

## Livelihood dynamics in Limpopo National Park's MUZ

Salane and Macaringue case studies

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### Presentation outline

- Research context and Objective
- Research site Background
- Livelihood Characteristics of the MUZ
  - Livelihood diversity (north-south)
  - Livelihood variability (rainfall)
  - Livelihood dynamic (seasonal)
- Policy influence into the livelihood (preliminary conclusions)

### Research context

- Human and nature interaction is often characterized by conflicting interests;
- Nature provide livelihood means for rural people through use of NR;
- Conservationists argue that continuous use of NR may cause NR degradation and lose of biodiversity → creation of protected areas ("pure protection & preservation vs multiple use);
- Concept of buffer zone (MUZ in this case) plays an important role on protected areas' management;

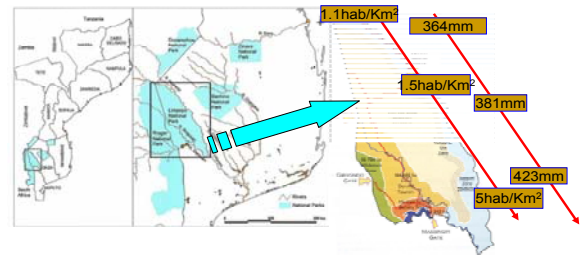
### Cont...

- Buffer zones → multiple use management → alleviate pressure and reduce infringement on protected areas;
- Yet, there are conservation and tourism policies that restrict resource utilization in the MUZ;
- This is where the **main objective** of this study stands, to assess how different households that are NR based livelihood, living inside the buffer/MUZ are being affected by the restriction policy;

## Research hypothesis and Specific objectives

- Hypothesis: households explore natural resources differently based on their capabilities, knowledge, and assets and that the livelihoods in the MUZ zone of Limpopo National Park will therefore be differently affected by the restriction policy;
- Specific objectives:
  - Describe livelihood strategies of the LNP's MUZ;
  - Identify and characterize determinant factors of the livelihood variability and dynamics;
  - Assess the relationship between people's livelihood and the Park restriction policy;

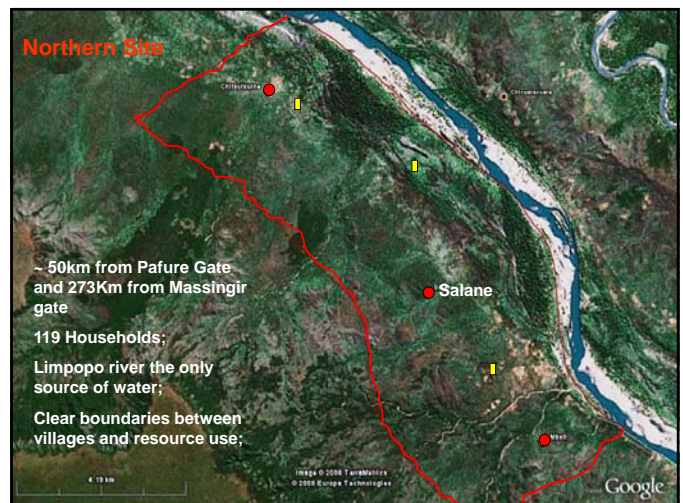
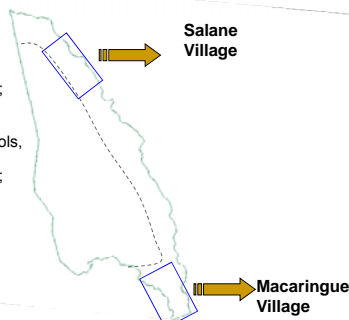
## Research site Background

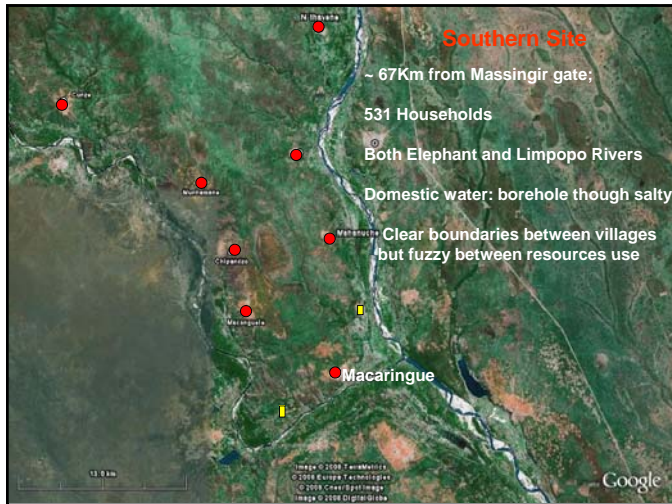


LNP created in 2002 and comprises 1.123.316 ha;  
MUZ occupies 234.941ha with 54 communities and about 30000 people

## Biophysical and Socio-economic insights

- Semi arid subtropical;
- 2 main seasons (dry and wet)
- Savanna (mopane trees (*Colophospermum mopane*));
- Cyclical droughts and floods;
- Temperature between 19 to 39°C;
- Vegetation changes significantly during dry and wet season;
- Poor infrastructures (roads, schools, water sources);
- Rain determines the accessibility;
- Households are dispersed in the north;
- Lack intra and inter villages connection;
- No communication mean





### Methodology

Focus group discussions      Transect walks      Observation

Village and resource mapping      Semi-structured interviews

### Livelihood Characteristics in MUZ

- Water & Soil are the main NR building peoples' livelihood
- 3 main characteristics of soil & water system shape **agriculture**;
- Characteristics of each season influence the dynamics and variability of the livelihood system;

Wetland      Mid humid      Dry-land

Agriculture in MUZ

Livestock in MUZ

- Livestock plays an important role as Coping strategy;
- grazing areas are communal, seasonal and spatial dynamic;
- The north- south gradient influences livestock management practices

### Livelihood diversity (north-south)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salane (north)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Rain fed agriculture;</li> <li>□ Livestock keeping;</li> <li>□ Palm beer harvesting;</li> <li>□ Cattle and goats trading;</li> <li>□ Informal trade (few hh);</li> <li>□ South Africa migration (long term);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Macaringue (south)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Rain fed Agriculture;</li> <li>□ Irrigated agriculture</li> <li>□ Livestock keeping;</li> <li>□ Traditional home made beer;</li> <li>□ Informal trade (most hh);</li> <li>□ South Africa migration (short term);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Livelihood Variability



## Livelihood Variability (cont..)



## Livelihood dynamics

- The amount and the length (months) of rainfall manipulate the seasonal dynamics:
  - Continuous and alternative agriculture;
  - Human-wildlife conflict;
  - Spatial and temporal mobility of HH;
  - Small livestock vs cattle trading;
  - Temporary migration to SA;

## Restriction policy Vs People's livelihood

- Agriculture:
  - non of agricultural land use was affected by the park restriction policy;
  - However, crop damage by elephant is severe in the south, and especially in the dry season;
  - Drought and Floods have revealed to be more important impacting factors than the restriction policies;
- Livestock:
  - Pressure on the grazing resource is observed in the south than in the north (in a short term);
  - Population density as well as population influx (resettlement) might increase demand for grazing land;
  - Cattle attacked by lion was registered in north, though the frequency is low (twice a year);
- Fence policy might alter the current livelihood dynamic;
- Results suggest dual treatment for the north-south MUZ management plan;

Thank You!

Obrigada!



Network coverage suddenly changed Macaringues' people live!