

(Newsletter of the project The Future Okavango, covering the period August-September 2013)

What is coming up? TFO activities and deadlines, events of interest

- **15 August 2013:** Deadline for paper submission to "Biodiversity & Ecology", special issue on TFO (http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers_ecol/call_for_papers_bne.php)
- **20 August 2013:** Deadline for submission of the **TFO interim report** by Subprojects (SPs).
- **27 – 28 August 2013:** The next **scenario workshop** will take place in Trier.
- **3 – 5 September 2013:** The **Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF)** will take place in **Kimberley**, South Africa with a special session on the Okavango basin; a presentation will be given by TFO paraecologists as well as TFO scientists and students from Angola, Botswana, Germany and Namibia for further information please contact Ute Schmiedel.
- **16 – 27 September 2013:** The **UNCCD COP-11** will take place in **Windhoek**; TFO intends be presented on a side event; for further information see <http://www.unccdcop11.com/#!/welcome/cipy> or contact Thomas Falk.
- **19 – 22 November 2013:** **TFO Workshop in Hamburg** on data integration and project outlook. Further announcements will follow shortly.
- **February/March 2014:** "All hands TFO Workshop" in **Rundu/Namibia** including a one-day stakeholder and public information session. Further announcements will follow in due time.
- **19 – 21 March 2014:** **Global Land Project**, 2nd Open Science Meeting 'Land Transformations: between global challenges and local realities' will take in **Berlin**: <http://www.glp-osm2014.org/>

Inside TFO: What has been done recently?

(Topics: Reports on recent TFO activities and workshops, research results, FIRM update)

- Stephanie Domptail and Henrike Seidel – the coordination team of the Scenario Task Force – have done a **Scenario Fieldtrip to Angola** to complete stakeholder interviews. For detailed information please contact Stephanie Domptail.
- Under the guidance of SP3 and SP8 the TFO Paraecologists Miguel Sachilulo Hilario, Robert Mukuya and Meshack Kwamovo executed the **2013 yield assessment** at the core sites Chitembo, Mashare and Seronga. Results will be available soon.

- The 2nd **Para-ecologist Training** Workshop took place from 21st July until 4th of August in Seronga, Botswana. The training comprised among other aspects further insight into the TFO project, causes and effects of climate change, methods for various Para-ecologist activities, use of MS Office programs, preparation of the talk to be held at the Arid Zone Ecology Forum in Kimberley this year.
- The **TFO Coordination** team (SPC) is meeting on a weekly basis. Any requests, questions, news etc. can be directed to any member of SPC (Erb, Finckh, Groengroeft, Homburg, Juergens, Proepper, Schmidt) to be communicated further. Minutes of all SPC meetings exist in German.

Inside TFO: News, communication & other information

(Topics: New TFO members, new uploads or features in MyTFO, OBIS or website, information by PT/BMBF/GLUES)

- A TFO **online calendar** is now available on OBIS: the calendar aims for better coordination and information on TFO activities and other events of interest. Please feel free to add all events, deadlines, fieldtrips etc. that are of relevance for the TFO community and make use of the calendar as much as possible. You will need an OBIS account to get access to the calendar which is accessible for TFO members only. You can register on the OBIS website, in case you don't have an account yet. Link to the calendar (link can also be found at the upper right corner on the TFO website):

<http://leutra.geogr.uni-jena.de/obis/metadata/login.php?url=%2Fobis%2Fmetadata%2Fcalendar.php>
- On 20.06.2013 TFO received another letter by PT voicing several critical comments about the projects performance. In collaboration with Subproject leaders SPC has formulated a reply that was sent back to PT on 18.07.2013.
- Henrike Seidel is leaving TFO to start a PhD research position at the Institute of Sea Fisheries in Hamburg on 01.09.2013. We thank her for her great contribution to TFO SPC and the Scenario Task Force and wish her all the best for the future.

Outside TFO: Reports from stakeholders' activities

(Topics: Feedback from stakeholder meetings TFO attended, TFO members on stakeholders contacts, stakeholder activities....)

- Richard Fynn of ORI has represented TFO on the last **OKACOM meeting** at Maun Lodge on the 12th June 2013. He reported back on all progress of the various TFO projects (SP 1-10). The report was well received by OKACOM who requested that TFO ensure the findings are well disseminated to the various stakeholders. SAREP representatives at the meeting also requested that TFO and SAREP link more often to discuss each others activities in the region.
- Mike Murray Hudson of ORI/Botswana and Vera de Cauwer of Polytech/Namibia have represented TFO at the recent **SAREP workshop** in Windhoek. The workshop brought together

stakeholders from all three basin states with the aims of generating a common understanding of the current state of knowledge of possible trajectories of climate change, implications for basin livelihoods, and possible courses for policy development to increase adaptability. SAREP, the sponsors, were also hoping to increase the level of networking and information sharing in the basin. A report on the outputs of the workshop, and an accompanying report on the current state of GCM outputs and their application to CC in the basin (Anthropogenic climate change and hydro-climatic conditions in the Okavango River Basin) will be produced in the next two months. For more information please contact Mike or Vera.

- Michael Pröpper has represented TFO during a series of **Land Use Planning Workshops** (IRLUP/PLUP) in Rundu. Purpose is a Kavango Land Use Plan – spatially explicit. This process is headed by Min of Lands. Managing agency for Min. of Lands: Stubenrauch Consultants WDH. Geodata are being processed by a subcontracted consultancy GEOCARTA. Facilitation was subcontracted to a German consultancy from Essen AHT – Zihni Erencin & Jaap Vermaat - supported by Lizza and Patrick Hilger (Tambuti Lodge Rundu). Present from Ministry of Lands: Mr. Born-Bright Muleke.

Workshops dealt with four interrelated categories

- ‘Small Scale’ Commercial Farming (SSCF). MP: Meaning the increasing number of hinterland leasehold farms, 5x5km;
- Irrigation Green Schemes and Small Scale irrigation. MP: Unfortunately treated in two separate workshops;
- Human Wildlife Conflict/Buffer areas. MP: Especially targeted were Human Wildlife conflicts between farms along the Khaudum Park;
- Community Forests (CF). MP: Special focus on conflicts between CF and SSCF

MP participated in No’s 4 and 6 on irrigation and parts of 5. Detailed handwritten minutes by MP exist. Official report including participants will be handed out by Ministry of Lands upon TFO request. TFO is currently negotiating with Stubenrauch, GEOCARTA and Min. of Lands.

- To plan the **future urban development of Rundu Town** the Town Council has contracted Stubenrauch Consultants from Windhoek (Urban Designers and City Planners) to develop a draft Structure Plan. On 20.06.13 the Town Council invited stakeholders and the public for two separate meetings. During the public meeting with about 15 participants, among them M. Pröpper, a British Stubenrauch consultant informed about future plans. It was emphasized that urban floodplains should be turned into a recreational area with limited access for the public (restricted noise pollution), that strong urban residential growth is projected southwards – hence a southern bypass road around Rundu is planned, as well as the southern bypass of the main additional power line. Industrial areas are being planned in southwestern directions since the wind to blow away industrial noise and odors blows mostly from northeastern directions. No plans were made regarding a bridge to Calai – Stubenrauch had visited the administration in Calai without any significant feedback yet – and Namibian Roads Authority did not have the northern Connection of Rundu (a gateway to KAZA and the connection of the Angolan hinterland) on its priority list.
- Maxon Simfukwe and Michael Proepper represented TFO during the **2013 annual OkBMC, Workshop in Rundu**. About 60 participants: Delegates from Botswana, Delegates of Tsumeb River Basin (both groups making about 70% of audience), Ministries, NGOs, Church leaders, TA, Councils. Facilitator: Cynthia Ortman (Chief Hydrologist MAWF)/Laura Nameene (MAWF –

OKACOM). Absence of major Players (e.g. SAREP Head Coordination). Crucial NAP decision will possibly be postponed to next meeting. Minutes will be available from: R. Kambuli. rkambuli@yahoo.co.uk

- Managed by R. Kambuli, the organizers of the **Tsumeb River Basin Group Trip** – Sophie Haseley and Helvi Shalongo – had approached Maxon Simfukwe (MS) and Michael Proepper (MP) during day one of the OkBMC meeting to organize a **TFO fieldtrip**. Accordingly on day two TFO took them to Mashare, where MS and MP showed them the Conservation agriculture (CA) Approach in action under the participation of several CA farmers. CA farmers voiced at several occasions how especially during this year's drought season they performed much better than traditional farming. The first generation of CA Farmers received T-Shirts with a printing 'Conservation Agriculture – Farmer trainers' as they are training the new generation of 12 CA farmers now.



- On 07.07.2013 M. Proepper met a **film team from Sao Paulo** shooting a documentary about the Okavango Basin. The team was travelling down the Okavango interviewing major stakeholders. MP answered a few rather broad questions about the importance of the resource 'water' for stakeholders and the role of TFO. TFO was represented by Francisco Maiato and Amandio Gomes in Chitembo as well. The documentary will consist of three parts and will be screened in Brazilian Television on a Sunday at prime time nationally. TFO will be informed in advance. To receive a copy we would have to send an official letter. Currently it is unclear if the documentary will have English subtitles. Contact: hellen.santos@tvglobocom.br

New Publications by us and others

(Topics: new publications by TFO members or other publication be of interest; interesting websites, data etc.)

Bateman I. J.; Harwood A. R.; Mace G. M. et al.

2013 Bringing Ecosystem Services into Economic Decision-Making: Land Use in the United Kingdom. *Science* 341: 45 – 50.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/341/6141/45.full.pdf>

(with its 58 pages of supplementary information this paper gives insight in the methodology of the valuation of ESS based on high resolution data and the definition of scenarios)

Juergens, Norbert

2013 The Biological Underpinnings of Namib Desert Fairy Circles. *Science* 339 (6127):1618-1621.

Weinzierl, Thomas & Schilling, Janpeter

2013 On Demand, Development and Dependence: A Review of Current and Future Implications of Socioeconomic Changes for Integrated Water Resource Management in the Okavango Catchment of Southern Africa. *Land* 2: 60-80.

<http://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/2/1/60>

Pröpper, Michael & Vollan, Björn

2013 Beyond awareness and self-governance. Approaching Kavango timber users' real-life choices. *Land* 2: 392-418.

<http://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/2/3/392>

News from the Okavango region

(Topics: new policies, happenings etc. relevant for resource management in the Okavango Basin)

- The **Kavango region** of Namibia has a **new Governor**. Dr. Samuel Mbambo, former ambassador of Namibia to India took up his new post in June 2013. He was visited and informed about TFO in July and assured his support.

Anything else...

(Here we offer space for all other information, which might be of interest for the TFO community)

***** Do you have any information for the TFO-community? *****

Upcoming events, new SP-members, publications, research results, news from the basin or interesting events to share – please let us know:

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