



Webster Whande
Programme for Land & Agrarian Studies, UWC
Arid Climate Adaptation and Cultural Innovation in Africa,
University of Cologne



Outline

- Introduction – clarification of terminology
- Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and Conservation Area
- History of land and natural resources along the Limpopo River (Madimbo corridor)
- Land restitution and Conflicts over land use practices
- Local livelihood strategies along the corridor & potential for tourism
- Preliminary results



Introduction

Terminology

- different models of conservation in southern Africa, the most recent being TBNRM, TFCAs etc
- TBNRM- involving a range of configurations – different meanings to different people - TBPAs, TFCAs but also upscaling of CBC
- So far the main focus has been on facilitating government-government agreements, little on community transboundary issues
- TFCA – focus here, focus on communal areas with core of TPBAs, potential multiple use zones, land and natural resource issues political (local, not so local actors)



Great Limpopo TP and TFCA

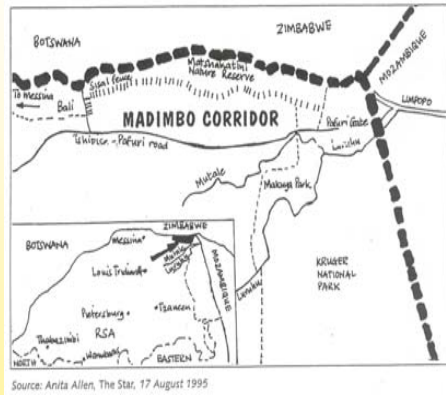
- Flagship of all TFCAs given Kruger NP inclusion and size
- Biodiversity conservation
- Promoting regional economic integration through eco-tourism
- Peace and security, trans-national cooperation
- Community involvement in the multiple use zones – TFCA not yet marked in South Africa





History of land along Madimbo corridor

- Recent history but human movement control operationalised early through posting of vet officers
- ‘Betterment planning’ or villagisation and consolidation of homelands – forced removals 1950-60s
- National security issues, military presence
- protected areas (Matshakatini & Makuya Nature Reserves)



Freedom, land rights and boundary disputes

- Land restitution claims along the Madimbo corridor and Pafuri triangle
- Strategic location for TFCAs and national security – Madimbo to continue under military and Pafuri conservation
- Local boundary disputes and land restitution



Conflicts over land use practices

- Conflicting and competing proposals for local land uses, a mirror of NGO/private sector/government discussions of the 1990s
- Land use options involve conservation driven ecotourism
 - mining possibilities following alluvial diamond deposits prospecting in the 1990s
 - grazing and
 - settlement/agriculture



Livelihoods approaches

- Clusters or economic compositions
 - Land and natural resource based livelihoods
 - Urban and migrant labour
 - Non-agricultural income generation
 - State pensions and grants
 - Transboundary trade – ‘blackbirding’ and other approaches
 - Questions of sustainability (environment and livelihoods)
- Potential role for tourism in TFCAs - proverbial?



Conflicts around tourism

- Tourism driven regional integration remains an agenda at national levels - disputed locally, viewed as a threat to other sources of livelihoods (historical experiences NB)
- Tourism uncertainties given the political situation in Zimbabwe – tourists don't come to see villages, using Makuleke example
- No tripartite plans for sharing tourism revenues let alone distribution of benefits to local people – a potential conflict area due to perceived inequitable distribution of costs and revenues
- No real opportunities even for other economic sectors – reluctance to relax investment controls (protectionism) despite the huge human movements across the countries → questionable that tourism will present any opportunities



Preliminary results

Conflicts over conservation and land use

- Ideas, perceptions and needs of the affected local people often differ from those of (international) conservation agencies and national governments
- Different interest groups on the local level cause internal conflicts (traditional vs. elected officials), some groups favour tourism while others favour agriculture or mining, land use is very contested
- Objectives for biodiversity conservation and livelihood activities often viewed as conflicting (especially in light of historical issues)



Preliminary results

National security issues

- Still strong emphasis on sovereignty and national security despite TFCAs and emerging views of security
- Communities viewing 'occupied' lands as lost livelihood opportunities, made worse by allegations of military poaching in the area
- Militarised state security to maintain the status quo in the Madimbo corridor – exclusion from certain environments
- Crooks corner? TFCAs and local livelihood security – dangers of a lack of consultation, various interpretations result, highjacking of vague proposals by the powerful