

Coordinating control: How national and provincial environmental policy is shifting in South Africa

TARIRO KAMUTI
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



BACKGROUND

- There is a noticeable trend of change from conventional farming to game farming in post-apartheid South Africa characterised by fast growth of wildlife ranching, given the annual increase in the areas enclosed by game fences and the high demand for wildlife which is being traded privately and at wildlife auctions. (Reilly *et al.* 2003; Cloete *et al.* 2007; Hearne *et al.* 2008)
- Key environmental and agricultural legislation has been passed since 1994 that affects the wildlife sector (e.g. property rights, (re)distribution, biodiversity conservation).
- This is happening against the backdrop of slow land reform, continuing farm worker/dweller evictions, poor working conditions, further marginalisation of the majority population - and threats to biodiversity. (Mosley, 2007; Cuthbertson, 2008)

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the needs and demands made by the various competing voices involved in or affected by the game farming sector in relation to the state?
- How is the state responding to these competing demands, in policy and in practice?
- Is the state able to impose any effective controls over land use activities on private land?

AIM

- To understand the influence and workings of the policy process and governance contexts at the interface between agricultural and wildlife sectors in light of the trend of conversion of conventional farming to game farming in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa.

OBJECTIVES

- to investigate the role of the state through the three tiers of government in the governance of the wildlife sector in South Africa and KZN in particular;
- to explain the role of the state in response to the competing needs over land in the farming sector.

METHODOLOGY

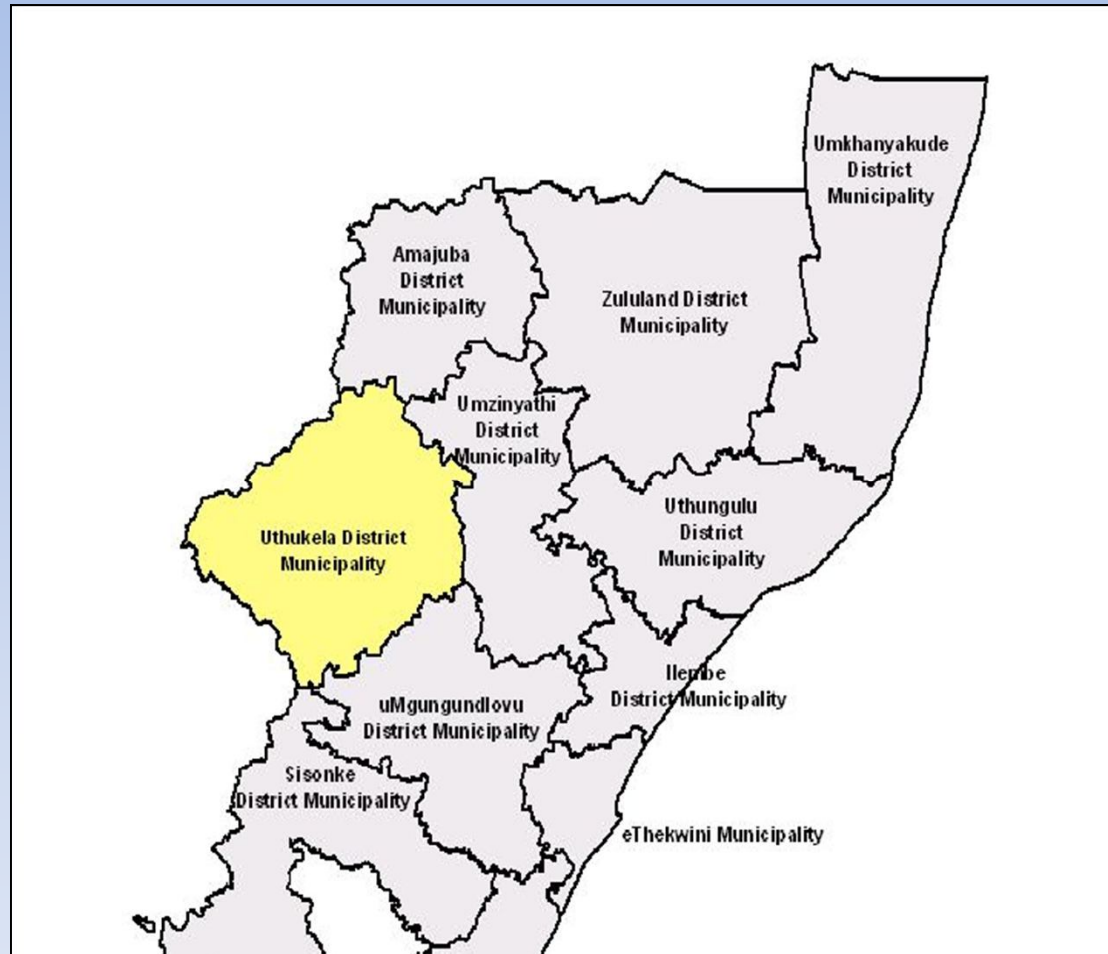
Qualitative research with limited descriptive statistics

- Intensive Research Design: in-depth, open-ended interviews with stakeholders
- Snowballing technique
- Case study method at the local municipal level
- Desktop research

STUDY AREA



STUDY AREA



KEY PLAYERS

- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs
- Game Farmers
- KZN Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- NGOs: KZNHCA, EWT, WWF, AFRA, ...
- KZN Legislature

Emerging Key Issues

- What pays stays
- Game farming is ahead of policy/regulation?
- Game farming as a ploy to resist land reform?
- Land reform as a greatest threat to game farming!
- Which department plays the lead role?
 - National
 - Provincial

Emerging Key Issues (cont.)

- Vicious cycle of tension: Farmers Vs Authorities, Communities Vs Farmers, Hunters Vs Animal Rightists
- Local alliances
- State not a homogeneous and monolithic entity
- Silent but bold influence of capital despite growing resistance from communities

Conclusion

- No clear direction: the state is in a dilemma
- State 'chewing more than it can swallow.'
 - Outstanding land restitution claims linked to game farms
- Contestation over land (and natural resource use) as a means of production from different world views.