

Disentangling humans and wildlife on the road towards the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park

Ignas M.A. Heitkönig
Jens A. Andersson

Wageningen University, The Netherlands
& University of the Witwatersrand, Jhb

KNP in wider societal context

= back to opening address

Narrative

Critical social science literature (1)

[Peace Parks] are arguably the latest phase in a long and often unfortunate history of environment and development in Africa, in which the interests of the native African inhabitants have regularly been suppressed by colonial or neo-colonial interests in the protection of Africa's wildlife and the economic exploitation of Africa's natural resources

Gibson 1999

Critical social science literature (2)

With South Africa's Kruger Park suffering from elephant overpopulation, these wildlife corridors [into Limpopo NP] aid [South African] wildlife management by relocating 'excess elephants'

Amerom & Büsher 2005

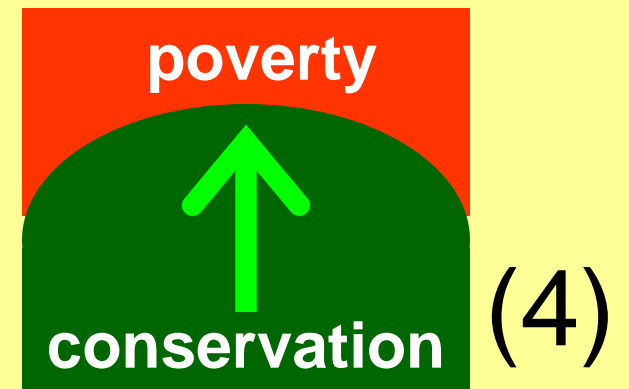
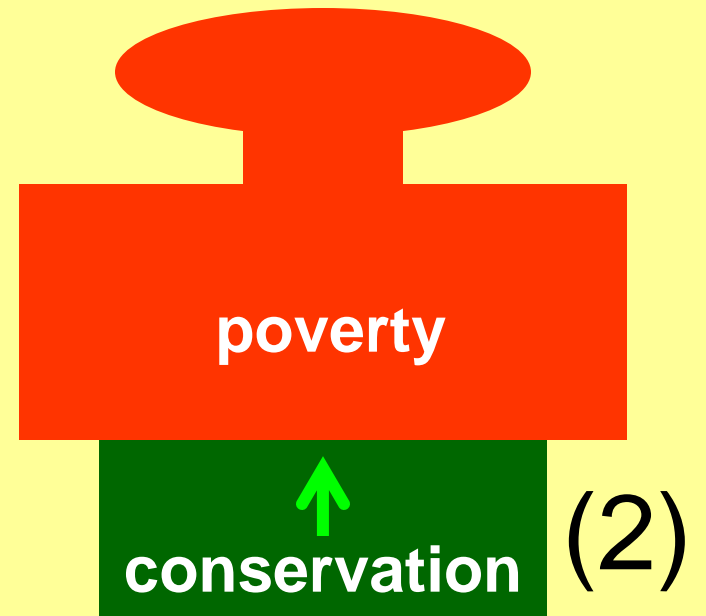
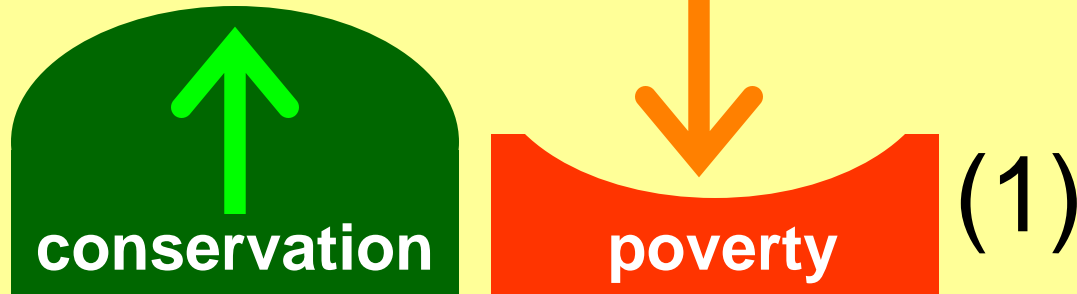
Several views (positions)
on the relation between
conservation and development

Development – Conservation

Four positions:

- 1) Poverty reduction and conservation are independent policy domains
- 2) Poverty is a critical constraint on conservation
- 3) Conservation should not compromise poverty reduction
- 4) Poverty reduction depends on living resource conservation

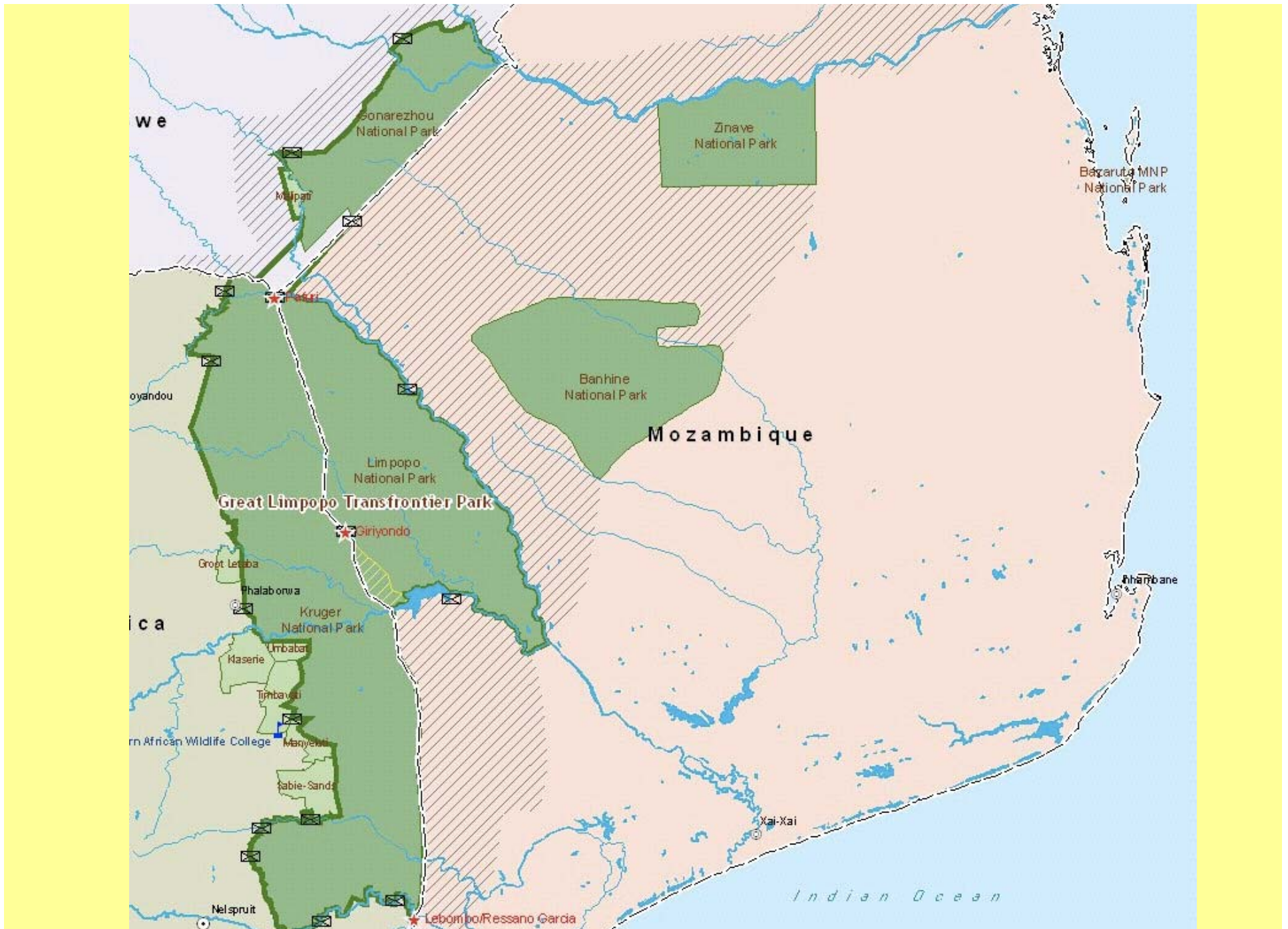
Your choice:

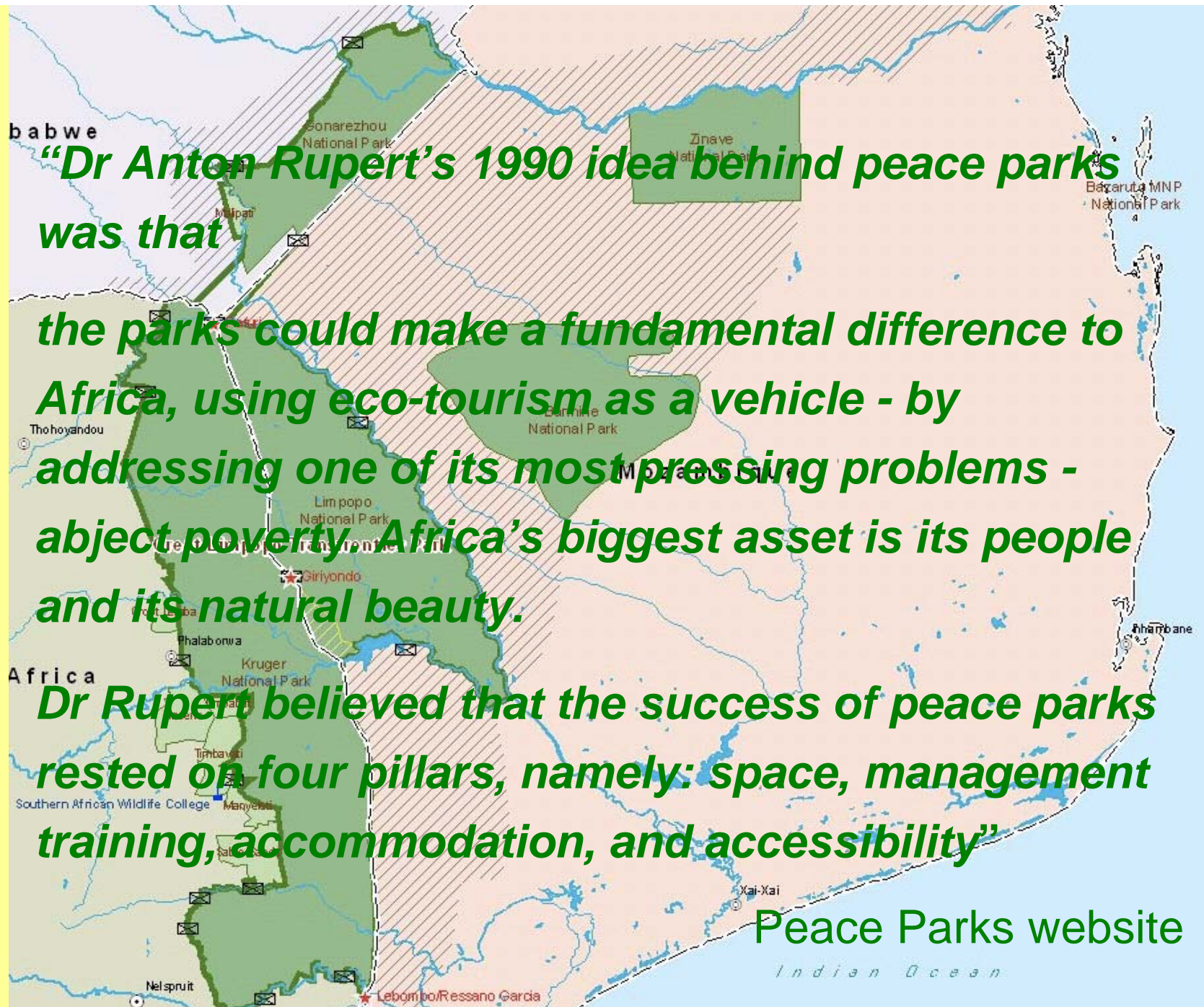


Development – Conservation

Four positions:

- 1) Poverty reduction and conservation are independent (policy realms)
- 2) Poverty is a critical constraint on conservation
- 3) Conservation should not compromise poverty reduction
- 4) Poverty reduction depends on living resource conservation (**Anton Rupert's Peace Park idea**)



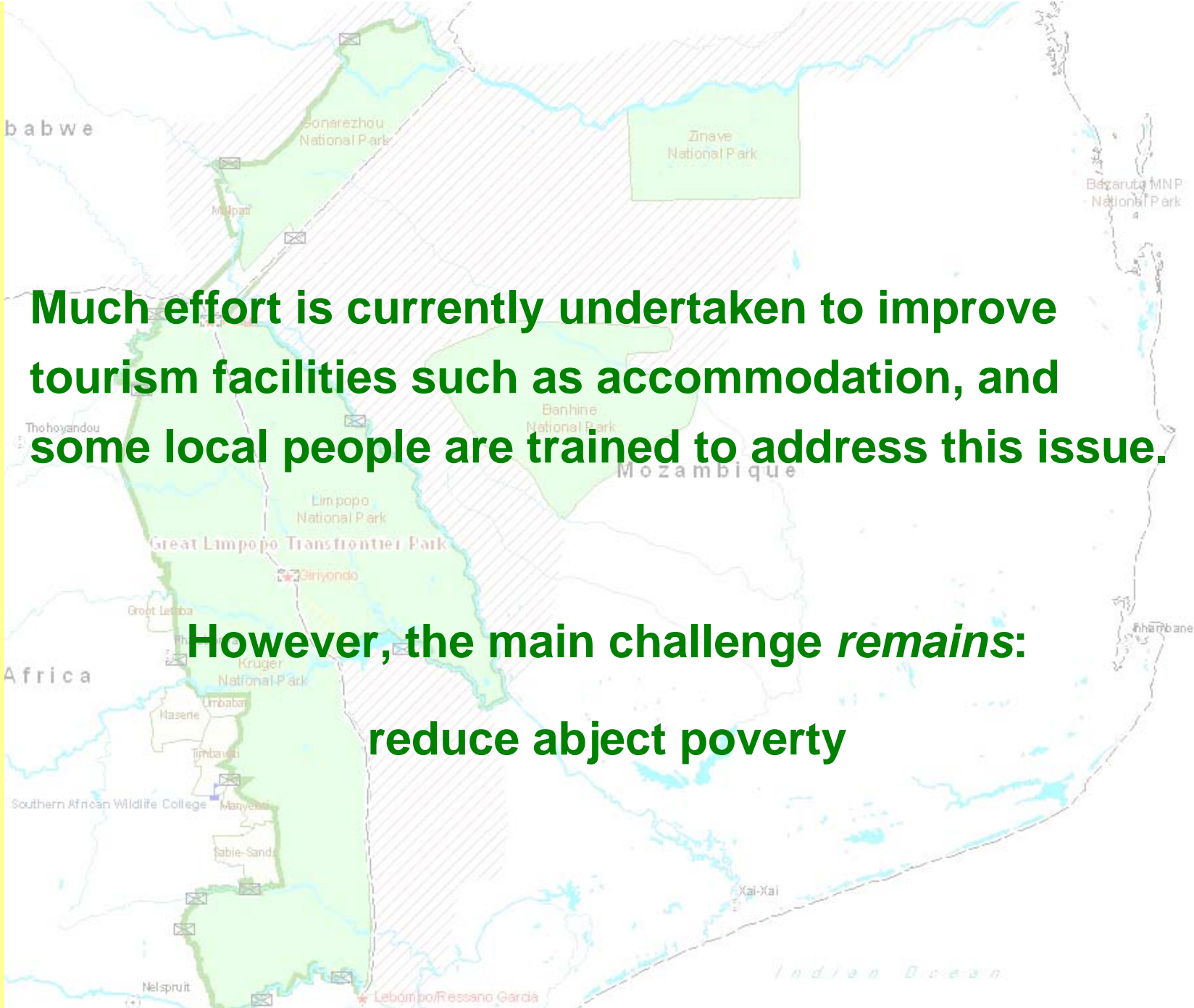


“Dr Anton Rupert’s 1990 idea behind peace parks was that

the parks could make a fundamental difference to Africa, using eco-tourism as a vehicle - by addressing one of its most pressing problems - abject poverty. Africa’s biggest asset is its people and its natural beauty.

Dr Rupert believed that the success of peace parks rested on four pillars, namely: space, management training, accommodation, and accessibility”

Peace Parks website

A map of Southern Africa showing the network of National Parks (KNP). The parks are highlighted in green and include: Sonarezhou National Park, Zinave National Park, Banhine National Park, Linpopo National Park, Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, Kruger National Park, and Bazaruto MNP National Park. The map also shows the borders of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and the Indian Ocean. Key locations like Harare, Beitbridge, Groot Lersba, and Nelspruit are marked. The text is overlaid on the map in green.

Much effort is currently undertaken to improve tourism facilities such as accommodation, and some local people are trained to address this issue.

**However, the main challenge *remains*:
reduce abject poverty**



The original Peace Park idea was

“an important conceptual shift away from the idea of strictly protected national parks towards greater emphasis on multiple resource use by local communities by introducing the transfrontier conservation area (TFCA) concept”

“TFCAs (or peace parks), were defined as relatively large areas that straddle frontiers between two or more countries.

Very often both human and animal populations traditionally migrated across or straddled the political boundaries concerned. In essence, TFCAs therefore extend far beyond designated protected areas...”

→ *the GLTFCAs became increasingly seen as a single socio-ecological unit*

Some issues:

1. To protect Park neighbours from potentially damaging animals (such as baboons, lions and elephants):

- spatially segregate villages from wildlife
- create or recreate fences
- instate damage control mechanisms in all three countries.

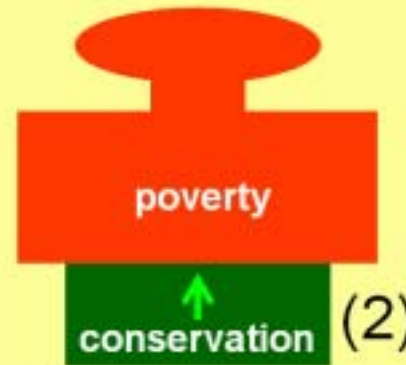
2. Very strict veterinary control

Ironically, fences re-enforce spatial segregation, also among related villages, particularly the Shangaan peoples, who live in the entire GLTFCA.

GLTFCA as a social unit?

Policy domains in the GLTFCA

Zimbabwe
< 1980
South Africa



Zimbabwe
> 2000



Mozambique
> 2000

Zimbabwe
1980 - 2000
CAMPFIRE

GLTFCA as a social unit?

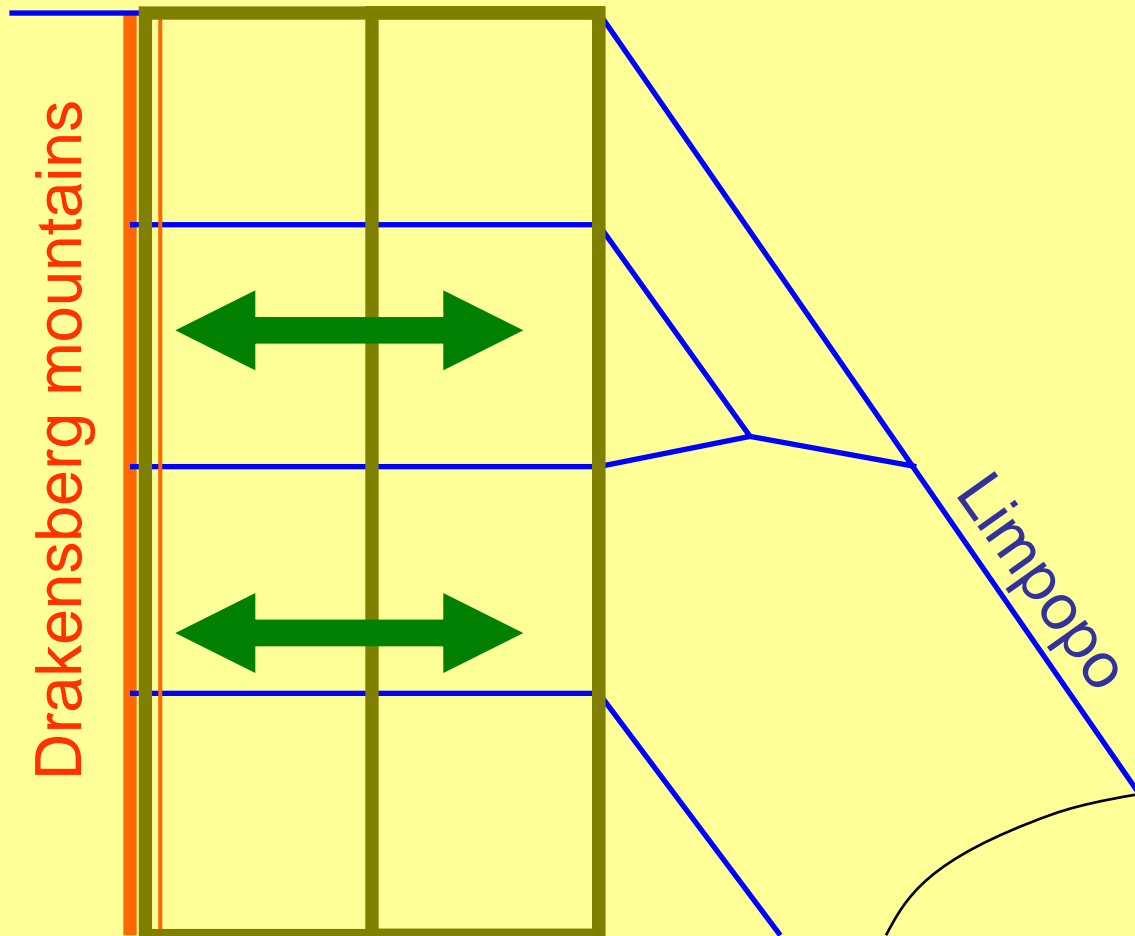
Hence:

The composition of policy domains varies per country and in time

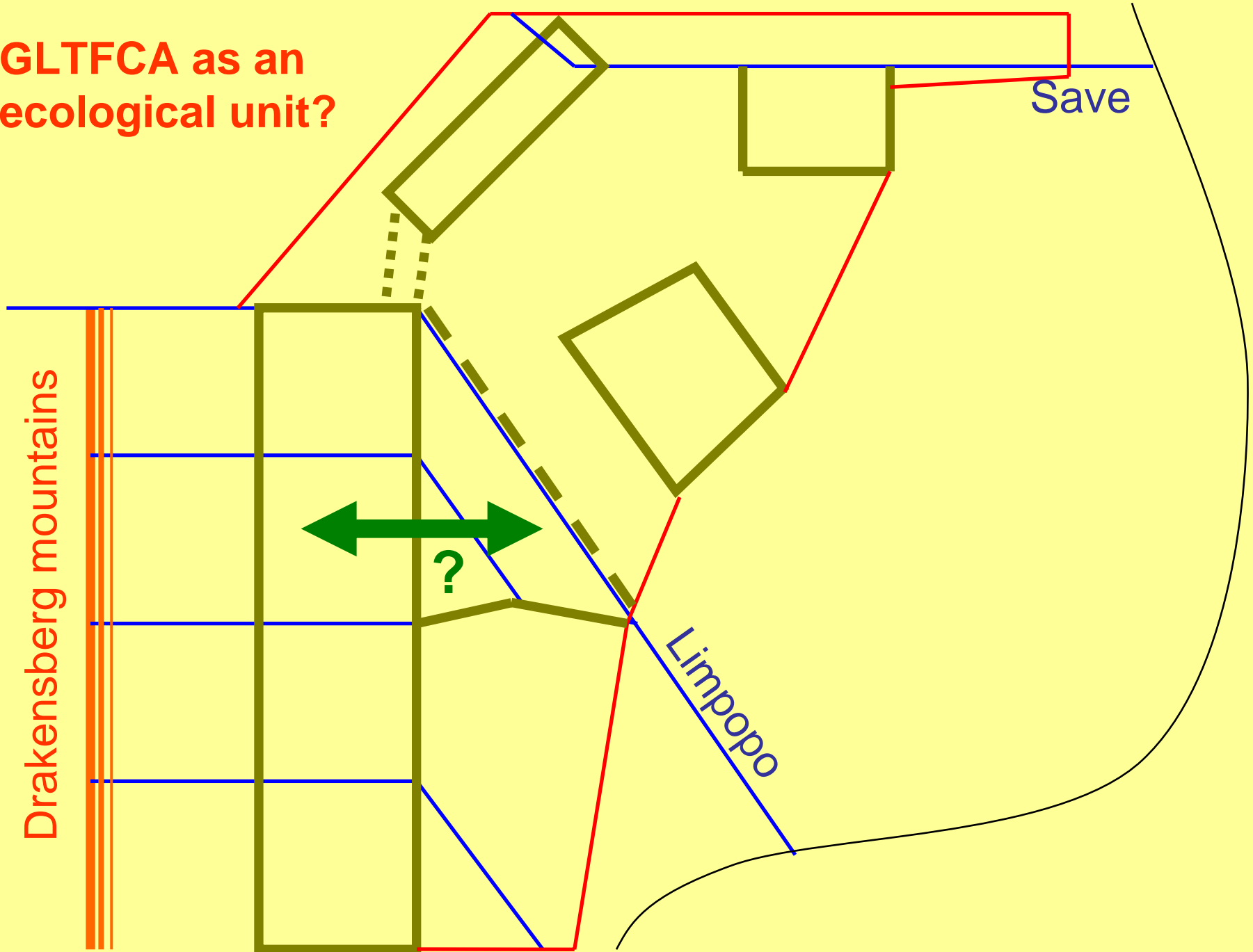
It thus appears that the GLTFCA as a social unit can be better understood as a construct rather than as a uniform entity.

GLTFCA as an ecological unit?

Save



GLTFCA as an ecological unit?



GLTFCA as an ecological unit?

Hence:

The extension of the conservation area varies per country (and in time)

It also appears that the GLTFCA as an ecological unit can be better understood as a construct rather than as a uniform entity.

→ *Understanding the GLTFCA requires a comparative approach rather than a systems approach*



www.competingclaims.nl



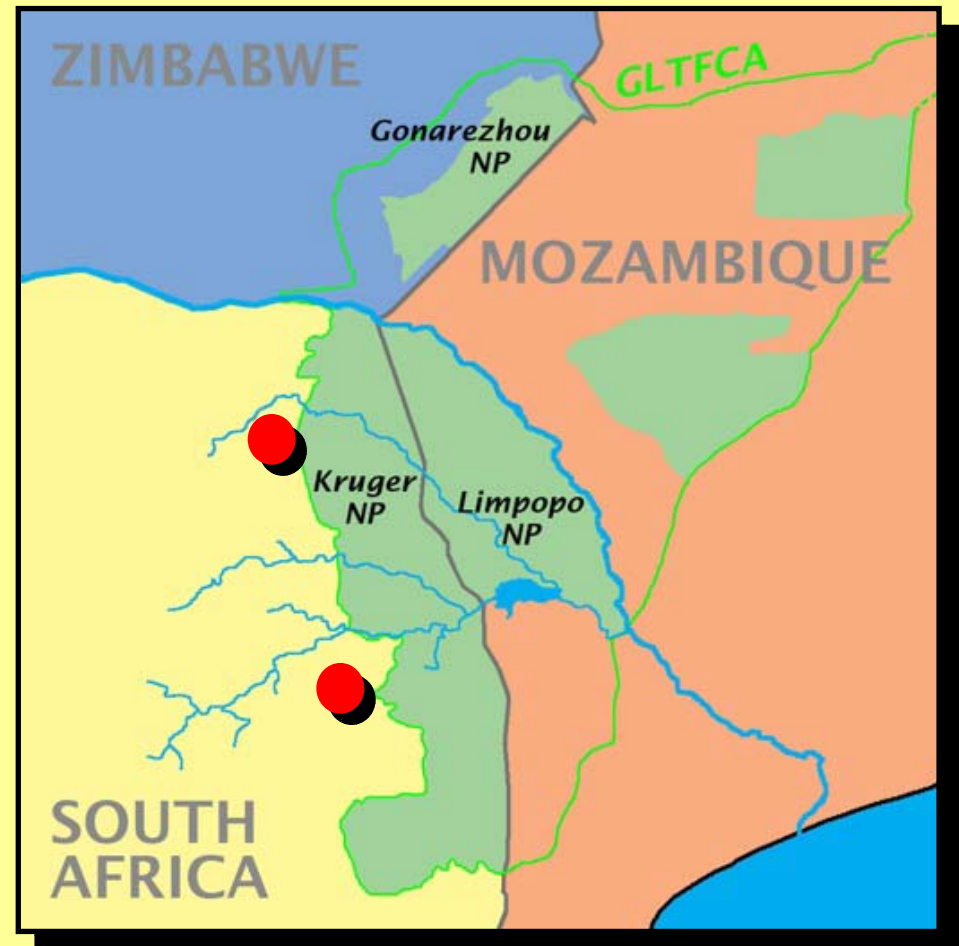


Competing claims - *GLTFCA*

South Africa

Balancing eco-tourism and livestock production: Implications for livelihoods & the environment
Petronella Chaminuka

Consumption of NR along gradients of nutrients and moisture
Abel Ramoelo





Competing claims - *GLTFCA*

Mozambique

Soil C distribution as indicator of land quality

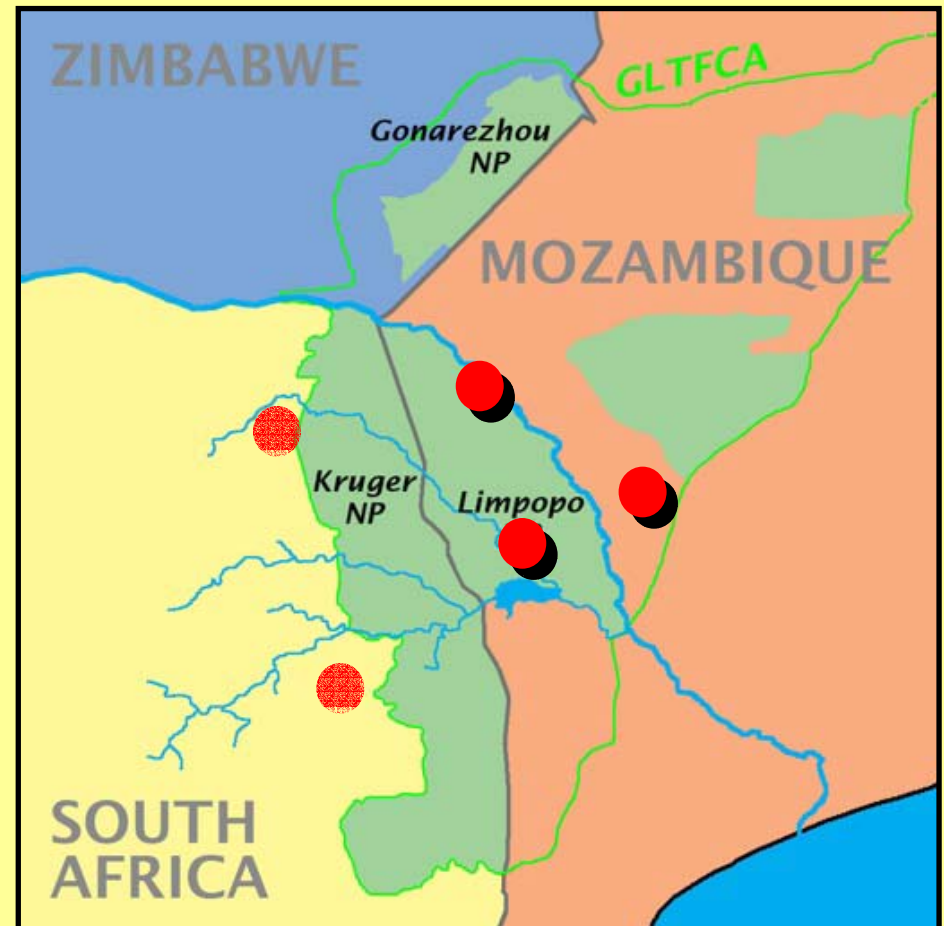
Armindo Cambule

Competing claims & resettlement

Jessica Milgroom

Alternative Futures for NRM

Nicia Giva





Competing claims - *GLTFCA*

Zimbabwe

Vulnerability and resilience of livelihoods

Chrispen Murungweni

Resource allocation through co-operation: Livestock and wildlife

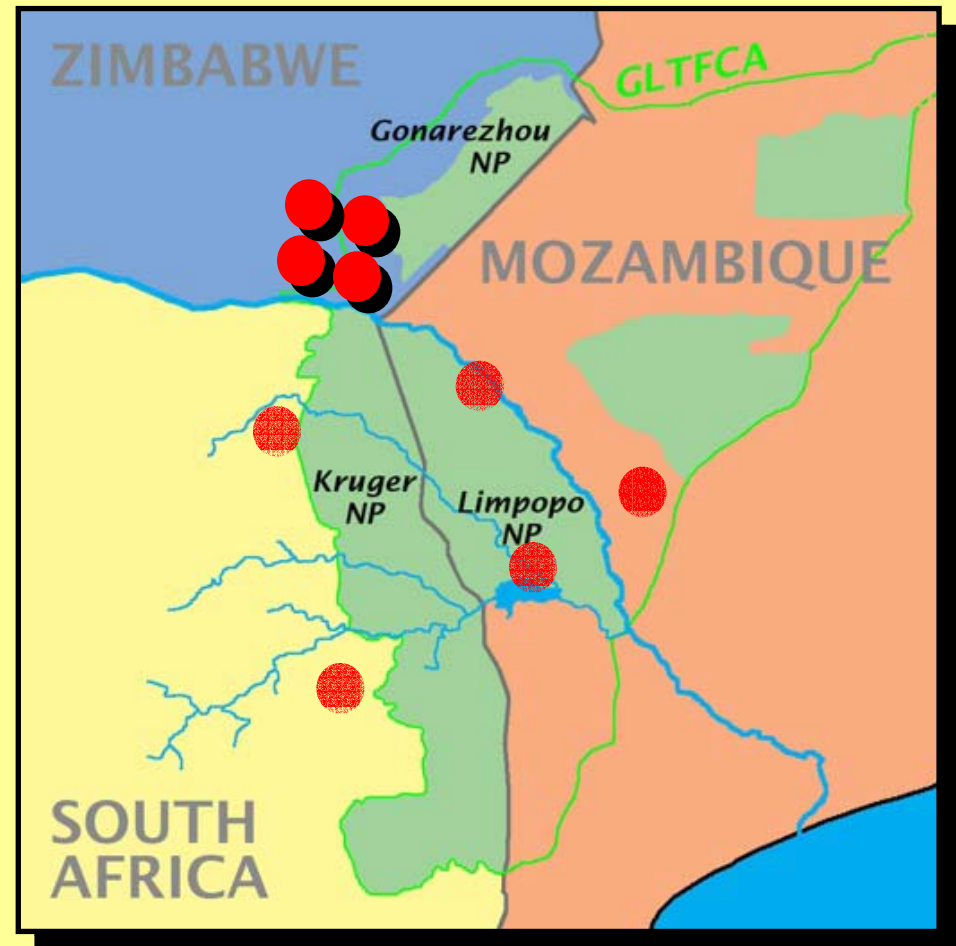
Xavier Poshiwa

Forest and people interactions

Edward Mufandaedza

Participation in governance of natural resources: Communities in the *GLTFCA*

Chaka Chirozva





Thank you