



**South African
NATIONAL PARKS**

PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION INTO THE FUTURE

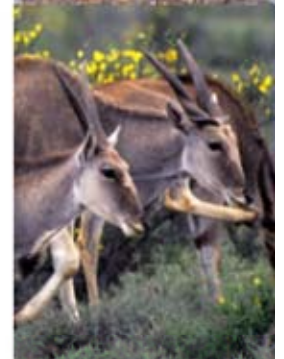
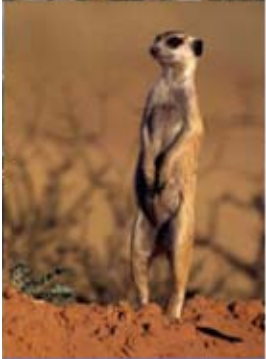


Introduction

- We recognize the paradigm shift in conservation- the shift that is inclusive of peoples aspects The biggest challenge now is making the merger work. There is a dire need to ensure that the link between People and Conservation work and we believe that research play a major role.
- Conservation right round the world is increasingly concerned with the challenges of realizing its potential benefits for society, and yet even after many years of pursuing conservation methods there is little we know about how to develop and manage in ways that realizes this potential in an equitable manner, especially given the social and economic conditions prevalent in the surroundings.
- **This brings the question, what do we need to know, what research do we need to do to be better prepared?**



South African
NATIONAL PARKS





Global Progress

Our Common Future
(Brundlandt Report 1987)

South African Progress

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002

Rio +5 Summit

UNCED, Rio de Janeiro 1992
Agenda 21

2005 SA begins compiling national strategy for sustainable development (NSSD)

2005 NEMA: Protected Areas Act
2004 NEMA: Biodiversity Act

2003 World Parks Congress

2002 World Summit on SD

1997 Ratifies UNFCCC

1994 Ratifies CBD & Basel Convention
Ratifies Desertification Convention

1992 SA attends UNCED unofficially



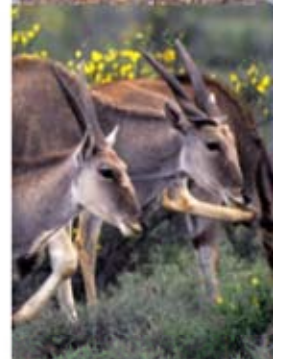
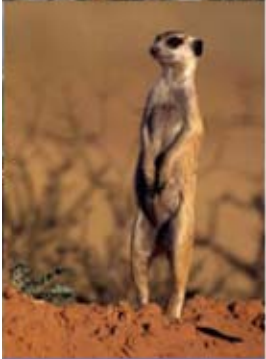
Research Needs Identified

As practitioners we are compounded with questions of :

Frameworks or

models that have been

tested and re-tested as it would be required of any best practice methods.





Key Performance Areas: People and Conservation

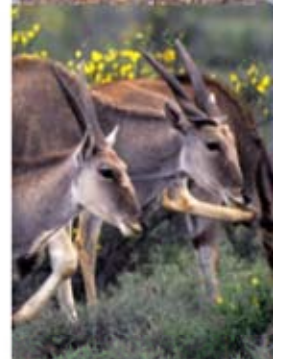
FOCAL AREAS

Environmental Education and youth development

Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge

Community based Conservation [community relations and economic empowerment]

Social Science Research



Community based conservation

- Park Forum

- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 endorses putting mechanisms in place to engage local communities in protected areas. It further states that park plans must be compiled in consultation with a wide range of interested and affected parties and calls for management plans to put procedures in place for public participation. Park forums are put in place by SANParks in order to comply with the Act. However, the different models for consultation and participation differ vastly.

- It will be critical to investigate the best models and frameworks which are contextually congruent.

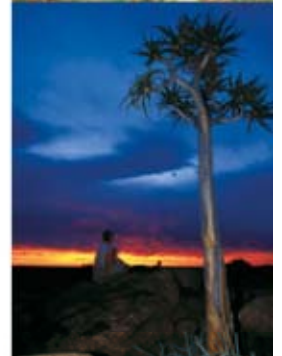
- The other research concern and critical questions which would form part of a bigger question is with the long term involvement of communities in park forums.

- How should this interaction be kept alive and how does it remain meaningful and effective?

- Around which types of issues should parks encourage involvement?

- What meaningful skills would park forum members need enhance to participate meaningful?

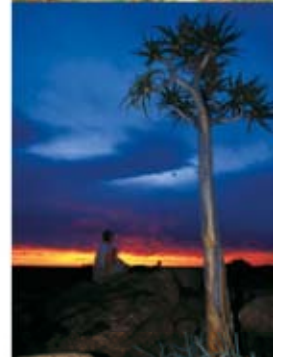
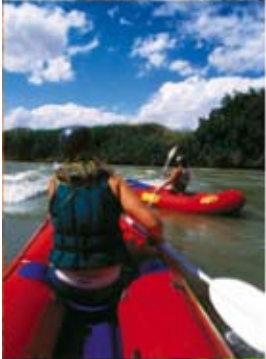
- How can park managers be capacitated to be able to deal with park forum members in a meaningful manner?



Community cont.....

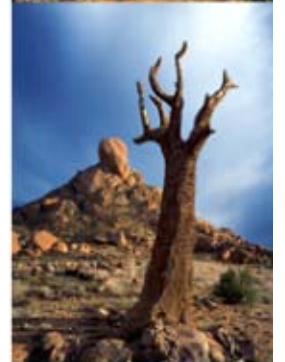
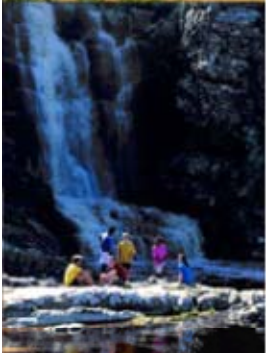
Damage causing animals

- This is an area which has constantly soured relationship between communities and protected areas especially in the Kruger National Park
- The issue is how best should a conservation agency respond when an animal has caused damage to crops and more often to human life ? Is compensation the way to go?
- Roles of national, provincial and municipal parks has not been clearly articulated in policies in the event that animal escapes the park and issues around ownership of such an animal becomes fuzzy.
- This is an area that has received little attention from researchers yet critical in facilitating better relations with communities.



Economic Empowerment

- Linked to community conservation, we have coined the concept of Community Economic Empowerment.
- The questions again are what is the actual economical value that the programme is impacting on the local communities.
- The economical Contribution to the livelihood of the people
- Market research for benefit sharing initiatives...



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE

Provision has been made in the Protected Areas Act for sustainable use for protected area . This means that SANParks must have Resource Use policy in place.

- For this resource use to be in place there are a number of issues that we need to be sure of :

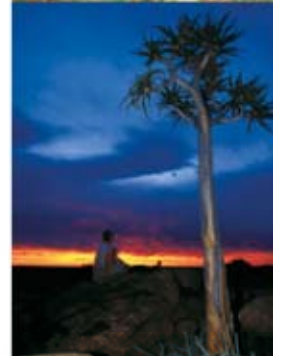
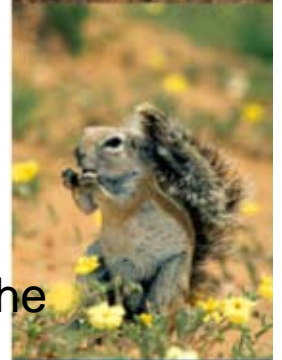
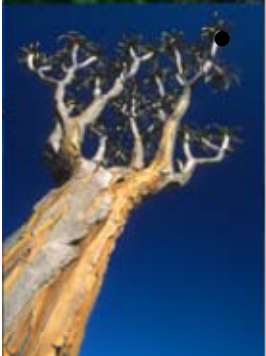
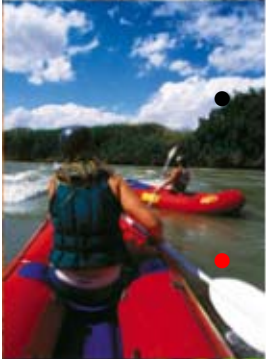
- An audit of all the resources that we have in the park and their spread , where in the park are they and

- The quantity [how much of them do we have]

- What are the needs of the people in relation to the resources?

Research in this area could also focus on the effectiveness of the policy.

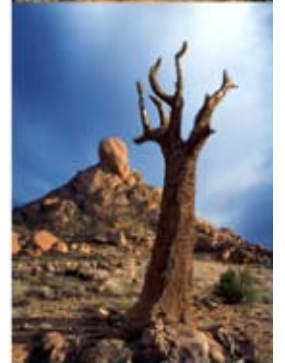
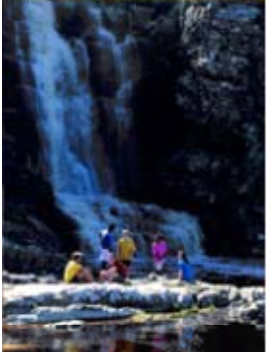
Resource use in this context should not be limited to tangible natural resources but also the intangible.





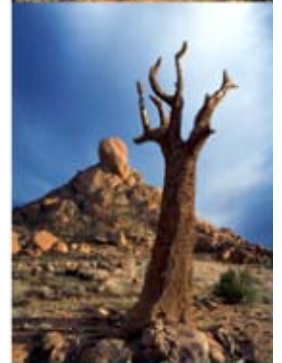
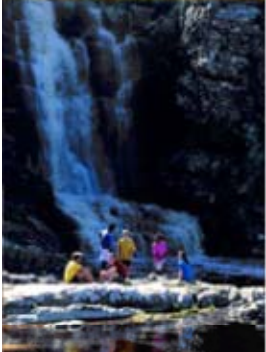
Community Participation

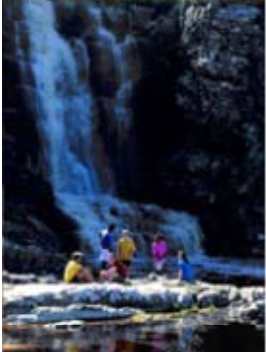
- The South African Protected Areas Act requires that each park develops a Management plan. Such a plan is prepared in consultation with municipalities, other organs of state, local communities and any other affected parties which have an interest in the area.
- The process of developing and rolling out these plans needs to be a process that is documented for future investigations. The extent and manner of this participation will provide a layer of understanding of community participation dynamics.
- Further to that, it would also be important **to evaluate and document the revision of these plans and the role played by communities in that public participation process.**



LAND CLAIMS

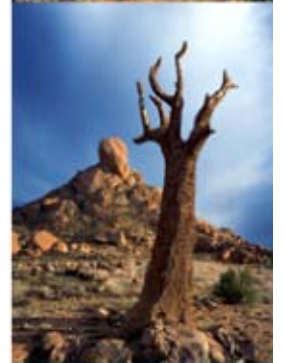
- A number of Parks such as Kruger are under claim from neighbouring communities.
- There is need to investigate such claims and seek settlement solutions that are mutually beneficial for parks and protected areas.





Environmental Education

- Over thousands of SA children come to the Kruger National Park for Environmental Education Programme.
- How effective is this as strategy
- Does it do/reach what is intended?
- Is it the only best practice?
- Evaluation of these is of necessity.



END

THANK YOU

