

Land transitions in Africa:

An integrated analysis of economic inequality and environmental harm in Zimbabwe

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Student Research Conference Application

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This research is a comprehensive analysis of the structure of Zimbabwe's political, economic, and social system. It focuses on the years since independence in 1980, by exploring how two major governmental policies have had adverse macroeconomic effects. 1) The land reform programs implemented by Robert Mugabe regime and the ZANU-PF party and 2) the Economic Structural Readjustment Programme implemented in congruence with the IMF and World Bank. I have explored the existing scholarly literature, governmental reports, and recent periodical news. I will also draw on quantitative economic indicators of welfare, land use and quality changes, and agriculture production data. My findings will describe the nature of the political, social, and environmental situation in Zimbabwe and where the impacts are felt. I will then explore solutions to these problems. I conclude that differential outcomes on poverty, inequality, and the environment are produced through grouping of governmental policies and it is important to fully recognize adverse effects on a local, and global scale so that the appropriate measures can be taken