

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Botswana

- University of Botswana, Gaborone
- Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre

Mozambique

- Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo
- Department of Agronomy and Forestry
- Department of Biology

Netherlands

- Wageningen University
- Production Ecology & Resource Conservation (PE&RC)
- Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES)
- Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences (WIAS)
- Mansholt Graduate School of Social Sciences (MGS)
- Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK)
- International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Enschede
- Natural Resources Department

South Africa

- University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Science (APES)
- University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban
- Department of Geography
- Rhodes University, Grahamstown
- Department of Environmental Sciences
- Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Pretoria
- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Division
- University of Pretoria
- Faculty of Veterinary Science

Zimbabwe

- University of Zimbabwe, Harare
- Dept. of Geography & Environmental Science
- Faculty of Agriculture

INFORMATION

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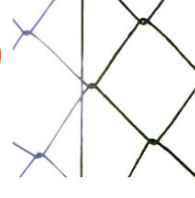
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School of Animal Plant & Environmental Science
University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg
South Africa

Website:

<http://www.competingclaims.nl>

Competing Claims



on Natural Resources

Overcoming mismatches in resource use
through a multi-scale perspective



THE PROGRAMME

Competing claims on natural resources become increasingly acute, with the poor being most vulnerable to adverse outcomes of such competition. The major challenge for science and development policies is to progress from facilitating univocal use, to guiding stakeholders in dealing with (potentially conflicting) multiple uses of natural resources.

The development of novel, more equitable, management options that reduce poverty is key to achieving sustainable use of natural resources and the resolution of conflicts over them.

PROGRAMME AIMS

To develop an interdisciplinary and interactive methodological approach for the:

- (1) understanding of competing claims and stakeholder strategies;
- (2) identification of alternative resource use options;
- (3) scientific support to negotiation processes between stakeholders, with the aim to develop policy interventions that simultaneously improve livelihoods and the sustainable use of natural resources.

A major output will be capacity building of scientists - in Southern Africa and in Wageningen.

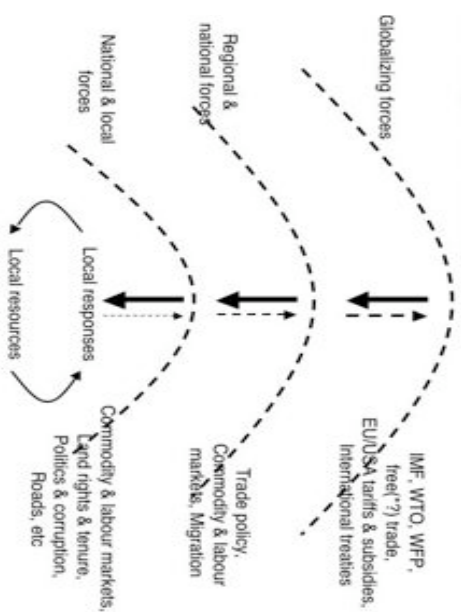
RESEARCH LOCATIONS

Research is conducted in southern Africa, a region characterized by heterogeneous and highly dynamic resource uses. A comparative approach is used to examine the different drivers of resource use dynamics and the interacting claims of multiple stakeholders on these resources. Two research areas in and near major conservation areas are included in the programme in order to capture contrasting, yet interlocking, socio-political and institutional environments in which competing claims are played out.

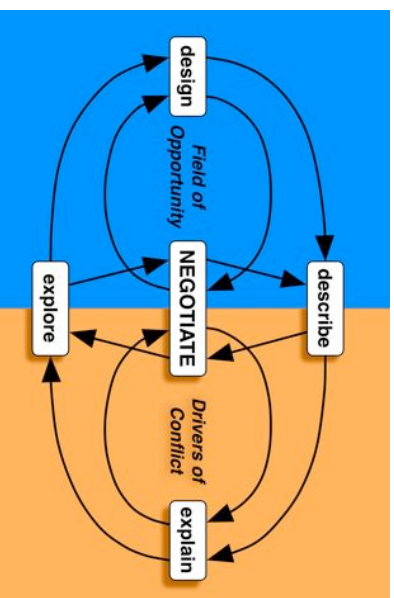
Studies are conducted in: Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (in the Zambezi Valley and the South-eastern lowveld).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The programme not only seeks to *describe* and *explain* resource use dynamics and competing claims, but also to actively contribute to *negotiation* processes between stakeholders operating at different scales.



It will *explore* alternatives that can contribute to more sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, and, where possible, *design* new technical options and institutional arrangements.



PHD RESEARCH TOPICS

Mozambique

- Analysis and modelling of the people conservation interface: Simulating alternative futures for natural resources management in the Limpopo National Park.
- The role of social and technical innovations in resolving competing claims on nature resources

South Africa

- Balancing eco-tourism and livestock production Implications for livelihoods and the environment in Limpopo province
- Competing claims, competing discourses: a case study of the Soutpansberg area of South Africa

Zimbabwe, South-eastern lowveld

- Redressing asymmetry in resource allocation through co-operation among livestock and wildlife systems
- Forest and people interactions in the South East Lowveld, Zimbabwe: who is at risk?
- Vulnerability and resilience of competing land based livelihoods
- Knowledge encounters, power and participation in the governance of natural resources Experiences of communities in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area

Zimbabwe, Mid-Zambezi Valley

- Evaluating conservation agriculture technologies using multipurpose grain legumes to improve productivity and sustainability of cotton-cereal systems
- Livestock and concerted action in the face of competing interests

All four countries

- Predicting consumption of resources along gradients of nutrients and moisture
- Soil carbon distribution and change as indicators of land quality, sustainability and viability of land use in southern Africa