

Stakeholder Perspectives on the Potential for Community-based Ecotourism Development and Support for the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Botswana



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Animal and Human Health for the Environment and Development –
 GLTFCA, 2 – 4 March, Kruger NP, South Africa

1

TOURISM IN BOTSWANA

- ❖ Most tourists tend to visit specific nature parks and reserves –the Chobe N. Park & Moremi G. Reserve in the Okavango region
- ❖ Tourism development has been concentrated in such popular destinations (eg Okavango area).
- ❖ There is a growing concern on the negative impacts of tourism on the environment.
- ❖ Concentration of tourism at certain destinations has led to socio-economic disparity between areas with and those without tourism.



2

BOTSWANA: SOUTHWESTERN REGION

- ✘ **The economy of the region is based on cattle farming for meat production**

- + 90% of the export livestock sales go to the Botswana Meat Commission

- ✘ **Livestock farming is the largest employer; 45% of the residents are involved in livestock keeping (KDDP, 2003)**

- ✘ **District Council & local government departments are the most important single formal employer (e.g. drought relief projects)**

- + Hunting and gathering provides a livelihood to the disadvantaged communities
- + Handicraft industry provides a livelihood to some local people



3

TOURISM: SOUTHWESTERN REGION

- ✘ **Tourism activity in the southwestern region is very low and most resources are underutilized**

- + National Parks and Reserves have begun to attract an increasing number of tourists with potential for future growth – (e.g. KTP, CKGR)

- ✘ **Major attractions include unspoilt wilderness, variety of desert game, & handicrafts of the San/Basarwa**

- ✘ **Challenges to tourism development**

- + Inadequate marketing of the region
- + Insufficient infrastructure for tourism
- + Remoteness of the region



4

STUDY SITE: THE K GALAGADI REGION

- ✘ Situated in the Kalahari Desert
- ✘ The Kgalagadi: Two sub-districts
- + Population of 42,000 (CSO, 2001)
- ✘ More than five dominant ethnic groups in the area



KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK (KTP)

- ✘ KTP is located in southwestern Botswana and in the western corner of South Africa
- ✘ Two adjoined Parks
- ✘ Gemsbok N. Park (28,400sq.km ~ Botswana)
- ✘ Kalahari Gemsbok N. Park (9,591sq.km ~ South Africa)
- ✘ **First formally declared Transfrontier Park in Southern Africa**



RESEARCH PROBLEM

- ✘ **The dependence on traditional livelihoods of livestock farming and rangeland resources has led to:**
 - + severe land degradation; conflicts over natural resource use and increased incidence of poverty in the Kgalagadi
- ✘ **Rangelands have supported a diversity of wildlife and livelihoods**
- ✘ **But are no longer the major source of livelihood for most people**
 - + Livestock production benefits only a small proportion of the population



RESEARCH PROBLEM (CONTD.)

- ✘ High dependence on government welfare support programs has made residents less self-sufficient and reluctant to seek out alternative livelihoods.
- ✘ There exists a need for an alternative means of livelihood in which communities could use rangeland in a sustainable manner to benefit themselves and the environment (Vision, 2016)
- ✘ The government has recommended community-based ecotourism (via CBNRM) as a strategy for sustainable rural development
 - + To create employment and reduce poverty, resource depletion and promote conservation (GOB, 2007)

RESEARCH PROBLEM (CONTD.)

- ✘ Local communities adjacent to Transfrontier Areas are faced with many challenges about access to natural and cultural resources inside PAs & and conservation policies.
- ✘ In KTP (Botswana), communication amongst the various stakeholders, especially local communities is lacking, however, there is recognition to involve local people in the planning and implementation of park-based activities.



9

One of the key objectives of KTP:

- ✘ 'To realize fully the economic potential of the Transfrontier Park (KTP) and the surrounding areas in order to bring economic benefits to both countries, especially to the local communities adjacent to the park' Pg9

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study was to examine stakeholders' perspectives with respect to the potential for CBE development and support for KTP as a Transfrontier area in Kgalagadi region of southwestern Botswana.

11

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

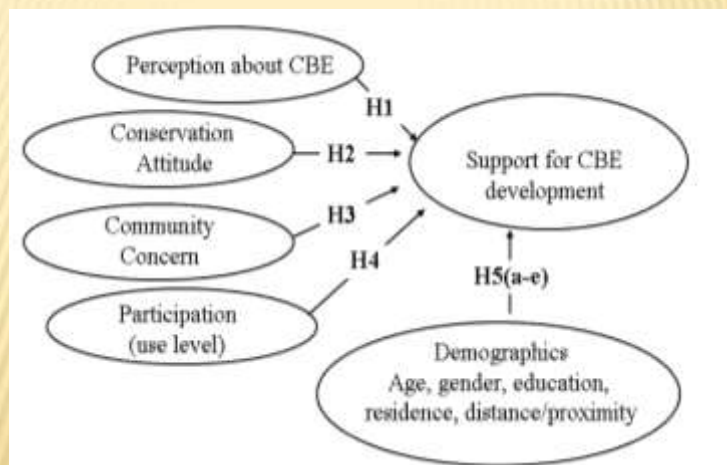
1. To examine stakeholders' support for community-based ecotourism development. **What factors influence support for CBE development at KTP?**
2. To examine stakeholders' support for KTP as a Transfrontier Park. **What factors influence support for KTP as a TFCA?**
3. **To examine public sector's (local & national) perspectives on support both for CBE development and KTP as a TFCA.**

12

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

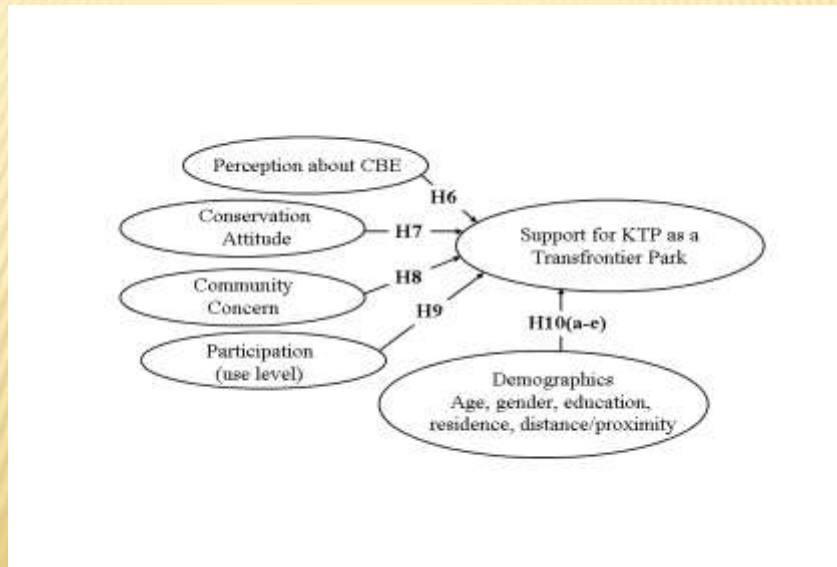
13

CONCEPTUAL MODEL 1: OBJECTIVE 1, RESIDENTS' SUPPORT FOR CBE DEVELOPMENT



14

CONCEPTUAL MODEL 2: OBJECTIVE 2 RESIDENTS



15

VARIABLES IN THE MODEL, MEASURE

- ✘ Perception about CBE: 16 items
+ 1 Strongly disagree; 5= Strongly Agree
- ✘ Conservation attitude: 14 items
+ 1 Strongly disagree, 5= Strongly Agree
- ✘ Community concern: 5 items
+ 1 Not at all Concerned, 5 Extremely Concerned
- ✘ Participation (Use level) : Yes/No

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- ✘ Data were collected from October 2008 - January 2009
- ✘ Mixed methods:
 - + Quantitative (Structured household survey)
 - + Qualitative (In-depth semi-structured interviews)
- ✘ Two stakeholder groups were used
- ✘ Residents _____ Household survey
- ✘ Public sector _____ In-depth interview

17

RESIDENTS:

- Selected from 9 villages
- Stratified sampling method based on distance from KTP
- Systematic sampling for selecting households
- Every 2nd household
- Head of household, 18+ years
 - Participants ~ lived in the area for at least 12 months



18

SAMPLING AND PROFILE

19

Villages	Population (N)	No. of households	Households Sampled	Distance from KTP
<u>South Kgalagadi</u>				
Struizendam	313	76	44	23
Bokspits	499	122	53	53
Khawa	517	128	75	21
Tsabong	6,591	1,608	145	300
<u>North Kgalagadi</u>				
Ncaang	175	43	37	250
Ukhwi	453	114	59	90
Zutshwa	469	118	55	75
Tshane	858	209	89	160
Kang	3,744	913	82	280

20

SAMPLING AND PROFILE

Location/villages	No of surveys
Bokspits	53
Kang	122
Khawa	75
Ncaang	37
Tsabong	212
Tshane	89
Struizendam	44
Ukhwi	59
Zutshwa	55
Total	746

- ✘ 55% females and 45% males
- ✘ 18 - 92 years of age

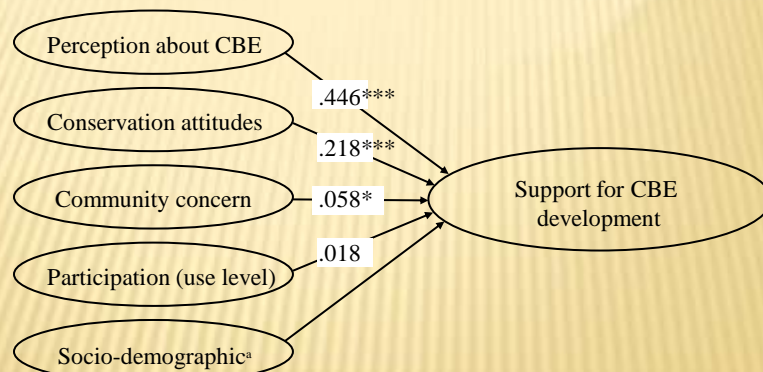
Schooling:

- ✘ 32% secondary education,
- ✘ 21% primary, 18% high school,
- ✘ 16% no schooling

21

Results of multiple regression: Objective 1

Predictors of residents' support for CBE development



A: Length of Residency (.142*)**

22

DISCUSSION: SUPPORT FOR CBE AT KTP

- ✘ Residents support for CBE development in the Kgalagadi region can be shaped by four factors: **Perception about CBE, conservation attitudes, length of residency and community concern.**
- ✘ Overall, **Perception about CBE** was the strongest predictor for residents' support.
 - + majority (**89%**) perceived CBE as important
 - + Associated CBE with socio-economic benefits (jobs, income, business)
 - + Tourism at initial stage – positive perception.

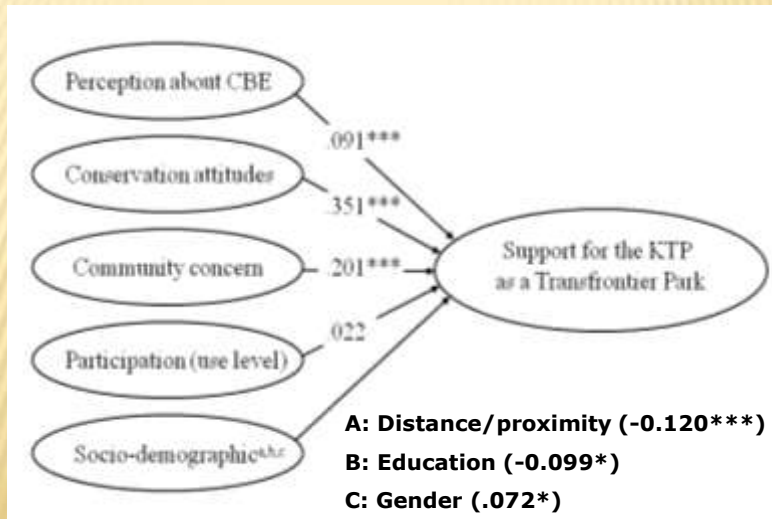
23

DISCUSSION

- ✘ Participation (use level at KTP), age, gender, education and distance **were poor predictors** of support for CBE at KTP.
 - + **Only 42% of the sampled residents had visited KTP at some point in time while living in Kgalagadi.**
- ✘ KTP had not established Park-based projects for adjacent local people at the time of this study.
- ✘ Despite that not many local residents participated in activities at KTP, they still expressed positive and strong support for CBE development.

24

MULTIPLE REGRESSION: PREDICTORS FOR RESIDENTS' SUPPORT FOR KTP AS A TRANSFRONTIER PARK



25

DISCUSSION: SUPPORT FOR KTP AS A TFP

- ✘ Residents support for KTP as a Transfrontier Park can be shaped by **six factors**: [conservation attitudes](#), [community concern](#), [perception about CBE](#), [gender](#), [education](#), [distance](#)
- ✘ Overall, [conservation attitudes](#) was the strongest predictor for support for KTP as a Transfrontier Park.
 - + Majority (98%) agreed that KTP should be protected & 91% agree that govt. should devote more money for additional conservation program for KTP
 - + Pro-conservation behavior lead to strong support.
- ✘ 21% opposed KTP status as a Transboundary Park

26

CONTD.

- ✘ Participation (use level), age, length of residency **were poor predictors of Support for KTP as a Transfrontier Park.**
- ✘ Lack of participation in KTP activities has denied communities the **opportunity** to benefit and residents obtained only minimal benefits from the KTP.

27

CONCLUSION

- ✘ Study revealed factors that influence support for CBE development at KTP, thus similar variables could be replicated in other diverse geographical settings and protected areas (eg KNP, GLTFCA).
- ✘ Generally, there was low level of participation, and little benefits from park-based tourism activities at KTP, **but residents still expressed strong support for CBE development.**
- ✘ Even though communities were left out of all KTP activities, they still held very strong general conservation attitudes to and support for KTP as a Transfrontier Park.

28

CONTND

On the whole:

- ✘ Government decentralization **policy** has not improved or increased local community (local) control of resources in and outside KTP.
- ✘ **Power over the management of KTP resources still lies heavily** in the hands of a major influential stakeholder – government.
- ✘ High level of distrust and suspicion between South African KTP Management and adjacent local people and local leaders on the Botswana side with regards to shared Park benefits.

29

RECOMMENDATION

- ✘ **It is essential to strengthen local participation in all matters that relates to Park-based CBE and conservation programs at KTP.**
- ✘ Government should provide infrastructure for tourism/CBE development in and around KTP.
- ✘ Park-people policy guidelines need to be formulated to define roles of local stakeholders, especially adjacent communities in KTP activities and programs.
- ✘ Co-management between the two governments and adjacent local communities needs to be revisited to ensure understanding of the goals of natural resource conservation with regards to KTP as a TFCA.

30

- ✘ High level of distrust and suspicion between South African KTP Management and adjacent local people and local leaders on the Botswana side with regards to shared Park benefits.

I oppose this idea of KTP as Transfrontier and shared management because it is South Africa that's only benefiting from this park and Botswana is doing nothing about this situation. Our animals have moved to their side of the Park because they built many boreholes. This is hurting. I am totally against this Transfrontier thing (Local rep)

- ✘ The findings of this study can help towards reawakening of KTP plan by all stakeholders that are associated with KTP and to collectively evaluate its progress since TEN years ago.

STUDY LIMITATION

- ✘ This study examined only the Botswana side of KTP, it will be worthwhile to do an examination of each side of the park
- ✘ Sampling: only nine villages were targeted due to time, resource and spatial limitations.

33

THANK YOU



Restrictive policy

“There are restrictions on our movement in the area, and eh! . . . I mean restrictions to use our dogs when searching for our domestic animals. In KD 15, we are not allowed to use horses when herding our livestock because this is associated with illegal hunting of wild animals... We are not allowed to go around our village looking for our domestic animals when accompanied by our dogs. This restricts peoples’ life to their traditional life of hunting and gathering” (CBO Member)

34