

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	02/21/2010	Entry Number:	1076
Case Study Name:	Legal Frameworks for and the Practice of Participatory Natural Resources Management in South Africa		
Authors:	Holmes-Watts, T., and Watts S.		
Document Type:	paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2008		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Forest Policy and Economics 10, 435-443		
Full Citation:	Holmes-Watts, T., and Watts S. 2008. Legal Frameworks for and the Practice of Participatory Natural Resources Management in South Africa. Forest Policy and Economics 10, 435-443		
Region:	Africa - south of Sahara		
Country:	South Africa		
Ecosystem Type:	tropical grassland and/or savanna, arid and/or semi-arid		
Social Characteristics:	community inside protected area, indigenous community		
Scale of Study:	community		
Resource Type:	forestry (timber), grazing land/rangeland, non-timber forest products		
Type of Initiative:	research-driven project		
Community- Based Work:	conservation, Indigenous knowledge / traditional ecological knowledge, resource management		
Keywords:	rural communities, grassroots, innovations, South Africa		
Summary:	This study evaluated the role of rural communities in the conservation of natural resources in South Africa. South Africa has sufficient legal instruments that promote interactive participation of rural people in the		

	<p>management of natural resources. These national laws operate within the policy frameworks provided by the multilateral environmental conventions and protocols to which South Africa is signatory. However, these legal commitments to participatory management of natural resources are not matched by the practice on the ground by South African conservationists. Grassroots conservation officials who are responsible for administering participatory processes primarily focus their attention on the establishment of participatory natural resources management forums. However, these forums typically die out, as they fail to meet local people's expectations. Lack of capacity, experience and innovation underlie the absence of institutional culture for effective integration of rural people's needs into the management of protected natural resources. Strategic recommendations are provided to overcome these inadequacies identified in the implementation of participatory management of natural resources in South Africa.</p>
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