

MAPUTALAND

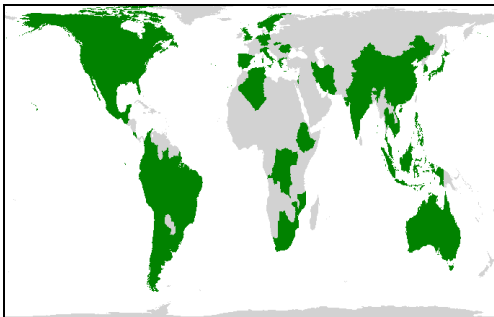
TRANSNATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 2 – Apr 05

Welcome to the second Maputaland transnational conservation planning project newsletter. It contains information on what we have achieved in the last year. We hope that you find this information useful and would welcome any feedback.

CLUZ goes from strength to strength

The first version of the Conservation Land-Use Zoning (CLUZ) software was launched in July 2004 and more than 200 people from over 50 countries have now registered to use it.



The global distribution of CLUZ users

CLUZ is an interface for the MARXAN conservation planning software that also allows the on-screen development of conservation landscape plans and protected area networks. If you would like more information then please visit the CLUZ website (<http://www.mosaic-conservation.org/cluz>).

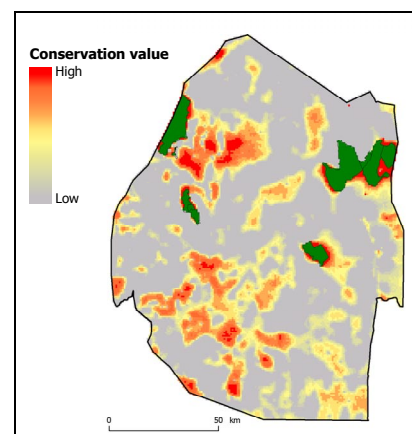
Training workshops

We organised three workshops in the last year in Kwaluseni, Maputo and Pietermaritzburg to provide training in using CLUZ. More than 25 people attended and we plan to run more workshops in the next year. Please contact Bob Smith if you would like to attend one of these meetings.

Our project has also helped raise awareness about the value of systematic conservation planning and we have given presentations at the Student Conference in Conservation Science in Cambridge, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries, & Aquaculture Science in Lowestoft and the European Crop Wild Relative Diversity Assessment and Conservation Forum in Korsør, Denmark. We have also been invited to help teach at a conservation planning training workshop in July, as part of the Society for Conservation Biology's annual conference in Brasilia.

Swaziland

As part of the Kwaluseni workshop, we worked with colleagues from government, the University of Swaziland and the private sector to produce a preliminary conservation plan for Swaziland. The participants have collected a wide range of biodiversity distribution data and so we were able to import this into a planning system and then identify the most important areas for meeting specific biodiversity targets.



Swaziland's important conservation areas

The resultant map, which is shown above, identifies Swaziland's key conservation areas and will help inform national and transnational land-use plans.

Satellite image poster

We have now produced an A1 size poster showing a satellite image of Maputaland, as well as text explaining the conservation importance of the region in the five local languages. We have printed 300 copies of this map and are now distributing it throughout Maputaland so that it can be displayed in schools and offices in all three countries. If you would like a copy of the poster then please get in touch with Bob Smith at DICE.

MSc projects

Four MSc students from DICE will be visiting Maputaland during May and June to collect data for their research projects. One student will be focus on the Mozambican section, while the other three will be based in Mkhuzi Game Reserve. Their research will feed in to the larger conservation planning project and will also help develop methodologies for use in collecting data in the rest of Maputaland. The details of these projects are:

Petros Ngwenya is collecting data on the profitability of different land-use options in the communal land north of Mkhuzi Game Reserve. He will focus on the economics of subsistence farming, trophy hunting and ecotourism to provide information for decision makers who are developing land-use plans in the region.

Bruno Nhancale is using data from satellite imagery and studies on elephant ranging patterns to predict future patterns of human-elephant conflict around the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area, based on different fencing and land-use scenarios.

Louise McCrae is collecting data on the spatial patterns of bark stripping and wood cutting in the communal areas around Mkhuzi Game Reserve to build on

the work that Paul Brookes initiated last year in the area around Tembe Elephant Park. She will use this information to model the distribution of potential over-harvesting throughout the region.

Chris Ransom is working with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to map and understand poaching activity in Mkhuzi Game Reserve. This work will also provide valuable information on the spatial patterns of these poaching events, which will also be incorporated into the final Maputaland conservation planning system.

Paul Brookes, Nerissa Chao and Julian Easton successfully completed their MSc in Conservation Biology projects in September 2004 and all three of them were awarded distinctions. We have already distributed copies of their dissertations to various stakeholders but please get in touch with Bob Smith if you would like paper or electronic copies.

Distribution maps

We have already produced distribution maps of all of Maputaland's large herbivore species as part of Julian Easton's MSc project. We are now in the process of producing distribution maps of a range of other species, to ensure that the Maputaland conservation planning system identifies areas that help conserve the range of biodiversity elements found in the region.

Get in touch

This project depends on the help and support of a large number of people and we are grateful for all of their support. We are also very keen to build new collaborations, so please get in touch if you would like to get involved or find out more about the project.

For further information please contact:



Dr Bob Smith
DICE, University of Kent
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NS, UK

Tel No: +44 1227 823455

E-mail: R.J.Smith@kent.ac.uk

URL: <http://www.mosaic-conservation.org/maputaland>

