

Plural governance systems and rural coastal livelihood strategies: The case of Kosi Bay

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UCT

KOSI BAY: ISIMANGALISO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

South Africa's 1st World Heritage Site – one of oldest conservation areas in Africa

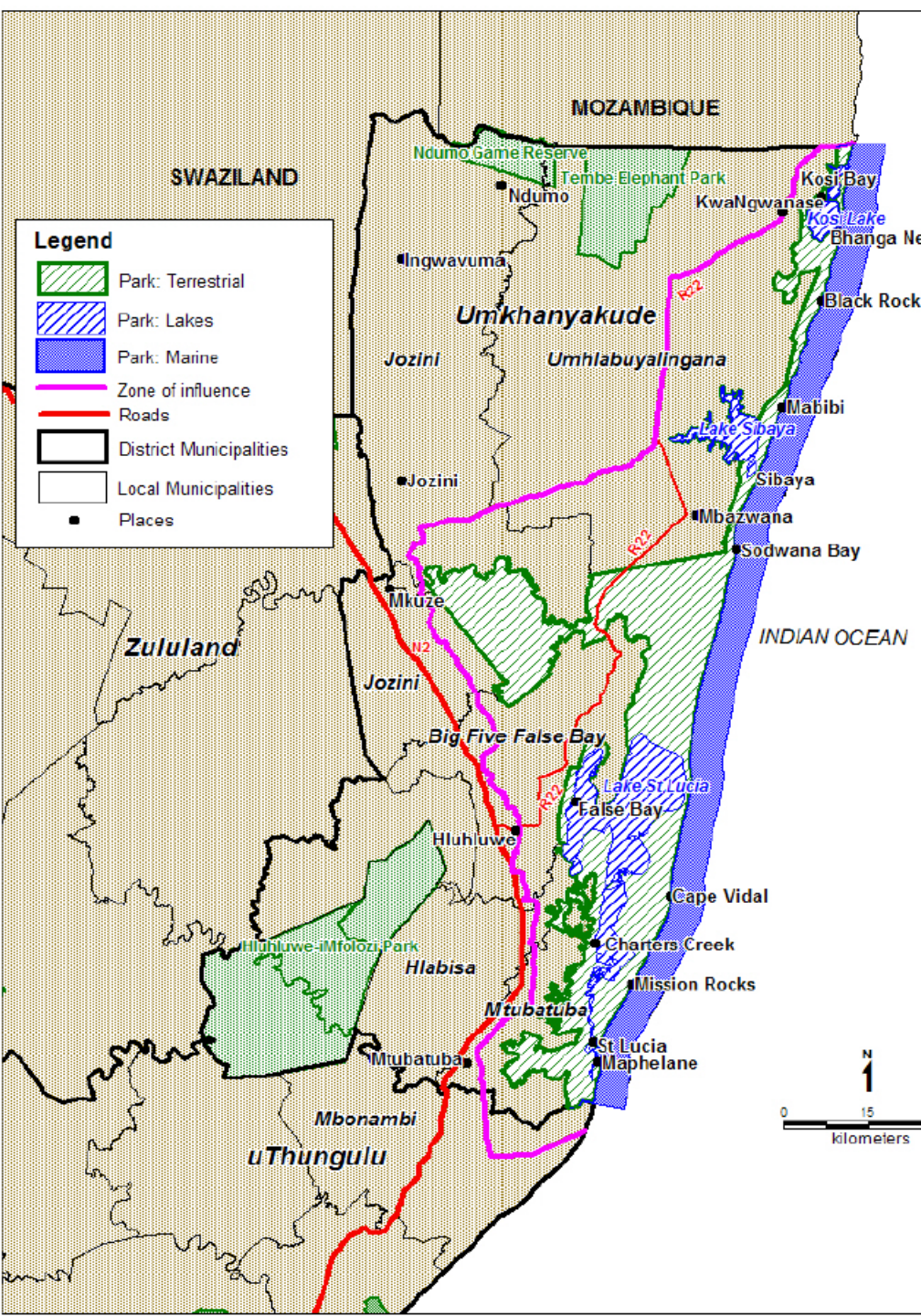
“Outstanding universal value”

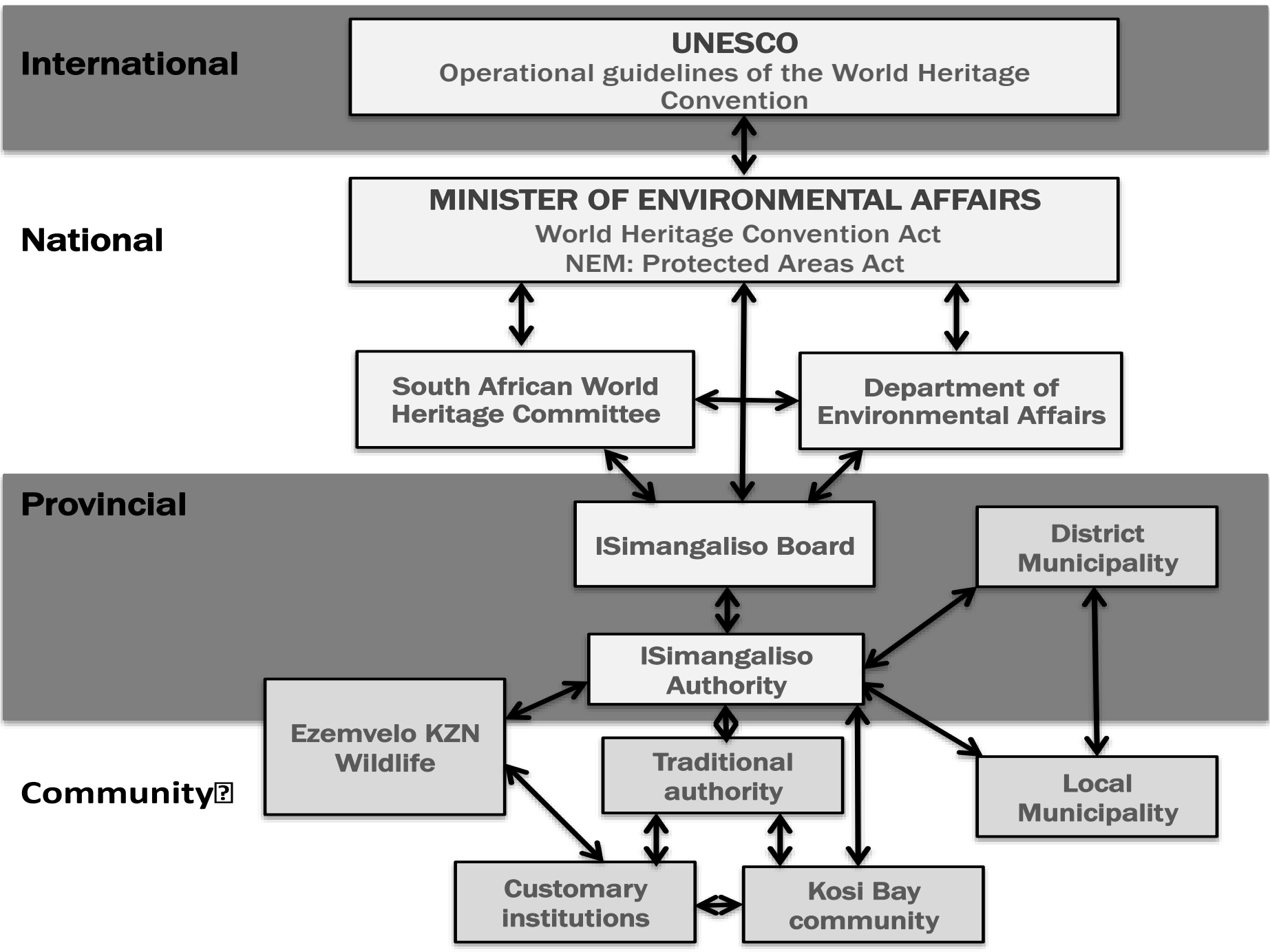
Population = **approx. 141 000 people; 98% rural; 32% economically active population**

5 different ecosystems; i.e. dune forests, grasslands, rich tidal zone, coral reefs, and a coastline with sandy beaches ; **4 lakes** with a very unique lake system

System is significant for local livelihoods, i.e. fisheries (traps and intertidal), forestry, agriculture, grassland use (I e.g. ilala palm); famous for tourism







KEY RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

- *Livelihoods perspectives*

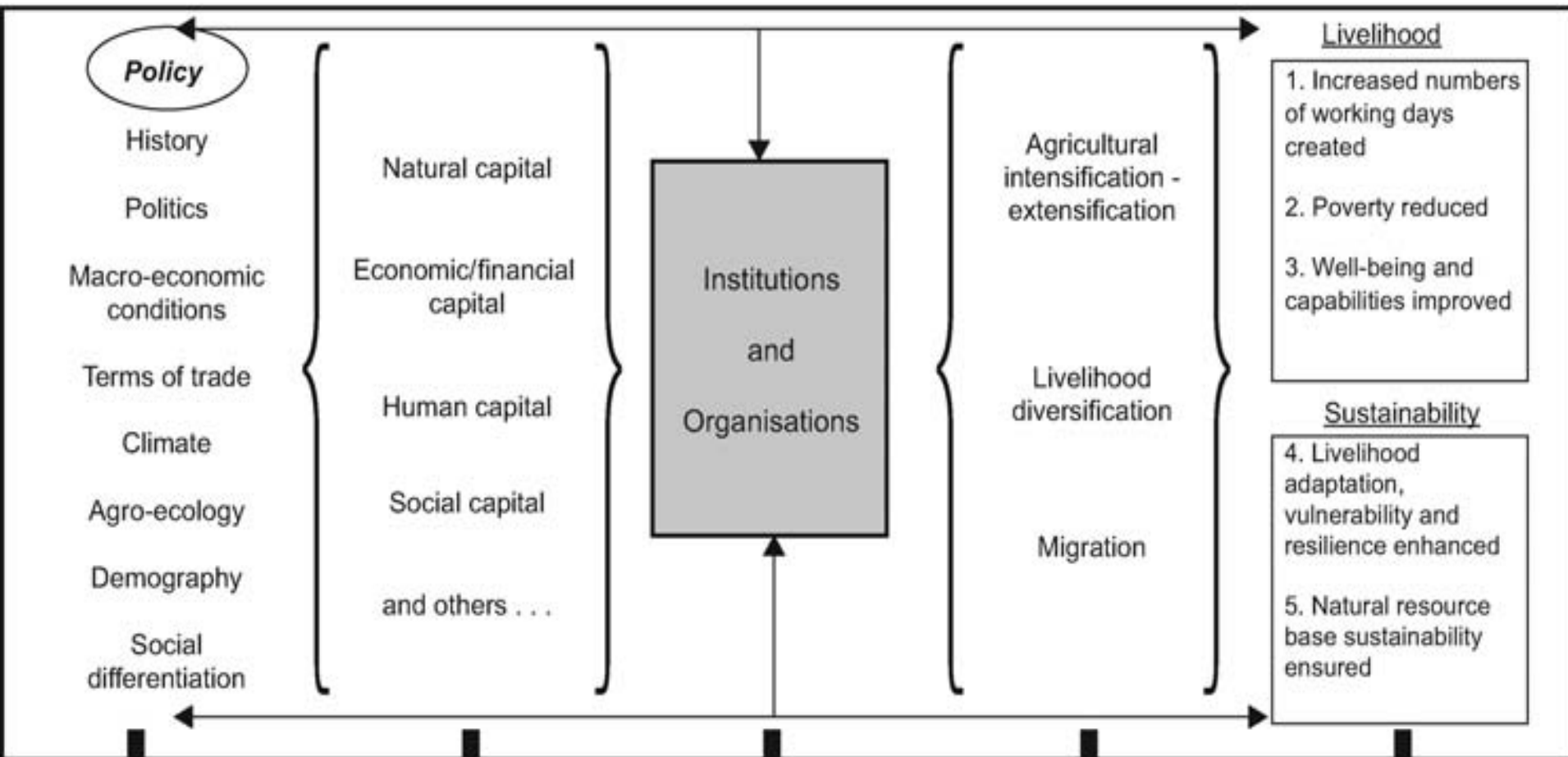
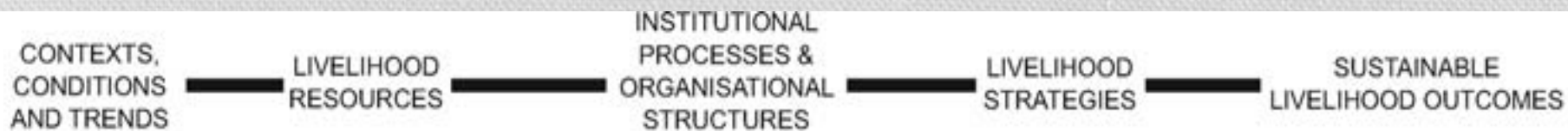
- Highlighting the role of governance in influencing livelihood strategies & by demonstrating how livelihoods analyses are key in the analysis of the effectiveness of natural resource governance processes and practices

- *Governance theory*

- Highlighting the roles of history, politics and power in influencing governance

- *Law and policy*

- Highlighting the need to recognize the existence of legal pluralism in the imposition of international conservation models
- Revealing mismatches within conservation laws and policies governing coastal resources in South Africa



Contextual analysis of conditions and trends and assessment of policy selling

Analysis of livelihood resources: trade-offs, combinations, sequences, trends

Analysis of institutional/organisational influences on access to livelihood resources and composition of livelihood strategy portfolio

Analysis of livelihood strategy portfolios and pathways

Analysis of outcomes and trade-offs

CRITIQUES OF PROMINENT LIVELIHOODS APPROACHES

- *Strong economics discourse in defining and describing livelihood resources (Scoones, 2009) – ‘capitals’, ‘assets’*
- *Very limited focus on historical, political, sociological, value, cultural, relational, wellbeing, spiritual, health and other elements*
- *Weak linkages between livelihoods and governance*

GOVERNANCE

- Many definitions provided for the term 'governance' in the literature
- A '*quality of the totality of the interactions*' between two systems – the system to be governed and the governing system

CONTEXTS,
CONDITIONS
AND TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD
RESOURCES

INSTITUTIONAL
PROCESSES &
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURES

LIVELIHOOD
STRATEGIES

SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES

Policy

History

Politics

Macro-economic
conditions

Terms of trade

Climate

Agro-ecology

Demography

Social
differentiation

GOVERNANCE

**HISTORY,
POLITICS &
POWER**

Livelihood

1. Increased numbers of working days created
2. Poverty reduced
3. Well-being and capabilities improved

Sustainability

4. Livelihood adaptation, vulnerability and resilience enhanced
5. Natural resource base sustainability ensured

Contextual analysis
of conditions and
trends and
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Analysis of
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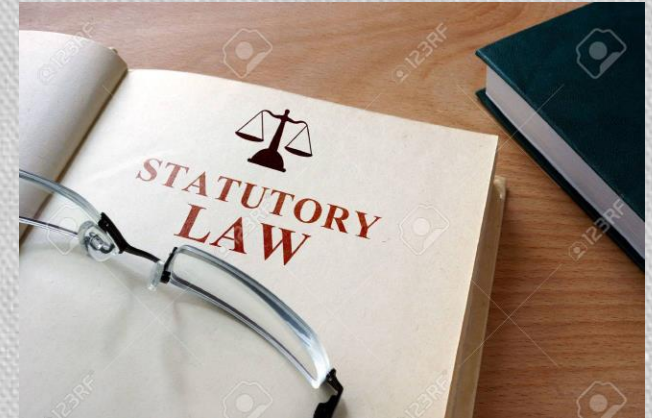
SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

- Various people residing in rural areas have a long history of using natural resources to support their livelihoods



STATUTORY VS. TRADITIONAL VS. CUSTOMARY INSTITUTIONS

- Legal pluralism
- Play a central role in the governance - alongside local government structures
- At times view themselves as primary governance structures
- Double-dipping
- Ambiguity between traditional and customary institutions



RESEARCH METHODS

- Empirical case study research
- Use of PRA data collection techniques
- Triangulation of quantitative and qualitative research data
 - quantitative: household surveys
 - qualitative: ethnography, transect walks, oral histories, focus groups, GIS mapping, participatory mapping, photography, key informant interviews, documentary evidence, literature reviews.



TIMELINE

1948	Apartheid government took over in South Africa
1952	Coastal Forest Reserve proclaimed in Kosi Bay near kwaDapha village
1970s	UNESCO World Heritage Convention proclaimed Kosi Bay incorporated under KwaZulu homeland government
1980s	Forced Removals of Mvutshane people from the Coastal Forest Reserve Conservation started in areas under Tembe TA Maputaland Marine Reserve established Kosi Bay Nature Reserve established by KwaZulu government
1992	Gill-netting introduced in the lakes and allocation of experimental permits
1994	First democratic government was elected in South Africa; end of apartheid era
1995	Tembe Royal House submitted a Land Claim
1997	South Africa ratified World Heritage Convention
1999	World Heritage Convention Act promulgated - Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park established
2000	Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park enacted as South Africa's first World Heritage Site (renamed iSimangaliso in 2004)

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES BEFORE INTERVENTIONS

- Agriculture – intensive crop farming in the indigenous forest and swamps on the sea and lake banks
- Intensive livestock farming – cows, sheep, goats (communal kraals)
- Marine resource harvesting – fish traps in the estuary and lakes, line fishing in the sea, intertidal harvesting
- Bartering of food
- Craft making
- Use of timber and non-timber forest products
- **Governance through customary rules**



SHIFTING LIVELIHOODS

- Demolished agriculture livelihood – conservation, hippos, climate change, **shop economy**
- Government grants
- Marine resource harvesting – fish traps in the estuary and lakes, line fishing in the sea, intertidal harvesting
- Eco-tourism

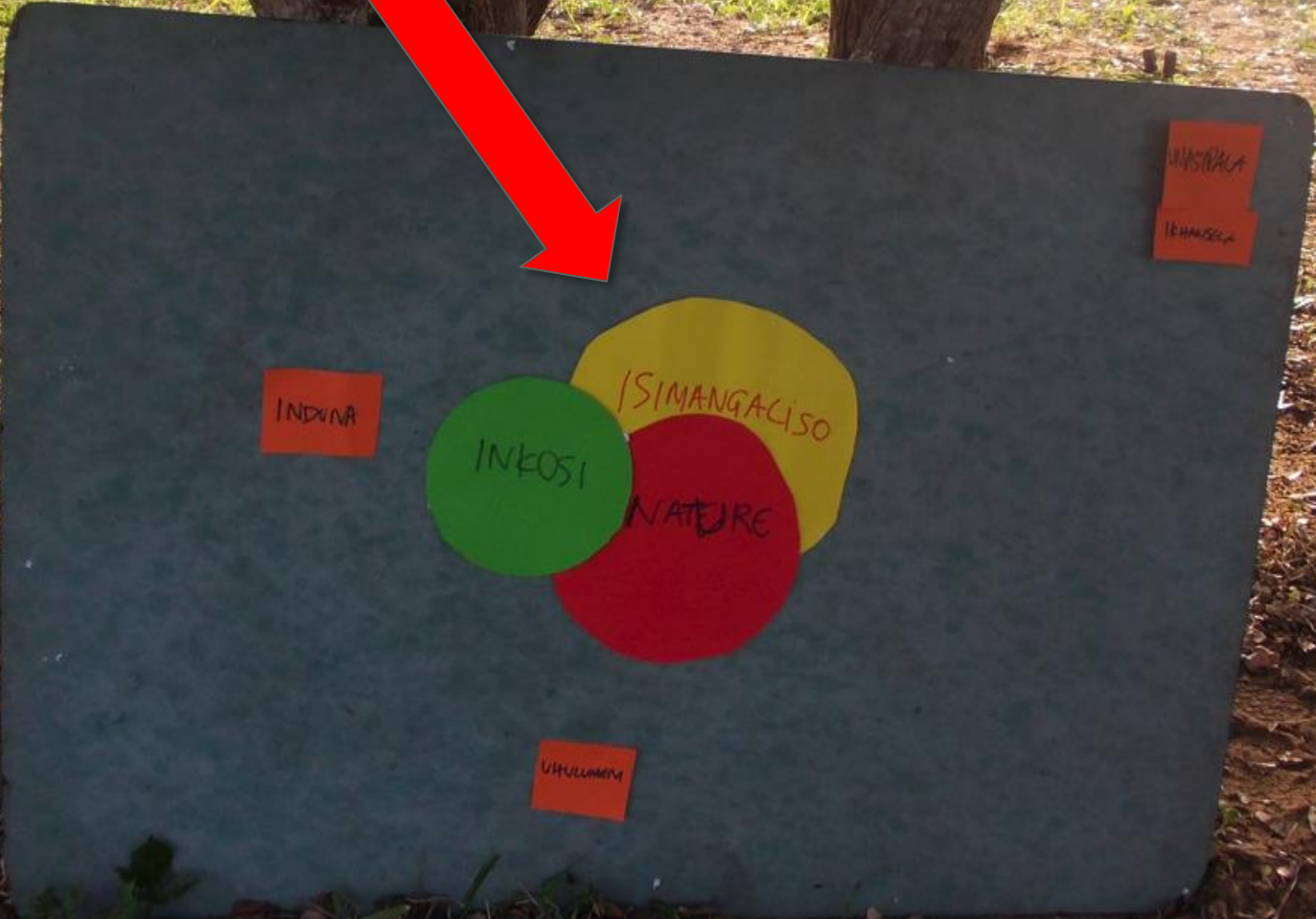


‘FORUM SHOPPING’

**‘Illegal’ livelihood activities
in Mozambique**



INDONESIA



INDUNA

INDONESIA

SIMANGALISO

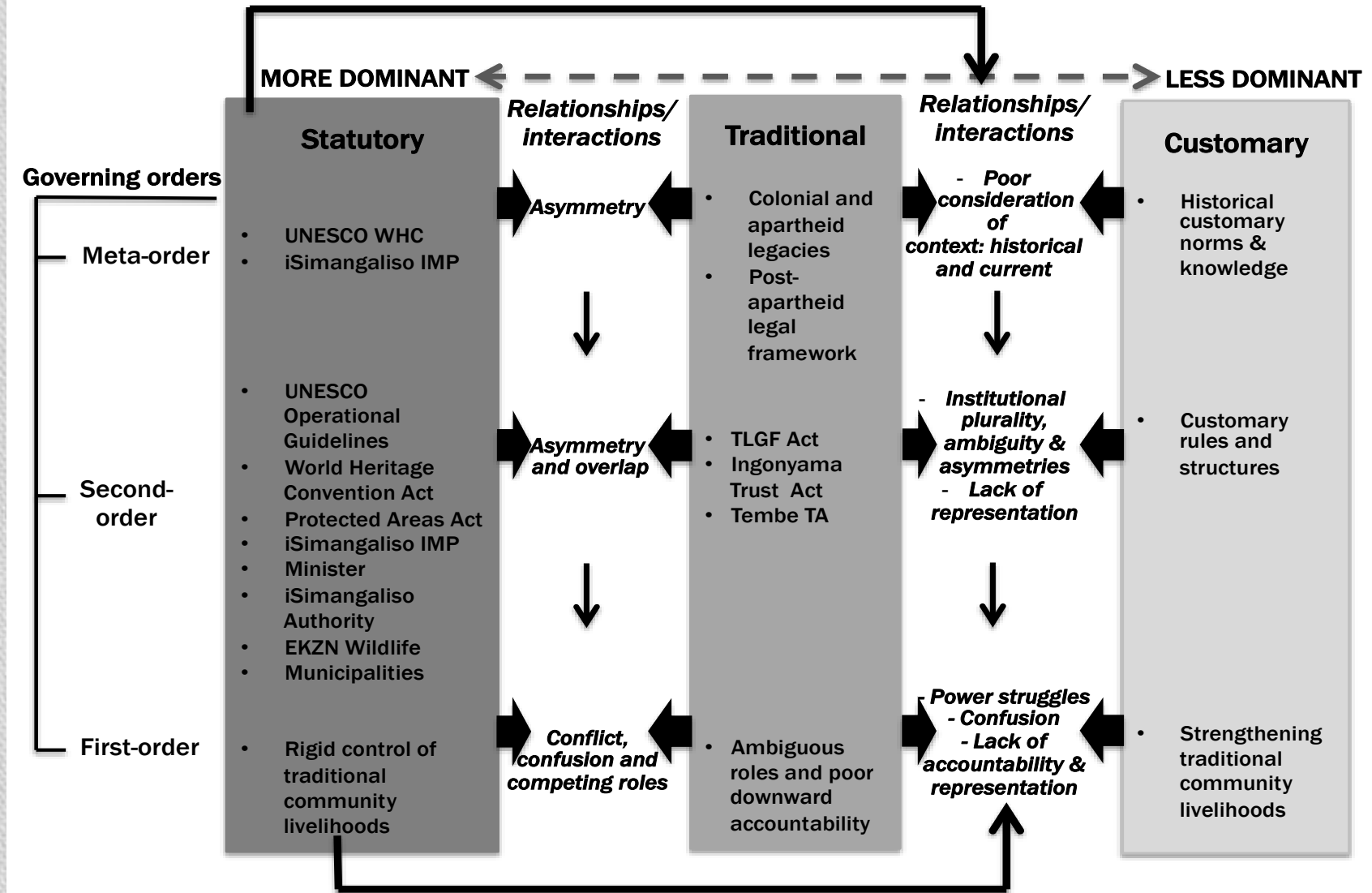
NATURE

INDONESIA

INDONESIA

INDONESIA

ASYMMETRIC REALITY



Provincial

**ISimangaliso
Authority**

**District
Municipality**

**Ezemvelo
KZN
Wildlife**

Community?

**Traditional
authority**

**Local
municipality**

**Kosi Bay
community**

**Customary
institutions**

↔
Strong interactions

↔
Poor interactions

Asymmetries

⋯
Ambiguous roles

POWER AND POLITICS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AFFECTING LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES

Mismatching governance images,
discourses and epistemologies

- Coastal resources (customary resource vs. threatened biodiversity/tourism hotspot)
- Conservation (oppression regime vs. preservation of natural heritage)



“The park is looking for conservation that will work for UNESCO but that will benefit the local people” (WHS Key informant, 2015).

Re-wilding strategy – iSimangaliso Integrated Management Plan 2017-2021

“Within the year, iSimangaliso Wetland Park intends to realize our conservation vision of restoring all historically occurring game back into the world heritage site.” (iSimangaliso Authority, 2014).

***“People must understand that this is not a jungle or wilderness, this is an area with people, where we live...”
(Kosi Bay community, 2016).***

KEY LESSONS

- Livelihood strategies are largely influenced by governance processes
 - Understanding context is key
- Important to synergize historical indigenous knowledge with scientific evidence to improve governance.
- Understanding the role of history, politics and power in shaping current governance processes that influence livelihoods is critical.

WHOSE HERITAGE? WHOSE VALUES ARE BEING PROTECTED?

“European countries still have a major influence in UNESCO because they have money and money talks. Sometimes they can even threaten to withdraw funding they are providing to African countries if certain standards are not being met. If you remember, most natural sites are in Africa and most are listed by UNESCO as ‘in danger’ because we want to develop. European countries don’t have the same dilemma because their sites are mostly cultural and not threatened by activities such as tourism, plus they are already developed countries. Therefore, we as African countries are still trying to influence the discourses and conceptualizations of what ‘outstanding universal value’ actually means in our contexts, especially because we were not there in 1972 when the Convention was signed” (DEA1, 2017).

NGIYABONGA!