Common ground? Investigating the importance of managing land

A literature review of development research on land management issues

RELAY

Cover image: Maasai women praying
at a protest rally – their communal
land is being sold
STUART FREEDMAN | PANOS PICTURES

This literature review was prepared in October 2005.

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Contents

Introduction

A literature review is a comprehensive survey of publications on a specific area of study in the form of a list of references. Literature reviews contain the following elements:

- An overview of the topic

- A division of publications under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)

- An explanation of how each publication is similar to or different from the others

- Conclusions as to which publications are most credible and convincing in the way they present their arguments

What is the purpose of a literature review and how is it useful to journalists?

Literature reviews can support you in understanding the story behind the story, alert you to controversial issues being discussed in academic circles, and show you where to find out more.

They aim to convey the range of knowledge and ideas that have been established on a topic, and highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the research. They summarise what is and is not known, identify areas of controversy in the literature and formulate questions that need further research.

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Annotated bibliography

Land tenure and security

Adenew, Berhanu, Berhanu, Nega, Songqing, Jin, Gebre-Selassie, Samuel and Deininger, Klaus 2003, 'Tenure security and land-related investment: Evidence from Ethiopia', *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* **No. 2991 (March)**
This article uses a data set from Ethiopia to argue that transfer rights support investment and when households use investment to increase their tenure security, the outcomes are socially inefficient. Thus, the authors argue that government should instead take action to increase tenure security and transferability of land rights to enhance rural investment and productivity.

Chaudhry, M Ghaffar (ed.) 2003, *Agrarian Reforms and Agricultural Productivity, Report of the APO Study Meeting on Agrarian Reforms and Agricultural Productivity,* **Tokyo: Asian Productivity Organization**
This report seeks to assess the impact of agrarian reforms on agricultural productivity in various Asian countries with the hope of providing policy prescriptions that will help enhance the role of such reforms in sustainable agricultural development. It argues that even though the majority of Asian countries remain essentially agrarian, there are significant differences in their agrarian structures. Furthermore, though agrarian reforms have been widely adopted in the past, the overall result has been far from satisfactory.

Deininger, Klaus 2003, *Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction,* **Washington DC: Oxford University Press and World Bank**
By focusing on results from recent research on land policy and poverty reduction, this book argues that the provision of secure land tenure will improve the welfare of the poor; land exchange and redistribution through market and non-market channels will increase land productivity; and financial markets will improve by making land available as collateral. In this regard, the author calls for government efforts that will promote land allocation and utilisation through rental markets and investments through taxation, regulation and land use planning.

Deininger, Klaus and Castagnini, Raffaella 2004, 'Incidence and impact of land conflict in Uganda', *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* **No. 3248 (March)**
Using the case of Uganda, this article argues that female-headed households and widows are particularly affected by land conflicts and that the 1998 Land Act has failed to reduce the number of pending land conflicts. The authors conclude that attention to land-related conflicts and exploration of ways to prevent and resolve such conflicts, especially in Africa, would be an important area for policy research.

de Janvry, Alain, Gordillo, Gustavo, Platteau, Jean-Philippe and Sadoulet, Elisabeth (eds) 2001, *Access to Land, Rural Poverty, and Public Action,* **Oxford: Oxford University Press**
Current trends evident in the development agenda seek to increase access to land as a tool for reducing poverty and increasing efficiency. This collected volume maintains that while much attention has traditionally been given to state-led redistributive land reforms, there are other available alternatives such as inheritance and *inter-vivos* transfers, intra-household and intra-community land allocations, community titling of open access resources, etc, that need to be considered as well.

Patrick, Eric 2005, 'Land tenure reform and the drylands', paper presented at the Expert Workshop Land Tenure for Drylands Development, 28 February–2 March 2005, Nairobi, Kenya
This article seeks to uncover how land systems that impose unequal and/or insecure access to land reduce the ability of the already marginalised dryland populations to achieve food security and thereby reduce hunger and poverty. In order to rectify this trend, land tenure systems for the drylands must become participatory and locally appropriate.

World Bank 2005, *Sri Lanka Development Forum: The Economy, the Tsunami and Poverty Reduction*, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Sector Unit, South Asia Region
This report provides an overview of recent economic outcomes, and the status of reforms in Sri Lanka; an analysis of the impact of the tsunami, financing needs and implementation issues for the reconstruction phase; and a discussion of poverty trends and priority reforms for meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on poverty reduction. The report concludes that despite growth in the wake of adverse shocks, too many Sri Lankans are still poor, and reconstruction efforts are needed to address the plight of poor people in the tsunami-affected areas. But exclusive focus on the tsunami may delay reforms that are vital for uplifting the poor in the rest of the country.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002, *WSSD Declaration*, www.johannesburgsummit.org
The World Summit on Sustainable Development, also known as the Johannesburg Summit 2002, brought together heads of state and governments, national delegates, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups to discuss and develop strategies that would focus on improvements in people's lives, conservation of natural resources in a world that is growing in population, and meeting the increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.

Traditional and market-based systems of land usage

Baxter, Paul TW 1993, 'The "New" East African Pastoralism: An Overview', in J Markakis (ed.), *Conflict and the Decline of Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa*, London: Macmillan
This article provides an overview of the marginalisation and deprivation of the pastoralist population in the Horn of Africa. It includes case studies from Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, as well as a case study from Mali, included for purposes of comparison with another region of Africa. The central issue addressed is the political consequence of the decline of pastoralism in a region ravaged by conflict.

Blench, Roger 2001, 'You Can't go Home Again: Pastoralism in the New Millennium', downloaded from www.odi.org.uk
This article seeks to discuss the future of pastoralism in the context of globalisation and liberalisation. While focusing on the resilience of pastoral systems, the article nevertheless establishes that only a major policy reorientation will be able to ensure the necessary protection of and support for pastoralism during the next millennium.

Chirwa, Ephraim 2004, 'Access to Land, Growth and Poverty Reduction in Malawi', downloaded from Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) www.sarpn.org.za
Using the case study of post-independence Malawi, this article seeks to explain why past agricultural strategies have not been successful. It argues that past efforts have failed because agricultural policies have ignored the issue of land among smallholder farmers. Hence, for agricultural strategies to be successful in reducing poverty, land redistribution or resettlement programmes for the landless or near landless should be viewed as a precondition for the effectiveness of pro-poor growth strategies in agriculture.

Fratkin, Elliot 2001, 'East African Pastoralism in Transition: Maasai, Boran, and Rendille Cases', *African Studies Review* Vol. 44 No. 3, pp. 1–25
This article focuses on three examples – the Maasai, the Boran and the Rendille – to examine the problems faced by East African pastoral societies, including demographic growth, land degradation, privatisation of rangeland, urban migration, and political conflict. It looks at how pastoralist societies are devising a variety of social and economic strategies in light of the increased pressures on their production systems.

Goldman, Mara 2003, 'Partitioned Knowledge: Community-based conservation in Tanzania', *Development and Change* Vol. 34 No. 5, pp. 833–62
This article uses the case study of the Tarangire Manyara ecosystem in Tanzania to argue that despite the acceptance of community-based conservation (CBC) programmes in African countries, conservation efforts in Tanzania remain a top-down endeavour that continues to marginalise the communities' socio-ecological knowledge. As such, the author argues that using local Maasai knowledge would better achieve the social and ecological goals of CBCs.

Lamprey, Richard H and Reid, Robin S 2004, 'Expansion of human settlement in Kenya's Maasai Mara: What future for pastoralism and wildlife?', *Journal of Biogeography* Vol. 31 No. 6, pp. 997–1032
This article utilises Maasai settlement patterns, vegetation, livestock numbers and wildlife numbers over a 50-year period to analyse how recent changes in human population and land use are jeopardising the mutually beneficial ways in which wildlife and pastoral societies have coexisted in the Mara ecosystem of south-western Kenya for at least 2,000 years. The aim of the study is to determine the viability of pastoralism and wildlife conservation in Maasai ranches around the Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR).

Pretty, Jules and Smith, David 2004, 'Social Capital in Biodiversity Conservation and Management', *Conservation Biology* Vol. 18 No. 3, pp. 631–38
This article maintains that since the knowledge and values of local communities are now being acknowledged as valuable for biodiversity conservation, the concept of social capital also needs to be combined into biodiversity conservation efforts. Hence, the author argues that for conservation programmes to be successful, greater emphasis must be placed on social relations as evinced in the form of trust, reciprocal arrangements, locally developed rules, norms and sanctions, and emergent institutions.

Wadhwa, DC 2002, 'Guaranteeing Title to Land: The Only Sensible Solution', *Economic and Political Weekly* **Vol. 23 No. 50, pp. 30–65**
This case study of land usage patterns in India establishes that India loses about 1.3 per cent economic growth annually as a result of disputed land titles, which affect the supply of capital and credit for agriculture. Hence, it is argued that in order to enhance the marketability of land, reduce the social costs associated with litigation, increase agricultural productivity and improve urban and industrial development, a fundamental change in the land entitlement regime would have to be introduced that would involve abandoning traditional practices and aligning them to an urbanising, market-based economy.

Property rights for vulnerable groups

Geddes, Rick and Lueck, Dean 2002, 'The Gains from Self-Ownership and the Expansion of Women's Rights', *The American Economic Review* **Vol. 92 No. 4, pp. 1079–92**
Using the US census and state level data from 1850–1920 (because this period saw the passage of nearly all married women's property acts in the US), this article analyses the shift in property rights from coverture, a system in which men controlled women and owned their output, to self-ownership, a system in which women own themselves and their output and contract freely with others. It argues that economic wealth and specialised markets lead to greater gains from human capital investment, thus making coverture a relatively costly institution.

Human Rights Watch 2003, *Double Standards: Women's Property Rights Violations in Kenya***, downloaded from Human Rights Watch website at www.hrw.org/reports/2003/kenya0303/kenya0303.pdf**
This interview-based report utilises more than 130 interviews conducted in Nairobi, Kajiado district, Kisumu district and Kiambu district among individual women and men from a variety of locations and ten ethnic groups in Kenya, as well as government officials, UN representatives, NGOs, lawyers, paralegals and community leaders. It argues that women's rights to own, inherit, manage and dispose of property are under constant attack from customs, laws and individuals, including government officials who believe that women cannot be trusted with or do not deserve property. The devastating effects of property rights violations – including poverty, disease, violence and homelessness – harm women, their children, and Kenya's overall development. For decades, the government has ignored this problem.

Patrick, Eric 2005, 'Land tenure reform and the drylands', paper presented at the Expert Workshop Land Tenure for Drylands Development, 28 February–2 March 2005, Nairobi, Kenya
This article seeks to uncover how land systems that impose unequal and/or insecure access to land reduce the ability of the already marginalised drylands populations to achieve food security and thereby reduce hunger and poverty. In order to rectify this trend, land tenure systems for the drylands must become participatory and locally appropriate.

Razavi, Shahra (ed.) 2003, *Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Rights***, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing**
This book provides a series of case studies from different regions of the world: post-apartheid land reform in South Africa; post-ujamma land reform in Tanzania; post-liberalisation India; post-Soviet Uzbekistan; and Brazil. It focuses on how neo-liberal agrarian reforms have failed to secure land rights for women regardless of the nature of the local agrarian system, and that even when a particular country undergoes radical agrarian reform, this merely alters rather than removes women's disadvantage.

Sylvain, Renee, 'Bushmen, Boers and Baasskap: Patriarchy and Paternalism on Afrikaner Farms in Omaheke Region, Namibia', *Journal of Southern African Studies* **Vol. 27 No. 4, pp. 717–37**
This ethnographic study of paternalism in Afrikaner farms in the Omaheke region of Namibia examines the political dynamics that go into the formation and maintenance of *baasskap* as a hegemonic field of class relations by addressing the following: the factors that account for the ambiguous class status of the *Ju/'hoansi* in Afrikaner farms; the ways in which paternalistic class relations shape other relationships of inequality on the farms, especially race and gender relations; and the points of coercion, confrontation and consent that lead to the formation and maintenance of *baasskap*.

Tinsman, Heidi 2002, *Partners in Conflict: The Politics of Gender, Sexuality, and Labour in Chilean Agrarian Reform, 1950–1973,* **Durham: Duke University Press**
An incisive analysis of the gender politics of Chile's agrarian reform, one of the most extensive in the world in terms of its redistribution of land. The research tracks the transformation of family and sexual arrangements that accompanied the massive redistribution of land and its political mobilisation of the rural poor. It draws on newspaper accounts and state archives to reconstruct changes and uses oral histories and court records to document how the changes were related to the micro-politics of family and patriarchy.

Centralised and decentralised systems of governance

Bardhan, Pranab 2002, 'Decentralization of Governance and Development', *Journal of Economic Perspectives* **Vol. 16 No. 4, pp. 185–205**
By reviewing literature on decentralisation based on different countries and contexts, this article establishes that decentralisation has both merits and strengths but cautions that it may need some protection against its own enthusiasts, both from free market advocates and from those 'anarcho-communitarians' who ignore the 'community failures'.

Bardhan, Pranab and Mookherjee, Dilip 2000, 'Corruption and Decentralization of Infrastructure Delivery in Developing Countries', *Working Paper,* **Berkeley: University of California**
In this article, the authors develop an analytic framework that formalises the trade-off between the conflicting aspects of centralised and decentralised delivery systems. Decentralisation, by shifting controls from the central bureaucrat to a local government, typically tends to expand service deliveries as authority goes to those more responsive to user needs. But with the capture of local government, in the sense of elites receiving a larger weight in the local government's weighted sum of welfare, there is a tendency for the local government to over-provide the service to local elites at the expense of the non-elite.

Crook, Richard and Sverrisson, Alan Sturla 2001, 'Decentralisation and poverty-alleviation in developing countries: a comparative analysis or, is West Bengal unique?', *IDS Working Paper* **130, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies**
This comparative study of poverty reduction effects of decentralisation argues that the most successful cases of poverty reduction were the ones where central government not only had an ideological commitment to pro-poor policies, but was also prepared to engage actively with local power-holders who resist such efforts.

Galasso, Emanuela and Ravallion, Martin 2001, 'Decentralized Targeting of an Anti-Poverty Program', *Development Research Group Working Paper*, **Washington DC: World Bank**

In this quantitative research project, Galasso and Ravallion use data from the 1995–1996 Household Expenditure Survey from Bangladesh to assess the performance of a targeted food-for-education programme. They found that the level of targeting within communities was superior to that achieved across communities by central allocation, thus offering little support for the view that central government is more accountable to the poor than local communities.

Hossain, Naomi and Moore, Mick 2002, 'Arguing for the Poor: Elites and Poverty in Developing Countries', *IDS Working Paper* 148, **Brighton: Institute of Development Studies**

This study seeks to understand the attitudes of poverty among elites in developing countries. The authors conclude that elites are in general less likely to be concerned with reducing poverty than those in developed countries. Furthermore, they also indicate that elites whose power is locally based, particularly in agrarian relationships, are least likely to be sympathetic to reducing poverty.

Kalipeni, Ezekiel and Feder, Deborah 1999, 'A Political Ecology Perspective on Environmental Change in Malawi with the Blantyre Fuelwood Project Area as a Case Study', *Politics and the Life Sciences* **Vol. 18 No. 1, pp. 37–54**

This case study examines deforestation-induced environmental change in the Southern Region of Malawi and argues that one of the reasons why the Blantyre Fuelwood Project failed is because the non-participatory, 'top-down' government programmes disempowered Malawi's people and allowed the environment to degrade. The authors conclude that only 'bottom-up' programmes that incorporate local communities will make Malawi's environment more sustainable.

Lenneiye, Mungai N 2005, 'Who has the Yam, and who has the Knife? Social Action Funds and Decentralization in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda', *Social Protection Discussion Paper Series* **No. 0518**

This case study of Social Action Funds supported by the World Bank in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda analyses the importance of community-driven development strategies and their effects on poverty reduction.

Platteau, Jean-Philippe 1995, *Reforming Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues of Efficiency and Equity*, **Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**

This paper examines the implications for efficiency and equity of the privatisation of common property and the formalisation of individualised land rights in sub-Saharan Africa. It argues that efforts to formalise and enforce private land rights in Africa will not necessarily result in increased agricultural production or reduced environmental degradation and instead may lead to severe social impacts. Instead, the author argues for a pragmatic approach to land tenure in Africa that emphasises the role of the local community and recognises the value and flexibility of indigenous arrangements.

Robins, Steven 'NGOs, "Bushmen" and Double Vision: The ǂKhomani San Land Claim and the Cultural Politics of "Community" and "Development" in the Kalahari', *Journal of Southern African Studies* **Vol. 27 No. 4, pp. 833–53**
This article argues that intra-community divisions and conflict that arose after the successful 1999 ǂKhomani San land claim in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa are a result of the ambiguities and contradictions of donor and NGO development discourses in relation to local constructions of 'community', cultural authenticity and San identity.

Land usage and biodiversity

Adams, WM and Hulme, D 2001, 'If community conservation is the answer in Africa, what is the question?' *Oryx* **Vol. 35 No. 3, pp. 193–200**
With regard to the issue of reconciling conservation and development objectives, the article maintains that community-based conservation (CBC) is an effective strategy. However, it also argues that CBC is not a project or a policy option that can be either accepted or rejected. Rather, it is a practice that needs to first address other concerns, such as who should set the objectives for conservation policy and how trade-offs between different interests and objectives should be negotiated.

Agrawal, Arun and Gibson, Clark 1999, 'Enchantment and Disenchantment: The Role of Community in Natural Resource Conservation', *World Development,* **Vol. 27 No. 4, pp. 629–49**
This article argues that even though the shift from intrusive resource management strategies to community-based conservation programmes is a positive step, the concept of community should be carefully examined. In doing so, the authors maintain that contrary to popular belief, communities are comprised of multiple interests and actors, so conservation and development efforts should focus on how these actors influence decision making, and on the internal and external institutions that shape the decision-making process. This calls for a focus on institutions rather than community.

Demaine, Linda J and Fellmeth, Aaron X 2003, 'Natural Substances and Patentable Inventions', *Science* **Vol. 300 No. 5624**
This article establishes that the current practice of both the US Patent and Trademark Office and the courts – of granting and upholding patents on discovered natural substances – departs from traditional, constitutional principles of patent law. Hence, the authors propose a test for the patentability of inventions that are derived from naturally occurring, non-biological substances such as elements, chemicals, minerals, and subatomic particles. The test would also help resolve the economic and ethical policy concerns regarding patents on natural substances that are not substantially modified.

Homewood, Katherine and Brockington, Daniel 1999, 'Biodiversity, Conservation and Development in Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania', *Global Ecology and Biogeography* **Vol. 8 No. 3–4, pp. 301–13**
This paper examines the case of Mkomazi Game Reserve in northern Tanzania, one of the richest savannas in Africa, to argue that the decline of biodiversity and endemism of the savannas is not the result of human impact. The research methods used are multi-pronged and involve use of oral histories and archives, access to district-level cattle market records and exploration of local government and informal institutions of resource management.

McNicoll, Geoffrey 2000, 'Managing Population–Environment Systems: Problems of Institutional Design', *Policy Research Division Working Paper* **No. 139, New York: Population Council**

This article maintains that instead of a harmonious relationship with the natural environment, human pre-history and much of human agrarian history demonstrate a deteriorating and a non-managed, population-environment relationship. Through discussion of secondary literature, the article maintains that management of such relationships should focus on holding action in an already transformed environment, pursuing the gains from exploitation of that environment while limiting (further) adverse changes in it – and perhaps even achieving some degree of repair which requires agility in management response on a continually shifting ground.

Naughton-Treves, L and Sanderson, S 1995, 'Property, politics and wildlife conservation', *World Development* **Vol. 23 No. 8 pp. 1265–75**

This article focuses on the interrelationship between wildlife conservation and property rights, arguing that the political issues related to property regimes are critical to conservation, especially with regard to wild fauna.

Safrin, Sabrina 2004, 'Hyperownership in a Time of Biotechnological Promise: The International Conflict to Control the Building Blocks of Life', *The American Journal of International Law* **Vol. 98**

This article addresses the corrosive interplay between the patent-based and the sovereign-based systems of ownership of genetic material. As more patents are issued for synthesised genes, more raw genes are legally enclosed by developing nations. This interactive spiral of increased enclosure, or hyperownership, results in the suboptimal utilisation, conservation, and improvement of vital genetic material. It further generates tensions between nations and threatens individuals and indigenous communities. The global commons are being subjected to a global tug of war over genetic material at the expense of the global common good.

Skonhoft, Andres and Solstad, Jan Tore 1998, 'The Political Economy of Wildlife Exploitation', *Land Economics* **Vol. 74 No. 1, pp. 16–31**

This article uses mathematical modelling techniques to analyse the exploitation of wildlife in a third world context. Working through the concept of 'relative harvesting dominance', the authors demonstrate that the stock utilisation depends on the prevailing economic and ecological conditions, which in turn affect the type of property rights regimes.

Forest-based livelihoods and poverty reduction

Agarwal, Bina 2001, 'Participatory Exclusions, Community Forestry and Gender: An Analysis for South Asia and a Conceptual Framework', *World Development* **Vol. 29 No. 10, pp. 1623–48**

Through an extensive study of forestry user groups in both India and Nepal, this article explores how institutions governing forests at the local level exclude disadvantaged women. The author offers a conceptual framework for analysing the process of gender exclusion and how it might be alleviated.

Belcher, Brian, Ruiz-Perez, Manuel and Achdiawan, Ramadhani 2005, 'Global Patterns and Trends in the Use and Management of Commercial NTFPs: Implications for Livelihoods and Conservation', *World Development* **Vol. 33 No. 9, pp. 1435–52**

Through a comparative analysis of 61 cases of commercial non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Africa, Asia and Latin America, this study forms a theoretical and functional typology of cases to understand the role and potential of NTFPs for livelihood improvement and conservation.

Bird, Kate and Shepherd, Andrew 2003, 'Livelihoods and Chronic Poverty in Semi-Arid Zimbabwe', *World Development* **Vol. 31 No. 3, pp. 591–610**
This article contrasts remoteness and geographic (natural, physical, human and social) capital with social and political exclusion in explaining persistent rural poverty. It finds that persistent poverty was strongly associated with structural causes of poverty in Zimbabwe's semi-arid communal areas.

Cornwall, Andrea 2003, 'Whose Voices? Whose Choices? Reflections on Gender and Participatory Development', *World Development* **Vol. 31 No. 8, pp. 1325–42**
'Gender-aware' and 'participatory' projects, programmes and policy consultations appear to give voice and access to decision making to those who tend to be marginalised or excluded by mainstream development initiatives. However, this article argues that such goals are undermined through the many tensions and contradictions contained in how gender-aware participatory initiatives are realised in practice. Instead, the author calls for a more politically sound approach to build more inclusive and transformatory practice.

FAO 2001, *State of the World's Forests*, **Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**
This report tracks the progress towards sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests around the world. It makes the following recommendations: there is a need to enhance the ability to finance and share equitably the costs and benefits of sustainable forest management; there must be continued and strengthened political commitment; and political commitment needs to be translated into effective action on the ground.

Hansen, JD, Luckert, MK, Minae, S and Place, F 2005, 'Tree planting under customary tenure systems in Malawi: impacts of marriage and inheritance patterns', *Agricultural Systems* **Vol. 84 No. 1, pp. 99–118**
This study investigates the importance of marriage and inheritance patterns for tree-planting behaviour by gender in two villages in Malawi. The results revealed that higher tree-planting activity was largely explained by higher village wealth, education, and a village headman who promoted tree planting other than by marriage patterns alone.

Jackson, Cecile 1993, 'Doing What Comes Naturally? Women and Environment in Development', *World Development* **Vol. 21 No. 12, pp. 1947–63**
This article argues against the view that first, women have a special relationship with nature and second, women are therefore the natural constituency of environmental projects. Instead, the author proposes a gender analysis that provides a more accurate understanding of women's and men's environmental relations.

Larson, A 2002, 'Formal decentralisation and the imperative of decentralisation "from below": a case study of natural resource management in Nicaragua', *World Development* **Vol. 30 No. 1, pp. 17–31**
Although decentralisation and natural resource management could benefit from the redistribution of centralised management authority, a review of 21 local governments engaged in forest management in Nicaragua demonstrates that three key factors are needed for local governments to be good resource managers: capacity, incentive and long-term commitment. These three factors are part of a process in which civil society can play a critical role.

Manor, James 2004, 'User Committees: A Potentially Damaging Second Wave of Decentralization', *European Journal of Development Research* **Vol. 16 No. 1, pp. 192–213**

This article critically explores the recent trend towards decentralising natural resource management responsibilities to single-purpose user groups instead of to multi-purpose local governments. The author argues that this trend is potentially damaging to decentralisation efforts, given that these user committees are often not democratically accountable, they do not adequately represent local populations (particularly the poor), and they often usurp local government functions and deprive them of funds.

Pandit, Bishnu Hari and Thapa, Gopal B 2004, 'Poverty and Resource Degradation Under Different Common Forest Resource Management Systems in the Mountains of Nepal', *Society & Natural Resources* **Vol. 17 No. 1, pp. 1–16**

This article explores different types of forest management systems in Nepal, followed by an assessment of use systems and collection practices of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) under the government and community-managed systems, and their implications for the status of forests and NTFPs. Confronted with severe poverty arising from small landholdings and scarce non-farming employment opportunities, villagers in the upper portion of the watershed have benefited considerably from the income derived from NTFPs.

Ribot, Jesse 2002, *Democratic Decentralization of Natural Resources: Institutionalizing popular participation***, Washington DC: World Resources Institute**

This report presents preliminary findings and recommendations from research into decentralisation efforts around the world. It focuses on information gathered through field studies in Cameroon, Mali, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. It explores the degree to which natural resource decentralisation has taken place and measurable social and environmental outcomes.

Ribot, J and Larson, A (eds) 2005, *Democratic Decentralization Through a Natural Resource Lens: Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America***, Washington DC: World Resources Institute**

The articles in this volume explore the extent to which central governments have decentralised authority over natural resources to local governments or other sub-national entities, the relations between these local-level entities and the population, and the effects of these processes on local peoples and natural resources.

Shackleton, Sheona, Campbell, Bruce, Wollenberg Eva and Edmunds, David 2002, 'Devolution and Community-Based Natural Resource Management: Creating Space for Local People to Participate and Benefit?', *ODI Natural Resource Perspective* **No. 76, pp. 1–7**

This paper draws together evidence from a number of studies on the impacts of natural resource devolution policies in several Asian and southern African countries, from the perspective of local people. Devolution outcomes are assessed in terms of who has greater benefits and decision-making authority. Factors that have influenced the devolution process are also included.

Sunderlin, WD, Angelsen, A, Belcher, B, Burgers, P, Nasi, R, Santoso, L and Wunder, S 2005, 'Livelihoods, Forests, and Conservation in Developing Countries: An Overview', *World Development* **Vol. 33 No. 9, pp. 1383–1402**
This article reviews the literature on rural livelihood improvement and conservation of natural resources. It addresses two key questions: to what extent does the use of forest resources contribute to poverty alleviation; and how can poverty alleviation and forest conservation be made convergent rather than divergent goals?

World Rainforest Movement 2005, *Women, Forests and Plantations: The Gender Dimension*, **Uruguay: World Rainforest Movement**
This report aims to contribute positively to the struggles women carry out to defend and conserve forests. It argues that the historical contribution of women to forest conservation has often been made invisible, when indigenous and peasant women, with an intimate knowledge of the forest, have been the principal caretakers and guardians of the forests. At present, the encroachment of global commerce and development projects into the forests have not only destroyed nature but also distorted ancestral relationships of forest peoples, both with each other and with the forest. Such forest change or loss has not been gender neutral and has had a double and differentiated impact on women, depriving them of their traditional rights to and links with the forests while reinforcing a patriarchal society model.

Zwarteveen, Margreet 1997, 'Water from Basic Need to Commodity: A discussion on Gender and Water Rights in the Context of Irrigation', *World Development* **Vol. 25 No. 8, pp. 1335–49**
This article examines the implications of changing water policies for women's rights and access to water in irrigation systems. Women often use informal means and mechanisms to gain and secure access to water for domestic consumption. However, their specific productive needs are rarely addressed. The article argues that new policies aimed at privatising water have to be responsive to women's domestic and productive needs if they aim to be both efficient and equitable.

Urban planning and land management

Beall, Jo 2002, 'Globalization and social exclusion in cities: framing the debate with lessons from Africa and Asia', *Environment and Urbanization* **Vol. 14 No. 1, pp. 41–51**
This paper seeks to address the analytical constructs of social exclusion and globalisation in the context of diverse and fast-changing cities in Africa and Asia, namely Johannesburg (in South Africa) and Faisalabad (in Pakistan). The two case studies indicate that while the experiences and practices of social exclusion are deeply rooted in individual societies, they are also affected and at times mediated by global economic forces.

Chae, Suhong 2003, 'Contemporary Ho Chi Minh City in Numerous Contradictions: Reform Policy, Foreign Capital and the Working Class', in Jane Schneider and Ida Susser (eds), *Wounded Cities: Deconstruction and Reconstruction in a Globalized World*, **Oxford and New York: Berg, pp. 227–48**
This article seeks to survey the dynamics of change in Ho Chi Minh City in terms of two mutually related factors – the growing foreign influence, and processes of privatisation in a socialist state. The author argues that the results of these changes in the city are the 'implausible juxtaposition of the numerous contradictions and political stability', such as the construction of socialism through privatisation and strong trade unions cooperating with their companies, etc.

Hasan, Arif 2002, 'The changing nature of the informal sector in Karachi as a result of global restructuring and liberalization', *Environment and Urbanization* **Vol. 14 No. 1, pp. 69–78**
This case study on Karachi in Pakistan describes the extent to which the failure of government and private enterprises to provide for basic services has led the city's population to rely on informal systems for housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure and employment. However, the author argues that because of globalisation and liberalisation, these informal systems will no longer be capable of bridging the gap between the needs and aspirations of most of Karachi's population.

Humphrey, Caroline 2003, 'Rethinking Infrastructure: Siberian Cities and the Great Freeze of January 2001', in Jane Schneider and Ida Susser (eds), *Wounded Cities: Deconstruction and Reconstruction in a Globalized World***, Oxford and New York: Berg, pp. 91–107**
Taking Siberia as a case study, this article reveals the fundamental role of infrastructure in the character of urban life while suggesting that the politics of infrastructure reveal that a city is not in fact a bounded and integrated entity, but is instead dependent on external and distant resources and decisions.

Sassen, Saskia 2004, 'Afterword' in Josef Gugler (ed.), *World Cities Beyond the West: Globalization, Development and Inequality***, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press**
The afterword to this collected volume examines 12 cities through three analytic lenses, namely: whether or not they can in fact be framed as world cities; the meaning of vast investments in urban development and the consequent inequalities evident in all these cities; and the meaning of politico-cultural processes and actors in global cities.

Schneider, Jane and Susser, Ida (eds) 2003, *Wounded Cities: Deconstruction and Reconstruction in a Globalized World***, Oxford and New York: Berg**
This book examines the ways in which urban populations are affected by 'wounds' inflicted through violence, civil wars, overbuilding, drug trafficking, and the collapse of infrastructures, as well as natural disasters. Drawing on in-depth case studies from across the globe, it explores the problems of urban life through its rigorous consideration of changing global and national contexts, social movements, and corrosive urban events.

Stiglitz, Joseph 2002, *Globalization and Its Discontents***, New York: Norton**
Based on his experiences as the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers under former US president Bill Clinton, as chief economist of the World Bank, and now professor at Columbia University, Stiglitz argues that globalisation is not helping many poor countries. Incomes are not rising enough, and market-based policies such as open capital markets, free trade and privatisation are making developing economies less stable. Hence, he argues that for globalisation to work better for the poor, more government intervention is required rather than the expansion of free markets.

Wilson, Ara 2003, 'Bangkok, the Bubble City', in Jane Schneider and Ida Susser (eds), *Wounded Cities: Deconstruction and Reconstruction in a Globalized World***, Oxford and New York: Berg, pp. 203–26**
This ethnographic study focuses on the urban dimensions of the 1997 Asian economic crisis to sketch the long-standing mercantile character of the city of Bangkok and the emergence of its speculative 'bubble' economy. Wilson argues that the crisis not only originated in financial institutions located in Bangkok, but significantly, in the spectacular development of the city itself, an urbanity not incidental to the particular vulnerabilities of the booming economy.

Key research organisations

Land tenure and security

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
The Sustainable Development Department's Rural Development Division
conducts research on land tenure institutions for food security and
sustainable rural development.
www.fao.org/sd/SDA_en.htm
The **Rural Development Research Programme** conducts research on poverty
reduction, land tenure and land reform; sustainable forest management
for poverty reduction; and gender and rural development.
http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=477949&pagePK=
64168176&piPK=64168140&theSitePK=477938
Contact FAO's Research Manager Gerschen Feder at Research@worldbank.org

UN-HABITAT's Land and Tenure Section
Contact Clarissa Augustinus (Chief, Land and Tenure Section) at
Clarissa.Augustinus@unhabitat.org, the Chennai office at
unchssp@md2.vsnl.net.in or the Nairobi office at roaas@unhabitat.org

The **United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)**
conducts research on agrarian change, gender and land rights.
www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/projects.nsf/(httpProjectsForResearchHome-
en)/9DC2FCE98861107980256B4900530DB3?OpenDocument
Contact Research Coordinator Sahara Razavi at razavi@unrisd.org

The **Land Tenure Center (LTC)** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
serves as a global resource institution on issues relating to land
ownership, land rights, land access, and land use. The LTC has country
profiles of land tenure for sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, including
peer-reviewed research papers.
www.ies.wisc.edu/ltc
Contact the LTC at ltc-uw@mailplus.wisc.edu

The **Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa (HSRC)**
conducts research in southern Africa on the following issues: land tenure,
land use, land redistribution and restitution, agricultural input and output
markets, farm labour and employment, and environmental and related issues.
www.hsrc.ac.za/research/programmes/URED/index.html
Contact Dr Cheryll Walker at cwalker@hsrc.ac.za

Traditional and market-based systems of land usage

The **Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET)** links development
practitioners with researchers, and works in 30 countries in Africa, Asia,
Latin America and Europe. They conduct research into 'changes in land
access and institutions and markets in West Africa' (CLAIMS). The research
programme aims to provide a better understanding of the dynamics behind
land and natural resource management in West Africa.
www.gret.org and www.inco-claims.org
Contact the CLAIMS programme via Camilla Toulmin at toulmin@iied.org

Property rights for vulnerable groups

The **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** programme
on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi) conducts research
on policies and practices that alleviate rural poverty by analysing how collective
action and property rights institutions influence the efficiency, equity and
sustainability of natural resource use.
www.capri.cgiar.org
Contact Senior Research Fellow/Programme Coordinator
Ruth Meinzen-Dick at R.Meinzen-dick@cgiar.org, the Regional Office in
Kampala at ifpri-Kampala@cgiar.org, or the Regional Office in South Asia at
ifpri-NewDelhi@cgiar.org

The **Rural Development Institute** conducts research on the importance
of women's access to land, with its relationship to gains in agricultural
productivity, family welfare (especially child nutrition) and women's
empowerment.
www.rdiland.org
Contact Robin Nielson at robinn@rdiland.org

The **World Agroforestry Centre** conducts research on land management
interventions for reaching the poorest of the poor. Its regional focuses
include South Asia and eastern and southern Africa.
www.worldagroforestry.org/landandpeople
Contact ICRAF@cgiar.org

Centralised and decentralised systems of governance

The **World Resources Institute (WRI)** conducts research on participatory
management and democratic decentralisation of natural resources
in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
http://governance.wri.org/index.cfm
Contact Project Coordinator Alex Acs at aacs@wri.org, Senior Associate
Jesse Ribot at ribot@wri.org or Regional Director of Africa Peter Viet at
peterv@wri.org

The **International Land Coalition (ILC)** has published documents
on how the rural poor, and especially women, use and value land and other
natural resources.
www.landcoalition.org/docs/coalpubs.htm

The **Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)** at the University
of Western Cape conducts research on land and agrarian reform to provide
policy-oriented recommendations.
www.uwc.ac.za/academic/indexr.htm
Contact plaas@uwc.ac.za

Land usage and biodiversity

The **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** looks at sustainable livelihoods and African drylands, poverty reduction and agriculture, and forestry and land use.
www.iied.org/NR/index.html
Contact Senior Programme Administrator Christele Riou at christele.riou@iied.org, Programme Administrator Nicole Armitage at nicole.armitage@iied.org or Biodiversity Research Associate Dilys Roe at dilys.roe@iied.org

The **Natural Resources Institute (NRI)** conducts research on land and water resources in southern Africa and South Asia.
www.nri.org/work/lw-publications.htm

The **Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA)** at the University of Dar es Salaam conducts independent research on agriculture and natural resource management.
www.uib.no/udsm/ucb/IRA.HTML
Contact ira@udsm.ac.tz

The **Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)** in Sri Lanka conducts research on agricultural policies and their implications for the domestic agricultural sector, environmental policy, and tsunami-related research.
www.ips.lk
Contact ips@ips.lk

The **Development Alternatives Group** conducts research on community biodiversity preservation, democratic governance and human conflicts in conservation.
www.devalt.org

The **African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)** conducts research on how to assist rural communities throughout Africa to develop conservation as a commercially viable land use that can leverage space for wildlife while improving people's livelihoods.
www.awf.org
Contact the Kenya office at africanwildlife@awfke.org or the Zambia office at africanwildlife@iwayafrica.com

Forest-based livelihoods and poverty reduction

The **FAO** forestry website provides access to all of FAO's forest-related research, detailed country profiles and links to documents on all aspects of forestry.
www.fao.org/forestry/index.jsp

The **World Resources Institute**'s forests, grasslands and drylands programme conducts research on managing drylands, enhancing accountability and transparency in forest management, etc.
http://forests.wri.org
Contact Programme Coordinator Kristin Snyder at Kristin@wri.org
or Project Manager Pierre Methot at Pmethot@wri.org

The **Overseas Development Institute**'s Forestry Policy and Environment Programme (FPEG) conducts research on tropical forestry issues to inform the policy process.
www.odifpeg.org.uk
Contact Group Coordinator David Brown at d.brown@odi.org.uk

The **Center for International Forestry Research** researches the management of forests by people and organisations beyond the scale of the individual household or small enterprise.
www.cifor.cgiar.org
Contact the Governance Team Programme Director Doris Capistrano at d.capistrano@cgiar.org

The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development** conducts research on participatory forest management, and sustainable use of non-timber forest resources in the Himalayas.
www.icimod.org
For a list of publications see www.icimod.org/publications/pubmenu.htm

The **Department of Forestry and Environmental Services** at the University of Jayewardenpura conducts research on forestry and natural resource management.
http://lihini.sjp.ac.lk/forestry/sympo/97cont.htm
Contact hiran@sjp.ac.lk

The **Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)** conducts research on securing farmers' livelihoods in the Hindu-Kush region and the impact of devolution of power on natural resource management.
www.sdpi.org/index.htm
Contact main@sdpi.org

Urban planning and land management

The **World Bank Urban Development Programme** conducts research on the relationship between real estate market development and overall economic development, focusing on how to make the housing market more efficient to provide adequate shelter for all city-dwellers, with a particular focus on low-income households.
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTURBANDEVELOPMENT/EXTHOUSINGLAND/0,,menuPK:341083~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:341077,00.html
Contact Urban Development Department Adviser Bob Buckley at
urbanhelp@worldbank.org

The **Human Settlement Programme** at the International Institute for Environment and Development researches poverty reduction, and improving health and housing conditions in urban centres of Latin America, Asia and Africa.
www.iied.org/HS/about.html
For a list of publications see www.iied.org/HS/publications.html
Contact Group Head Gordon McGranahan at gordon.mcgranahan@iied.org
or Group Administrator Stephanie Ray at stephanie.ray@iied.org

The **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy** conducts research on land conservation, housing in urban areas, land property rights and natural resources, and urban and regional land market reform.
www.lincolninst.edu/index-high.asp
Contact help@lincolninst.edu

The **Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)** conducts research on women's property and inheritance rights in ten sub-Saharan African countries.
www.cohre.org
Contact the COHRE Africa Programme Coordinator Mawuse Anyidoho at
cohreafrica@cohre.org or the COHRE Women's Housing Rights Programme
Coordinator Birte Scholz at women@cohre.org

The **Mazingira Institute** conducts research on institutional development for delivery of low-income housing in Kenya.
www.mazinst.org
Contact mazinst@mitsuminet.com

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