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| 1. Record Nr. | UNICAMPANIASUN0012092 |
| Autore | Galliazzo, Vittorio |
| Titolo | Catalogo generale / Vittorio Galliazzo |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Treviso : Canova, (1995) |
| Descrizione fisica | 447 p. : ill. ; 27 cm. |
| Soggetti | Ponti romani - Architettura |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Italiano |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
-
- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2. Record Nr. | UNINA9910788465603321 |
| Titolo | Disputing the floodplains [[electronic resource]] : institutional change and the politics of resource management in African wetlands / / edited by Tobias Haller ; with a foreward by Elinor Ostrom |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Boston, : Brill, 2010 |
| ISBN | 1-283-03900-1
9786613039002
90-04-18537-2
90-04-18532-1 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (472 p.) |
| Collana | African social studies series ; ; v. 22 |
| Altri autori (Persone) | HallerTobias |
| Disciplina | 333.91/7 |
| Soggetti | Water resources development - Africa
Floodplain management - Africa |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Preliminary Material / T. Haller -- Chapter One. Institutional Change, Power And Conflicts In The Management Of Common-Pool Resources In African Floodplain Ecosystems: An Introduction / Tobias Haller -- |

Chapter Two. Between Water Spirits And Market Forces: Institutional Changes In The Niger Inland Delta Fisheries Among The Somono And Bozo Fishermen Of Wandiaaka And Daga-Womina (Mali) / Sabrina Beeler Stücklin and Karin Frei -- Chapter Three. Tax Payments, Democracy And Rent-Seeking Administrators: Common-Pool Resource Management, Power Relations And Conflicts Among The Kotoko, Musgum, Fulbe And Arab Choa In The Waza-Logone Floodplain (Cameroon) / Gilbert Fokou -- Chapter Four. Lost Control, Legal Pluralism And Damming The Flood: Changing Institutions Among The Musgum And Kotoko Of The Village Lahaï In The Waza-Logone Floodplain (Cameroon) / Gabriela Landolt -- Chapter Five. From Integrated Slope Management To Fragmented Use: Common-Pool Resources, Institutional Change, And Conflicts In Pangani River Basin, Of Same District (Tanzania) / Gimbage Mbeyale -- Chapter Six. Ujamaa-Policies, Open Access And Differential Collective Action: Common-Pool Resource Management, Institutional Change And Conflicts In The Rufiji Floodplain (Tanzania) / Patrick Meroka -- Chapter Seven. 'We Had Cattle And Did Not Fish And Hunt Anyhow!' Institutional Change And Contested Commons In The Kafue Flats Floodplain (Zambia) / Tobias Haller and Sonja Merten -- Chapter Eight. Promise And Reality Of Community Based Natural Resource Management In Botswana: Common-Pool Resource Use And Institutional Change In Ikoga, Okavango Delta (Panhandle) / Roland Saum -- Chapter Nine. Between Open Access, Privatisation And Collective Action: A Comparative Analysis Of Institutional Change Governing Use Of Common-Pool Resources In African Floodplains / Tobias Haller -- List Of Contributors / T. Haller -- Index / T. Haller.

Sommario/riassunto

African Floodplains in semi-arid areas are important for local livelihoods as they harbor many common-pool resources such as fisheries, pasture, wildlife, veldt products, water and land for irrigation. However, in many of these areas resources are under pressure. This book is presenting seven case studies from Mali, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana based on anthropological fieldwork (2002-08) and explores how these common-pool resources have been managed in pre-colonial, colonial and postcolonial times. The major focus of the study is how institutional change has contributed to resource management problems and offers a comparative analysis based on the New Institutional approach (Jean Ensminger, Elinor Ostrom), which is combined with a special focus on ideology, discourse and narratives while focusing on conflict and power issues. With a foreword by Elinor Ostrom. This book has received the Environmental Research Award 2011 of the University of Bern, Switzerland.
