

## **Assessment of Community-based Natural Resource Management in the Savannas Using the Capacity Continuum - Multiple Drivers Model**

Geoffrey Mukwada<sup>1</sup> and Desmond Manatsa<sup>2</sup>

*<sup>1</sup>Department of Geography, University of the Free State, Private Bag X13,  
Phuthaditjhaba 9866, South Africa*

*<sup>2</sup>Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, Cape Town,  
Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa*

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**ABSTRACT** In southern Africa, despite the enormous development effort and attention that Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) has received there has been an increase in disillusionment with this approach due to its lack of conceptual rigour. In recent years CBNRM has received increasing criticism, with some scholars calling for its complete abandonment. This study employs a new conceptual model, the Capacity Continuum – Multiple Drivers (CCMD) model, to assess the conditions that are required for CBNRM to succeed at the local level. Interviews and a questionnaire survey were conducted at household level to determine the conditions which regulate the livelihood related choices and decisions among forest and woodland resource users. The results reveal that apart from institutional arrangements the success of CBNRM depends on the level of social utility, relative to individual utility. This revelation is important for designing CBNRM projects. The study concludes that instead of abandoning CBNRM as a resource management strategy, as suggested by some scholars, what is needed is a sound conceptual framework that helps to reshape the community's capacity continuum to enhance cooperation and foster a strong sense of community while simultaneously stifling resource use competition and social dissonance within the community.