The trajectory of the land restitution processes in Protected Areas: implications for indigenous communities in KwaZulu-Natal.

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This paper presents a discussion of one of the most talked about issue in South Africa, land reform. Land is a critical natural resource and a pillar of many African economies, including South Africa. However, most of these countries have faced colonial regimes which deprived citizens’ ownership of land. In the case of South Africa, after they gained their independence, they engaged on a journey to try and correct the injustices of the apartheid regime. In so doing, they implemented land reform policies to address land ownership inequalities. Nonetheless, the South African government has failed to deliver on the promises they made since coming into office. In the context of land within Protected Areas, land reform cases were settled through co-management agreements between communities and conservation areas. In as much as there are some success stories, this has also presented a lot of challenges to both the authorities and the indigenous communities. Given this background, this paper looks at the path that the land reform has taken in KwaZulu-Natal, especially within protected areas and how has that affected the communities.