

**Notes from Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative
Teleseminar 29th October 2003**

Rollcall: The list of participants can be downloaded from the website.

Prof. Harold Annegarn:

Introduced self as chair for today and provided background on the TBPRI.

- Loose consortium looking at Transboundary Protected Areas
- Currently working on the human and social dimensions of the Great Limpopo as a case study
- Will have a number of local and foreign researchers in the field this and next year
- Key principle behind TBPA is to create interdisciplinary linkages and synergies between researchers involved in transfrontier work
- Also to give practitioners access to academic work and try to identify papers for presentation that could have implications for policy decision making.

Announced a TBPRI conference for next year:

- Provisional title: Research in protected areas: Engaging conservation practitioners and local people.
- 15-21 August 2004 near Kruger National Park
- International and regional participation
- Co-sponsored by:
 - IUCN South Africa
 - Savana consortium
 - TBPARI (CMU, Centre for Integrated Study of Human Dimensions of Global Change),
 - ALAM Partnership (you could ask Pete Brosius who will be dialled in to say who and what ALAM is) and possible other parties.
- More info will be made available over the TBPA list shortly.

Today's talk is the last of the second set of TBPARI/Centre for Integrated Study of Human Dimensions of Global Change teleseminars. Next set of seminars will commence in the first quarter of next year.

The presenter is David Grossman (PhD ecology). He has substantial long-term experience in conservation development planning and implementation. Unusually for ecologists this includes substantial hands-on experience also with community participation in conservation. Involvement in the drafting of management plans for the Makuleke Region of the Kruger National Park (SA), Limpopo National Park, Zinave National Park and Banyine National Park (Moz). Title of his talk: "Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) And Conservation Area (GLTFCA)"

Schedule:

- Presentation 40 minutes

- Today's talk not an academic paper, but an overview of progress made with the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Therefore no critique is presented after conclusion of the presentation and we move straight into the discussion.
- Discussion 30 minutes – When in discussion please identify self.
- 15 minutes contingency.

Grossman proceeds with presentation. Powerpoints can be downloaded from the website.

Question after the presentation:

David Hughes: Should the boundaries (Fences) be dropped, and is Dave saying that the animals won't move across the boundary?

Dave Grossman: There will be movement, and the boundaries should be dropped once the people living in the Limpopo National Park have been appropriately dealt with.

Norman Owen-Smith: There is no ecological basis to expect migration. The only animals which would move are elephant, buffalo and zebra.

Conrad Steenkamp: Don't want to put you on the spot, but how voluntary is the relocation of the people inside the park likely to be?

Dave Grossman: Yes, that is putting me on the spot. It is difficult to say.

David Hughes: The original World Bank reports emphasise that there will be no resettlement to avoid the element of coercion inherent in any resettlement.

Dave Grossman: This was the original suggestion for Coutada 16 because refugees evacuating to SA during the war were mostly given other options, such as alternative areas being earmarked for returning refugees.

Robert Thornton: To what extent do traditional authorities still exist and exert control over the land. They were banned under Frelimo.

Dave Grossman: Despite the fact that chieftainship systems were officially discontinued, it continued on a de facto basis, as it was too strong to drive out, particularly in the Gaza and Inhambane Provinces. It is also very strong in the Banhine area. The authorities are recognised and work in a dual system.

John Griffin: How successful is transboundary collaboration in the case of the GLTP?

Dave Grossman: Uniting three sovereign states and creating a cohesive approach will take time. There is a perception on the part of Mozambique and Zimbabwe that they were being bulldozed by South Africa. This has caused some resentment. The security people,

such as anti-poaching control, are working together well, particularly between SA and Mozambique.

Brian Maguranyanga: 2 issues: people argue that the GLPA reflects fortress conservation in Africa. Particularly when looking at the authoritarian rule in Zimbabwe, how democratic will the park be relative to local people?

Dave Grossman: There is an emerging de facto approach which is exemplified by the Makuleke who are participating directly in park management. There is also universal agreement amongst the role players, however, we will have to adopt a wait and see approach.

Rebecca Witter: How is the Wildlife Sanctuary (in the south of the Limpopo National Park) being managed?

Dave Grossman: It is managed by a steering committee which has representatives from a funding agency and Government. Animal stocking is their decision. The creation of the sanctuary was a separate ad hoc response to problems experienced and was not in the actual original management plan.

Rebecca Witter: People live right outside the Sanctuary and in times of flood will be pushed up against the fence, management decisions need to be made in this regard.

Dave Grossman: The PIU Park Warden has details for such an eventuality.

Harold Annegarn: After the original inputs of the TBPA, it seems to have lost its drive and lost its original romance, and what about the expansion of tourism?

Dave Grossman: Realities have emerged and have put the initial expectations on hold. They are not likely to happen at the pace initially expected although I am an optimist. It is important to learn from these initial lessons.

Stuart Miller: The communities expect jobs and benefits from the Mozambican government, is this likely to happen?

Dave Grossman: Realities, of for example just how many jobs there will be, have set in and need to be realised, but blanket hopes and expectations have accompanied many initiatives of this nature.

Closure