1. 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

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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.

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## 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 Institutionalist 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.