

**Sustainable Development and Community
Participation: A case Study of
Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park**

Shadab Khan

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Summary:

The paper summarizes the main finding during the field visit to Kruger National Park in April-May 2005. The present study tries to find out the weakness and positives points of the parks and its involvement of local people. Every human activity has some impact on the environment and tourism is not an exception. Within the over all framework of sustainable development, there is increasing emphasis on the need to promote and enact sustainable tourism through community participation around South African countries.

Conservation and tourism have increasingly to work in a complex and uncertain arena of sustainable development. Where there are common points of interest, for e.g. in local benefit sharing. Today, Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (with emphasis on KNP) is backed by a government and non-government organization, which functions as a link between the need to preserve the area's natural wealth and the growing economic needs of the inhabitants of the surrounding villages. The aim of the study is to present the active role of the government and other sector regarding the active participation of the local people in the development of the tourism industries in a sustainable way. The study also deals with awareness of the locals towards the environmental responsibilities.

DR. SHADAB KHAN

Research Objective: To Pursue Multidisciplinary Social Science Research.

Present Status of work: Working as **Consultant** in State Plan Division (SPD) in Planning Commission of India, Yojana Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.

Ph.D., M. Phil and Post Graduation (Geography) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Graduation (Geography) from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University, New Delhi.

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops:

- International conference on “**Cooperative Development and Peace in Central Asia: An Indian Perspective**” Centre for research in rural and industrial development (CRRID), Chandigarh, 15-17 March 2008.
Paper: Kyrgyzstan and India: Higher Education and Human Resource Development:
- International Seminar on "**India, Central Asia and Turkey: Understanding Past Matrix and Present Realities**", Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. 29-30 August 2007.
Paper: "Kyrgyzstan, India and Turkey: collaboration in the field of Education"
- **National Seminar On Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: St. Xavier, Jabalpur, M.P.:** presented a paper on Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve: Sustainable Development And Wildlife Tourism. 8-10 March 2007.
- **Article:** “Kyrgyz Diaspora: A Holistic Profile” # Contemporary Central Asia, vol. X, Number-3, December 2006.
- IFPRI-JNU Workshop the Dragon and the Elephant: A **Comparative Study of Economic and Agricultural Reforms in China and India**, New Delhi, 25-26 March 2003.
- DSA-UGC Workshop on **Remote Sensing and GIS: Concepts and Application**, New Delhi, 14-19 March 2002.

Experiences of Field Trips:

2008: Field survey of NDMC, Registrar Cooperative Societies regarding the RTI functioning in Delhi in the month of August 2008.

2007: Field survey in Haryana (Sirsa, Rohtak, Narnaul, Gurgaon, Ambala), Punjab (Amritsar, Ferozepur, Nawanshahr, Mansa , Sangrur) and Chandigarh regarding TPDS.

2007: Field survey in Mathura (Urban Slum of Nayi Basti near Krishna Janm Bhumi), Ujjain (Urban slum of Khilchipur and Indira Gandhi Nagar)

2006: Field survey in Ranthambhore National Park (Sawai Madhopur), Rajasthan.

2005: Field survey in Kruger National Park (Skukuza) in South Africa,

1998: Ecological survey in Sariska Sanctuary, Alwar (Rajasthan),

1998: Physical survey in Kullu District (Sainj Valley) Himachal Pradesh.

1997: Socio-economic survey in Dehradun (Jhahhra village),

1996: Tourism based survey in Kerala, Goa and New Mangalore,

Awards and Honors:

Qualified in **UGC JRF/NET EXAM** in “**Geography**” and “**Rural Development**”

Topper in C.B.S.E. in Geography Subject Obtaining 95% Marks in the Year of 1994.

Sustainable Development and Community Participation: A case Study of Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

By: Dr. Shadab Khan

Wildlife has always been a distinctive component of the day to day life of Africans. Animals and plants play important roles in African culture. These roles cannot be destroyed-not even by the best Western intentions. Utilization of wildlife is an old form of land use and is practiced throughout the world, but perhaps nowhere more than in Africa. Its people have used wildlife in the past and continue to do so today, despite attempts by colonial administrations and postcolonial independent governments to stop them¹.

It has been very correctly said that no natural resource is more sensitive to conservation than wild life and no natural resource has suffered more from lack of conservation. The human race has a long record of shameful over-exploitation of the earth's natural resources and of wild life in particular and it was not until a large number of species had been made extinct and the danger signals could no longer be ignored that the nations of the world woke up to the necessity for husbanding nature.

Early conservation in Africa through colonial Era

Before the arrival of European settlers, sub-Saharan Africa was essentially a subsistence economy, where most people lived off the land. Because they depended on indigenous natural resources for their survival, native Africans had to ensure that the supply of these resources was not depleted. Accordingly, indigenous African institutions had evolved to incorporate their own conservation ethics.

Both the stability of indigenous institutions and African conservation ethics were severely disrupted during the colonial era. The European colonists used their advanced technologies to displace and restrain local people and exploit natural resources at a much faster rate than before. Initially, resources seemed to be so abundant that colonists were not concerned with conservation. However, by the mid-nineteenth century the rapid depletion of forests and wildlife in southern Africa had led to increasing calls for governments to restrict the exploitation of these resources.

When the first Europeans entered Africa, they found countless numbers of wild

¹ Lewis, Dale and Nick Carter (1983), *Voices of Africa- Local Perspective on Conservation*, W.W.F., Washington, DC: Washington, DC Publications.

animals and immediately began to hunt them indiscriminately, without any regard to biology or ecology, whether animal was plentiful or scarce. All species were hunted. Animal Sanctuaries that were in place for hundreds of years were disrupted. Although, the so called big-game species suffered most from European hunter, their decline was blamed on Africans, who hunted them only rarely. In traditional African cultures, elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, hippopotamus, lion, and leopard were hunted only under exceptional circumstances².

Europeans realized something had to be done or there would be no more safaris. Instead of looking toward practices that had sustained wildlife in Africa for thousands of years, they introduced conservation measures that had been designed and implemented in Europe and North America. In an African context, these measures were not rational, sustainable, or scientific. The methods used to enforce conservation were cruel. People were forcibly removed from their land to make room for animals. Use of animals and plants either as food or as a means of maintaining cultures and traditions was prohibited. Anyone who opposed these measures was severely punished.

History of Parks in Africa

On the African continent conservation of wild life may be said to have started some time after the Dutch occupation of parts of South Africa in the 1830's. The Boers who were born hunters rapidly destroyed the wild life, particularly meat animals and elephants for ivory but Paul Kruger, their wise and far-seeing leader, realising the need for conservation created the Sabie Game Reserve in 1898 out of lands donated by himself and some of his friends. This eventually became the now famous Kruger National Park. This lead was followed by King Albert of the Belgians who established what is known as the Park Albert in the Belgian Congo and by the British, always a highly animal-conscious race, who were the first to put an end to professional hunting of ivory and meat in their East African possessions. The French and the Portuguese in their African territories followed their lead a little later³.

Africa contains significant remnants of the life that existed during the Pleistocene period throughout the grasslands of the world. East and south of the Sahara have

² Lewis, Dale and Nick Carter (1993), *Voices of Africa- Local Perspective on Conservation*, W.W.F., Washington, D C: Washington, DC Publications.

³ Stracey, P.D. (1964), *Wildlife in India: Its Conservation and Control*, Ministry of food and Agriculture . Dept of Agriculture, Fridabad: Government of India Press.

provided shelter for the reserve of these wildlife, the most diverse and extensive wildlife habitat left on the face of the earth in the form of its national parks and sanctuaries. King Albert of Belgium conceived the idea of using national parks concept to African wildlife.

The first nature reserves in Africa date back to 1897 when Umfolozi Game Reserve, St. Lucia Game Reserve and Hluhluwe Game Reserve were established in Natal, South Africa. The next important step followed in 1925 when Africa's first national park was created: Albert National Park in what was the then Belgian Congo. This was the first park anywhere in the world devoted entirely to systematic scientific research. Despite pressure of population, poachers and political changes, most of the African nations have their national parks and preserves⁴ In 1926, South Africa upgraded the Sabie Game Reserve (created in 1898) to Kruger National Park⁵. During the same period (since 1960) Portugal upgraded two reserves to national park status and established another equivalent reserve in Angola and Mozambique, while South Africa created two new national parks and one equivalent reserve.

South Africa followed the USA pattern for running national parks, that is, about 90 percent of the reserves remain untouched land while about 10 percent or less is used for tourism development. Interest in the management of wild life as a natural renewable resources and a source of economic benefit has quickened in the last few years in Africa. One distinct features of the national park is that tourism is encouraged in a majority of cases⁶.

Most national parks are located in areas, which were regarded as unsuitable for development. In Africa this often means arid, or semiarid regions or tsetse-infested areas. Many such regions are valuable wildlife habitats, which feed and shelter a remarkably diversified fauna.

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP)

The GLTP was created through the merger of the Kruger National Park including the Makuleke region in South Africa; the Limpopo National Park (LNP) in Mozambique (the area known as Coutanda 16) and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. This

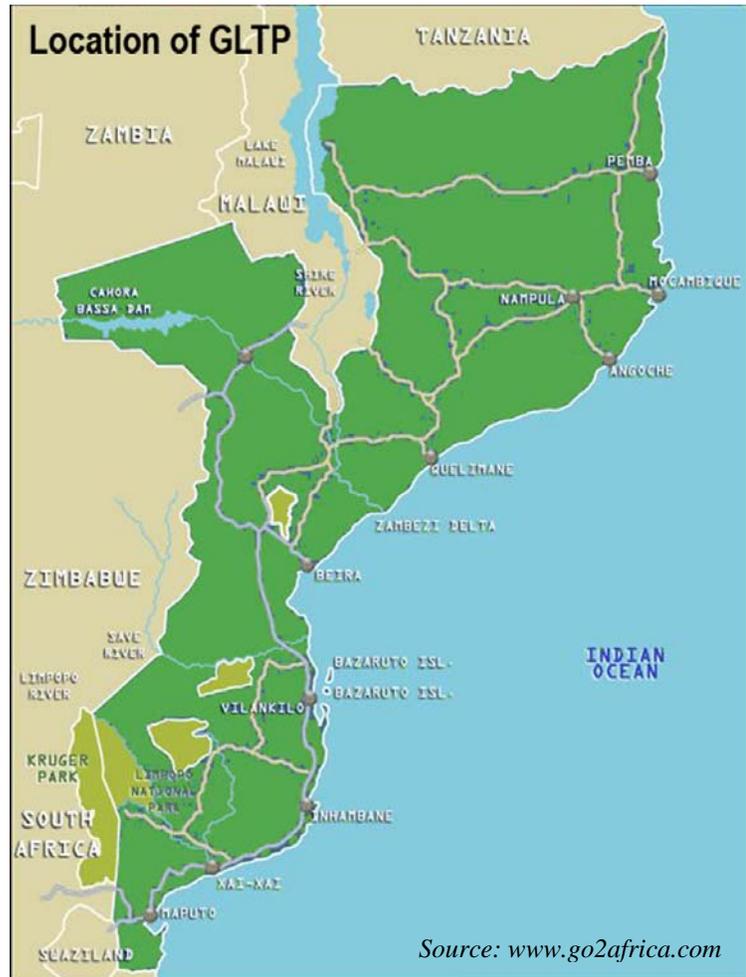
⁴ Edington, J.M. and M.A. Edington (1986), *Ecology, Recreation and Tourism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

⁵ Kai Curry-Lindahl (1972), "AFRICA-National Parks, Habitats, Biomes and Ecosystem", in Harroy Jea Paul (eds.), *World National Parks-Progress & Opportunities*, Brussels: Hayez.

⁶ Eltringham, S. K. (1984), *Wildlife Resources and Economic Development*, New York: John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

constitute the core protected area of 35,000 sq.km. and is surrounded by conservation with prospects of even more land being added to it in the future, making it one of the biggest transfrontier conservation area (TFCA) in the world. This broader TFCA, together with the core Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, comprises an area of 99,800 km².

A joint management board has been established to manage this mega park, and management and tourism plans have been drafted. The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, spanning the borders of South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, is the largest, and most ambitious effort in Africa to combine conservation, environmental protection, tourism and economic development. If successful, the Great Limpopo Park will be the world's largest game park, a huge 3.5 million hectare area incorporating what is today South Africa's



Kruger National Park, Mozambique's Limpopo National Park and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

More recently, this has taken an international dimension with the proclamation of a Transfrontier Conservation Area, linking Kruger with protected areas in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. If these are successful-and the Greater Limpopo National Park has already been formally approved. Kruger will have additional rural neighbours in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is widely regarded as the jewel of the various transfrontier conservation areas proposed for Southern Africa. It embraces the

internationally-acclaimed Kruger National Park, which already attracts more than a million visitors per annum. As an established, sophisticated tourism infrastructure therefore already exists in one component of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, it could serve as a springboard for increased tourism to the lesser developed areas.

The new park is already being offered as a model for future development projects in Africa. Trans-border parks can, in principle, play a very important role in the survival of wildlife in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, they have the potential to boost economic growth and – most importantly- create special interest⁷. However, it is also important that tourist facilities do not remain islands of affluence in a sea of poverty. Transfrontier parks already play a role in environmental frameworks and the global network of conservation. According to the World Conservation Union⁸, these trans-border parks have three primary functions:

1. The improvement of resource management and protection;
2. The preservation and enhancement of cultural value, especially the protection of trans-boundary people; and
3. The promotion of people

A Peace Parks Foundation was established in February 1997 in South Africa, with the aim of facilitating the establishment of conservation areas that will straddle the international borders between countries of Southern Africa. As a first step towards facilitating the development of peace parks in Southern Africa, the Peace Park Foundation identified several potential of TFCAs or Transfrontier Conservation Areas

The Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park (formerly known as the Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Park) serves as an example of how complex the realization of this dream can be. But this dream could become a pipe dream if not properly and carefully managed. There are risks in sharing a natural resource base with neighbours – who struggle with political instability, still bear the effect of civil war, lack conservation capacity, and/or are not very developed industrially.

Some broad objectives for the establishment of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park are to:

⁷ A Donaldson, 'Time running out for Earth', *Sunday Times* (Johannesburg), 14 July 2002, p 3; B de Villiers, *Peaceparks the way ahead.*: Pretoria: HSRC, 2000.

⁸ IUCN, *Caring for the Earth: a Strategy for Sustainable living*, Gland: IUCN, UNEP and WWF, 1991.

- foster transnational collaboration and co-operation between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe in implementing ecosystem management, through the establishment, development and management of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park
- promote alliances in the management of biological natural resources by encouraging social, economic and other partnerships among the parties, private sector, local communities and NGO's;
- enhance ecosystem integrity and natural ecological processes by harmonising environmental management procedures across international borders and striving to remove artificial barriers impeding the natural movement of animals;





Source: *Both the images are Modified and derived from www.sanparks.org*

- develop frameworks and strategies whereby local communities can participate in and tangibly benefit from the management and sustainable use of natural resources that occur within the transfrontier park or TFCA;
- facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a subregional economic base by way of appropriate development frameworks, strategies and work plans; and
- develop trans-border eco-tourism as a means for fostering regional socio-economic development.

Apart from making one TFCA, There are some other constraints in the realisation of this park which include

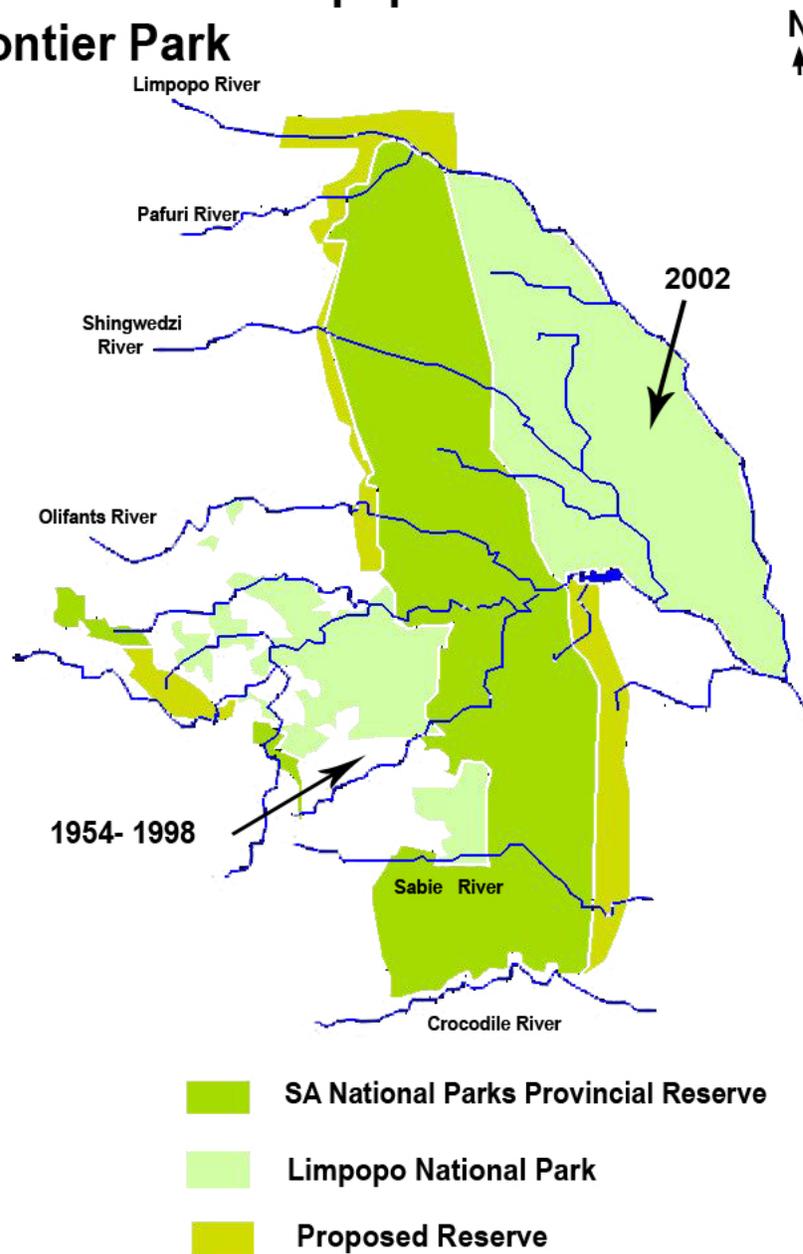
- Incompatible land uses and management principles exist between KNP and Coutanda 16;
- Disparities in skills, funding and human resources exist between the three countries;
- Inadequate law enforcement (poaching of wildlife and unsustainable felling of trees) exists in Mozambique.
- Landmines are presents in some areas, for example a strip along the border between Mozambique and Gonarezhou.
- There is a lack of conveniently located border crossings to optimize cross-border tourism within the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA).
- The rail link between Zimbabwe and Maputo effectively subdivides the region and has attracted settlement along its entire length, with the effect of acting as a barrier to migrating species of animals, particularly those that would normally use the Limpopo river during the dry seasons.
- Malaria is endemic in virtually the entire area proposed for TFCA establishment.

There are some differences in between these two national parks as mentioned below.

Comparison Between the Core Conservation Areas

	LNP	KNP
Resource Base (Fauna)	Due to civil war (1970s-1980s) wildlife resources are depleted - potential for re-introduction of wildlife	505 species of birds 147 species of reptiles 51 species of fish 35 species of amphibians
General Infrastructure	Undeveloped – lack of transport networks constrains tourism flows to remote rural destinations	Well developed, 2300 km of tourist roads of which 1000km are tarred Electricity Telephones water
Tourist Infrastructure	- 1 small rest camp, access in difficult ecotourism ventures	25 rest camps 4056 beds - potential for establishment of 4 camping sites viewing points waterholes picnic spots
Number of Tourists Per Year Conservation Capacity	Negligible -Almost non-existent -Human resources to be trained	1000 000 Wildlife conservation practices of high standard, good legislation, infrastructure and human resources
Land Use	Subsistence agriculture Raising of livestock Professional hunting	Conservation management
Socio Economic benefits to	None	Not been optimized and considerable opportunities to be exploited

Evolution of Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park



Some Constraint of GLTP:

There are fears that illegal immigrants will pour through the park from Mozambique to South Africa – that inadequate policing on the Mozambique side on the removal of the boundary fence between the two countries will simply facilitate matters for poachers operating from Mozambique, and that South Africa is the wealthier partner,

will have to carry most of the expenses for the running of the reserve, as well as the development of the currently underdeveloped Mozambique and Zimbabwe sections of it⁹.

The Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park covers an extensive area, which in some parts, either remains poorly accessible, or is partially settled by human population, or may still contain landmines, it should be clear that the development and implementation of the park will require a slow, step-by-step approach, with gradual integration of different areas in the park.

As far as administrative development is concerned, on 1 November 2007, a permanent secretariat was appointed and is based in Phalaborwa, South Africa. In order to provide strategic guidelines and direction for the development of the park, the GLTP joint management board is currently developing a 5-year integrated development and business plan with the overall objective of providing a comprehensive package of business and investment opportunities. GLTP with full stakeholder participation, including local communities, fostering regional co-operation, biodiversity conservation, and cross-border socio-economic development.

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) took place throughout the year. The most important of these was the opening of the Giryondo access facility between Limpopo National Park and Kruger National Park on 7 December 2005. By 2 January 2006, 3 500 tourists had entered Limpopo National Park through Giryondo.

The Giryondo access facility, which was officially opened in August 2006, allows visitors easy access from Limpopo National Park to Kruger National Park and the surrounding lowveld with its many tourist attractions. . Visitors to Kruger, on the other hand now have direct access to the newly opened tourism facilities of Limpopo National Park, as well as a shorter route to the magnificent Mozambican coastline.

The GLTP is providing jobs and opportunities to generate revenue for many of the thousands of local people affected by decades of civil war. Improving the lives of these rural communities will in turn further contribute towards biodiversity conservation by demonstrating the economic and social advantages to be achieved through conservation as an alternative and viable land-use option.

⁹ E Momberg, 'Transborder park poses challenge', The Citizen, 15 May 2000, p 9.

The Kruger National park and involvement of Black People

until the 1980s, black visitors to the Kruger National Park were only allowed accommodation at Balule, a tented camp, established in 1932 with very rudimentary facilities. Access for black visitors was also restricted by economic factors such as entry fees and the need for motorized transport both difficult condition given the levels of deprivation and impoverishment imposed on black people by apartheid¹⁰.

In terms of jobs in the Kruger National Park, preference was given to labourers from Mozambique rather than to South Africans, on the grounds that the Mozambicans were prepared to work for extremely low wages. Within the organization there was no overt acknowledgment that it was the labour of the thousands of black workers that made the national parks possible¹¹.

The pattern of dispossession of rural people as a consequence of the creation of national parks and game reserves is not unique to South Africa; it can be seen in many countries in both the North and the South¹². In the past, black men and women occupied the manual and a few semi-skilled positions in the organization but were largely absent from scientific and managerial positions. Within the past five years, the human resources and affirmative action policy of the SANP has attempted to redress this problem.

The first black director of the flagship Kruger National Park is among the new appointees. Black people now account for 50 percent of the directorate¹³. Women are severely underrepresented in the upper categories, as are Asians in all categories.

Local People Participation in and Around the Parks

Historically, the conservation strategies, which have found favour in African states, have seldom been based upon the participation or consent of the communities whose lives they affect¹⁴. In the pre-colonial period, the local communities had, by and large succeeded in evolving systems of resource use and management, which combined livelihood security with resource conservation. There is impressive historical evidence of

¹⁰ Carruthers, J. (1995), *The Kruger National Park: A Social and Political History*, Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press.

¹¹ Jacklyn, Cock and David, Fig (2002), "From Colonial to Community Based Conservation, *Environmental Justice and the Transformation of National Parks (1994-1998)*", in McDonald, A. David (ed.), "Environment Justice in South Africa", Ohio, U.S.: Ohio University Press.

¹² Rothenberg, D. (1995), *Wild Ideas*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

¹³ Cock, Jacklyn and David Fig (2002), "From Colonial to Community Based Conservation, *Environmental Justice and the Transformation of National Parks (1994-1998)*", in McDonald, A. David (ed.), *Environment Justice in South Africa*, Ohio: Ohio University Press.

¹⁴ D Anderson and R Grove (eds), *Conservation in Africa: people, policies and practices*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987, p 7.

the ability of pre-colonial societies in Africa to adapt production system and livelihood strategies to local ecological conditions with environment sustainability¹⁵. These systems were disrupted during the colonial period by the expropriation of land for white settlers and the establishment of plantations, commercialization of agriculture, inappropriate macro-economic policies, ill-conceived infrastructural projects, and the establishment of political boundaries with very little regard for ecological consequence.

With the creation of such parks, some communities were forcibly removed without receiving adequate compensation for the land they had lost. People were denied access to resources such as grazing for cattle, hunting grounds, medicinal plants, firewood and thatching grass. In the Process, they were alienated from their natural environment and lost some of the indigenous knowledge and cultural values associated with it.

Transformation is under way. Gender equality, affirmative action, and equal opportunities have become management objectives with clearly set targets. Whereas initially there were no blacks or women in Kruger management positions, in 2002 there were 36 white men, 20 black men, 11 black women, and 4 white women¹⁶.

Conservation and Social Justice

The South African National Park (SANP) is informed by a new conception of conservation that is radically different from that generated during the country's colonial and apartheid past. This new vision centers on the inclusion rather than the exclusion of people and on linking conservation to human needs. "Until very recently the dominant understanding of environmental issues in South Africa was an authoritarian conservation perspective"¹⁷. Throughout Africa the establishment of national parks and conservation areas involved the removal, social dislocation, and exclusion of indigenous communities..

The SANP is now committed to promote a different concept of conservation, linked to issue of development and human needs. It is a concept that implies a

¹⁵ D Ghai, Conservation, livelihood and democracy: social dynamics of environmental changes in Africa, UNRISD Discussion Papers, March 1992, p ii.

¹⁶ South African National Parks (2002), Annual Report 2002, Pretoria.

¹⁷ Cock, J. (1991), "Going Green at the Grassroots: The Environment as a Political Issue", in Cock, J. and E. Koch (eds.), *Going Green: People, Politics and the Environment in South Africa*, Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

harmonious relationship between people and parks and builds on traditional conceptions of wilderness and wildlife in African indigenous cultures.

The community areas, residing south of Tembe on various projects, earning more than R10 million between 2004 and 2006. More than R6 million was also spent on small and medium enterprises in the area. Furthermore, close to R3 million in wages was ploughed into the Nsubane- Pongola community, and a further R2,5 million was spent on local small and medium enterprises. Communities also reaped the benefit of accredited training courses on sustainable farming, tourism entrepreneurship, business and project management. The opening of the new Sikuphe International Airport by 2010 will further boost tourism in this area of the Conservancy.

Makuleke Tribe: A Lesson for other Communities

The claim of the Makuleke community concerned 23,700 ha of land in Limpopo Province that they had occupied for some 200 years. In 1969, after resisting removal from this area for 30 years, the Makuleke were expelled from the Pafuri Game Reserve, which was then incorporated into Kruger. In 1995 the community applied for repossession of the land under the Restitution of Land Rights Act (1994) and the Communal Property Associations Act (1996)¹⁸. One group, the Makuleke, had been forcibly relocated from the Limpopo valley. With the support of an ecotourism consultant, a lawyer, a developer, and some German government funds, the Makuleke proposed to regain ownership of the land but leave it in the park and to build and operate a lodge in a partnership between the local community and the private sector.

The Makuleke case attracted publicity for a number of reasons. The claim was fiercely resisted by Kruger management as a threat to the integrity of Kruger and its exclusive authority over the park. They were concerned about the precedent, it might set for other land claims and possible deproclamation of large sections of many of South Africa's parks. However, it was one of the first land claims to be successfully resolved because the contesting parties eventually shifted their positions to reach a compromise, regarded by some as a win-win situation.

On the other hand, although the Makuleke leaders never wavered from their

¹⁸ Pollard, Sharon et al. (2003), "Beyond the Fence: People and the Lowveld Landscape", in Toit Johan T. Du, et al. (eds.), *The Kruger Experience- Ecology and Management of Savanna Heterogeneity*, Washington, DC: Island Press.

demand for return of title to the land, they became willing to use their restored land for conservation and ecotourism as a contractual park. Although the eventual outcomes have not yet been evaluated, it is regarded as significant that the power relations between the park and local people shifted as a new contract between them were defined¹⁹.

A "contract park" will be established for a period of fifty years and will be managed by a Joint Management Body on which the SANP will be represented. In order to manage its interests in relation to the park, the Makuleke community has formed a Community Property Association and it aims to establish low-impact tourist lodges. The SANP remains responsible for conservation activities, while the community will be responsible for all tourism activities in its portion of the park.

The agreement has been described as "a unique attempt to harmonize the protection of biological diversity with the interests of rural people"²⁰. The agreement has important implications for the mobilization of indigenous culture in support of conservation.

The historic Makuleke agreements were reached because the community was willing to participate in ecotourism and conservation. The Makuleke agreement was only reached after two years of negotiations, and the Makuleke people expect benefits from ecotourism that have yet to materialize.

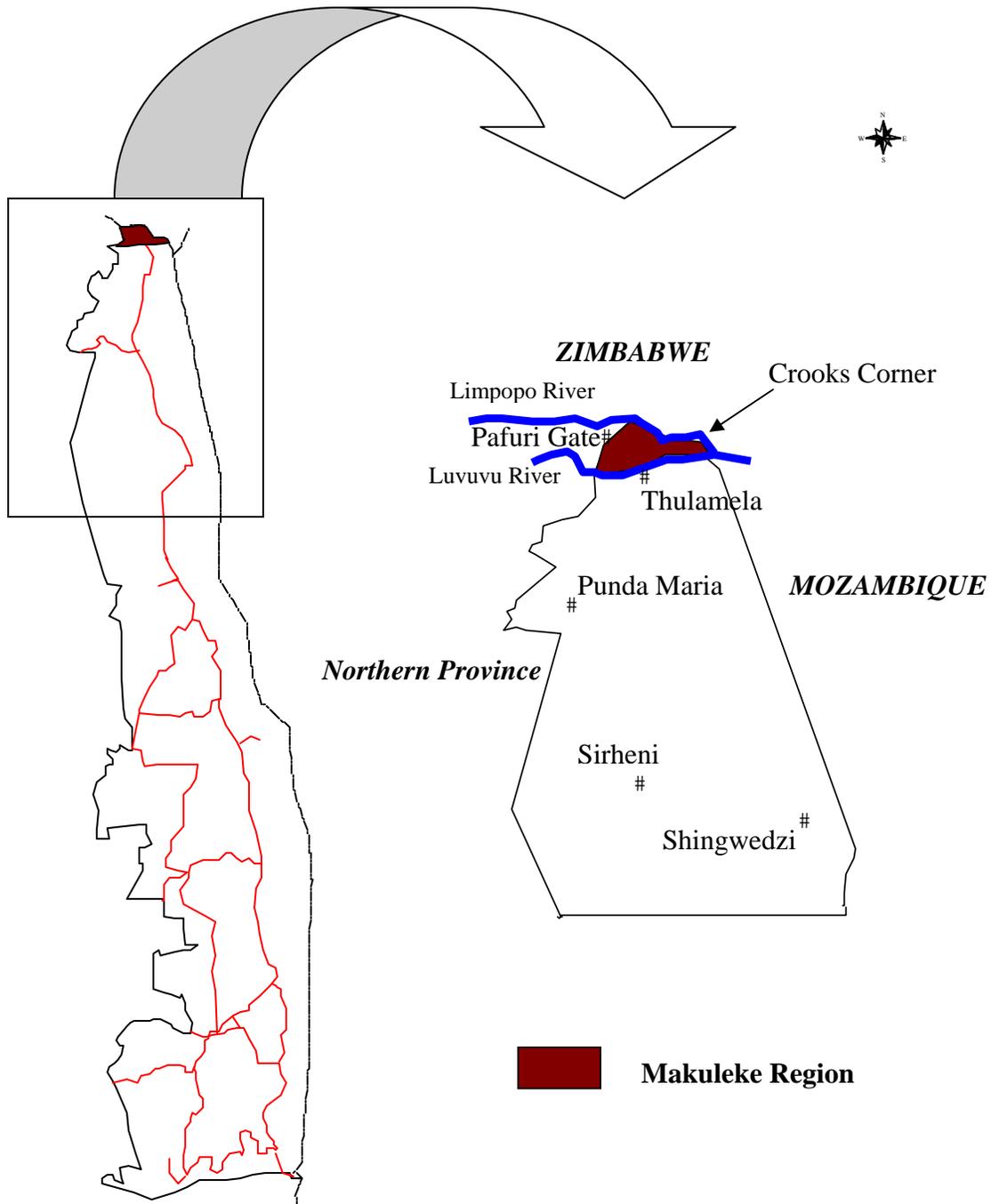
In 1994, a number of land claims in Kruger have been gazetted. However, democratic changes have also prompted moves by communities to enter conservation partnerships with Kruger. The Mdluli land settlement in southwestern Kruger has resulted in a joint tourism venture, and in the area known as the Mariyeta corridor that adjoins the northeastern Kruger boundary, eight communities have explored the option of adding communal land to Kruger for use as an ecotourism opportunity. Although the latter initiative has been thwarted to date by extra-Kruger politics, all these cases point to possibilities for partnerships between Kruger and its neighbours.

Although environmentalists and park officials immediately warned that mining would irrefutably ruin the land, the mining company promised to follow strict environmental guidelines and to create 2,000 jobs. In contrast, the Makuleke's proposed lodge was slated to create only 33 jobs, but, its supporters argued, the ecotourism project would generate income long after the mining company had closed down.

¹⁹ Glazewski, J. (2000), *Environmental Law in South Africa*, Durban, South Africa: Butterworth.

²⁰ Koch, E. (1998), "Ecofile", *Out There*, March, p.71.

THE MAKULEKE REGION



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Note: Map Not to Scale

Source: McDonald, A. David(2002), "What is Environmental Justice?", in McDonald, A. David (ed.), *Environmental Justice in South Africa*, Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press.

The Makuleke community demanded that their rights to the Pafuri area be reinstated. After tough negotiations, agreement was reached returning to them full ownership of and title to their former land. In turn the Makuleke people have guaranteed that they will use the land in a way that is compatible with conservation. The agreement makes it clear that in future no mining, farming, or permanent settlement will take place without the permission of the SANP. The conservation status of the land is therefore protected.

The Makuleke region also saw a major tourism development when its second luxury lodge opened. The first one, the Outpost, has already won several international tourism awards since it opened in 2002. Situated between the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu rivers in the northern sector of Kruger National Park, is one of the most diverse and scenically attractive areas in the park. To enable more tourists to visit the area, Wilderness Safaris opened Pafuri camp, as part of a 45-year mutually beneficial lease where the Makuleke people will benefit from skills transfer, job creation, training, and community development projects.

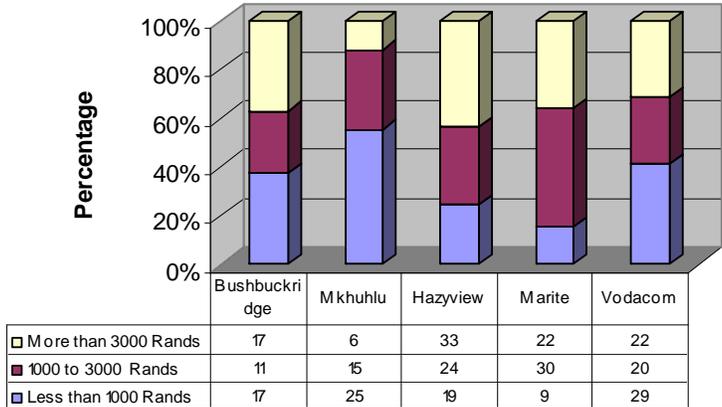
The Makuleke are closely related through family ties and culturally to the Sengwe people who live just north of the Limpopo River in Zimbabwe. They, and many of those living along the Limpopo in Mozambique, are Shangaan speaking. The road linking the Kruger National Park and Gonarezhou National Park will pass through Makuleke land south of the Limpopo and Sengwe land north of the Limpopo. Both communities are enthusiastic about the new route because of the expected increase in tourists visiting their areas. This should lead to new economic opportunities for these rural communities.

Survey: During 2005

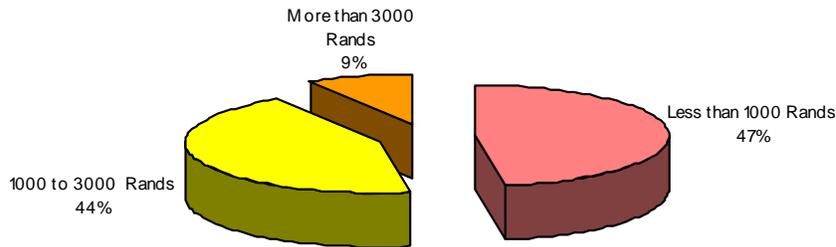
South Africa has initiated a number of tourism development projects that focus upon community-based tourism in rural areas. In which a significant number of local people are involved in providing services to tourists and the tourism industry, and in which local people have meaningful ownership, power and participation in the various tourism and related enterprises. An empirical study based on Primary survey has been done during the April-May 2005 as a field visit in Kruger Park and its surrounding villages of Vodacom, Mkhuhlu, Hazyview, Marite and Bushbuckridge. The outcome of that survey and its findings are below:

People who are near the cities earn more money like Hazyview (33%) followed by Marite and Vodacom (22%). The least position held by Mkhuhlu. Vodacom has maximum population which gets less than thousand rands in a month followed by Mkhuhlu. People who are not involved in park activities are bound to do agriculture and related work.

Monthly Income of the Family

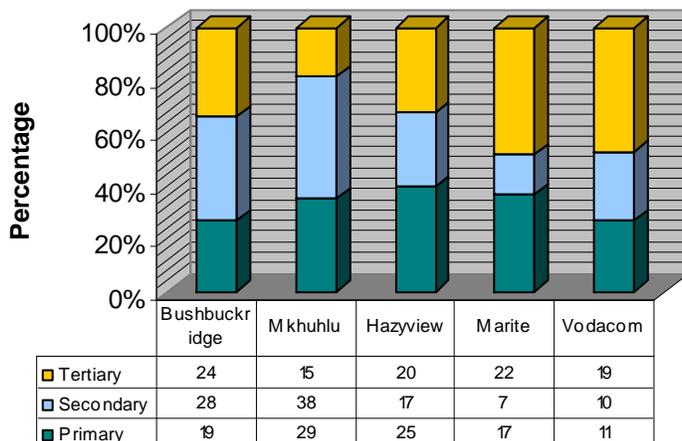


Monthly Income Around the Park



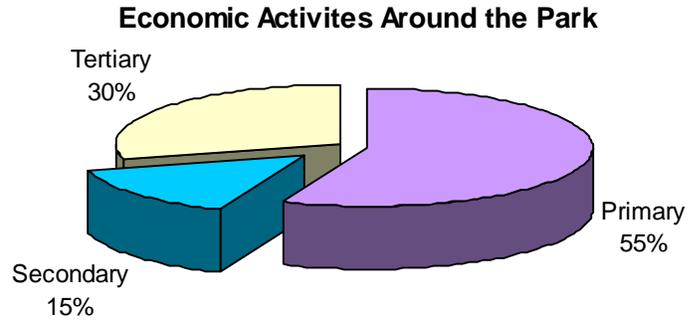
Most of families have less than 1000 Rands per month (47%) followed by 1000 to 3000 Rands (44%) in a month. The shares of more than 3000 Rands (9%) are very low. Most of the people are poor and some are getting allowances from the government every month especially the old one. Those who lives near Hazyview earns good amount of money.

Economic Activities Around The Park

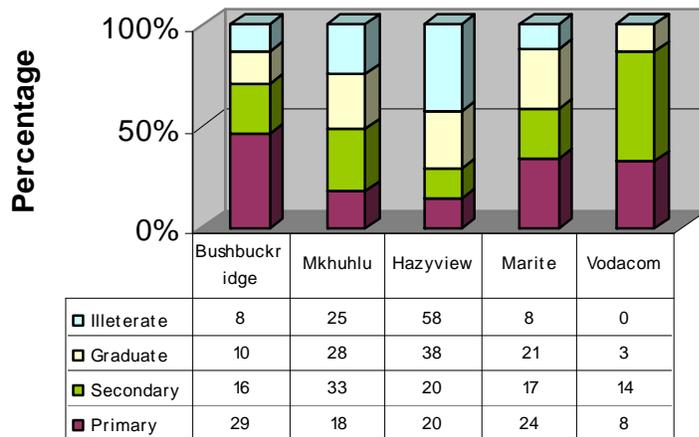


As one goes away from the park, the ratio varies. Villages like Marite and Vodacom which are near to park gate have an advantage of involvement of people in both primary as well as tertiary activities. Much of the people are in these villages are inclined towards primary activities.

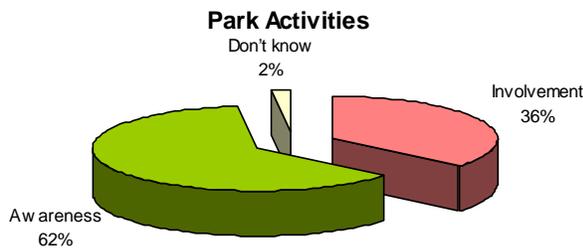
As the pie chart shows that primary activities dominant the region with 55 % share followed by tertiary and then secondary. Apart from the agriculture, people are also work as a traditional craft man, especially females are very much laborious and source of earning in these region



Education Level Around the Park



Over all education level is satisfactory. Out of total 200 respondent only 12 were illiterate. Though the picture came out in term of percentage gives a bit different case of Hazyview. Where the respondents are surveyed of old age are either illiterate or up to primary level. Near the parks people are educated as well as aware of the park activities.



Most of the People knew about the Kruger Park and aware about it. As the data says only 2 % replied as they don't know about it. 36 % of the people are involved in park activities either directly of indirectly. Those who are working around the park as a shopkeeper or business man have an idea of this park but not aware of the name.

During the field survey, following are the findings which could be help to provide long - term positive interactions, the guidelines are potentially useful.

Use of local knowledge, local involvement with planning of protected areas, local involvement with management and conservation, use of protected areas to safeguard native cultures, economic benefits for local people, planning and development of surrounding areas.

Mozambique and LNP

The civil war in Mozambique also resulted in major social disruption with large-scale movement of people out of the area where the Limpopo National Park is presently situated. With peace again prevailing, people have been moving back into the area. One of the main goals in the establishment of a TFCA is that the local communities will benefit from the increased eco-tourism to the area. This, in turn, is dependant on the communities' involvement in the development of the park. The development of the Limpopo National Park therefore started with community consultations and with the dissemination of information about the envisaged transfrontier park.

Mozambique has the assets required to attract tourism investment and to make it a popular destination for travelers. Though the Kruger is famous all around the world but when the Limpopo name came its remind us of Mozambique.

Taking its future plan, Mozambique is granting 30-day entry visas at border posts and the country is working with other countries in southern Africa to develop a region-wide tourist visa. Looking forward to 2010 World Cup, which is being held in South Africa, Mozambique is cooperating with other countries in the region to take advantage of the tourism opportunities the event will bring to the area. Country's steady GDP growth rate, which has averaged 8% for the past ten years has a positive sign. The result has been increased confidence from both foreign and domestic companies which have invested U.S.\$12 billion in the sector in the last decade. The country has got very good natural resources - Sea, Sand and Wildlife.

The third largest investments in Mozambique are occurring in tourism. The first two are in industry and natural resources. In Mozambique, the tourism sector during 2006 generated revenues totaling US\$ 144 million. It seems clear that also in future, the tourism industry will become Mozambique's major foreign exchange earner.

Mozambique remains among the world's poorest countries but has seen a booming development since it emerged from civil war over a decade ago. Especially neighbouring South Africans have invested heavily into Mozambican business, bringing with them experiences from their own well developed tourism industry. With its large, tropical coastline, pristine savannas and forests and superb wildlife, Mozambique is seen as having a vast tourism potential by investors.

Conclusion

Tourism in the entire African continent is still in its infancy. However there has been sign of substantial growth in this field since 1950. As far as policies are concerned, targets have been set for the employment of black people, women, and the disabled across all employment categories.

Logically, conservation is not achievable in circumstances under which people are starving. Notwithstanding, all the worthy efforts of the many who care about the environment, unless conservation can be made to pay for itself, not only will Africa's heritage be destroyed, but also the cornerstone of its tourism potential. It is unavoidable that protected areas, which share common borders, also share common problems. The existence of different languages, cultures, currencies, laws and a number of other differences that exist between nations may make trans-border cooperation difficult to accomplish. The experience across many parts of the developing world shows that community-based tourism can provide a more sustainable alternative in destination areas than other forms of tourism development.

Mozambique as a world-class tourist destination continues to creating new jobs, contributing to national economic growth, fighting poverty, among other aims. It hopes that economic growth will continue to outstrip population growth. The government's key development goals remain poverty reduction, improvements in education and health, and providing more jobs. The conservation of trans-boundary ecosystems and their associated biodiversity, promoting sustainable use of natural resources to improve the quality of life of the peoples of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

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