

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

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

- **Update: "Biodiversity & Ecology", special issue on TFO** (http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers_ecol/call_for_papers_bne.php). Almost all contributions have arrived and are now under review or in the design stage.
- **23 October 2013:** One day TFO meeting at Hamburg to exchange experiences on **Angola**.
- **19 – 22 November 2013: TFO Workshop in Hamburg** on data integration and project outlook. Invitation has been sent out by Norbert Juergens on 09/16/2013. Please inform SPC about your participation.
- **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)

- 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.
- **27 – 28 August 2013:** The scenario task force undertook another **Scenario workshop** at Trier. The group spent 1,5 days intensively discussing main drivers, indicators and proximate drivers for ESS, and making significant steps towards a scenario logic and the formulation of first storylines. Minutes can be received from Stephanie Domptail.
- The TFO Coordination Team and Scenario Task Force consulted with the TFO-Partners in Africa and Germany and defined the **TFO Research Area called FORA**. The Future Okavango Research Area FORA comprises of **three subareas**:

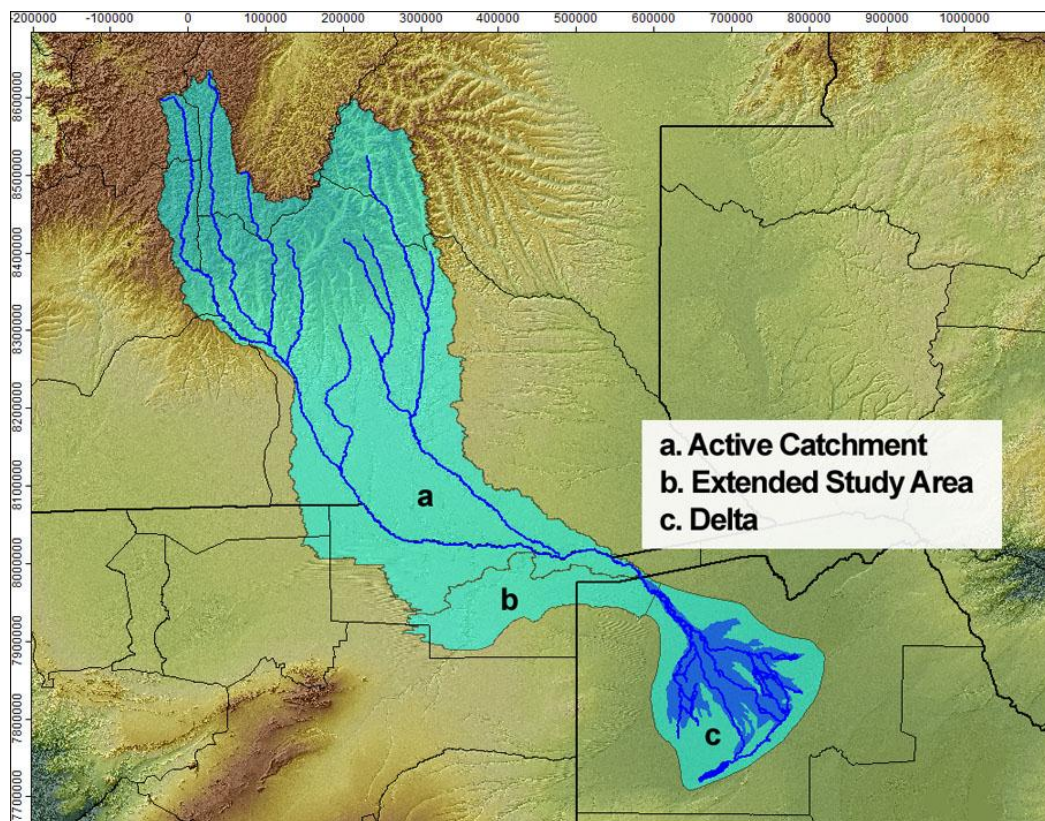
Active Catchment: Represents the actual catchment as state of the art delineated watershed area above the Mohembo Gauging station which is the link to the Delta. The ephemeral Omatako River which originates in Namibia and joins the Cubango River near Rundu as well as

other non-active areas of the Makgadikgadi Pan (Kalahari Basin) are excluded. However, the definition of the catchment is close to many already existing ones (e.g. Okacom, Okavango Research Institute).

Extended Study Area: Covers wider parts of the northern Kavango region. Within the TFO project this region is considered being important due to resource use in the hinterland. The region corresponds to the lower parts of the Omatoko Catchment and follows as its southern boundary the contour line of 1,000 to 1,200 meters above sea level.

Delta: Encompasses areas of commonly used definitions of the Delta, i.e. of the Okavango Research Institute and by the Environmental Information Service of Namibia respectively by Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004. The delineation is adapted to the requirements of the TFO partners, e.g. inclusion of the Lake Ngami and areas north of the delta defined as grazing areas of the Core Site Seronga. Thus the Delta is not defined according to eco-hydrological aspects sensu stricto.

Shapes and KMZ-files for Google Earth available at the Okavango Basin Information System **OBIS** as "FORA.zip". <http://leutra.geogr.uni-jena.de/obis/metadata/start.php>



Inside TFO: News, communication & other information

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

- TFO **online calendar** available on OBIS: Please be so kind to take the time to **always add all events, deadlines, field-trips, conference dates** 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>

- Please make use of the TFO webpages internal area called MyTFO which allows you to update your participant details, generate mailing lists and download internal documents such as reports, minutes, presentations etc. You will find the MyTFO link in the upper right corner. You can receive your personal MyTFO - login from the TFO - webmaster at webmaster@future-okavango.org
- All SPs and Institutions please spend a minute to update your participant details on the TFO Webpage in the MyTFO area (see above) so that we get a clear picture who is participating at this stage. Please also provide information on your function and thematic and regional expertise within TFO. If you identify colleagues of your SP who have left the project please send an email to the TFO - webmaster at webmaster@future-okavango.org

Outside TFO: Reports from stakeholders' activities

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

- TFO was represented on **Monday 16 September 2013** at a side event at **COP11 of UNCCD in Windhoek, Namibia**. The relevance of 'The Future Okavango' for the UN Convention to combat desertification was presented in the frame of a side event of the COP11 in Windhoek, Namibia. The overarching frame of the side event was aiming at presenting the BMBF programme on Sustainable Land Management. For this purpose the facilitating Institute for Biodiversity (ibn) brought together three regional LaMa projects, SuMaRIO (China), Sulama (Madagascar) and The Future Okavango (TFO). The presentations on behalf of TFO were shared by Dr. Tabo Mubyana-John (University of Botswana), Dr. Thomas Falk (University of Marburg) and Prof. Dr. Norbert Juergens (University of Hamburg). The side event attracted numerous participants and allowed a very fruitful discussion involving the auditorium and the panel members.



TFO presentation by Norbert Juergens, Picture taken by Bertchen Kohrs.

- TFO was well represented at this year's **Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF)** held at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley / South Africa from the **2nd to the 5th of September 2013** (www.azef.co.za). Fourteen project members (PostDoc, PhD, Master, Honours students and para-ecologists) presented the results that emerged from their research conducted in the context of The Future Okavango project all together 5 posters and 6 oral presentations during the Okavango Session held on Thursday the 5th of September.



Participants: *Upper row from left to right: Jerome Boys (Windhoek / Namibia), Aobakwe Lubina (Maun / Botswana), Ute Schmiedel (Hamburg / Germany), Miya Kabajani (Windhoek / Namibia), Meshack Kwamovo (Seronga / Botswana), Francisco Maiato Goncalves (Lubango / Angola). Lower row from left to right: Vilho Mtuleni (Windhoek / Namibia), Kgalalelo Thito (Maun / Botswana), Gaolathe Tsheboeng (Maun / Botswana), Dimpho Matlhola (Maun / Botswana), Keoikantse Sianga (Maun / Botswana), Robert Mukuya (Rundu / Namibia), Amandio Gomes (Luanda / Angola), Miguel S. Hilario (Chitembo / Angola) - Not on the photo: Torsten Weber (Hamburg / Germany). Picture taken by Niels Dreber.*

New Publications by us and others

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

Fitter, Alastair H.

2013 Are Ecosystem Services Replaceable by Technology? *Environmental and Resource Economics* 55(4): 513-524.

Jax, Kurt, et al.

2013 Ecosystem services and ethics. *Ecological Economics* 93(0): 260-268.

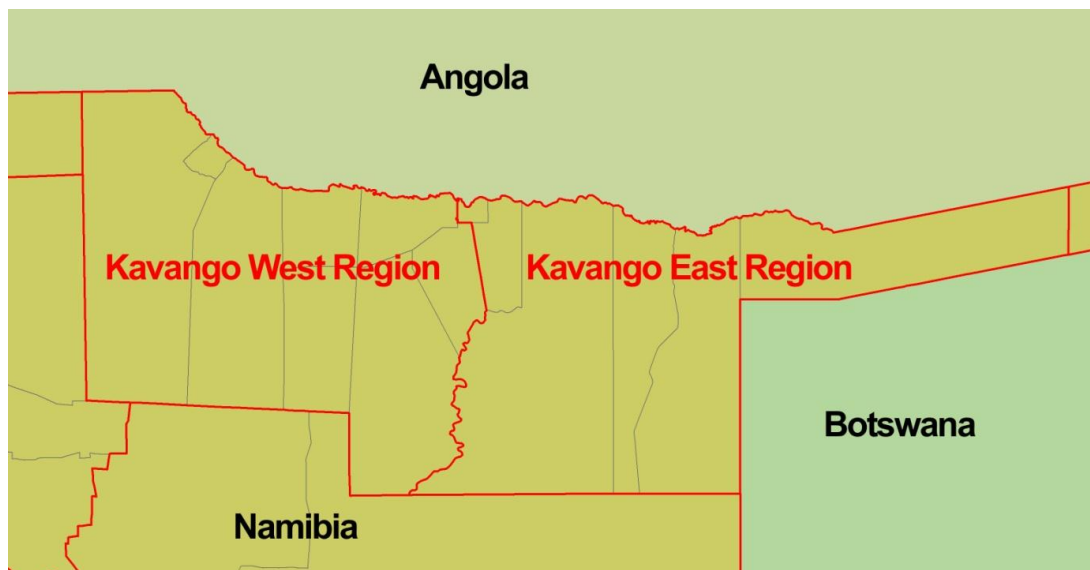
McShane, Thomas O., et al.

2011 Hard choices: Making trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and human well-being. *Biological Conservation* 144(3): 966-972.

News from the Okavango region

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

- The **Kavango region** of Namibia has been split up into two regions Kavango East and Kavango West. The Caprivi Strip has been renamed to Zambezi Region.



On August 8, the Namibian President H. Pohamba announced that Kavango Region has been split into two regions, namely Kavango East and Kavango West. That brings the total number of regions in Namibia to 14. Kavango Region has an estimated population of about 220 000.

<http://www.gov.na/documents/10192/279325/STATEMENT+BY+HIS+EXCELLENCY+DR.+HIFIKEPUNYE+POHAMBA,%20PRESIDENT+OF+THE+REPUBLIC+OF+NAMIBIA+ON+THE+OCCASION+OF+THE+ANNOUNCEMENT+OF+THE+DECISION+OF+THE+PRESIDENT+ON+THE+RECOMMENDATION+OF+THE+4TH+DELIMITATION+COMMISSION+%288+August+2013%29/eccd23c9-f3e3-4a42-a8ab-d1dd6a1a626d>

Shapefiles are provided at the Okavango Basin Information System **OBIS**: Please look for "Namibia - New Administrative Divisions 2013 - Kavango Regions".

<http://leutra.geogr.uni-jena.de/obis/metadata/start.php>

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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