
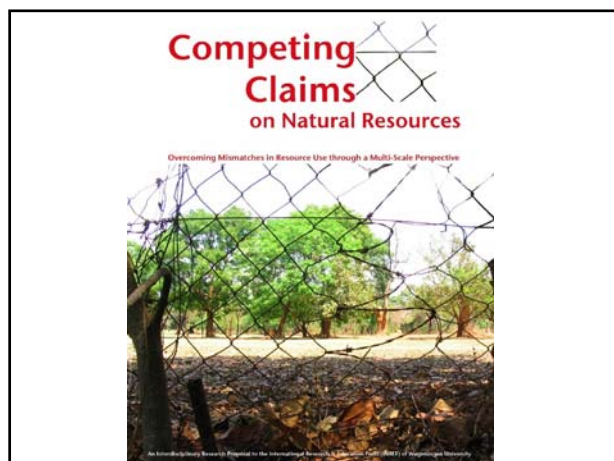

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY

Competing Claims on Natural Resources

Ken Giller
Plant Production Systems
Plant Sciences Group

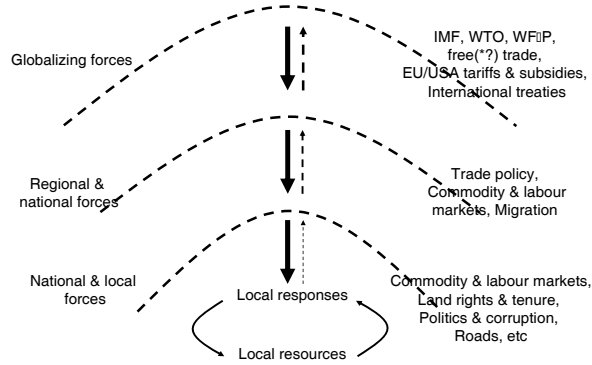




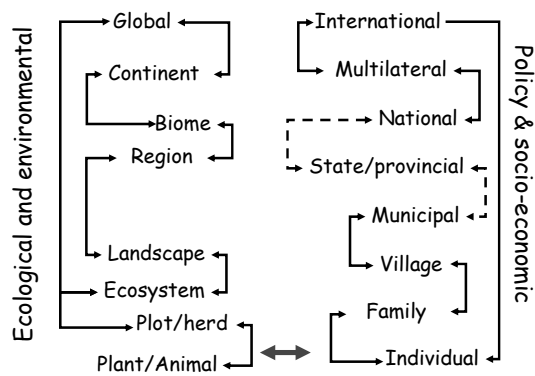
Potential results of mismatches

- Inefficient resource use, degradation, depletion, exhaustion, unsustainability, ...
- Poverty, exploitation of the powerless, inequity, hunger, conflict, social exclusion, violence,

Interacting hierarchical forces...



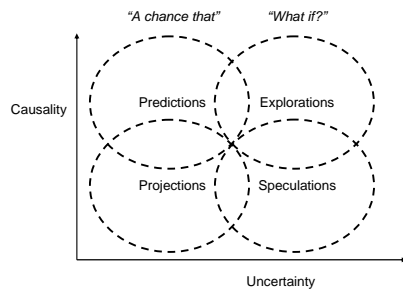
Linking scales between society and the natural world

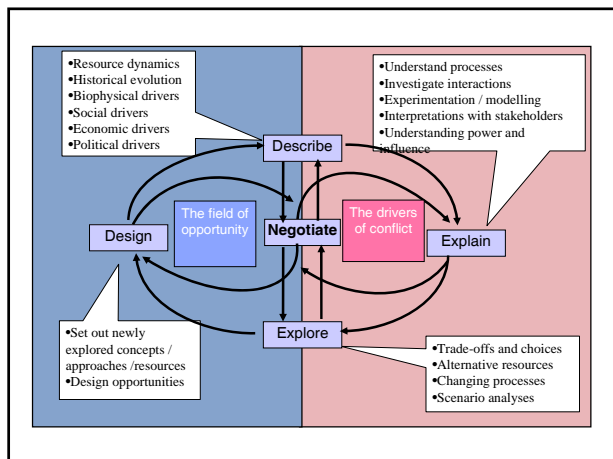


The aim of this research programme is to develop an interdisciplinary and interactive methodological approach for:

- (1) the understanding of competing claims and stakeholder strategies;
- (2) the identification of alternative resource use options, and;
- (3) the 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.

Future studies





Programme purpose:

To develop an innovative methodological approach through which natural and social sciences can:

- Arrive at a comparative appraisal of the drivers of conflict as well as the opportunities to solve competing claims;
- Open up space for (social, technical and/or institutional) innovation at different scales (local, national, regional, international) to address competing claims on natural resources;
- Integrate results of the analyses in ongoing negotiation processes among stakeholders and to provide recommendations for sustainable and equitable natural resource management.

International Research and Education Fund (INREF)

Strategic investment (core) funds from Wageningen University

- Aimed to stimulate international research and training initiatives through partnerships
- Principally executed through PhD and post-doc research (with supervision from within Wageningen and partners)
- Key criteria: problem orientated, societal relevance, interdisciplinary, individual and institutional capacity building

International collaborative programme

- Botswana
 - University of Botswana
- Mozambique
 - Eduardo Mondlane University
- South Africa
 - Agricultural Research Council
 - University of Witwatersrand
 - University of KwaZulu Natal
 - Rhodes University
 - University of Pretoria
- Zimbabwe
 - University of Zimbabwe
 - Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

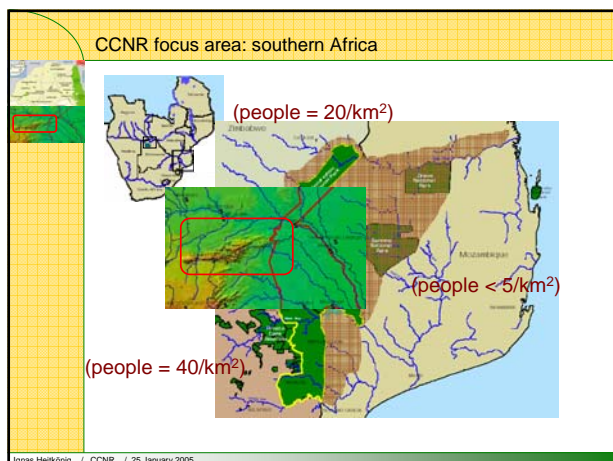
International collaborative programme

- Botswana
 - University of Botswana
- Mozambique
 - Eduardo Mondlane University
- South Africa
 - Agricultural Research Council
 - University of Witwatersrand
 - University of KwaZulu Natal
 - Rhodes University
 - University of Pretoria
- Zimbabwe
 - University of Zimbabwe
 - Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Action for whom?

We envisage two main target groups:

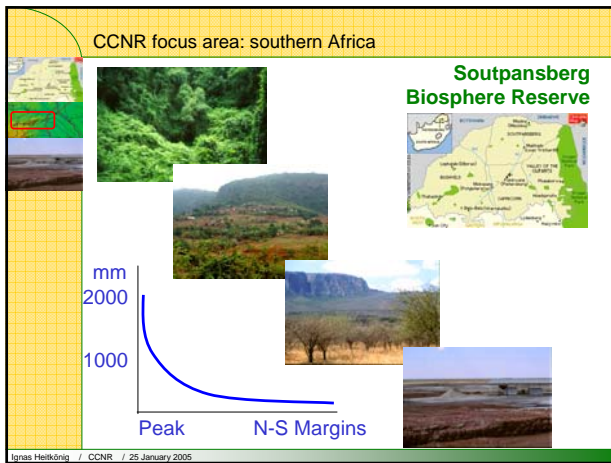
- First and foremost the aim is to give voice to the poor, allowing better articulation of their claims and needs;
- Secondly, the outcomes will assist Governments and development agencies in targeting policies, activities and priorities.

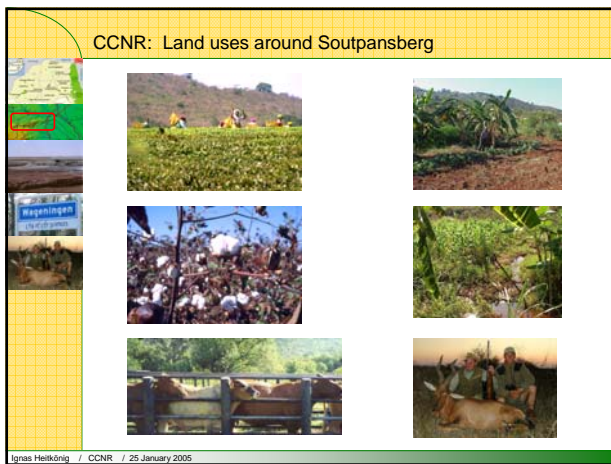


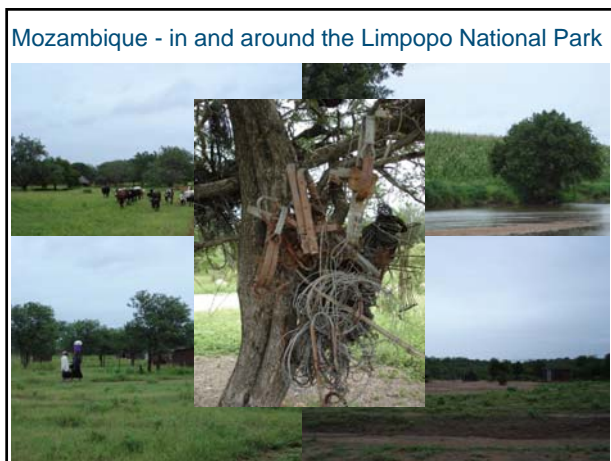
Study sites

In four countries of southern Africa:

- Botswana - Ngamiland
- Mozambique - Gaza Province
- South Africa - Soutpansberg
- Zimbabwe - South-east lowveld







Hypotheses

We have elaborated the following hypotheses:

1. The occurrence and intensity of competing claims on natural resources increases with **human pressures** irrespective of natural resource endowment;
2. Competing claims can be resolved through either new **technical** options, new **institutional** arrangements, or combinations of these;
3. Resolving or coping with competing claims will be achieved through **'win-win'** solutions for a subset of stakeholders, which may at the same time be **'win-lose'** solutions for other sets of stakeholders;
4. Better informed **negotiations**, using results from scientific analyses, will assist in resolving competing claims.

Outputs

Capacity building of:

- Post-doctoral researchers and other senior scientists from Universities and research institutes in North and South through intensive interdisciplinary research
- At least twelve postgraduate students trained to PhD (eight funded by INREF, four from other sources)
- At least 20 MSc students trained in aspects of interdisciplinary methods through thesis research
- Stakeholders at different levels of influence will gain increased understanding of alternative views and interests

Scientific publications:

- At least 50 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Two multi-author books, or special issues of journals
- Numerous contributions at international conferences

What resources?

- food, forests, wildlife, fisheries and energy sources that are bound to *land* and *water*
- **land is much more than a production resource**
 - a place to belong
 - home of ancestral spirits
 - a political weapon (at all levels)

Potential results of mismatches

- Inefficient resource use, degradation, depletion, exhaustion, unsustainability, ...
- Poverty, exploitation of the powerless, inequity, hunger, conflict, social exclusion, violence,
- Most conflicts have political origin - not primarily driven by natural resources?
