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"Poverty in the Gwai Forest Reserve, Zimbabwe: 1880–1953"

Kwashirai, Vimbai Chaumba

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The subject of poverty in Zimbabwe's forest sector has not received any scrutiny so far in the existing historical literature. This study examines the problem of poverty in the Gwai Forest Reserve (GFR) of North-Western Matabeleland, Zimbabwe, from 1880–1953. The region was endowed with the largest commercial and most important indigenous hardwood forests in the country, and indeed in the whole of Southern Africa. The Ndebele people call these forests *gusu*. They are also known as "Zambezi teak woodland" or "*Baikiea* forests." Specifically, the present study explores the significance of forest rules and regulations in causing poverty among Africans. (Text adapted from the author's abstract .)

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