

The communal grazing areas of Thaba Nchu (South Africa) as a social-ecological system – an assessment of sustainability over time

The communal areas in South Africa are a creation of the Apartheid system. Formerly independent black smallholders were forced to live in the newly founded villages. Even after the end of Apartheid, most of the land belonging to these villages is – from a legal perspective – common tribal property. The common land is used almost exclusively as grazing ground for livestock. The suggested master thesis should present a village in the former homeland of Thaba Nchu as a social-ecological system (SES). An SES describes a certain community of people that are economically dependent on a certain ecosystem. An SES is thus characterized by a close mutual interaction of socio-economic and ecological processes. The master thesis should describe these processes and assess the prospects of overall sustainability for a village SES in Thaba Nchu.