

Towards a strategy for prioritizing resource use projects in South African National Parks

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Historical background to flagship resource use projects

- South Africa has always had a sustainable use orientation, and its laws reflect this.
- There has been a spectrum of resource use strategies over time.
- Resource use projects are grounded in a particular socio-political context.
- Current legislation:
 - 1) Biodiversity and the ecological integrity of ecosystems are essential to maintain a sustainable flow of ecosystem goods and services for human need.
 - 2) Therefore, the primary (but not sole) purpose of protected area management is biodiversity conservation.

Why is there a need for flagship resource use projects?

- There are many examples of current resource use in national parks.
- There is a lack of monitoring.
- Is the use of resources sustainable?
- What are the impacts on biodiversity and ecological integrity?
- What are the benefits?
- What can be done?
- Policy level:
 - Resource use policy informs SANParks and resource users' interaction and dialogue on current (and future) resource use.
- Operational level:
 - Flagship resource use projects guide the process of formalizing current resource use in national parks through generating baseline data, piloting monitoring systems and experimenting with management strategies.

What are the flagship resource use projects?

Project	2008/09	2009/10	Status
Struisbaai Suurvy Plukkers Vereniging (Sour Fig Harvesting)	x		Implemented, ongoing
Rastafari Rooiwortel (Bulbine latifolia) Nursery	x		Implemented, ongoing
KNP Grass Harvesting	x		Implemented, ongoing
Fern Harvesting	x		Implemented, ongoing
Outeniqua Eco Honey Bee Farming	x		Implemented, ongoing
Commercial Timber Harvesting	x		Implemented, ongoing
Khomani San Cultural Heritage	x		Implemented, ongoing
Thatching Reed Harvesting		x	Feasibility study
Wild Flower Harvesting		x	Feasibility study
Pepper Bark Harvesting in KNP		x	Feasibility study

Why is there a need to prioritize?

- The number of resource use projects is linked to the balanced scorecard.
- Three new projects are targeted for each year.
- There is an exponential increase in projects.
- There is no standard protocol for selecting projects. The process is vulnerable to external influences from park management and SANParks corporate.
- Crisis management state
- Poor understanding of community based conservation
- The setting up of harvesting prescriptions in resource intensive.
- Managing the social dynamics around resource use projects is resource intensive.
- There are budget implications to making sustainable resource use projects feasible. These are different for customary (traditional) and subsistence use, and commercial use.
- How do we get the most from our investment?

Criteria for a strategy for prioritizing resource use projects

- Spatially explicit (grounded in a particular local context)
- Cross cutting (ecological, social and economic)
- Potential to scale up (short, medium and long term objectives)
- Scale of management must match scale of resource use
- Decentralization and devolution of power to the lowest level (resource user)
- Link to broader SANParks initiatives
- Link to broader, cross-sectoral initiatives
- Emphasize multiple management options and strategies by embracing an adaptive management approach
- Monitoring (informs the feedback loops in adaptive management)

Reflecting on current projects

- Where do these elements come together?
- What has worked?
- What have been the challenges?
- Can we draw any lessons from the experience?

Khomani San Cultural Heritage Project





Research projects

Scale

Research questions

Resource	<p>Is current resource use ecologically sustainable?</p> <p>Gerbrand Nel</p> <p>Contractual park</p> <p>Farms</p>	<p>What are the benefits to people from current resource use?</p> <p>Lelani Mannetti</p>	<p>Gladman Thondhlana</p>
Park	<p>What are the impacts of resource use on biodiversity?</p> <p>Johane Dikgang</p>	<p>How do people's assets (different types of capital) influence their resource use patterns?</p>	<p>What is the value of resource use relative to other livelihood strategies?</p>
Region	<p>How can conservation and complementary practices be promoted above alternative land uses?</p>	<p>How are the benefits from resource use and other livelihood strategies distributed?</p>	<p>What are the costs and benefits of alternative development options and strategies?</p>

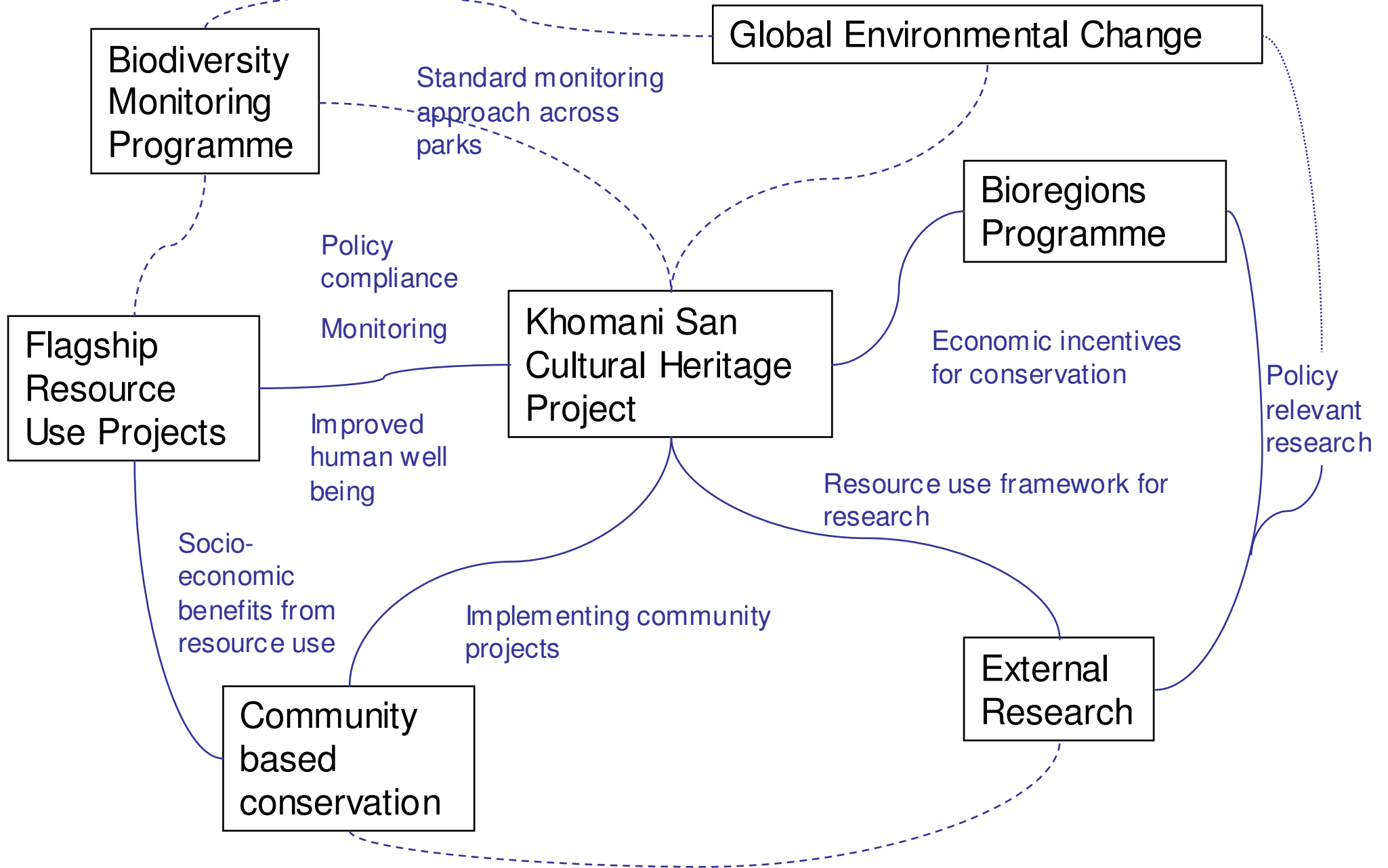
Social and economic activities



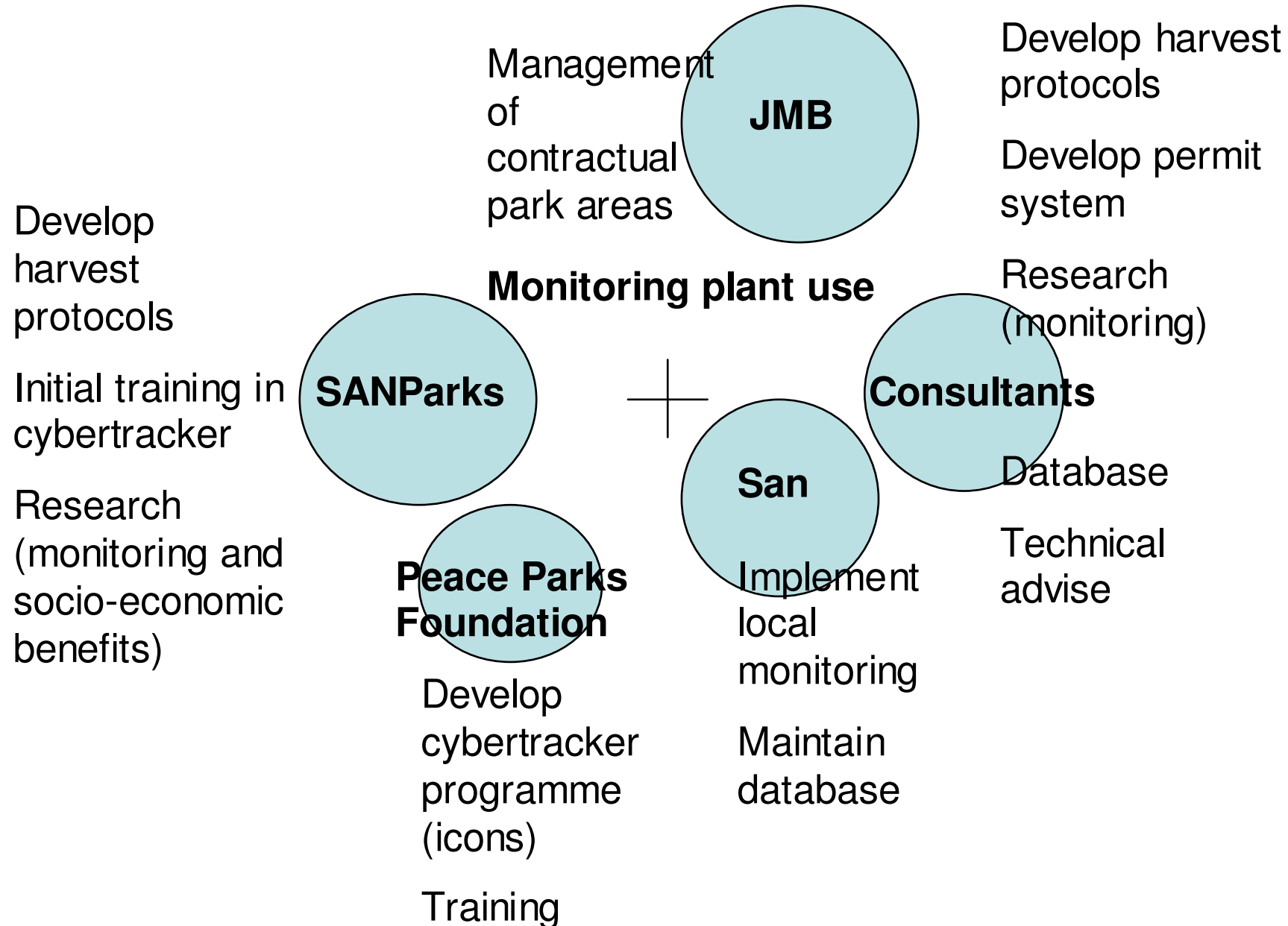
Institutions

- San Communal Property Association (CPA) is no longer functional due to nepotism and mismanagement of funds.
- Funds administered through a delegated representative from DLA (Kimberley).
- Reorganisation at the grass roots level into traditional sub-committees (permits and monitoring, community guides, translators)
- Park committee which forms part of the JMB committee (contractual park areas)
- Management of resources for the Mier community has always taken place at the local municipality level.
- JMB in the process of developing a constitution and registering as a legal entity (open accounts and take over the management of finances)

Link to broader SANParks initiatives



Cross sectoral initiatives



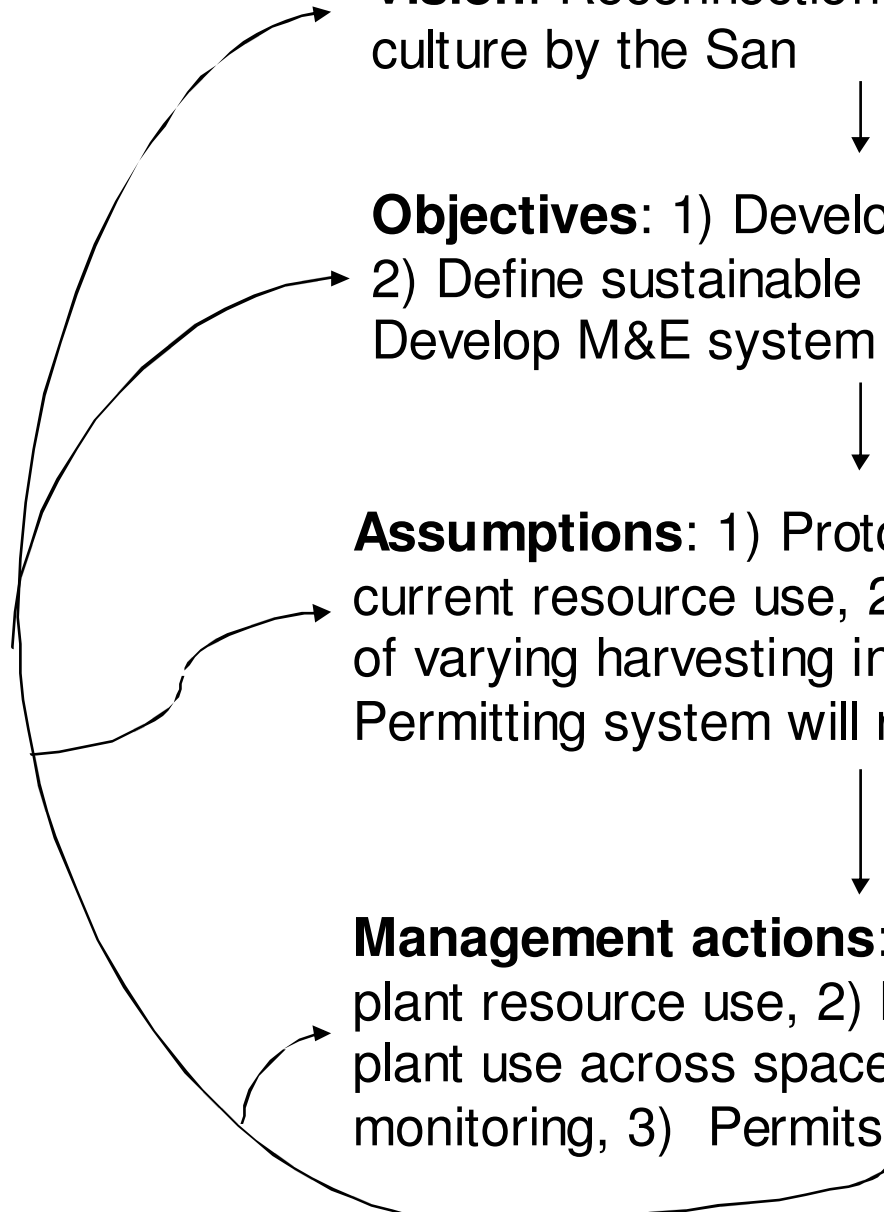
Adaptive management (for sub section of socio-ecological system)

Vision: Reconnection with land and culture by the San

Objectives: 1) Develop harvest protocols, 2) Define sustainable harvest levels and 3) Develop M&E system

Assumptions: 1) Protocols will inform current resource use, 2) There will be areas of varying harvesting intensities, and 3) Permitting system will regulate resource use

Management actions: 1) Protocols inform plant resource use, 2) Research into current plant use across space and time inform monitoring, 3) Permits are developed



Lessons learnt from implementing flagship resource use projects

- Resource use and other community flagship projects ultimately contribute to improved human well-being.
- There is a need to define CBNRM in SANParks.
- A strategy for prioritizing projects will help buffer against external influences.
- Projects need to have short, medium and long term objectives.
- Projects need to be set up to learn with a scale of increasing complexity.
- Projects need longer funding cycles.
- There is a need to monitor the process of learning (feedbacks).