

The Importance of a Diversified Economy in the Kavango & Zambezi Regions

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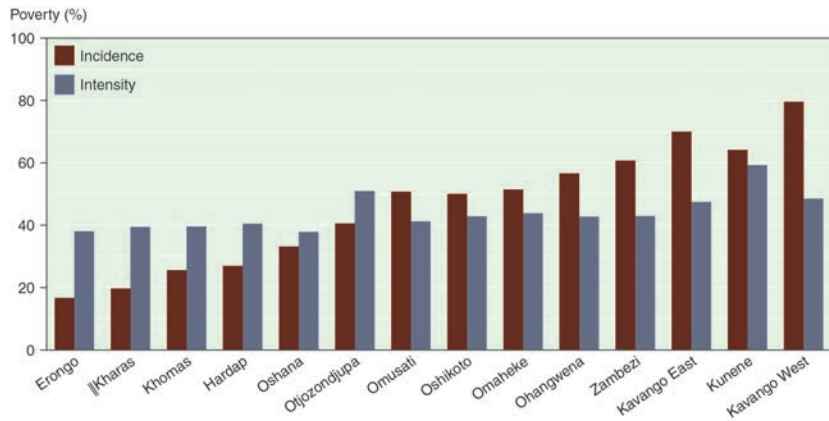
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

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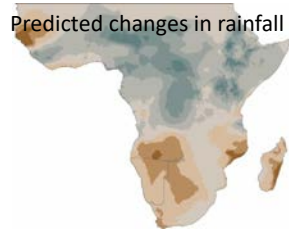
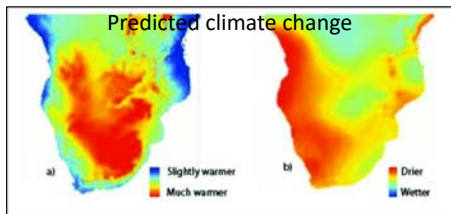
Source of the problem

- Endemic Foot and Mouth Disease area – the “buffalo issue”
- More than 1,7 million head of cattle in Northern Communal farming Area (north of the redline)
- Lack of markets for beef from NCA = little contribution of cattle to local livelihoods
- Most cattle marketed informally
- Traditional approaches to managing FMD outbreaks – movement bans, fences, prolonged closing of the abattoirs
- Important conservation area for the Namibian buffalo populations

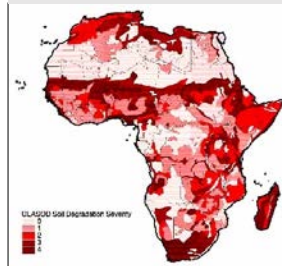
Poverty levels



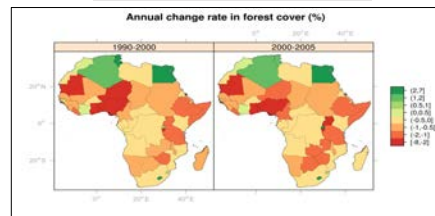
Environmental challenges



African Soils - 60+% are severely degraded



Deforestation

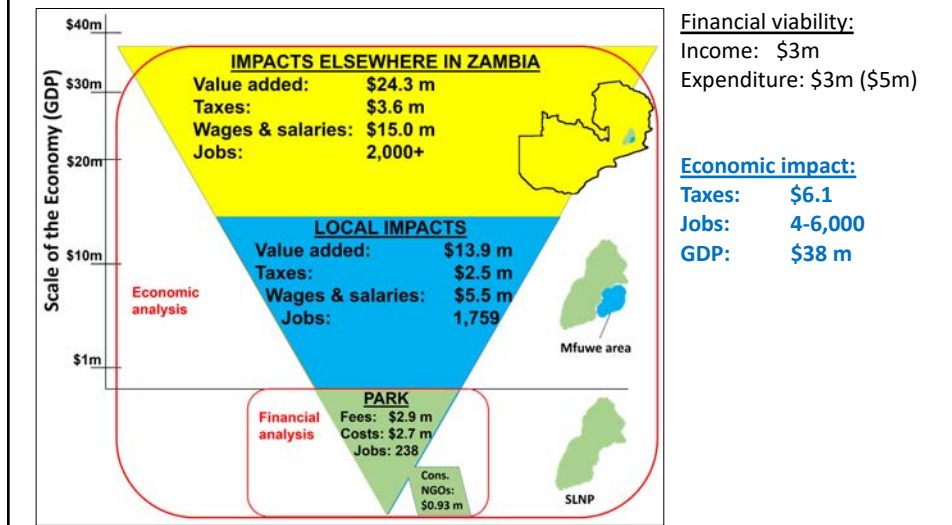


Protected areas

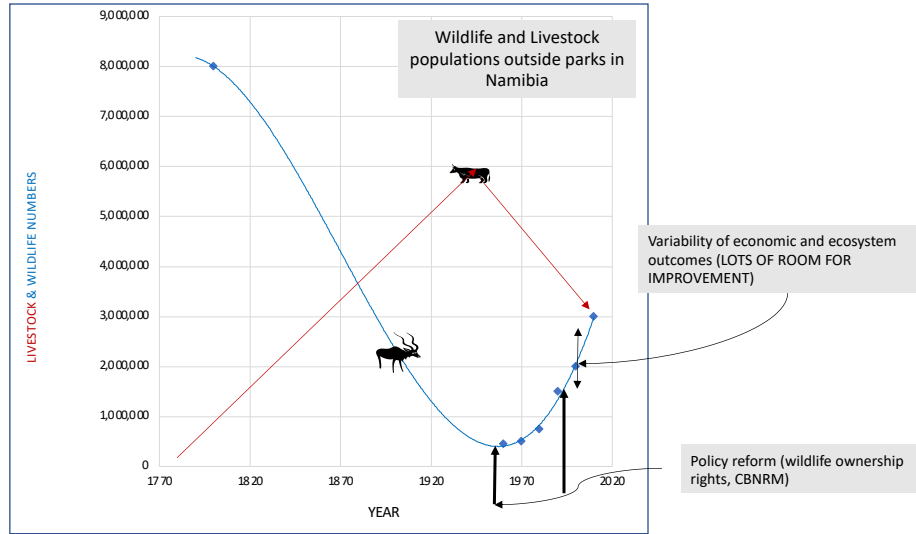
- As shown by the following slide
 - Parks often cannot cover their costs because gate fees are low and/or 'captured' elsewhere in the system (e.g. by head office)
 - However, the economic activity driven by tourism is high in terms of :
 - GDP / value add
 - Employment
 - Taxes
 - Some of this occurs in the immediate area of the park
 - Most occurs in the nation's capital city/s

See Chidakel et al papers on Luangwa and Kruger

\$38 m Park economy and vulnerability pyramid



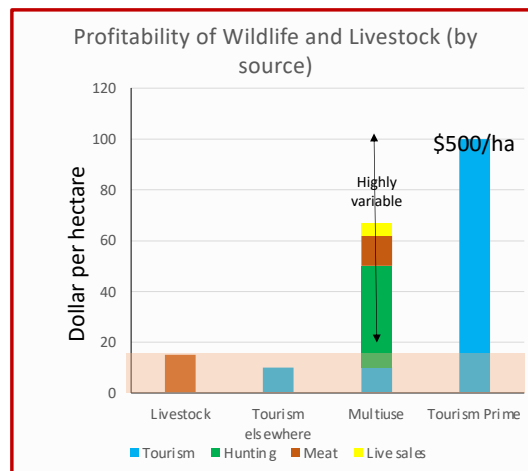
New wildlife policies have led to the rapid expansion of a wildlife economy



Benchmarking wildlife as a land use

Data from South Africa shows that wildlife can outcompete livestock in some areas because of its multi-functionality

(Child re-analysed Taylor et al's data)

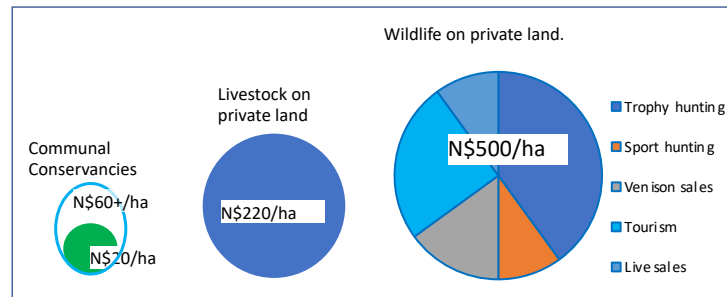


Taylor, W. A., P. A. Lindsey, S. K. Nicholson, C. Relton and H. T. Davies-Mostert (2020). "Jobs, game meat and profits: The benefits of wildlife ranching on marginal lands in South Africa." *Biological Conservation* 245: 108561.

The same applies generally to Namibia
(Chris Brown data)

Well managed
wildlife
outcompetes
livestock

Communal
areas are
under-
performing
financially
(return to
landholder)
and
economically
(return to
Namibia)



Opportunities to improve & diversify livelihoods

- Integrate iconic but problematic wildlife (buffalo, elephants, zebra) and optimize the value of protected area network (beautiful landscapes, diverse culture, wetland systems = valuable product for high value photographic tourism)

Way forward

- Adopt Commodity-based approaches to disease management – raise the value of cattle and their products for higher household incomes – diverse and resilient rural livelihoods,
- Removal of fences to allow free movement of wildlife while tapping into the value of these wildlife through sustainable use
- The above will require bold and decisive policy interventions