

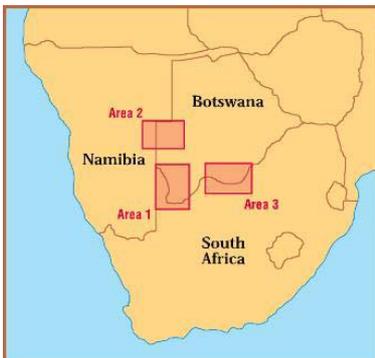
PANRUSA

An

Overview

Objectives

- To compare the effects of current policies on NR use in different countries
- To identify the environmental and political controls which determine policy implementation and uptake
- To identify new ways of examining social and environmental issues together
- To develop guidelines for routes to sustainable natural resources management and efficient use of productive capacity in Southern African drylands



Research areas:

1. Arid southwest:
 - a) Mier, South Africa
 - b) SW Kgalagadi, Botswana
2. Semiarid northwest:
 - a) Ghanzi Dist, Botswana
 - b) Omaheke, Namibia
3. Dry sub-humid southeast:
 - a) NW Province South Africa,
 - b) Barolongs, Botswana

No. 1

PANRUSA Briefing Notes

PANRUSA, Poverty Policy and Natural Resource Use in Southern Africa. A DFID funded research project at the University of Sheffield UK.

This briefing provides an overview of the PANRUSA project and acts as an introduction to the *PANRUSA Briefing Note* series. PANRUSA is a DFID funded research project. It aims to inform policy makers and implementers of the impacts of natural resource related policies on poverty and sustainable natural resource use in drylands, identifying best experiences and practices from adjacent countries with comparable natural environments.

What does PANRUSA do?

People living in drylands in Southern Africa adapt and cope with natural variability in factors influencing the availability of natural resources which they use in everyday livelihood activities. Policies operating at a range of scales can also have an impact upon community and household natural resources, livelihood strategies and levels of poverty. Within the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UK White Paper on International Development (*Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21st Century*), outputs from PANRUSA identify components of existing local, national and international policies that most enable and most disable positive sustainable dryland use and poverty elimination.

The Briefing Note series

These best practices and experiences are explored through the *Briefing Note* series. Each *Briefing Note* covers a themed topic and provides an overview of the key issues identified within the research. Local responses to these issues are explored and examples from relevant study areas are used to illustrate the outcomes from the research findings. Additional *Briefing Notes* are provided, nested within a topic (e.g. BN2B), which provide a study area focus on the particular issue. Nested with *Briefing Note 1* are *Briefing Notes 1A-D* which provide details of the different methods and approaches used within the research.

Key themes within PANRUSA

Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
Desertification is a complex and sometimes controversial issue. The UN CCD provides a framework for tackling desertification that embodies current thinking on the environmental and societal components of the issue. These

include the need to understand the impact of national and international policies on people's behaviour towards the environment, awareness of the links between poverty, natural resource use and degradation, and the importance of recognising indigenous people's knowledge, environmental sensitivity and rights.

Poverty and sustainable livelihoods:

Underpinning new policy initiatives to eradicate poverty is the concept of sustainable livelihoods which are livelihoods that can 'cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base'. By introducing the concept of sustainability, 'sustainable livelihoods' addresses the linkages between poverty, the environment and empowerment/participation, remedying some of the shortfalls that have characterised poverty analyses to date.

Policies, poverty and natural resource use:

Increasingly, attention is being given to the complexity and diversity of society-environment relationships, and the ways in which local practices are shaped and influenced by, and in return feed back into, global policies and international agendas. Overall this leads to a greater appreciation of indigenous practices and local natural resource management initiatives, and illustrates that people play an important role in flexible resource use and management practices in marginal and variable environments.

Where does PANRUSA work?

By embracing both differences within drylands (environmental variability) and different country policy contexts (policy variability), this allows integrated studies investigating both key physical, and key social and policy factors, affecting natural resource use and rural poverty in southern African drylands. The three different areas are identified in the map on the front of this *Briefing Note*. Each area is identified by its reference, for example, 2b is Omaheke District in Namibia. This is referred to in other *Briefing Notes* in brackets adjacent to relevant examples.

Cross-border policy research: the border between Botswana and South Africa in the height of the wet season (Area 2a and b)



Outcomes

PANRUSA has a series of different dissemination and information sharing activities planned throughout the project. These target a range of different 'users' including policy makers, NGOs, local government workers, communities and individuals.

- *Series of Briefing Notes* providing syntheses of key issues by theme and area (target audience: policy practitioners, NGOs, DFID personnel). To be translated into Tswana, Herero and Afrikaans for local communities
- *Series of working papers* providing in-depth analyses of work in progress (target audience: collaborators and working groups)
- *Community workshops* within all areas where fieldwork has been conducted, July 2001 (target audience: local communities, individual respondents)
- *Policy workshop* in Southern Africa, Sept 2001 (target audience: senior policy makers, NGOs and DFID personnel)
- All outputs are available on the PANRUSA website, including *Briefing Notes*. Our website can be found at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/panrusa>

PANRUSA was funded by the UK Government Department for International Development, and conducted by researchers at the University of Sheffield, UK, in conjunction with researchers from Africa.

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