Subproject 06: Anthropology

Ecosystem Values
and the Impacts of
Commodity Consumption

TFO scientific symposium 2014

Subproject 06: Anthropology

Two research tasks:

1) Understanding the local production of values of the ecosystem

2) Understanding the relation between commodity consumption and the uses of the ecosystem

Subproject 06: Anthropology

Field sites:

Cusseque in Southeast Angola

Baptista's fieldwork – 7 months, 2011-2013

Mashare in Northern Namibia

Proepper's fieldwork – 7 months, 2011-2013

Rieprich's fieldwork – 4 months, Oct-Dec 2011

Seronga in Botswana

Herold's fielwork – 4 months, Oct-Dec 2011

Haupts's fieldwork – 4 months, Oct-Dec 2011

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Commensurable values

Quantification, ranking, hierarchies, transaction, scales of measurement, cost-benefit analysis, rational calculation, comparison, money, markets, trade-offs,

Incommensurable values

Incomparable, subjective, not measurable in a standard framework, cannot be exchanged

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

“Monetary value” ⟶ **Commensurable values**

Quantification, ranking, hierarchies, transaction, scales of measurement, cost-benefit analysis, rational calculation, comparison, money, markets, trade-offs,

“Cultural values” ⟶ **Incommensurable values**

Incomparable, subjective, not measurable in a standard framework, cannot be exchanged

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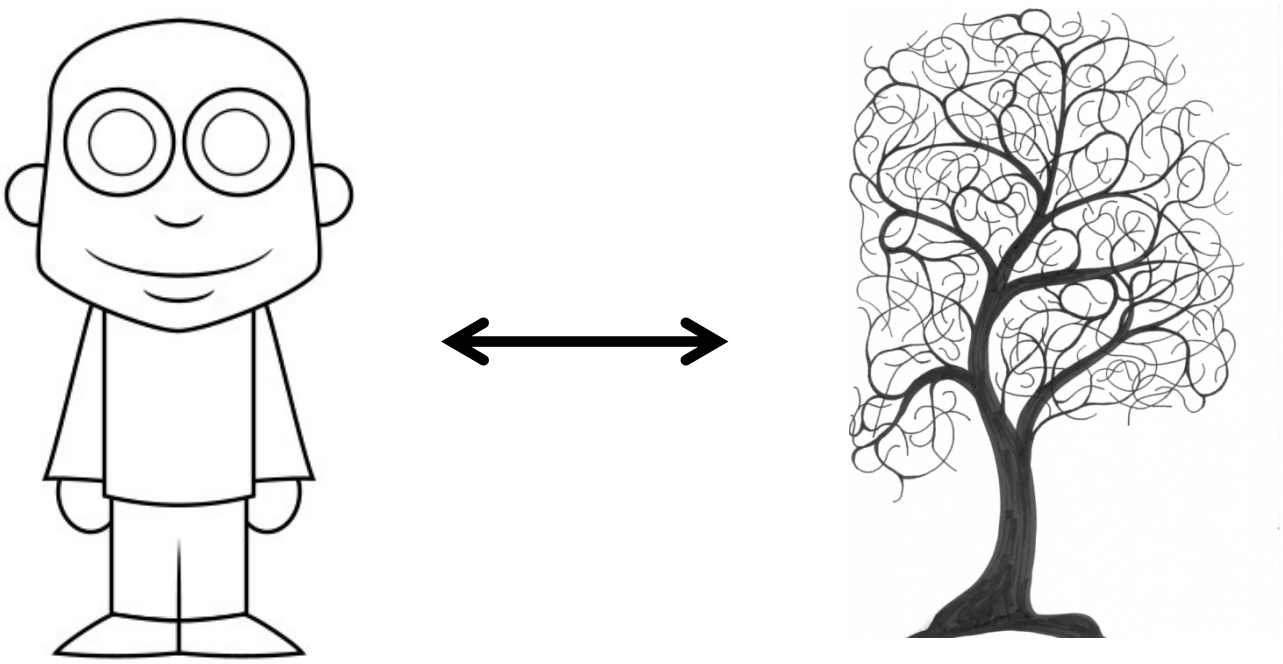
Values *through* Interaction



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Values *through* Interaction

X **Commensurable values** versus **Incommensurable values**

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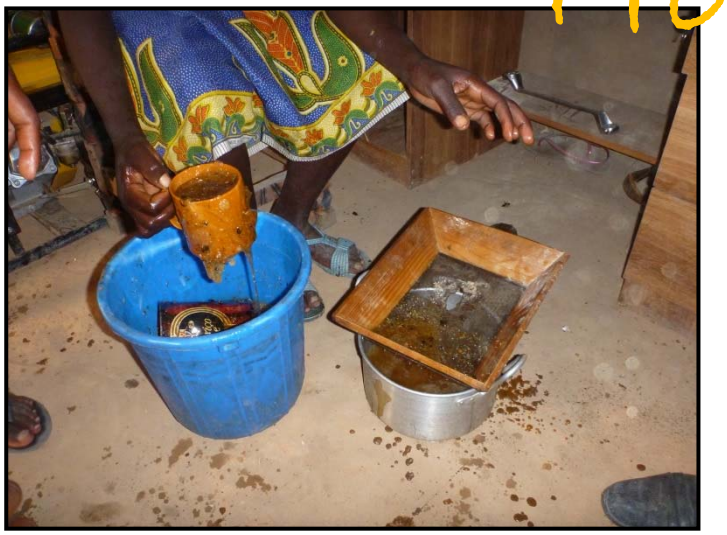
The intertwined dimension of values

… in Cusseque, Angola



Honey

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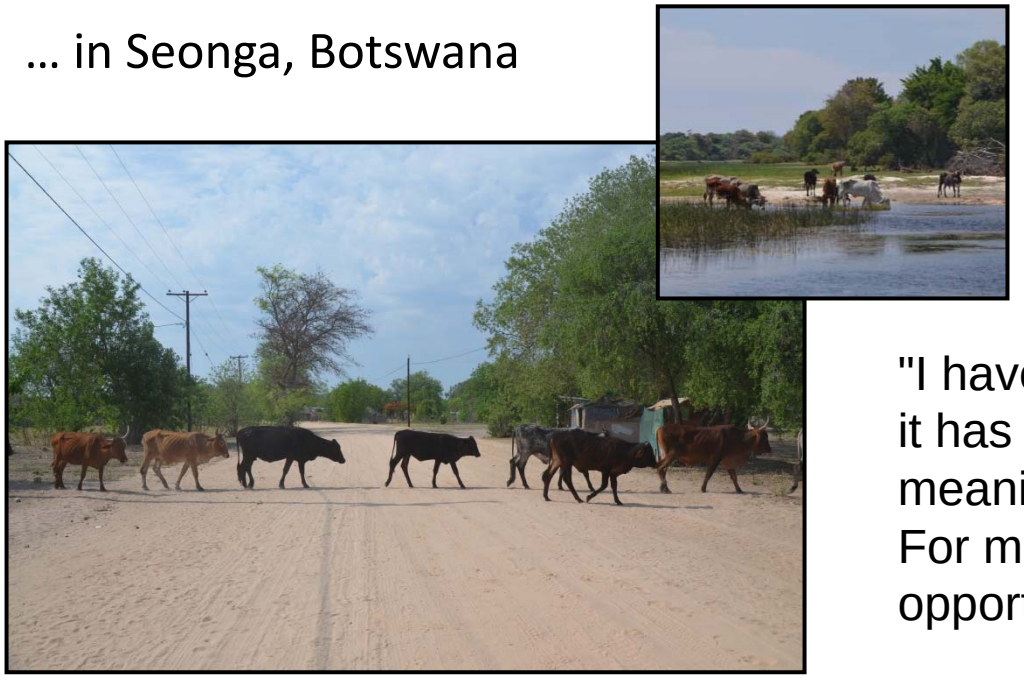
The intertwined dimension of values

… in Seonga, Botswana



Cattle

Residents:

"I have over 80 cattle but to me it has not the same traditional meaning like for older people. For me it is an investment opportunity for my money."

"I was born inside the kraal. I am very connected to it. No matter where I am, I need to look at the cattle first. This is where my life is."

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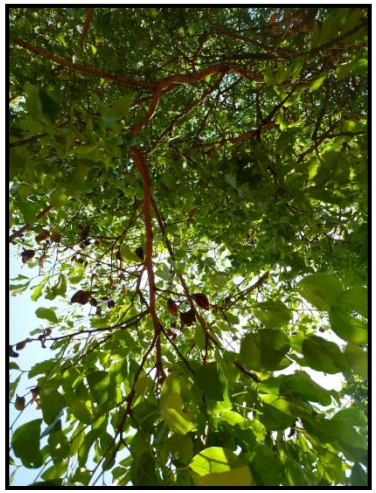
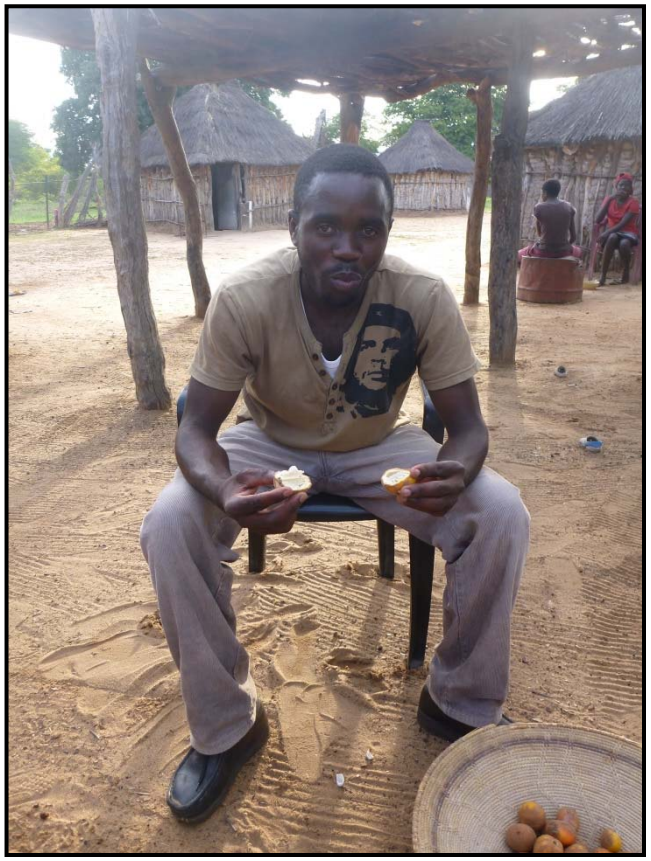
The intertwined dimension of values

… in Mashare, Namibia

Wild Fruits



"We go to these places to get fruits […] and you sit down under a tree to relax with friends while you are enjoying the fruits like *maguni* or *makwewo*, so those are the places that are beautiful."



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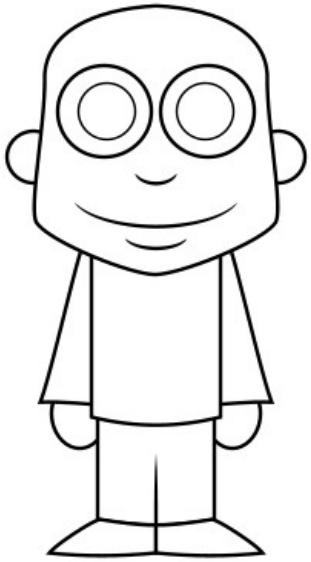
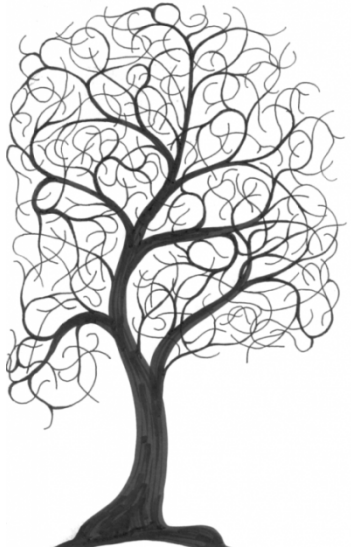
The intertwined dimension of values



Commensurable values

Incommensurable values



Different values can be experienced at the same time while people interact with the entities valued

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Two research tasks:

1) Understanding the local production of values of the surrounding ecosystem

2) Understanding the relation between commodity consumption and the uses of the surrounding ecosystem

Subproject 06: Anthropology

Changing patterns of commodity consumption

… located under the pressures for consumption of delocalized commodities

Seronga, Botswana

Cusseque, Angola

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Changing patterns of commodity consumption

… located under the pressures for consumption of delocalized commodities

Pensions by the state government

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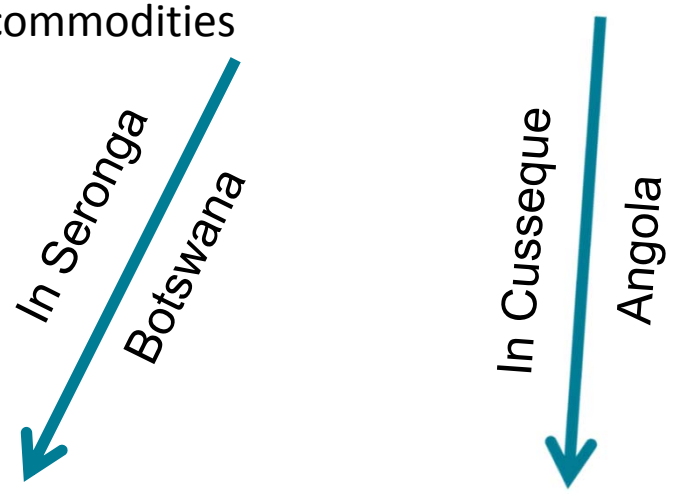
Changing patterns of commodity consumption

… located under the pressures for consumption of delocalized commodities



Pensions by the state government

Extraction of local natural resources

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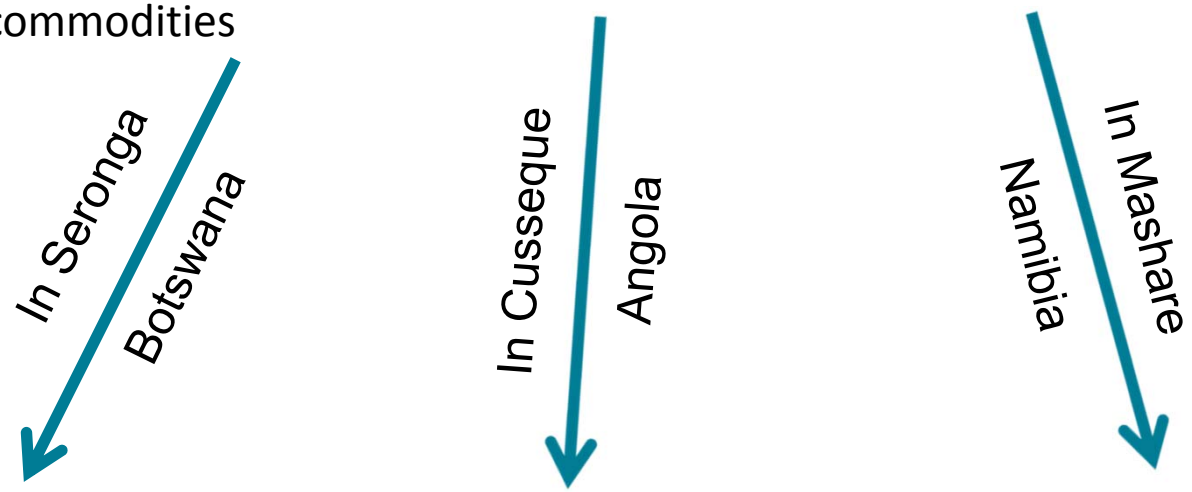
Changing patterns of commodity consumption

… located under the pressures for consumption of delocalized commodities



Pensions by the state government

Extraction of local natural resources

Pensions by the state + extraction of local natural resources

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Changing patterns of commodity consumption

… in Cusseque, Angola

Commerce of game at the road

Charcoal production

Expansion of agricultural fields
for the commercialization of crops

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Changing patterns of commodity consumption

Facing the promotion of wider connectivity between places and people in rural Africa as a synonym of Development

And facing the increasing demand for the consumption of international products that this wider connectivity leads to

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Changing patterns of commodity consumption

Facing the promotion of wider connectivity between places and people in rural Africa as a synonym of Development

And facing the increasing demand for the consumption of international products that this wider connectivity leads to

the **STATE GOVERNMENTS** of each country play a direct and crucial role on the local level of resources' extraction, namely through the option or possibility of distributing a state pension to its rural citizens.

Thank you

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