

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY: USING GOOD AND COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES: A CASE STUDY OF THE VREDEFORT DOME

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Summary

South Africa became a signatory to and ratified the *World Heritage Convention*, 1972 (WHC) in 1997. It thereby voluntarily agreed to identify and conserve world heritage areas of universal value for the benefit of mankind. This article presents a case study of the Vredefort Dome, one of South Africa's World Heritage Sites (WHS) and specifically its governance strategies to ensure proper and sustainable governance. Firstly, the issue of fragmentation of the environmental governance regime applicable to WHS is discussed, and in doing so, refers to the various legislative and common law responsibilities and institutional structures related to environmental governance of WHS. Secondly, it briefly discusses the concept of good governance and the concept of cooperative governance as a sub-component of good governance. Finally it comprehensively proposes various strategies to ameliorate the current fragmented and unsustainable environmental governance effort relating to WHS.

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