

The relationship between private game farms and farm dwellers:

**Exploring politics, perceptions, and impacts of
and links to the post-apartheid Land Reform**

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Presentation outline

- About the project
- Who are we?
- What do we actually do?
- Research done so far
- My research
- The future
- Where to find us

About the project

- Farm Dwellers, the Forgotten People?
Consequences of Conversions to Private Wildlife
Production in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape
- 'The Game Farming project'
- 2006 - 2013
- VU, Amsterdam and UFS (was UKZN)
- About 20 team members (six PhDs, one post-doc
and three senior academics)
- Stakeholder engagement

About the project (ctd.)

- The role of the private sector in conservation and development
- Game farming – growing trend
- Different forms of wildlife production – different impacts
- Stakeholders, roles, responsibilities
- Social and economic impacts
- Very little research available
- Impacts on farm dwellers in KZN and EC →
- Game farming as a lens

What do we actually do?

- Land and social issues related to (private) wildlife conservation and production
- Experiences of farm dwellers in the context of post-apartheid South Africa and its current land reform programmes
 - Policy, legislation, the role of the state
 - Economic driving-forces, the industry
 - History and extent of farm conversions
 - Relationships, livelihoods, Land Reform, farm dwellers

Research done so far

- Historical research - farm labour in EC
- Farm dwellers on game farms in EC (livelihoods)
- Trophy hunting and PH
- Farm dwellers' identities, relationships to the land
- Community game farming
 - Role of chiefs
 - Dismantled game farms
- Land-use changes (GIS)
- Pull/push factors game farming

My research

- Farm dwellers' perceptions and responses (KZN)
- Role of external actors
- The 'farm dweller' – representation and power dynamics
- Some initial thoughts
 - Ethical considerations
 - Experiences from the field
 - Frustration
 - Tell stories

The future

- Three PhD theses coming soon
- Two special editions of journals early next year
- Three PhD theses 2013
- KZN stakeholder workshops March 2012
- Regional or Pan-African conference (planning in progress)
- Book, documentary

Where to find us

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