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JOURNAL OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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*"conflict management & peace-building through
community development"*



1966-1995: 30 years of publication

Editorial

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Buks Greyling

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Anna-Marie du Toit

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Consensus through Informal Networking
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Book Reviews

Volume 13 No 1 1998

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The Journal publishes critical analyses of social development issues as they affect the poor and marginalised in society. It deals with concerns, especially, but not exclusively, relevant to southern Africa, and is addressed to development practitioners, social workers, planners, policy makers and academics in a variety of fields such as economics, geography, politics, sociology, psychology, social administration, and to other concerned individuals.

Published twice annually, the Journal seeks to enhance understanding of the social development processes that contribute to the planning and implementation of appropriate intervention strategies at different levels. Its goal is to discover how best to target relevant and successful projects to those most in need, and how to maximise popular participation, thereby creating egalitarian and productive communities.

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Journal of Southern African Studies/St. Antony's Conference on African Environments, Past and Present

5-8 July 1999, Oxford.

Convenors: William Beinart, St. Antony's College, Oxford and Richard Grove, Australian National University.

The Journal of Southern African Studies is organising a conference on African environments, past and present. The geographic focus is not restricted to southern Africa, and we would welcome contributions on other parts of the continent, as well as papers which explore comparative contexts and wider international linkages. A rich body of research which examines the interaction between social and environmental change is accumulating. The conference is designed to stimulate dialogue between different approaches and disciplines, following some productive recent encounters.

Historians and social scientists of Africa are increasingly focussing their attention on environmental change and regulation; one purpose of the conference will be to draw together some of this work. But we hope also to engage with natural scientists both in discussions of the history of their disciplines, which have been so important in building an understanding of environmental change in Africa, and in an effort to keep pace with rapid scientific developments and their impact on policy. Natural scientists in turn might find value in approaches which seek to be sensitive to African practice and the political implications of environmental controls. With reference to specific issues and areas there is often a good deal of common ground. It is important to explore this, not only in order to understand environmental change, but because access to and conservation of natural resources remain critical questions for African people and governments.

This is an open conference for which we invite papers and proposals for panels by the end of February 1998. Topics covered could include:

- * African ideas and local knowledge
- * Climate and desertification
- * The impact of introduced species
- * The impact of property regimes
- * Timber, forestry and fuelwood
- * Disease and environmental change
- * Urban environments and pollution
- * Biodiversity, degradation and sustainability
- * Colonisation and conflict over natural resources
- * History of Commonwealth forestry (convened by Prof. J. Burley, Oxford Forestry Institute).
- * The history of natural sciences
- * Hunting and wildlife conservation
- * Parks and people
- * Water and its control
- * Fire
- * Migration and conservation
- * Vegetation change and rangeland management
- * Markets, commoditisation and environmental change
- * Literature, film and conceptions of landscape

Proposals for papers should be about 300 words; panels should consist of two or three papers and a discussant. We plan to precirculate papers so that the bulk of time can be devoted to discussion. We cannot undertake to accept all proposals. Participants should plan to raise their own fares, but let us know if this will be impossible.

All correspondence and proposals to JoAnn McGregor, St. Antony's College, Oxford, OX2 6JF, fax 01865-554465, email joann.mcgregor@sant.ox.ac.uk.