

RESEARCH AND NETWORKING PROJECTS

Research projects undertaken by PLAAS are usually two to three years in duration, are field-based rather than desk-top studies, and seek to draw policy lessons from in-depth case studies informed by relevant conceptual frameworks. Some projects involve critical reviews of relevant policy frameworks and implementation procedures. Our research aims to understand social, economic, political, institutional and environmental dynamics, and complex interactions between them, at both the local and wider levels. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are employed, with particular emphasis on the former. PLAAS has undertaken the following projects since 1995:

LAND REFORM AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Gender, sustainable production systems and land reform in the Eastern Cape (Kgopotšo Mokgope, 1997–1999)

Land tenure reform, traditional authorities and rural government (Lungisile Ntsebeza, 1997–1999)

Rural governance, land rights and sustainable livelihoods in South Africa: Policies and their delivery (Lungisile Ntsebeza, 2000–2003)

Sustainable livelihoods in southern Africa: Institutions, governance and policy processes (Edward Lahiff and Zolile Ntshona, in partnership with the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex University, the Overseas Development Institute, IUCN in Mozambique and the University of Zimbabwe, 2000–2003)

Evaluating land and agrarian reform in South Africa (Ruth Hall, Peter Jacobs and Edward Lahiff, 2002–2004)

Livelihood impacts of commercialisation in emerging small-scale irrigation schemes (Barbara Tapela, in partnership with the International Water Management Institute, 2003–2006)

The dynamics of poverty and land reform in Namaqualand (Edward Lahiff and Karin Kleinbooi, in partnership with the Surplus People Project and the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (Noragric) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, 2003–2005)

Interrogating 'viability': The livelihood impacts of land redistribution in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Edward Lahiff, in partnership with Nkuzi Development Association and the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex University, 2004–2006)

Participatory monitoring and evaluation of the South African Land Reform Programme (Karin Kleinbooi and Edward Lahiff, 2004–2006)

Ideology, practice and power: Linking land reform, conservation and democratisation in southern Africa (Webster Whande, in partnership with the Anthropology Department at Köln University, 2004–2006)

Land and water reform in South Africa (Edward Lahiff, in partnership with the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (Noragric) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, 2005–2007)

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

Environmental entitlements: The institutional dynamics of environmental change (Thembela Kepe, in partnership with the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex University, 1996–1997)

Tenure security, environment and economic development on the Wild Coast (Thembela Kepe, 1998–2001)

National Desertification Audit of South Africa: Socio-economic dimensions (Zolile Ntshona and Stephen Turner, in partnership with the National Botanical Institute, 1997–98)

Communal rangeland management in the Eastern Cape (Zolile Ntshona, in partnership with the Chr. Michelsen Institute of Norway, 1998–2000)

Global change and subsistence rangelands in southern Africa (Rick Rohde and Hayley Rodkin, in partnership with the National Botanical Institute, 1999–2001)

Governance and trust relations in community-based natural resource management: The #Khomani San land claim (William Ellis, in partnership with the School of Government and the University of Bergen, 1999–2002)

Managerial and policy options for sustainable development of communal rangelands and communities in southern Africa (Rick Rohde, in partnership with the Leslie Hill Institute of Plant Conservation, 2002–2005)

POVERTY DYNAMICS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

Chronic poverty and development policy in South Africa (Cobus de Swardt, Andries du Toit and Lungiswa Tsolekile, in partnership with the School of Public Health at UWC and the Chronic Poverty Research Centre of the UK, 2000–2005)

Vulnerability, labour markets and social protection (Andries du Toit and David Neves, 2005–2006)

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in southern Africa: A regional programme of analysis and communication (Najma Mohamed, Stephen Turner, Webster Whande and Frank Matose, in partnership with the Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, 1999–2006)

Pan-African Programme on Land and Resource Rights (Munyaradzi Saruchera, in partnership with the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) of Kenya, Community Conservation and Development Initiatives (CCDI) in Nigeria, and the Social Research Centre at the American University of Cairo, Egypt, 2002–2004)

Promoting common property in Africa: Networks for influencing policy and governance of natural resources, (Munyaradzi Saruchera, in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development and others, 2003–2005)

FISHERIES AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

National programme on coastal and fisheries co-management (Mafa Hara and Moenieba Isaacs, in partnership with the Environmental Evaluation Unit of the University of Cape Town, 2000–2005)

Management of community-based fisheries in the Western and Eastern Cape (Moenieba Isaacs, in partnership with the College of Fisheries Science at the University of Tromsø, 1999–2003)

Fisheries co-management: Knowledge base and institutional arrangements (Mafa Hara, in partnership with the Institute for Fisheries Management & Coastal Community Development of Denmark and others, 2002–2004)

Coastal sustainable livelihoods and rights-based fishing in Ocean View, Cape Town (Moenieba Isaacs, 2003–2004)

Optimal harvesting strategies: The case of hake trawl and long-line fisheries in Namibia and South Africa (Moenieba Isaacs, in partnership with the University of British Columbia, the University of Namibia and others, 2003–2005)

Valuation of benefits and sustainable management of coastal ecosystem products and services (Moenieba Isaacs, in partnership with the University of Bangkok, the University of Bremen and others, 2004–2006)

Well-being among fisherfolks in Africa (Moenieba Isaacs, in partnership with the Chr. Michelsen Institute of Norway and others, 2005–2008)

SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE WESTERN CAPE'S FRUIT AND WINE INDUSTRIES

The Ethical Trade Initiative's South African wine industry pilot: Lessons and implications (Andries du Toit and Fadeela Ally-Schmidt, in partnership with the Centre for Rural Legal Studies, 2000–2001)

Labour process, agrarian reform and informal institutions on Western Cape fruit farms (Andries du Toit and Fadeela Ally-Schmidt, 1999–2001)