

*Abstract and Working Contents*

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Abstract Community participation in natural resource and environmental management has enjoyed decades of widespread recognition. Participatory approaches have been seen as ways to make scarce resources go further, and to make more people more accountable for environmental outcomes. Viability of participatory programs has been challenged, however, by increasing social mobility as a result of globalisation, economic development and migration, and the impact of this mobility on the integrity of local social networks and quality of local knowledge; marginalisation of potential participants in sustainable natural resource management from resource access and property rights; and limited capacity of state institutions to develop partnership-based approaches to natural resource management within territories where their influence is tenuous. Contributions to this symposium reflect on such challenges through analyses of the experience of community-based management of forest, fishery, and groundwater resources in a variety of sub-Saharan African, and South and East Asian locations.

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*Working Contents*

**Guest Editorial**

Communities, Natural Resources, and Environments: African and Asian Experiences  
*Stewart Lockie & David Sonnenfeld*

**Articles**

STATE-COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS

Institutional Configurations Around Forest Reserves in Zimbabwe: The Challenge of  
Nested Institutions for Resource Management  
*Frank Matose, University of the Western Cape, South Africa*

Prospects for Enhancing Livelihoods, Communities, and Biodiversity in Africa through  
Community-Based Forest Management: A Critical Analysis  
*Robert E. Mazur & Oleg V. Stakhanov, Iowa State University, USA*

SOCIAL MOBILITY, NEW NETWORKS, AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Hanging in Balance: Benefit Sharing in Community-based Fishery Resource Management  
in the Lower Mekong Basin  
*Le Nguyet Minh, Oxfam America, East Asia Regional Office, Cambodia*

Local Knowledge and Fisheries Resource Management: A Study Among Riverine Fishing  
Communities in Kerala, India  
*D. S. Sunil, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India*

Norms Concerning 'Invisible' Water-Use in Terrace Paddies: A Case Study of a Lakeside  
Community in Shiga Prefecture, Japan  
*Sanae Yamamoto, Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan*

RESOURCE ACCESS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Concept of Gender Mainstreaming and Strategies for Mainstreaming Women in  
Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Development in the North West Province of  
Cameroon  
*Lotsmart Fonjong, University of Buea, Cameroon*