

DWESA-CWEBE NATURE RESERVE

Land dispossession and struggles for natural resources

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OUTLINE

- INTRODUCTION
- ARGUMENT/POINT
- BACKGROUND
- THE PROCESS OF RECLAIMING AND CHALLENGES
- THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAND CLAIM PROCESS

Introduction

- Who Am I
- 1913 Land Act and forced removal
- Dwesa-Cwebe Location and Form (7 villages)
- Story of the Land and generations

Introduction...cont.

Major consequences of **land dispossession** in **Dwesa-Cwebe**

- **Loss of rights** to natural resources.
- Loss of access to **cultural and spiritual uses** of land and resources
- **Restricted mobility** and disruptions of **connections** between different areas

Background

- Land dispossession through forced removal
 - 1920-1950, permit system and controlled access
 - 1974 Betterment Removals
 - 1975, proclamation of the Dwesa-Cwebe Nature Reserve
 - 1982-1984, enclosure of the Nature Reserve and access prohibited (fence)
- Loss of rights to natural resources
 - Fishing, Mussel Harvesting, Grazing Land
- Loss of ancestry grave sites and prohibited from performing traditional and spiritual rituals
- Family and Community life
 - Interfered with relations of families that had members living on both sides of the river . Mobility costly.

The process of reclaiming and its challenges

- 1993-94 protest action *1995, Government intervention and engagement
- 1994, Conservation Committee**
- 1995, Government commitment to resolving Dwesa-Cwebe struggle
- 1996, Land Claim lodged **
- 1998, Community Property Association formed

The process of reclaiming and its challenges

- 2001, Settlement Agreement through pre-trial conference (Judge Allen Dodson)
- 2001-07, Dwesa-Cwebe Land Trust**
 - Size of community and difficulties of managing it
- Co-Management Committee, Nature Reserve and Trust members
- 2008, creation of Trust B (role of headmen)
- Dept. of Land Affairs attempts to form Trust C
- Dissolution of Trust A and B through the CPA

Implications of the land claim process

- Land Rights
 - No transfer of titles to CPAs and the Trust
- Natural Resources and Livelihood
 - Prohibited from the Nature Reserve
- Community life and social relations
 - Lack of implementation and its role in community tensions

THANK YOU.