

# The opportunities and trade-offs of deproclamation as an outcome of land claims on protected areas

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# Timeline

1960 - 1970: evictions and resettlement

1997: land claim lodged

1999: survey of possible replacement lands

2004-2006: land purchase negotiations

2006: claim settled, game moved, CPA formed

2010: CPA elections

2010-2013: three concurrent CPAs



# The outcome?

“It was a success story.”

- *Deon Joubert (Park Manager of Mokala National Park)*

VS

“There’s no success story here.”

- *Virgil Gabarone (Restitution Project Manager at DRDLR)*

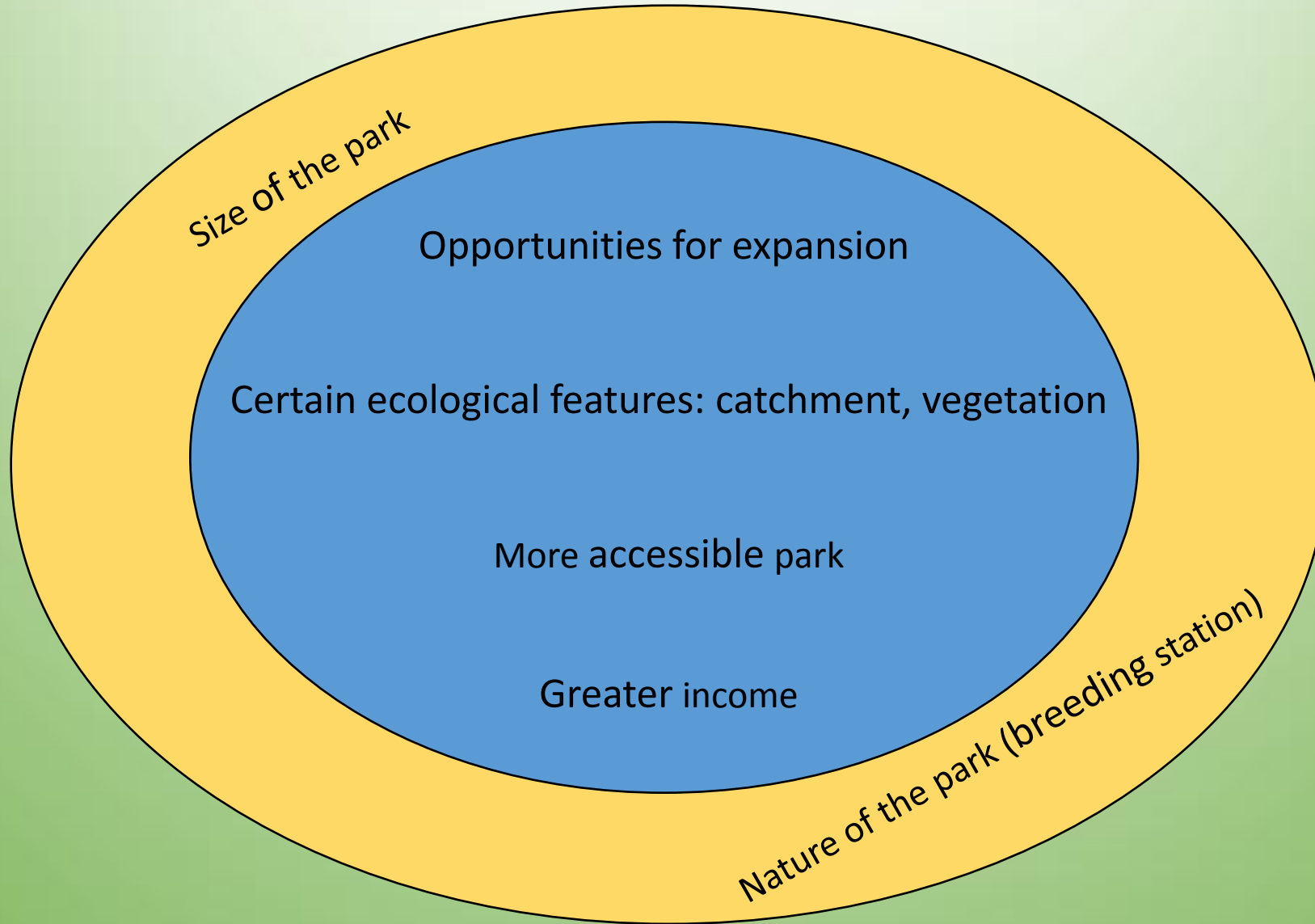
VS

“There are no benefits now. We should get a lot.”

- *Tony Maleka (dispossessed community member)*



# Success for conservation



But socially?

**“Niks nie!”**

So where do the problems lie...

# Sydney-on-Vaal “community”

Where does the idea come from?

- Land claims process
- Validation for the CPA

## Lessons for land claims

- Define “communities” according to present situation?
- Fewer claimants per claim (maybe household level)?

### Issues

- Historical
- Spatial
- Verification

### Uncertainty

- SAN Parks
- Government
- CPA

Infighting and  
factionalism



# Leadership

## Identity of the CPA

- Misunderstandings and frustrations with leadership – who is it?
- Mushrooming of leadership

## Functions of the CPA

- Lack of communication (e.g. Pampierstad, hunting incident)
- Complications of confused verification

## Communities looking elsewhere for leadership/benefits

- Miners and investors
- Government officials

## Lessons for land claims

- **Complete verification before land claim is settled (and repeat regularly)**
- **Critical thinking about use of funds**
- **Support for leadership**
- **Support communication or re-evaluate “community” thinking**
- **Support from whom?**



# Post-settlement support

- **Handover 2006:** SAN Parks skeleton staff
- **CPA:** first chair not prepared, no guidance
- **Falling through the cracks:** changes in government structure (2009)
- **Claimants:** expectation of support -> but lack of clarity about nature of support

## Lessons for land claims

- **Co-management:** long-term capacity support
- **Deproclamation:** additional support prior to settlement

# Deproclamation

	Conservation agency	Claimants
<b>Trade-offs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expensive in the short term (game capture)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conflicts</li><li>• No assistance (so possibly poor leadership and few benefits)</li></ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation</li><li>• Possibly expansion (spatial and species)</li><li>• Cheaper in long term (money, time, labour)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ownership rights</li><li>• Redress</li></ul>

# Questions for further thinking

- In how many of the PA's currently claimed would it possible to replace the reserve?
- Is there a way to get around the fundamental issues with "community" thinking in land claims on PA's?
- Are we having the right discussion?
- Given the current situation, should there be more focus on post-settlement support?
- Do the justice benefits of deproclamation outweigh the possible practical benefits of long-term support with co-management?