



# **TOWARDS COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: DO REFORMS LEAD TO IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS FOR THE POOR?**

*By Frank Matose with Scotney Watts  
PLAAS, University of the Western Cape*



## **Background to the cases**

- **Mafungautsi Forest in Gokwe, Zimbabwe – State site of experimentation with joint management since 1994**
- **Chipange Chetu, Niassa Province, Mozambique – State site of experimentation with CBNRM – ‘single largest community title’ in the country (Anstey, 2005: 184)**

## Background continued

- **Tsitsikama-Covie, South Africa – a most recent experience with participatory forest management policies in South Africa around an indigenous forest. Most experiences of decentralisation in South Africa tend to be around forest plantations**

## Decentralisation experiences: Mafungautsi- Zimbabwe

**Resource management committees – upwardly accountable to the State till Adaptive Collaborative Management – participatory action learning initiative from 2000-2005**

- **User groups –based on the resources- grasses- accountability among stakeholders improved**
- **Very limited benefits – nature of resource and also the value of the resources involved – one RMC raised money for a teacher's house from permit fees for thatch and broom grasses**

## **Chipange Chetu, Mozambique**

- **Mixture of informal customary and local elected representatives for local councils**
- **Local administrative bureaucracy posing challenges for democratisation of governance**
- **Still in the process of adaptation to handing over to local community institutions**
- **Sport hunting and resource license fees are making contributions of as much 40% increases in household incomes**

## **Tsitsikama-Covie, South Africa**

- **Participatory forums between State and local communities**
- **An arm of state is still in control of the management of the forest**
- **Very limited transfer of power – from State to agency**
- **Employment from tourism and conservation related activities were the only perceived positive outcomes from participatory management or forums**



## Insights from the region

- For the Zimbabwe and Mozambique cases, some adaptive management systems were initiated in order to provide lessons for devolved management for other forest or protected areas by the respective governments.
- Experiments in devolved forest management in the region have been initiated but much more needs to be done in practice - At what *scale* of transferring power and resources is an issue



## Insights from the region, contd.

- Governance reforms need to be linked to land rights transfers
- Organisational structures for resource management
- Decisions over timber and wildlife resources within the forests still lie with the state and only in the case of Mozambique have negotiations been entered to try and scale down to communities