

Bulletin no. 7 – November 2008

Competing Claims on Natural Resources research programme

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1. Comparative Analysis: themes & initiatives

During a meeting held in Wageningen in June, a number of PhD students and staff reviewed the status of the programme's comparative themes, to see what initiatives have been developed and who is involved (minutes were circulated and will be available on the ftp-server (\CCNR meetings). It was decided to integrate a number of themes, which has resulted in the following 7 themes:

1. Boundaries; 2. Land and Water (including access and rights); 3. (re-) Settlement; 4. Policy and Practice; 5. Cross-border dynamics; 6. Natural resources and Livelihoods: Use, benefits and resource dependency; 7. Issues of Methodology.

If you have not already done so, please send an email to jens.andersson@wur.nl indicating the comparative themes of your interest.

2. Annual workshop 2008: Massingir, Mozambique (8-12 december)

As most of you will already know, the Competing Claims annual workshop will take place in Massingir, Mozambique, from 6-12 December. Nearly 35 students, staff and representatives of partner organisations will participate in this workshop, which will focus on achievements, progress and look forward at the explore phase of the programme's NE-DEED research cycle. All PhD students will present and reflect upon how they are tackling (or going to tackle) the explore phase and, particularly, involve stakeholders in this process. The workshop's prime aim is to provide a forum in which PhD students can present new ideas, problems of analysis, etc.

3. PhD projects

Chaka Chirozva, PhD student with the Communication & Innovation Sciences (CIS) group, has returned to Zimbabwe after completion of his course work and PhD research proposal. He will start fieldwork in the Southeastern lowveld of Zimbabwe.

Edson Gandiwa, PhD student with the same group and the Resource Ecology group is rounding-off his research proposal in Wageningen, before returning to Zimbabwe early december.

Steven Matema has completed a scoping study on livestock-related competition for resources in the Mid-Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe. He has joined the Animal Production Systems group of Wageningen University to develop his PhD proposal. His fieldworks is expected to start in 2009.

PhD students *Yves van Leynseele* and *Jessica Milgroom* are currently in the writing phase, while all other PhD students are currently in the fieldwork phase of their respective projects.

4. WCS-AHEAD seed grants for Competing Claims PhD-researchers

In an open competition funded by a number of international donors, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) undertook a Seed Grant initiative within the framework of the AHEAD-GLTFCA programme (Animal Health for the Environment And Development-Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area). Ten conservation and development proposals focusing on the wildlife-livestock-human interface have been funded, including three to *Competing Claims* researchers:

- *Balancing ecotourism & livestock production: Implications for livelihoods & the environment.* Cheryl McCrindle and Petronella Chaminuka, University of Pretoria and Wageningen University.
- *Alternative sustainable futures for post-Resettlement in Limpopo National Park, Mozambique* Ken Giller and Jessica Milgroom, Wageningen University.
- *Exploring future ecosystem services: A scenario planning approach to uncertainty in the southeastern lowveld of Zimbabwe.* Cees Leeuwis and Chaka Chirozva, Wageningen University

We congratulate the researchers with their success!

See also: http://www.wcs-ahead.org/workinggrps_limpopo.html

5. Competing Claims at conferences, meetings

Nicia Giva and Maja Slingerland participated in the UN-WTO (World Tourism Organisation) conference 'Ecotourism & protected areas in Africa: Community development & conservation', hosted by the Mozambican ministry of tourism in Maputo, 5-7 November 2008. There was a special session on the Limpopo National Park with a panel of experts and international investors. One of the panellist was Henrique Massango who is responsible for resettlement issues in the park and who will participate in our annual workshop in Massingir.

During a lunch meeting in Wageningen, MSc-students Marlies Elderman and Irene Verbeek presented their researches conducted within the framework of Jessica Milgroom's PhD research.

6. Competing Claims ftp-server launched: facilitating information exchange

The *Competing Claims* programme introduces a new way for exchanging electronic publications (PDFs), references to relevant literature (Endnote libraries), programme documents, information on past workshops, powerpoint presentations and templates, etc.

Competing Claims researchers and staff will obtain access to this restricted access site, as an alternative for the slow and – in southern Africa – often inaccessible *Competing Claims* portal. Participants will receive a manual by e-mail explaining how to connect and use the ftp-server.

There is also be a shortcut to the ftp-server on the *Competing Claims* website: **FTP-login**

7. Other news: Publications / Regional Office moved / Upcoming Conferences

• **Publications** – We would like to draw your attention to two recently published papers:

Milgroom, J. & M.J. Spierenburg. 2008. 'Induced Volition: Resettlement from the Limpopo National Park, Mozambique', *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 26(4), pp.435-48.

Giller, K.E. et al. 2008. 'Competing claims on natural resources: what role for science?'

Ecology & Society 13(2): 34. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss2/art34/>

The latter article outlines the *Competing Claims* approach to the study and intervention in situations of competition over natural resources. A PDF version of the article, as well as the article's referenced sources will soon be available on the *Competing Claims* ftp-server.

• **The Regional Office of the *Competing Claims* programme** has moved from Wits Rural facility in Acornhoek, to Johannesburg (see below). The Office's tel. has changed to: +27 11 5343999.

• **Call for papers, 3rd European Conference on African Studies, Leipzig, Germany, 4-7 June 2009.**

The theme of the conference is 'Respacing Africa'. You are invited to submit paper proposals for presentation on one of the numerous panels (please note there is panel on transfrontier conservation organized by Bram Büscher). Deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 December 2008. See: <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~ecas2009/>.

• **Call for papers, 7th Savanna Science Network Meeting, Skukuza, South Africa, April 2009.**

The Kruger Science Networking meeting held annually in Skukuza is broadening its scope. Talks and posters on relevant research being conducted in all the savanna national parks are invited, not only those with a focus on Kruger National Park. The meeting will be held in Skukuza, Kruger National Park (KNP) from 19 to 24 April 2009. Registration and abstracts before 28 Feb. 2009. See: <http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/conservation/scientific/noticeboard/>

• **Call for papers, IASC Policy forum: Scaling Up Conservation Practice... in Africa, January 2009.**

The objective of this Policy forum of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) – to be held in Cape Town, 20-22 January 2009 – is to share existing research and experiences in the governance of large scale natural resource commons across different ecosystem types in Africa. See: <http://www.iascp.org/conf.html>

***Competing Claims* researcher Jessica Milgroom is to be married to José in Sevilla, Spain on the 22th & 23rd of November 2008. We all wish them a great day and happiness in the future!**

Competing Claims on Natural Resources

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