

## Wildlife or livestock? New directions for developing communal grazing land in South Africa

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by

Petronella Chaminuka (PhD)  
University of Limpopo



## Structure of presentation

- Position paper- reaction points
- Conservation/Rural devt. nexus
- The TFCA context
- Why wildlife should be considered in the rangelands debate/ future options
- Case study- land use dilemma
- Policy issues- reconciling livestock and wildlife

## Position paper reaction points

- Policy support for multiple livelihoods- risk
- Integrating livestock within a broader development agenda...and **biodiversity conservation agenda**
- Strengthening common property management
- Rangelands commons differ in social, economic.....characteristics

## Conservation/Rural devt nexus

- Nature conservation now a global agenda, with emphasis on the need for sustainable development, and sustainable tourism in the past 3 decades
- Increasing interest in potential for rural communities to impact success or failure of conservation initiatives
- Are agricultural based rural development strategies competing or complementary to biodiversity conservation especially wildlife?

## The TFCA context

- Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) represent the latest approach to nature conservation
- 14 TFCAs currently being developed in southern Africa covering more than 750,000 sq. km (Cumming, 2011)
- TFCAs promote multiple land use practices in communal areas
- Livestock is a predominant existing land use in most of these TFCAS

## The TFCA context

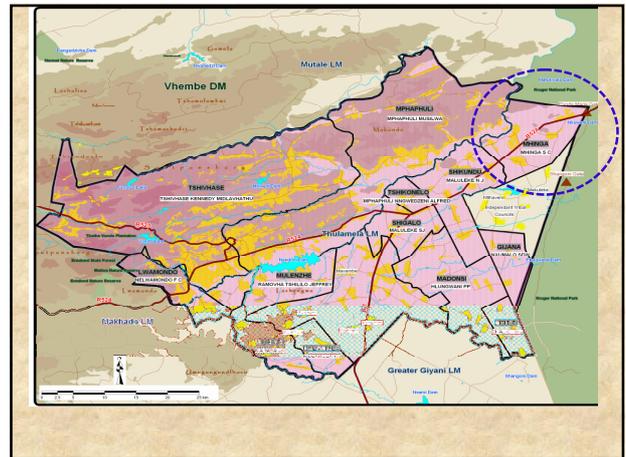
- In rural areas close to wildlife parks (interface), communities encouraged to use land not only for agriculture but also for wildlife conservation
- Wildlife land use can make it possible for communities to earn income from tourism, wildlife hunting and other wildlife related activities.
- This is the case for Mhinga in SA.



## Why wildlife..??

- 5 000 game ranches, > 4 000 mixed game and livestock farms in South Africa (mostly privately owned).
- Game ranching considered an economic alternative for livestock farmers (Skonhoft 1998; Barnes, 1998; Tomlinson, 2002).
- Wildlife is better adapted than cattle to harsh environmental conditions

## The case study at the wildlife/livestock interface...



boundary with KNP allowing

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

- ❑ 3 years of data collected through;
  - ❑ Surveys with 540 households
  - ❑ Community workshops
  - ❑ Discussions with local leaders, government officials, community members
- ❑ Data collected from government records and the KNP

## Data Collection



Natural resource  
harvesting  
important



## Competing claims for land

Table 1.1 Key stakeholders in Mhinga and their interests on communal land

Stakeholder	Interest
Livestock farmers	Need land for cattle grazing, have problems with wildlife, feel threatened by tourism development
Crop farmers	Need more land for subsistence cultivation
Tourism entrepreneurs	Need land for wildlife tourism investments, seeking livelihoods diversification
Ordinary villagers	Collect firewood and grass from grazing land, need jobs from tourism development, need land for residential purposes

## Cattle production

- 11% of the households owned cattle
- 9 cattle/household
- 42% of the households < 5 cattle
- Average cattle price \$350
- **At first glance cattle production stats very much like any other communal area but....**



## Interface dimension...

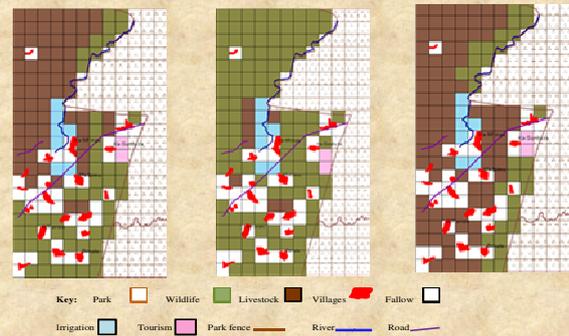
- 25% of households lost cattle to wildlife predation in a 3 year period
- 5% of households stopped keeping cattle due to wildlife
- 13% would not consider keeping cattle
- Other problems were;
  - Risk of zoonotic disease
  - Reduction of livelihood options
  - Increased costs of livestock production (veterinary, kraal maintenance, labour)



## Interface dimensions..

- Cattle owners concerned about wildlife competing for land with cattle, **but** other households are happy that wildlife will create jobs and income.
- Analysis of land use options shows that it is possible to double collective earnings from rangelands when wildlife and tourism land uses are introduced

## SOME POSSIBLE LAND USE COMBINATIONS



## Wildlife vs livestock..pros

### Livestock

- Easily controlled and bred
- Ownership and tenure well defined.
- Easily traded for cash, goods, and services.
- Immediate benefits when sold and minimal transaction costs
- Can enhance other livelihood strategies
- Cultural values

### Wildlife

- Cultural sentiment or religious significance
- Superior disease resistance and tolerance of local environmental change
- Has potential to earn more revenues per ha from trophy hunting and tourism
- Potential for zoonotic and livestock disease

## Wildlife vs livestock ...Cons

### Livestock

- Can be an expensive investment for poor farmers in the event of loss
- Prone to disease, especially near wildlife
- Less resilient than wildlife to local environmental changes

### Wildlife

- Mobile resource and difficult to control.
- Rarely individual ownership
- Tenure over wildlife rests with state
- Requires collective management system
- Poses a threat to other livelihood activities
- Direct consumptive use is often discouraged and sometimes illegal.
- Prices volatile

## Emerging issues not addressed..

- Communal rangelands in some areas of SA are being earmarked for land uses competing with livestock
- Interest in wildlife ranching is likely to increase, not only in areas next to parks
- Wildlife affects cattle-based livelihoods negatively
- There's no policy to address these relatively recent developments

## Implications for rangeland policy devt

- Support??? wildlife as a form of land use on rangelands for livelihood diversification
- Establish policies and legal frameworks that provide incentives for local communities and landholders to benefit from wildlife- to the extent that they can invest in it

### Implications for rangeland policy devt

- Define rights to rangelands vs rights to wildlife
- Benefit distribution mechanisms
- Wildlife requires more land...conservancies require cooperation between traditional authorities
- Fencing becomes more necessary with wildlife land uses

### Implications for rangeland policy devt

- Issues of wildlife/livestock integration should be considered in developing policies for rangelands
- Emerging land uses e.g. payment for environmental services should be included in rangelands policy
- Alignment of rural development, rangeland use and biodiversity conservation policies
- Research into integrated wildlife/livestock ssms

**Thank you! Dank je wel**

