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978-0-521-34990-1 - Conservation in Africa: Peoples, Policies and Practice

Edited by David Anderson and Richard Grove

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*people, policies and practice*

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# Conservation in Africa *people, policies and practice*

EDITED BY

DAVID ANDERSON

*Department of History, Birkbeck College, University of London*

AND

RICHARD GROVE

*African Studies Centre and Clare Hall, University of Cambridge*



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## PREFACE

This book owes its origins to an exploratory seminar held at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, in October 1983. During the course of this seminar three historians, approaching the subject from very different backgrounds, found that their ideas about the problems of conservation and resource management in Africa were converging to a surprising degree. Furthermore, the participants at the seminar shared the view that a more comprehensive exploration of conservation orthodoxies would be both academically fruitful and practically useful. Consequently, a much larger workshop was organised and held under the auspices of the African Studies Centre at Cambridge University. This workshop took place in April 1985. Biological scientists, social scientists and historians were all well represented at this meeting, at which more than one hundred participants discussed 26 papers covering a very wide range of interests within the general theme of 'Conservation in Africa'. Thirteen of the papers from that workshop have been revised for publication in this volume, while a further three chapters have been subsequently added.

With the aim of continuing the dialogue between the biological and social scientists that the workshop so successfully stimulated, an interdisciplinary seminar series was begun in 1985 at the African Studies Centre, Cambridge, under the title 'Reconciling Conservation and Development'. Both the seminar series and this volume aim, quite deliberately, to consolidate and promote a commitment to an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the environmental problems of Africa.

In coordinating the Cambridge workshop and in making this book possible, the editors would particularly like to thank the staff of the African Studies Centre, Paula Munro, Janet Seeley, Ludgard De Decker and A. T. Grove. We would also like to thank Bill Adams, William Beinart, Kathy Homewood, Paul Howell, Jeff Lewis, Robin Pellew, John Scherlis, Richard Waller, and the late Con Benson for their encouragement, inspiration and advice.

David Anderson  
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## CONTRIBUTORS

- William M. Adams, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge,  
Downing Place, Cambridge
- David M. Anderson, Department of History, Birkbeck College,  
University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX
- Olusegun O. Areola, Department of Geography, Faculty of the Social  
Sciences, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
- William Beinart, Department of History, University of Bristol, 13–15  
Woodland Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TB
- Richard H.V. Bell, Luangwa Integrated Resource Development Project,  
PO Box 510249, Chipata, Zambia
- David Brokensha, Department of Anthropology and Environmental  
Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106,  
USA
- David Collett, Assistant Curator, National Museums and Monuments,  
Private Bag 9158, Masvingo, Zimbabwe
- Maknun Gamaledinn, African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge,  
Free School Lane, Cambridge
- Richard Grove, Research Fellow in History, Clare Hall, Cambridge CB3  
9AL
- Richard Hogg, Department of Social Anthropology, University of  
Manchester, Roscoe Building, Brunswick Street, Manchester  
M13 2PL
- Katherine Homewood, Department of Anthropology, University  
College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
- Paul P. Howell, Emeritus Fellow, Wolfson College, Cambridge
- Francine M.R. Hughes, Department of Geography, University of  
Cambridge, Downing Place, Cambridge
- Keith Lindsay, Department of Applied Ecology, University of  
Cambridge, Pembroke Street, Cambridge
- Peter D. Little, Institute for Development Anthropology, 99 Collier  
Street, Suite 302, PO Box 818, Binghamton, New York 13902, USA

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*List of contributors*

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- John M. Lonsdale, Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ**  
**John MacKenzie, Department of History, Furness College, Bailrigg,  
University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YG**  
**John McCracken, Department of History, Stirling University, Stirling  
FK9 4LA**  
**Andrew C. Millington, Department of Geography, University of  
Reading, PO Box 227, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AB**  
**William A. Rodgers, Wildlife Institute of India, PO New Forest, Dehra  
Dun, India**  
**David Turton, Department of Social Anthropology, University of  
Manchester, Roscoe Building, Brunswick Street, Manchester M13  
2PL**