

# **DYNAMICS IN THE GOVERNANCE OF PRIVATE GAME FARMING IN KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**

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# 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 understand the operations of the game farmers in the agricultural and wildlife sectors in response to their policy and governance contexts, and
- to explain the role of the state in response to the competing needs over land in the farming sector.

# RATIONALE OF STUDY

Observed trend is a manifestation of:

- Contestation over place/access to resources;
  - Post-apartheid restructuring to meet ever pressing needs;
  - Neo-liberal approach adopted to solve a myriad of problems;
  - Question of social justice;
  - Contemporary conservation politics;
  - Effectiveness of policies.
- ❖ Which provide scope for this study

# LITERATURE REVIEW

- Global environmental governance issues
- National regulatory issues (environmental and agricultural policies).
- Land reform in South Africa
- Plight of farm workers/dwellers
- South African wildlife sector – major focus

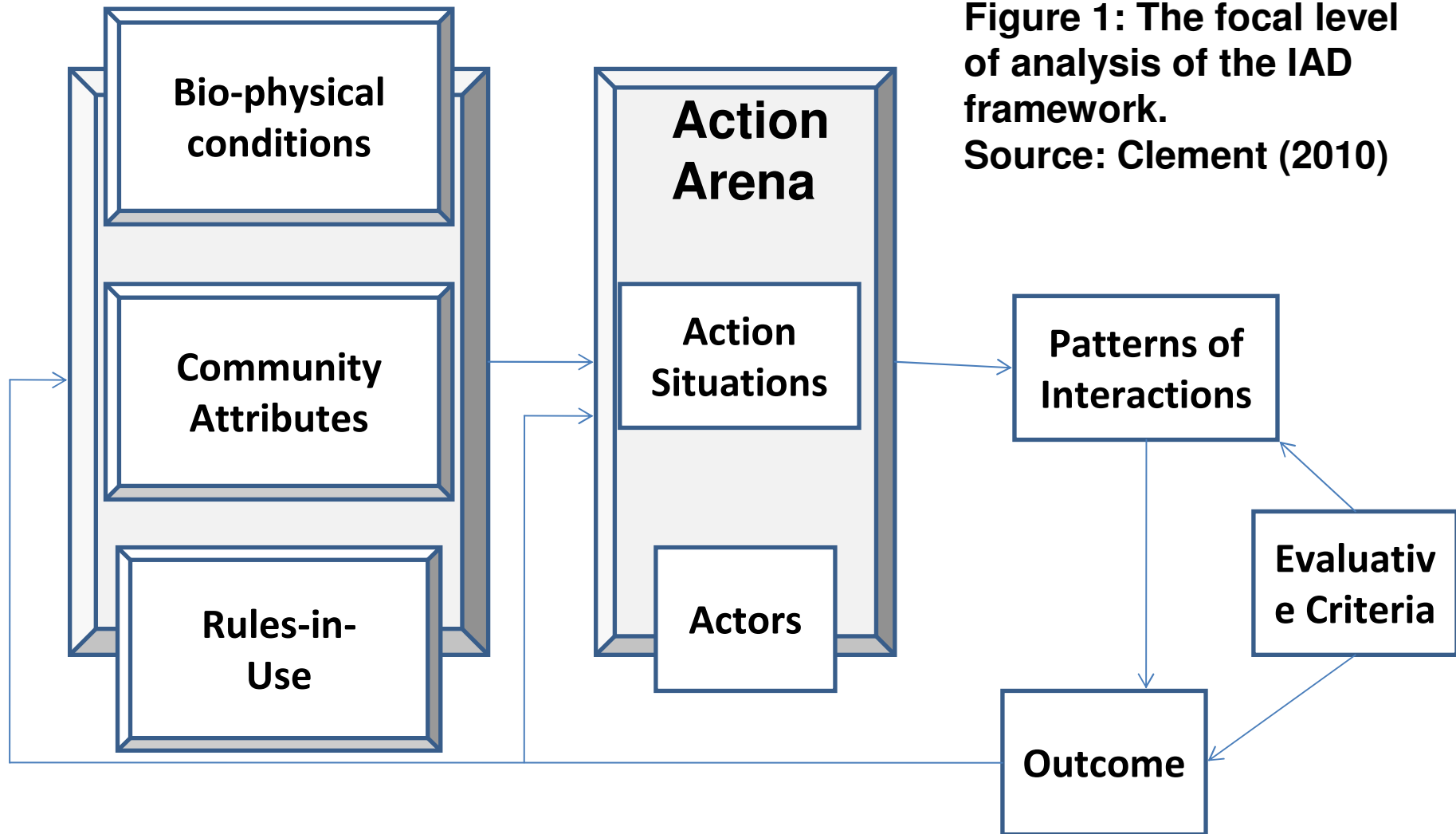
# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

## INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT (IAD) FRAMEWORK – E. Ostrom

- IAD defines institutions as “enduring regularities of human action in situations structured by rules, norms, and shared strategies, as well as by the physical world.” Crawford and Ostrom (1995: 582) quoted in Imperial (1999)

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- The unit of focus of the IAD framework is the **action arena** made up of **actors** who are found within particular **action situations** and influenced by **external variables** (Aligica 2006; Clement, 2010).
- These actors can be individuals and organisations that decide on resource management issues.
- Action situations** mean the social space where individuals ‘interact, exchange goods and services, engage in appropriation and provision activities, solve problems, or fight’ (Ostrom et al., 1994 quoted in Aligica 2006: 87).



**Figure 1: The focal level of analysis of the IAD framework.**  
**Source: Clement (2010)**

Three external variables identified by the IAD (**biophysical conditions, attributes of the community, and rules-in-use**) in short 'represent nature, society and the rules that govern nature-society interaction' (Clement, 2010: 132).

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

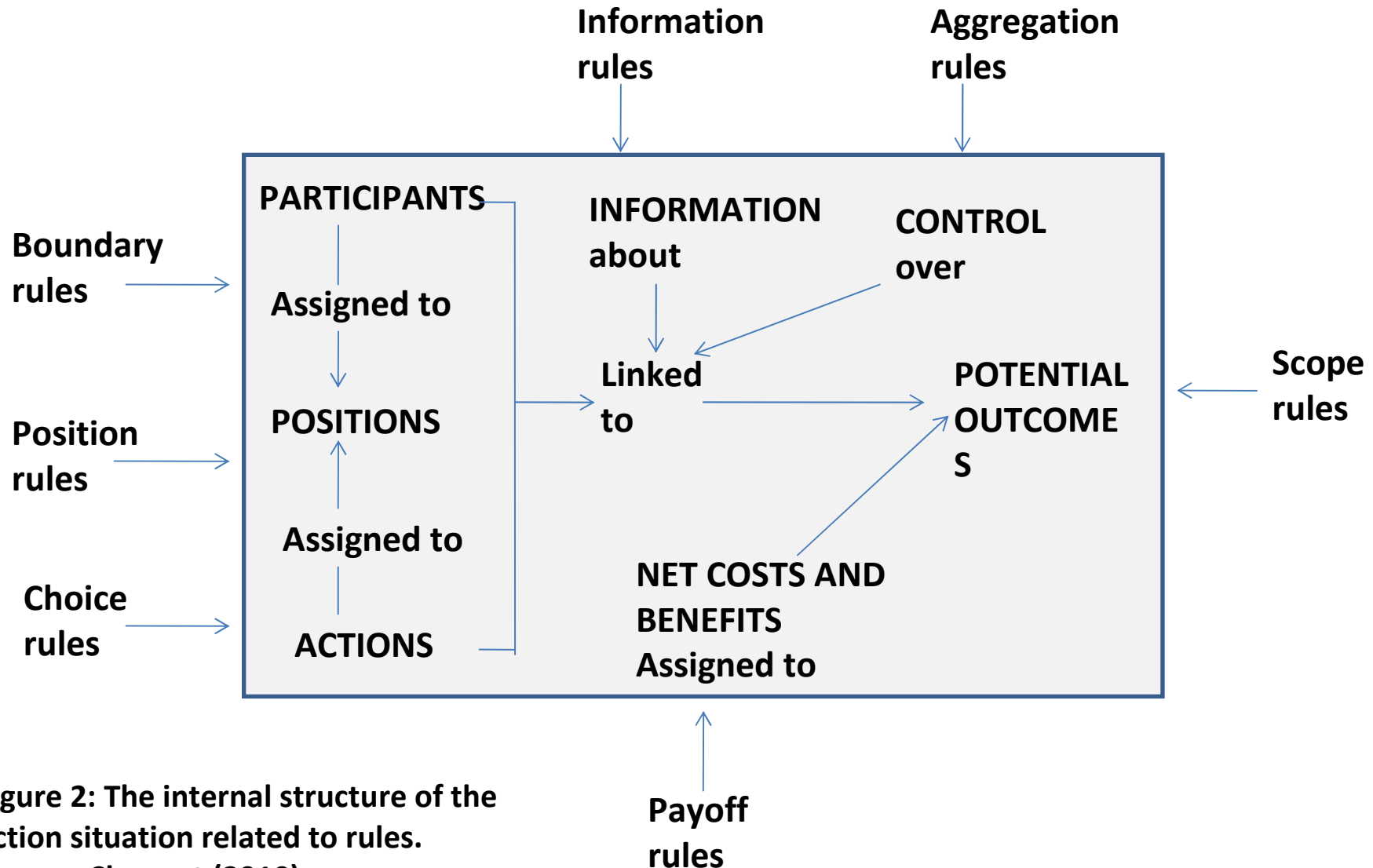
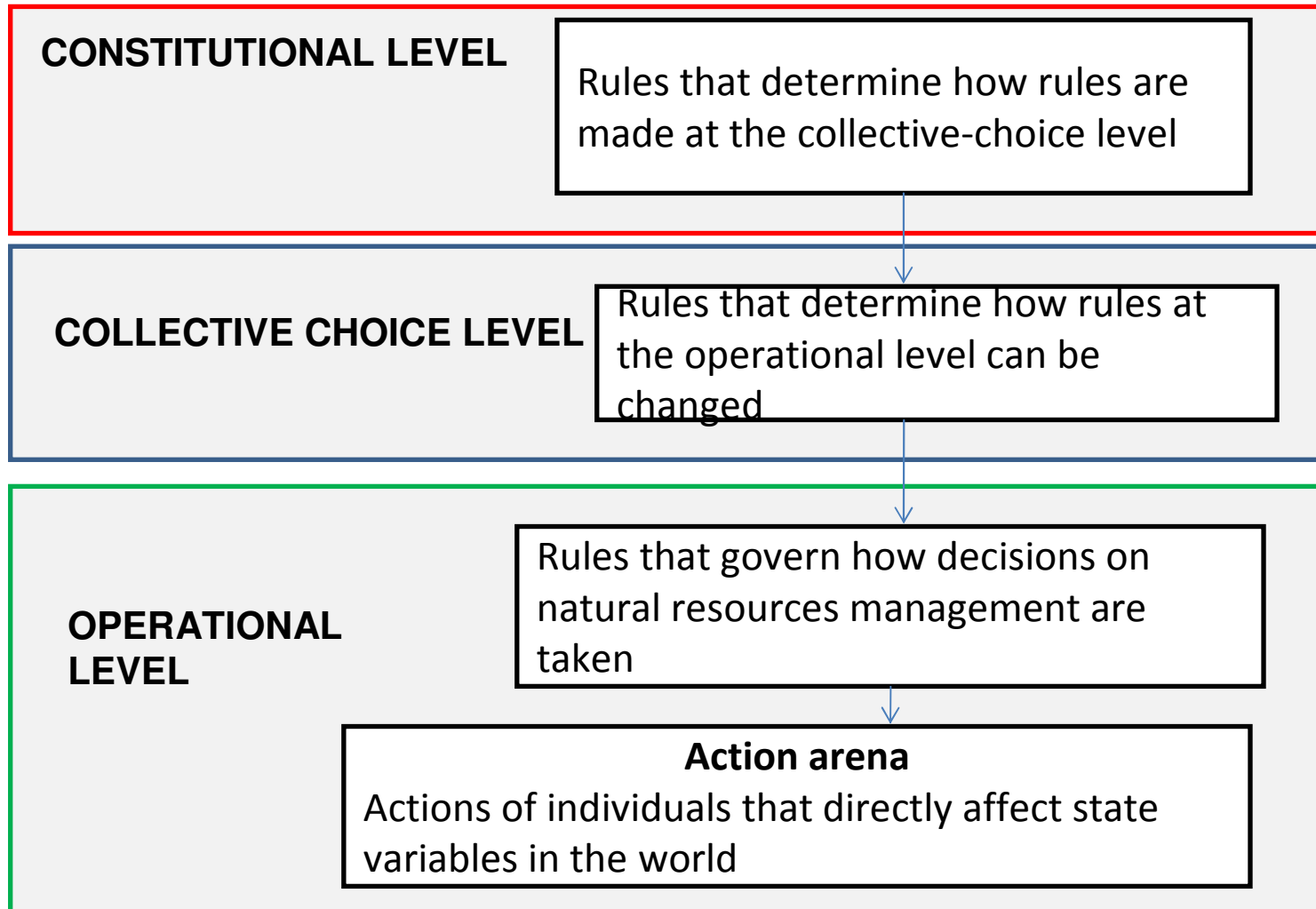


Figure 2: The internal structure of the action situation related to rules.  
Source: Clement (2010)

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



**Figure 3: The three levels of analysis in the IAD framework. Source: Clement (2010)**

# STUDY AREA



# DELIMITATION OF STUDY

KwaZulu-Natal province with particular focus on policy and processes affecting game farming.

KZN is unusual in having a strong semi-autonomous statutory conservation board with responsibility for wildlife in the province (formerly Natal Parks Board, now Ezemvelo KZN-Wildlife).

Game farm as the unit of focus reflecting the interplay among various stakeholders and policies.

# METHODOLOGY

Critical realism (Roy Bhaskar) – guiding philosophy

- “It does not reject the existence of a “real” world;
- but acknowledges that our understanding of the structures of the society and of the biophysical world is partial and depends on social and political framings that influence research approaches.”
- “All environmental problems are perceived differently according to cultural beliefs, the claim of belonging to a social group or political reasons.”

(Clement, 2010: 140-1)

# METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research with limited descriptive statistics

- Intensive Research Design: in-depth, open-ended interviews with stakeholders
- Snowballing technique important
- Case study method at the local municipal level
- Desktop research: Library and Archival e.g. History of conservation in KZN

# METHODOLOGY

- Stakeholder/Institutional mapping and analysis  
“Social theories can be seen as well as a species of maps: maps of social reality” (Aligica 2006: 81).
- Policy discourse analysis:  
“policy discourses as dominant interpretative schemes, ranging from formal policy concepts to popular story lines, by which meaning is given to a policy domain.” (Arts and Tatenhove, 2004: 343)

# ISSUES EMANATING FROM THE RESEARCH

- Role of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- permit system
- Stewardship programme
- Strong hunters' lobby (KZNHCA)
- Lack of capacity and integration of government departments

# THANK YOU



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