



International  
Institute for  
Environment and  
Development

Drylands Programme

# Making woodland management more democratic:

Cases from Eastern  
and Southern Africa

---

## CONTENTS

THE CONTEXT	1
Participation or devolution?	3
Changing roles and powers	4
DECISION-MAKING POWERS OF COMMUNITIES IN PRACTICE	5
Benefit sharing approaches	6
Local communities as forest users	9
From beneficiaries to managers, from benefit-sharing to power-sharing	9
Making devolution of authority the main strategy	10
The Duru-Haitemba and Mgori Forest Cases	11
AN EMERGING NEW CIVIL RIGHT TO OWN FORESTS	14
A NEW ROLE FOR COMMUNITIES AS FOREST MANAGERS	16
COMMUNITY SOCIO-LEGAL FORMATION AND POWERS	17
CONCLUSION	18
REFERENCES	19