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The transformation of the South African national parks with special reference to the role of the Social Ecology Directorate 1994-2004

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Abstract

This dissertation critically examines the transformation of the South African National Parks with special reference to the role of the Social Ecology Directorate during the period 1994-2004. The establishment of a non-racial democratic social order required a different approach to the conservation of biodiversity which involved substantive change. This change included the organisation confronting its role in the apartheid legacy of dispossession, environmental racism and injustice. The Social Ecology Directorate and the concept of Social Ecology were established by the South African National Parks to drive a process of transformation. However, it is argued that these ideas and structures were not strong and cohesive enough to do so. Nevertheless the dissertation suggests that during this period, in a series of complex and contested processes, constrained but significant change was achieved in four areas: a shift to a more people-centred and developmental approach to conservation, restructuring to make the organisation more representative and to eliminate racism and sexism, land restitution, improved relations with neighbouring communities and greater inclusivity and openness to all South Africans through the promotion of tourism and cultural heritage. These changes laid the basis potentially for more radical change which links the conservation of biodiversity to social justice.

Declaration

This research is entirely my own work and has not been previously submitted as a research project, dissertation or thesis at any other university.

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University of the Witwatersrand, 2015

Dedication

With love to

my grand daughter

Cesária

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Acronyms

ABET	Adult Basic Education
AA	Affirmative Action Policy
ART	African Resources Trust
ANC	African National Congress
AZAPO	Azanian People's Organisation
BTA	B-Phalaborwa Tribal Authority
Biodiversity Act	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 1994
BEE	Black Economic Empowerment
CoastCare	Working for the Coast
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CCISD	Community Conservation and Information Services Department
CDP	Community Development Programme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFP	Community Facilitation Programme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CLRA	Communal Land Rights Act
CBCP	Community Based Conservation Programme
CBOVP	Community Based Open Vehicle Project
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
DANCED	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
DALE	Department of Agriculture, Land and Environment
DCAs	Damage Causing Animals
DCD	Department of Community Development
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoL	Department of Labour
DLA	Department of Land and Agriculture
DPW	Department of Public Works
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
EE	Environmental Education
EEP	Economic Empowerment Policy
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GNU	Government of National Unity
GPDF	Greater Phalaborwa Development Forum
EDA	Environment and Development Agency
EJNF	Environmental Justice Networking Forum
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
ELA	Earthlife Africa
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEM	Group for Environmental Monitoring
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICDPs	Integrated Conservation and Development Projects
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JRP	Junior Rangers Programme
KPAs	Key Performance Areas
KNP	Kruger National Park
KNP SED	Kruger National Park Social Ecology Directorate
LACs	Land Administration Committees

LAPC	Land and Agricultural Policy Centre
LCC	Land Claims Court
LRP	Law Reform Programme
Majeje TA	Majeje Tribal Authority
Makhuva TA	Makhuva Tribal Authority
MNPC	Marakele National Park Committee
MEC	Member of the Provincial Cabinet
NPB	National Parks Board
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NRP	Neighbour Relations Policy
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998
NEMPA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act of 2003
NEMPAA	**N**ational Environmental Management Protected Areas Act 31 of 2004
PCD	People and Conservation Directorate
PD	Previously Disadvantaged
PRA	Participative Rural Appraisal
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PAC	Pan African Congress
PCD	People and Conservation Directorate
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999
PMPs	Park Management Plans
P&P	The People and Parks Programme
RPP	Research and Publication Programme
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SANParks	South African National Parks
SMMEs	Small medium and micro enterprises
SDI	Spatial Development Initiative

SED	Social Ecology Directorate
TBPAs	Transboundary Protected Areas
TPARI	Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative
TFCAs	Transfrontier Conservation Areas
TLCs	Transitional Local Council
TOR	Terms of Reference
TTG	Transformation Task Group
White Paper on the CBD	White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity
WfW	*W*orking for Water Programme
WfWetlands	Working for Wetlands
Wofire	Working on Fire
YOP	Youth Outreach Programme