

Trust and distrust between farmers and conservationists

A longitudinal study in the Baviaanskloof

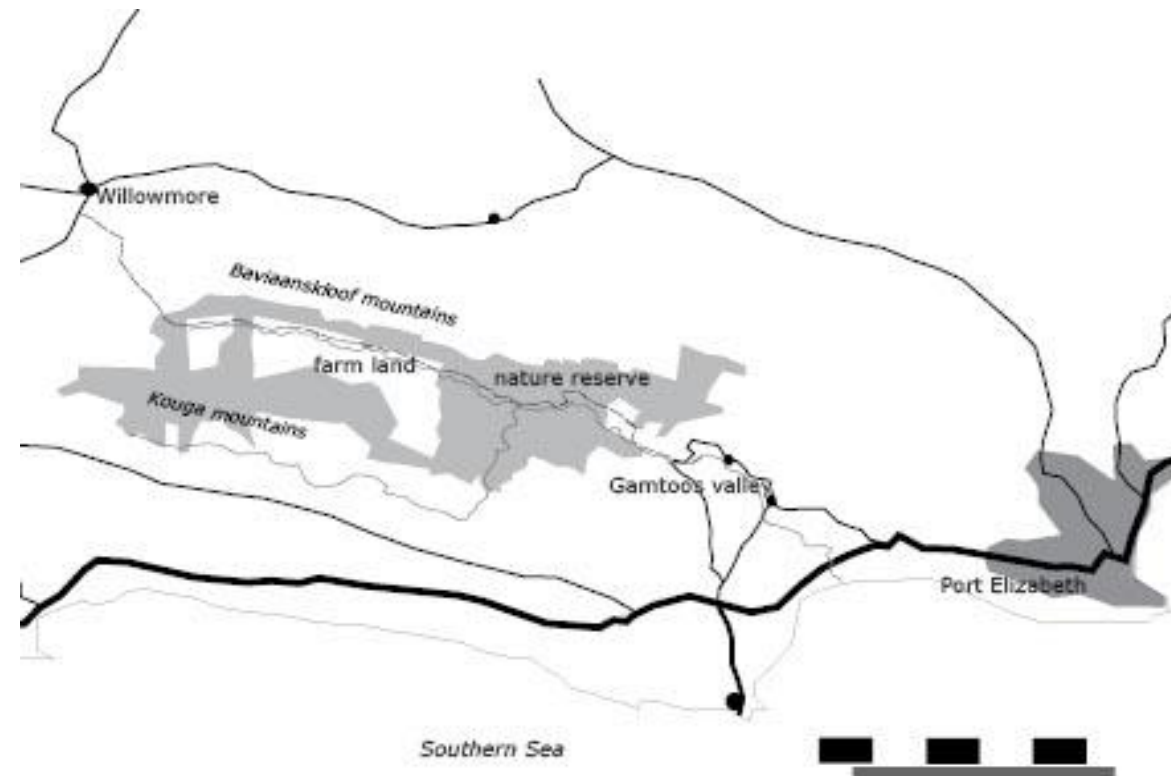
Thicket forum 2013,
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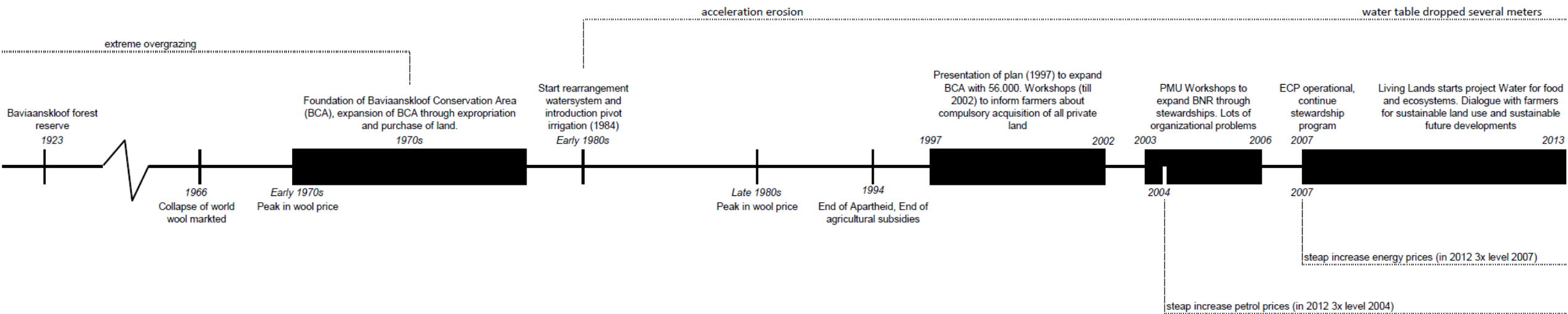
- Trust is generally seen as an important component in cooperation, interaction, and daily life.
- In management trust is seen as a lubricant for cooperation, and business success.
- In resource management and nature conservation it is often associated with conflict resolution
- However, trust between groups hardly studied

- Trust development over time between groups in the Baviaanskloof (Eastern Cape)
- Focussed on the long existing conflict between nature conservationists and farmers
- Looked at how distrust between two groups occurred and developed over time.



- Conducted 25 interviews in 2011
 - Farmers
 - Other landowners and communities
 - Nature conservationists
 - Governmental organisations and ngo's
- Document study





Baviaanskloof forest reserve

1923

extreme overgrazing

1966

Collapse of world wool market

Early 1970s

Peak in wool price

Foundation of Baviaanskloof Conservation Area (BCA), expansion of BCA through expropriation and purchase of land.

1970s

Start rearrangement watersystem and introduction pivot irrigation (1984)

Early 1980s

acceleration erosion

Late 1980s

Peak in wool price

1994

End of Apartheid, End of agricultural subsidies

1997

Presentation of plan (1997) to expand BCA with 56.000. Workshops (till 2002) to inform farmers about compulsory acquisition of all private land

2002

PMU Workshops to expand BNR through stewardships. Lots of organizational problems

2003

2004

steep increase petrol prices (in 2012 3x level 2004)

2006

ECP operational, continue stewardship program

2007

steep increase energy prices (in 2012 3x level 2007)

water table dropped several meters

Living Lands starts project Water for food and ecosystems. Dialogue with farmers for sustainable land use and sustainable future developments

2013

Conclusion

- Events over time contributed to the conflict and distrust
- Conflict became de-personalized – seen as natural
- Became part of group identity
 - As farmer it was “not done” to cooperate with conservationists
 - Nature conservationists, see a natural distinction
- Groups talk about the other, not with the other
 - No interaction, no trust building
 - Ingroup discussions (re-)emphasizing the distrust towards the other group.
- Situation changed due to dialogue and other external factors
- To build trust, interaction and understanding each others perspective is needed, as trust is the positive expectation based on the past.