

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

## CBRM Database

<b>Date:</b>	02/18/2010	<b>Entry Number:</b>	<b>1072</b>
<b>Case Study Name:</b>	In search of Improved Rural Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Regions through Local Management of Natural Resources: Lessons from Case Studies in Zimbabwe		
<b>Authors:</b>	Frost, P., Campbell, B., Luckert, M., Mutamba, M., Mandondo, A., and Kozanayi, W.		
<b>Document Type:</b>	paper in scientific journal		
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<b>Region:</b>	Africa - south of Sahara		
<b>Country:</b>	Zimbabwe		
<b>Ecosystem Type:</b>	arid and/or semi-arid		
<b>Social Characteristics:</b>	indigenous community, remote community		
<b>Scale of Study:</b>	household, community		
<b>Resource Type:</b>	other (Local natural resources)		
<b>Type of Initiative:</b>	international development agency, research-driven project		
<b>Community Based Work:</b>	Indigenous knowledge / traditional ecological knowledge, resource management		

<b>Keywords:</b>	Africa, catchments, common pool resources, empowerment, livelihoods, Zimbabwe
<b>Summary:</b>	<b>We use case studies from Zimbabwe to illustrate the complexities that can undermine development efforts in semi-arid mixed farming areas. Livelihood improvement and micro-catchment management were considered in the context of portfolios of household activities. While technical and institutional interventions may strengthen safety nets, they did not appear to reduce poverty significantly. Managing common-pool resources and implementing the necessary institutional changes involved substantial and unsustainable transaction costs. Effective alleviation of poverty requires integrated, multi-tiered, and long-term interventions that expand economic opportunities and empower people to drive their own development.</b>