continent has for many decades experienced the '*resource curse phenomenon*' which refers to the paradox that countries endowed with natural resources tend to be embroiled in conflicts and have incidences of poverty¹⁷. Natural resources have played a major role in defining much of Africa's public arena, including power politics, and resource distribution strategies¹⁸. However, they have also motivated and fueled armed conflicts

¹³ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Our Work in Africa' Available at <https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/our-work-africa#:~:text=Africa%20is%20rich%20in%20natural,both%20renewables%20and%20non%2Drenewables.> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ N.P. Gleditsch, "Armed Conflict and the Environment: A Critique of the Literature," *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 35, No. 3, Special Issue on Environmental Conflict (May, 1998), pp. 381-400, p. 381

¹⁶ ReliefWeb., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners.' Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/natural-resources-and-conflict-guide-mediation-practitioners0#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20prerequisites%20to,by%20an%20independent%20third%20party> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

¹⁷ Henri. A., 'Natural Resources Curse: A Reality in Africa.' *Resources Policy*, Volume 63, 2019

¹⁸ Mwanika. PAN., 'Natural Resource Conflict: Management Processes and Strategies in Africa' Available at <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/136685/PAPER216.pdf> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

in Africa threatening peace, security, and stability¹⁹. It has been argued that mismanagement of the proceeds of natural resources including minerals in most African societies has led to the proliferation of armed conflicts and other criminal activities, while the political, military, and bureaucratic elites have remained the beneficiaries of the resources²⁰. These factors contribute to environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes in Africa.

Environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes are undesirable in Africa. These conflicts and disputes undermine human rights and development²¹. They also fuel violence and insecurity thus threatening sustainable peace as a prerequisite for Sustainable Development²². Further, it has been argued that environmental and natural-resource based conflicts enable armed and rebel groups to participate in conflict and lengthen the cycle of conflict in resource-rich nations due to benefit gained from resource theft, extortion, and smuggling²³.

In light of the foregoing challenges, environmental mediation has emerged as an appropriate tool for effective management of environmental conflicts and disputes towards sustainable peace in Africa²⁴. It has been argued that environmental mediation promotes cooperation and understanding among the various parties involved in environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes allowing each party to express their concerns, needs and interests, and seeking to find common ground for

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Fagbadebo. O., Binza. M., Kabange. M., 'Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa' Available at https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-25151-1_6 (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²¹ Ibid

²² Maphosa. S., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: Unlocking the economic dimension of peace-building in Africa' Available at <https://africaportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/No.-74.-Natural-Resources-and-Conflict..pdf> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²³ Sini. S., Abdul-Rahim. A.S., & Sulaiman. C., 'Does natural resource influence conflict in Africa? Evidence from panel nonlinear relationship' *Resources Policy.*, Volume 74, December, 2021

²⁴ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Natural Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa through Negotiation and Mediation' Op Cit

dialogue²⁵. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), environmental mediation provides a platform for cooperation and confidence building among parties involved in natural resource disputes or those using shared natural resources²⁶. Environmental mediation can also help parties to maximize mutual benefits and reframe conflict to allow greater opportunities for collaboration and building constructive relations across community, ethnic, national, or regional divides²⁷.

Environmental mediation is an appropriate tool for peacebuilding in Africa²⁸. Environmental mediation in Africa provides a platform for dialogue, justice, and access to resources while also addressing the root causes of conflicts therefore ensuring long-term and sustainable outcomes²⁹. It has been successfully utilised in managing environmental conflicts including those concerning access to natural resources such as land and water, and those involving environmental damage including pollution³⁰. By bridging the gap between conflicting interests, environmental mediation not only addresses immediate environmental concerns but also fosters long-term partnerships that can foster sustainable development outcomes³¹.

²⁵ Mediation and the Environment., Available at <https://www.concordiaetius.it/en-gb/la-mediazione-ambientale#:~:text=In%20general%2C%20Environmental%20Mediation%20aims,interests%20of%20the%20different%20stakeholders>. (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²⁶ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Environmental cooperation and peacebuilding' Available at <https://www.unep.org/topics/disasters-and-conflicts/environment-security/environmental-cooperation-and-peacebuilding#:~:text=Environmental%20diplomacy%20and%20mediation&text=This%20service%20can%20be%20related,A%20Guide%20for%20Mediation%20Practitioners>. (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²⁷ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners' Available at https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/NRCMediation_UNDPAUNEP2015_0.pdf (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²⁸ Muigua. K., 'Promoting Peace and Environmental Security in Africa through Mediation' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/articles-publications/promoting-peace-and-environmental-security-in-africa-through-mediation-x/> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

²⁹ Mediation in African Internal Conflicts., Available at <https://www.policycenter.ma/sites/default/files/2024-10/Rapport%20APSACO%202024vf.pdf> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

³⁰ Mediation in Environmental Conflicts: Approaches and Case Studies., Available at <https://psico-smart.com/en/blogs/blog-mediation-in-environmental-conflicts-approaches-and-case-studies-162228> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

³¹ Ibid

Despite the suitability of environmental mediation, it has been observed that environmental and natural-resource based conflicts are prevalent in Africa and often go unresolved for long periods undermining sustainable peace and development³². Environmental mediation is therefore underutilized in managing environmental and natural-resource based conflicts and disputes in Africa. Further, the suitability of environmental mediation in Africa is also undermined by protracted and deep-rooted structural issues in environmental and natural resources-based conflicts and disputes including absolute resource scarcity, incompatible land use, structural inequalities, different identities and cultural values that characterize such conflicts³³. It is therefore imperative to effectively harness and strengthen environmental mediation in Africa towards sustainable peace and development.

3.0 Infusing Justice, Harmony, Collaboration and Ubuntu into Environmental Mediation in Africa

It is vital to strengthen environmental mediation in Africa. Environmental mediation provides a suitable platform for effective management of environmental and natural resource-based conflicts and disputes in Africa towards sustainable peace³⁴. In order to strengthen environmental mediation in Africa, there is need to foster justice. The concept of justice is associated with fair and impartial decision procedures (procedural justice) and with persons and groups being treated even-handedly (formal justice, treating like cases alike) and in a morally fitting way (material or substantive justice)³⁵. Justice can be achieved in various forms including *distributive justice* (economic justice) that involves fairness in sharing resources and opportunities³⁶; *procedural justice* which focuses on fair

³² United Nations Environment Programme., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners' Op Cit

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Natural Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa through Negotiation and Mediation' Op Cit

³⁵ Pogge. T., 'Justice: Philosophical Aspects' *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd Edition, 2015, pp 943-948

³⁶ Maiese. M., & Burgess. H., 'Types of Justice' Available at https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/types_of_justice (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

and impartial decision making procedures³⁷; *restorative justice* whose aim is to repair harm to victims of crimes and rehabilitate offenders³⁸; and *retributive justice* that focuses on punishing crimes in a society (Emphasis added)³⁹.

Environmental mediation is a suitable tool towards achieving justice in Africa. It has been correctly noted that mediation in general alongside other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes have been part and parcel of conflict management in Africa since time immemorial⁴⁰. African societies have for many centuries utilised informal negotiation, mediation, reconciliation and arbitration among other techniques in conflict management⁴¹. These techniques are rooted in the culture and customs of the African people and are therefore able to safeguard values that are inherent in African societies including peace, harmony, unity, cooperation, and social cohesion⁴². Further, mediation and ADR fit comfortably within the concept of justice in Africa, particularly its core values of reconciliation, forgiveness, and restorative justice⁴³. Mediation is therefore appropriate in fostering justice in Africa. In particular, environmental mediation can foster a sense of justice by restoring relationships among parties to environmental conflicts, promoting reconciliation by addressing the root causes of environmental conflicts, and providing a platform for cooperation in access to and management of natural resources⁴⁴. Through this, it is possible to achieve long-term and sustainable

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Conflicts through Mediation in Kenya.' Glenwood Publishers Limited, 2nd Edition., 2017

⁴¹ Kariuki. F., 'Conflict Resolution by Elders in Africa: Successes, Challenges and Opportunities.' Available at <http://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Conflict-Resolution-by-Elders-successes-challenges-and-opportunities-1.pdf> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁴² Adeyinka. A., & Lateef. B., 'Methods of Conflict Resolution in African Traditional Society' *An International Multidisciplinary Journal*, Ethiopia Vol. 8 (2).

⁴³ Uwazie. E., 'Alternative Dispute Resolution in Africa: Preventing Conflict and Enhancing Stability.' *Africa Security Brief*, No. 16 of 2011

⁴⁴ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners' Op Cit

outcomes towards peace and development. It is therefore necessary to infuse justice into environmental mediation for sustainable peace.

Further, there is need to embrace harmony in environmental mediation. Harmony is a human value and virtue that denotes compatibility and accord in feelings, actions, relationships, opinions, interests⁴⁵. It involves peaceful co-existence in a state of balance and coherence within humanity⁴⁶. It has been argued that the aim of all human relations is to preserve harmony⁴⁷. Mediation therefore provides a platform towards achieving harmony through its ability to address root causes of conflicts and disputes thus preserving and strengthening relationships and ensuring peaceful co-existence among individuals and within communities⁴⁸. It has been argued that at its most basic level, mediation is about maintaining some semblance of harmony among parties at the various stages of a conflict⁴⁹. Mediation achieves this target by focusing on common ground rather than who is right or wrong in a conflict⁵⁰. Effective mediation therefore focuses on harmony and cooperation⁵¹. Through effective management of environmental conflicts and disputes, environmental mediation provides a platform for people to live a sustainable and healthy way of life ensuring harmony both among individuals and

⁴⁵ Chen. S. X., 'Harmony' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/256649929_Harmony#:~:text=Harmony%20is%20usually%20identified%20as,and%20even%20opposing%20one%20another (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁴⁶ Hegde. S. B., 'Universal Human Values: Understanding Harmony and Ethical Human Conduct' Available at <https://www.jcethbl.edu.in/UNIVERSAL%20HUMAN%20VALUES%20II.pdf> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁴⁷ Masumy. N., 'Charting a Pathway to Resolving Conflicts through Harmony and Mediation: Chinese Approach to International Conflict Management' Available at <https://opiniojuris.org/2024/02/29/charting-a-pathway-to-resolving-conflicts-through-harmony-and-mediation-chinas-influence-in-managing-international-conflicts/> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁴⁸ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Conflicts through Mediation in Kenya.' Op Cit

⁴⁹ Mediation Can Maintain Harmony at Various Stages of a Case., Available at <https://www.brickergraydon.com/insights/publications/Mediation-can-maintain-harmony-at-various-stages-of-a-case> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Masumy. N., 'Charting a Pathway to Resolving Conflicts through Harmony and Mediation: Chinese Approach to International Conflict Management' Op Cit

between humanity and the natural world⁵². Infusing harmony into environmental mediation is thus integral for sustainable peace in Africa.

Environmental mediation further focuses on collaboration⁵³. It has been argued that the premise of mediation is that in the right environment, conflict parties can improve their relationships and move towards cooperation and collaboration⁵⁴. Environmental mediation, as opposed to perpetuating adversarial relationships, offers a trajectory towards consensus-building, safeguarding both economic interests and environmental concerns⁵⁵. It provides a pathway towards environmental collaboration by facilitating constructive dialogue and equitable solutions for the benefit of both humanity and nature⁵⁶. It has been argued that collaboration over the ownership, management, and use of natural resources is critical in minimizing conflicts and disputes over such resources and enhancing peace and stability⁵⁷. According to UNEP, environmental mediation is effective in helping parties identify ways to maximize and share benefits, and ultimately unlock entrenched or zero-sum positions, allowing parties to develop cooperative and constructive relationships that can be carried over to other areas⁵⁸. Collaboration is crucial in helping parties to identify ways to maximize shared benefits and address common problems and challenges together⁵⁹. Through environmental collaboration, conflicts can

⁵² Civil Mediation Council., 'Can Environmental Mediation Save the World?' Available at <https://civilmediation.org/can-environmental-mediation-save-the-world/> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁵³ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Natural Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa through Negotiation and Mediation' Op Cit

⁵⁴ United Nations., 'Guidance for Effective Mediation' Available at https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/GuidanceEffectiveMediation_UNDPA2012%20english%29_0.pdf (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁵⁵ Breaking the Deadlock: Environmental Mediation as a Catalyst for Collaboration in the Mining Sector., Available at <https://sdr.c.strathmore.edu/breaking-the-deadlock-environmental-mediation-as-a-catalyst-for-collaboration-in-the-mining-sector/> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners' Op Cit

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Natural Resources and Conflict: A Guide for Mediation Practitioners' Op Cit

become a catalyst for positive change enabling people to find effective solutions towards sustainable management of the environment and natural resources while also tackling environmental challenges including climate change and pollution⁶⁰.

Further, it is imperative to integrate *Ubuntu* into environmental mediation towards sustainable peace in Africa. *Ubuntu* is an African philosophy that places emphasis on 'being self through others'⁶¹. It is a form of humanism which can be expressed in the phrases 'I am because of who we all are'⁶²(*Emphasis added*). It has been observed that *Ubuntu* is described as 'I am because we are' (a person is a person through other persons)⁶³. *Ubuntu* is a continent-wide value system featured under different names in different languages⁶⁴. For example, it is referred to as *Utu* in East Africa⁶⁵. *Ubuntu* is African philosophy geared towards upholding values for the greater good of the all community including sympathy, compassion, benevolence, solidarity, hospitality, generosity, sharing, openness, affirming, being available, kindness, caring, harmony, interdependence, obedience, collectivity and consensus⁶⁶. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of all humanity⁶⁷.

⁶⁰ Civil Mediation Council., 'Can Environmental Mediation Save the World?' Op Cit

⁶¹ Mugumbate. J., & Nyanguru. A., 'Exploring African Philosophy: The Value of Ubuntu in Social Work.' Available at <https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4272&context=sspapers&httpsredir=1&referer#::~:xt=Ubuntu%20can%20best%20be%20described.ngumuntu%20ngabantu%20in%20Zulu%20language>. (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Van Norren. D., 'African Ubuntu and Sustainable Development Goals: seeking human mutual relations and service in development' Available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2022.2109458#abstract> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Mugumbate. J., & Nyanguru. A., 'Exploring African Philosophy: The Value of Ubuntu in Social Work.' Op Cit

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Omodan. B., 'Ubuntu Politics of Process: An Alternative Conflict Management Culture in Universities' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364033950_Ubuntu_Politics_of_Process_An_Alternative_Conflict_Management_Culture_in_Universities (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

Ubuntu further seeks to deter vengeance, confrontation and retribution and on the other hand values life, dignity, compassion, humaneness harmony and reconciliation⁶⁸.

It has been argued that mediation in Africa honours the spirit of *Ubuntu* by giving prominence to cooperation, reconciliation, harmony, and peaceful co-existence among individuals and within communities⁶⁹. In the quest towards Sustainable Development, *Ubuntu* provides a pathway towards promoting peaceful coexistence between humanity and nature⁷⁰. *Ubuntu* can therefore strengthen environmental mediation by providing a platform for effective management of environmental conflicts towards peace, harmony and social cohesion while prioritising the needs of both humanity and nature due to their interconnectedness⁷¹. Integrating *Ubuntu* in environmental mediation can therefore foster sustainable peace and sound environmental conservation including through an African approach towards Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)⁷².

4.0 Conclusion

Environmental and natural-resource based conflicts and disputes are a major threat to peace, security and sustainability in Africa. Environmental mediation has thus emerged as a suitable tool for effective management of these conflicts and disputes for sustainable peace⁷³. However, it is important to effectively harness and strengthen environmental mediation in Africa by infusing into it justice, harmony, collaboration and *Ubuntu*.

⁶⁸ Mugumbate. J., & Nyanguru. A., 'Exploring African Philosophy: The Value of Ubuntu in Social Work.' Op Cit

⁶⁹ Motsisi. M., 'Mediation & Ubuntu' Available at <https://www.mmatheomotsisi.com/mediation-ubuntu/#:~:text=Ubuntu%20as%20the%20Primeval%20Model,promotes%20genuine%20trust%20and%20openness> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁷⁰ Kyei-Nuamah. D., & Peng. Z., 'Ubuntu philosophy for ecological education and environmental policy formulation' *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, Volume 58, Issue 4 (2024), pp 540-561

⁷¹ Mliswa. A., 'Ubuntu: Africa's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework?' Available at <https://africasocialwork.net/ubuntu-africas-esg-framework/> (Accessed on 24/03/2025)

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Muigua. K., 'Resolving Natural Resource-Based Conflicts in Africa through Negotiation and Mediation' Op Cit

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Through this, the quest towards sustainable peace in Africa will be achieved for prosperity.

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