

# AFRICAN WATER HISTORIES

---

*Transdisciplinary discourses*

edited by

JWN Tempelhoff

VAAL TRIANGLE FACULTY

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

VANDERBIJLPARK

2005

# Contents

Introduction

vii

## *Section 1*

### *National water histories*

1. Does water have a history? Water use and management in Malawi  
*WO Mulwafu* 1
2. The role and significance of Zimbabwe's water resources commission  
1953-54 15  
*E Mufema*
3. Narratives of construction in contemporary water politics: Tombel  
and Kumbo in Cameroon 35  
*B Page*

## *Section 2*

### *Local water histories*

4. Coping with disease in the French Empire: the waterworks in Saint-  
Louis-du-Senegal, 1860-1914 73  
*K Ngalamulume*
5. Water - unifier of a city 97  
*K Wall*

## *Section 3*

### *Thematic approaches to water history*

6. Water and the ecology of warfare in southern Africa 117  
*I van der Waag*
7. Irrigation development in South Africa - the Smartt Syndicate and  
the Cape Sundays River Settlement Co. 133  
*D Lavin*
8. Travel writers' perspectives on the cultural environment of water in  
southern Africa 151  
*JWN Tempelhoff*

*Section 4*  
*Dams and hydropower*

9. The damming of Africa: the spread of river basin planning in post-war Africa 171  
*HJ Hoag*
10. On visible places and invisible peoples in Sweden and in Tanzania 185  
*M-B Öhman*

*Section 5*  
*Legal aspects of water history*

11. The 'ecosystems approach' to the protection of international water-courses: the role of African states 227  
*O McIntyre*
12. The history, development and allocation of water rights in South Africa 263  
*GJ Pienaar and E Van der Schyff*

*Section 6*  
*Research in progress*

13. An ethnographic study of the politics of land, water and 'tradition' around Lake Kyle/Mutirikwi in southern Zimbabwe 285  
*J Fontein*
14. The evolution of urban water and sanitation in East Africa from a public goods perspective 317  
*D Nilsson*
- Select bibliography 347  
*R Wuriga*
- Index 361