

**LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CONSERVING AQUATIC PROTECTED AREAS: A  
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LAKE FUNDUDZI (SOUTH AFRICA), THE TERRABA  
SIERPE WETLAND (COSTA RICA) AND BA BE LAKE (VIETNAM)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The paper examines the legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods within the 3 case studies. More specifically, the paper ascertains the legal architecture pertaining to the three case studies, and seeks to identify barriers to translating international commitment into practice. As protected areas, these case studies tend to fall under various national and international legal instruments, such as Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Ramsar Convention or Biodiversity Convention), Forestry Laws, Heritage Laws, Protected Areas Law, Water Law, and so forth. The case studies demonstrate that in many cases there is a clear need to strengthen the co-ordination between various legal instruments in order to enhance the effective implementation of rules and principles concerning equity and sustainability. A number of recommendations, drawn from the case studies, are offered to improve the coherence of the legal architecture relating to aquatic protected areas.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE: Water, Law, Protected Areas, International law, National law, Interplay**