

Where people, territory and culture meet

An insight into endangered culture and language revitalization through integrated cultural landscape management



The #Khomani San and the Desert of the Kalahari

Photo credits:

Khomani San Hugh Brody Archive, *Digital Collections of the University of Cape Town*

<http://www.digitalcollections.lib.uct.ac.za/khomani/>

Centre for African Language Diversity

www.caldi.uct.ac.za

Conceptual background

What is a **cultural landscape** ?

« combined works of nature and man » - *World Heritage Committee (1992)*

What is **integrated management** ?

a holistic and comprehensive framework, an ongoing process with sustainable objectives

Working tools
for the
preservation of
endangered
heritage



Case study



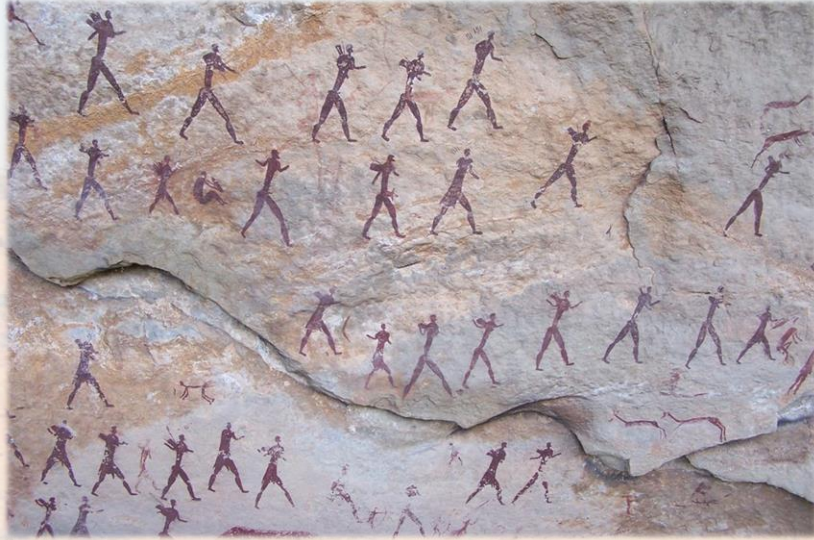
The nature:
Desert of the Kalahari, South Africa



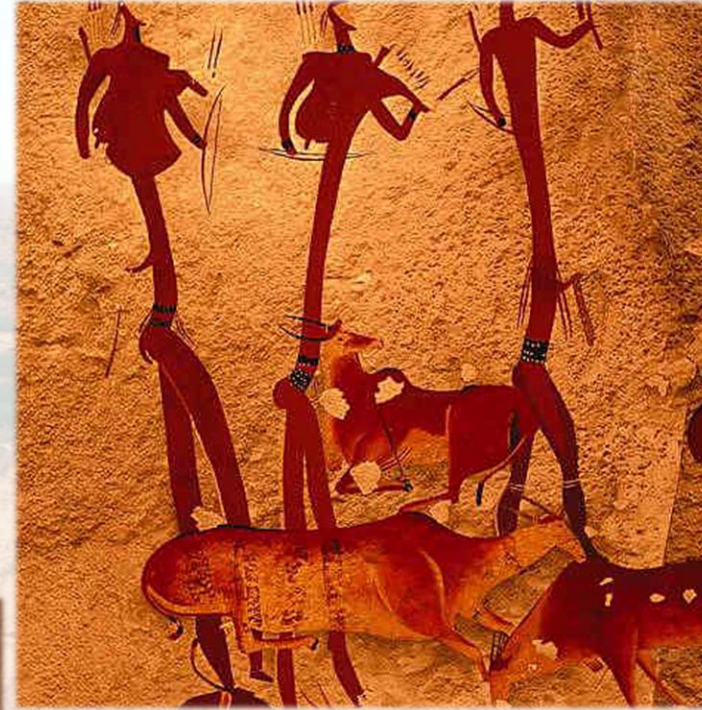
The men: ‡Khomani San

A long
time ago

San people, hunter-gatherers, clicks



San Rock Art



A long
time ago

2000 years ago

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi
and Bantu-speaking people
(pastoralists)



Khoikhoi herders

A long
time ago

2000 years ago

1652

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and
Bantu-speaking people
(pastoralists)

The Dutch arrive at the
Cape of Good Hope =
beginning of colonization



Boer campsite and KhoiKhoi



Boer family

A long
time ago

2000 years ago

1652

HOLOCAUST

1927

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and
Bantu-speaking people
(pastoralists)

The Dutch arrive at the
Cape of Good Hope =
beginning of colonization

Last San hunting permit



A long
time ago

2000 years ago

1652

HOLOCAUST

1927

1931

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and
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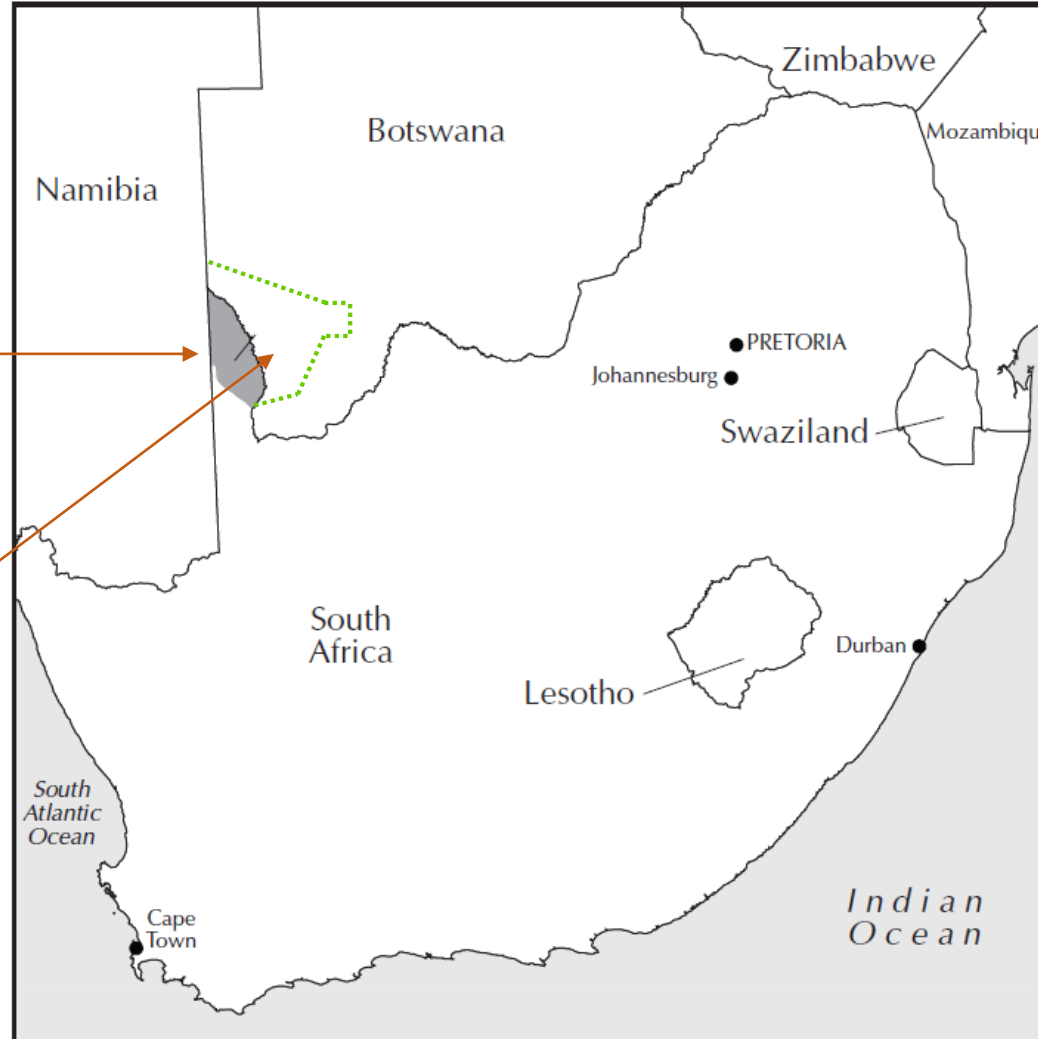
Last San hunting
permit

Kalahari
Gemsbok
National
Park

Kalahari Gemsbok
National Park



Kgalagadi
Transfrontier Park



A long
time ago

2000 years ago

1652

HOLOCAUST

1927

1931

1948

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and
Bantu-speaking people
(pastoralists)

The Dutch arrive at the
Cape of Good Hope =
beginning of colonization

Last San
hunting
permit

Kalahari
Gemsbok
National
Park

Beginning of the Apartheid



San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and Bantu-speaking people (pastoralists)

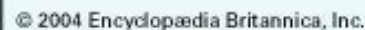
The Dutch arrive at the Cape of Good Hope = beginning of colonization

Last San hunting permit

Kalahari
Gemsbok
National

Apartheid

N/uu declared extinct



A long
time ago

2000 years ago

1652

HOLOCAUST

1927

1931

1948

1973

1993

San people
(hunter-gatherers)

Migration of KhoiKhoi and
Bantu-speaking people
(pastoralists)

The Dutch arrive at the
Cape of Good Hope =
beginning of colonization

Last San
hunting
permit

Kalahari
Gemsbock
National
Park

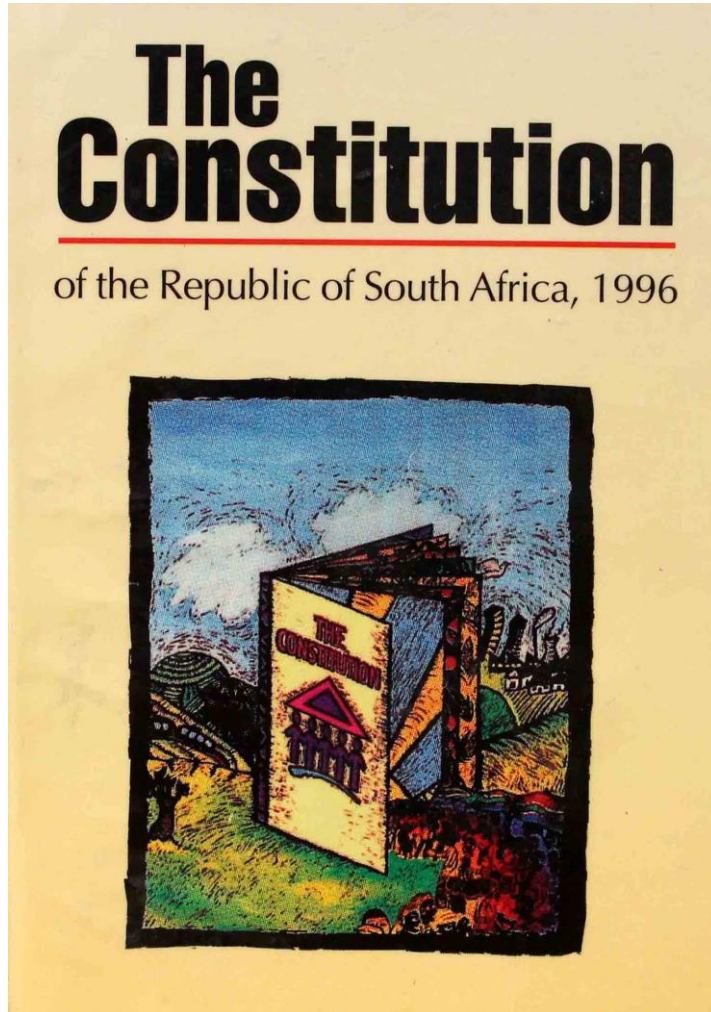
Apartheid

†
N/uu

End of the
Apartheid



New Rights



Language

Land

New language rights

Chapter 1: Founding Provisions

Section 6. Languages

- (1) The official languages of the Republic are Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu.
- (2) Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages.
- (5) A **Pan South African Language Board** established by national legislation must—
 - (a) promote, and create conditions for, the development and use of
 - (i) all official languages;
 - (ii) the Khoi, Nama and San languages; and
 - (iii) sign language;



Unsuccessful : Afrikaans and English as dominant languages,
failure to achieve multilingual nation

New land rights

Restitution of Land Rights - Act 22 (1994) :

To provide for the **restitution of rights in land** in respect of which persons or communities were **dispossessed under or for the purpose of furthering the objects of any racially based discriminatory law** ;

to establish a **Commission on Restitution of Land Rights** and a **Land Claims Court** ;

and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Launch of the Land Claim, 1995



Roger Chennells
Lawyer



Bill Kemp
Cartographer

Levi Namaseb
Linguist

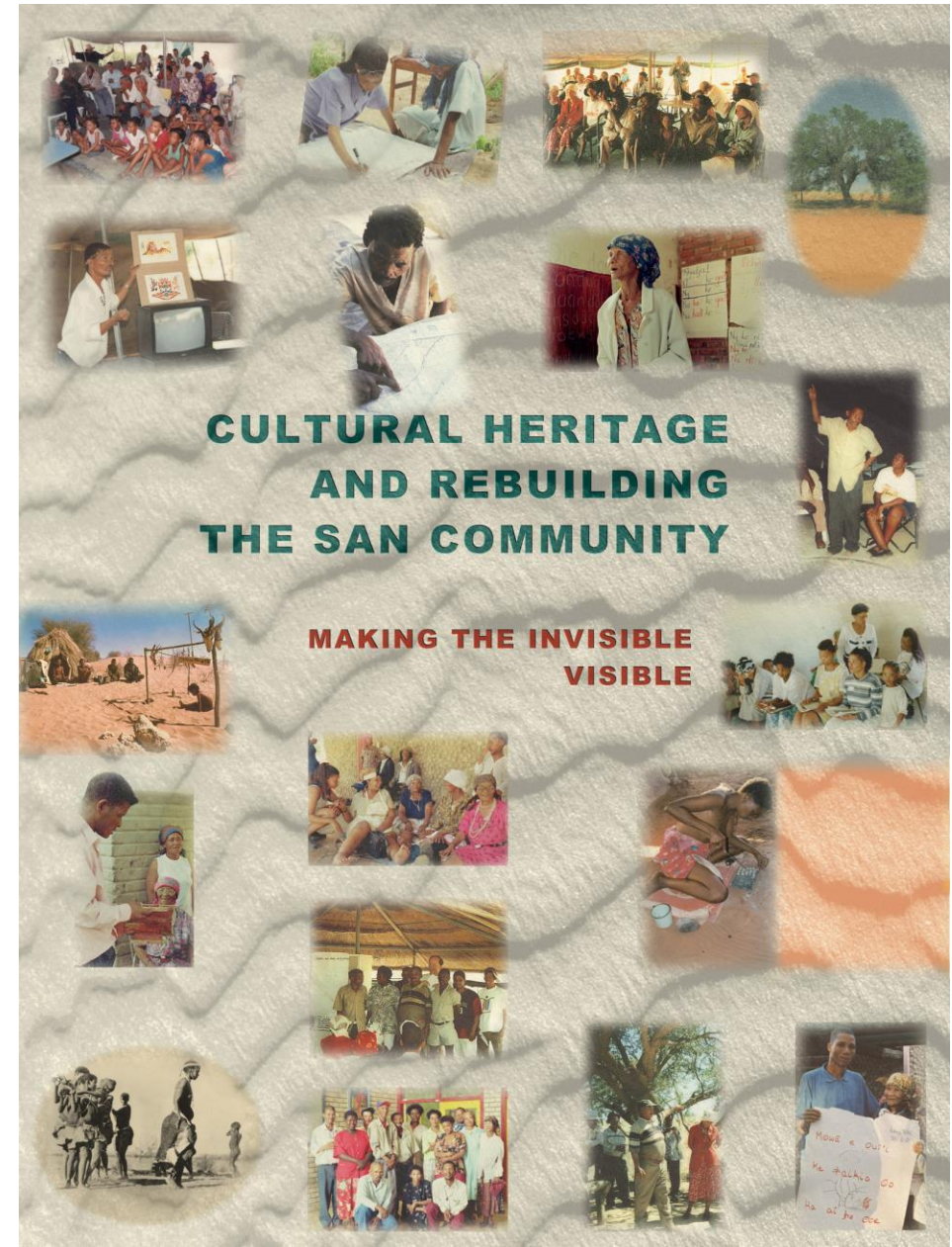
Dawid Kruiper
ǀKhomani San



Nigel Crawhall
Socio-linguist



Hugh Brody
*Anthropologist
and filmmaker*



CULTURAL MAPPING

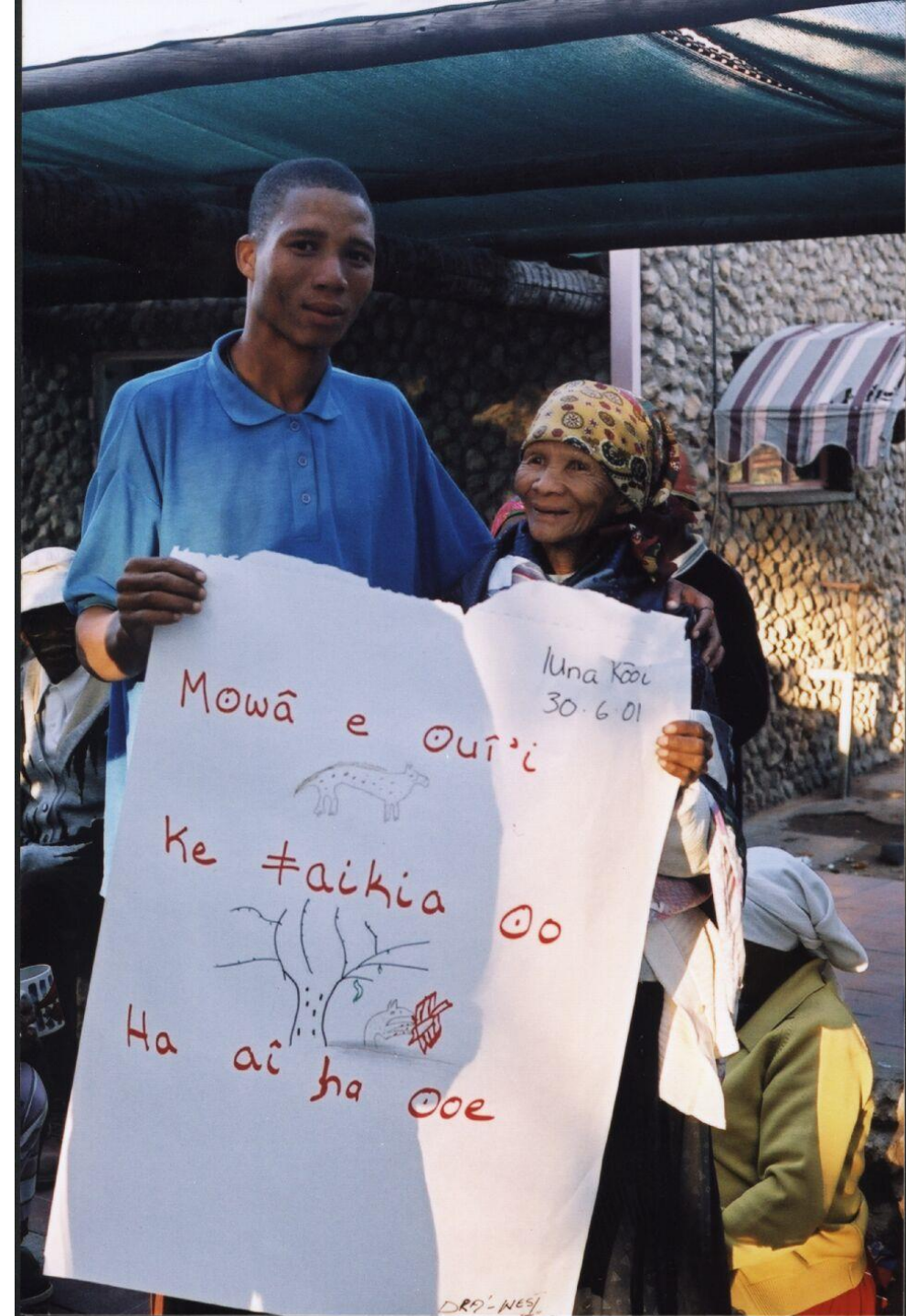
« *Making the intangible....tangible* »

Cultural Resource Audit (community) → Geographic Information System → Cultural Map





Language



*Former
campsite*

History



Hunting grounds

Middle Block

Former living site





Natural
resources
and
knowledge



Seeren Plant

Tsamma melon



Ostrich shells in a pan

Sites of cultural significance



Burial site



Healing Tree

Tree of life



Tentacamp



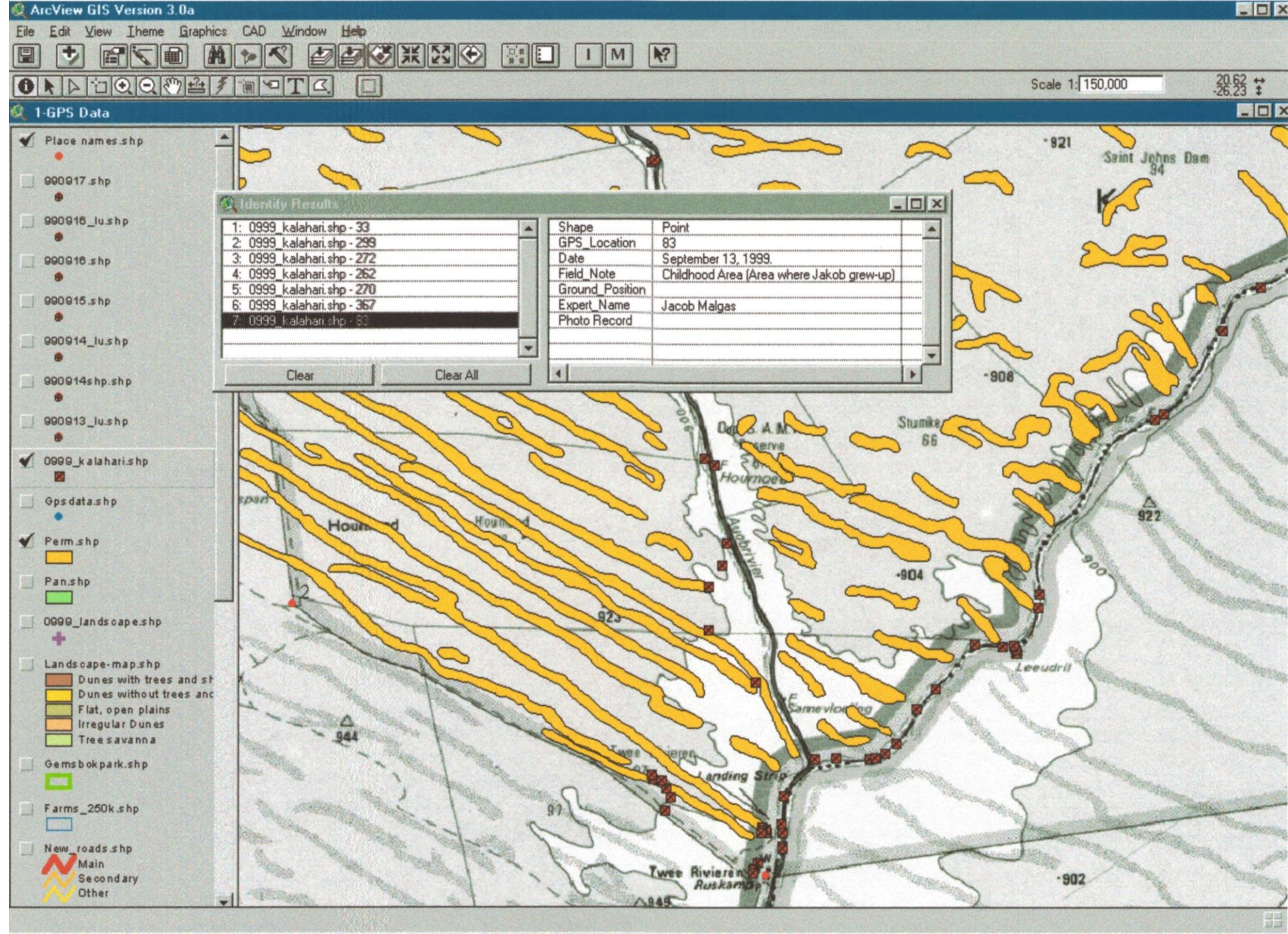
Cultural Resource Audit
= *data collection*



Geographic
Information
System
= *data management*



Cultural Map



Land Restitution

1999: 6 farms (~35 000 ha) *outside* of the National Park



2002: ~60 000 ha *within* the National Park, in joint management with the South African National Parks Association



What does this teach us ?

- Territory is key to the preservation of endangered heritage (culture + language)
 - Is the basis for the existence of a **community**
 - Gives a space for the community to express themselves (language)
 - Gives a space for the community to practice their traditions
 - Gives a space for the community to remember and to create new memories
- This space is a safe place for the ǀKhomani San to regain their **identity** and self-esteem
- Limits of a **right-based approach** for indigenous communities
 - Lack of resources: need of *external* agents
 - Legal procedures implies *negotiations* and *compromises*
 - Low impact on their socio-economic situation (poverty, exclusion)



Towards a Resource-Based Approach





Culture, language and identity as VALUABLE and IRREAPLACABLE

- Externally: as an **asset**
- Internally: as a **strength**

→ Gathering interests + involving agents at all levels = engaging sustainable and positive management

Towards a Resource-based approach - Land

Joint-Management and Contract Park

-  S-Zone: Symbolic and cultural
-  !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage Land
 - Veldskool
-  V-Zone: Commercial preference
 - Tourist Lodges
-  San Farm Land

→ Partnership with university on IKS



Towards a Resource-based approach - Language

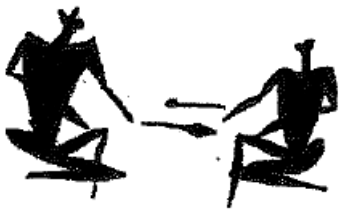


Katrina Esau
(aka Ouma Geelmeid)

Hanna Koper

Griet Seekoi

« Reik Na Die Sterre »
In Upington (300 km from the Park)





Sheena Shah



Matthias Brenzinger

Writing for Speaking: the N|uu Language Project

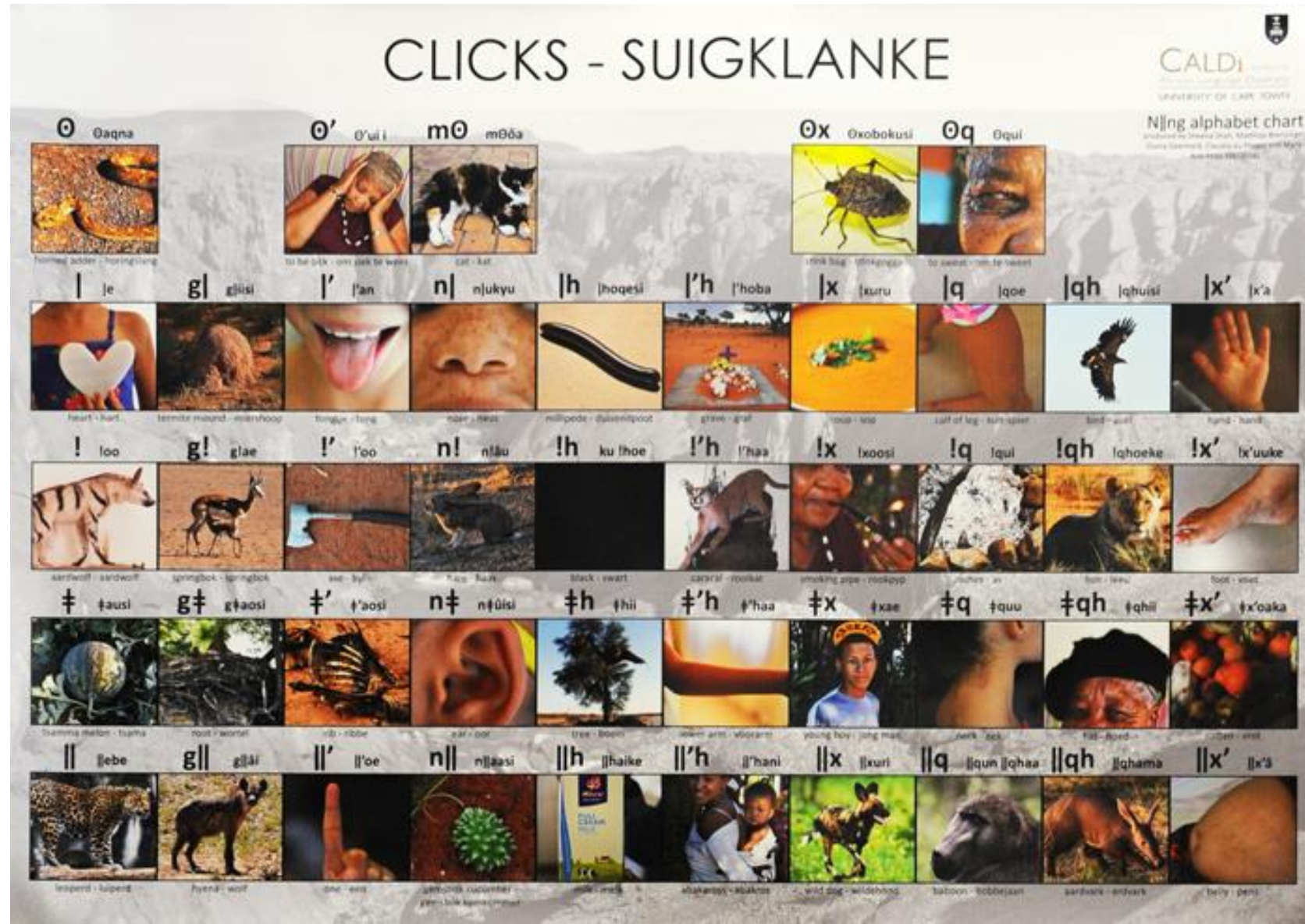
- Development of a practical shallow orthography
- Creation of an alphabet chart
- Creation of a trilingual reader

114 speech sounds:

45 click phonemes

30 non click consonnants

39 vowels





Ouma Geelmeid ke kx'u ||xa||xa N|uu

Ouma Geelmeid gee N|uu
Ouma Geelmeid teaches N|uu

Sheena Shah and Matthias Brenzinger

In samewerking met / In collaboration
with Katrina Esau, Claudia Du Plessis
and Mary-Ann Prins

CALDi, University of Cape Town



Jakobus ke ng Koos se |oba he ꞑ'ĩ.

Jakobus is Koos se **kleinkind**. / Jakobus is Koos' **grandchild**.

Clayvi ke ng Claudia se Ɔũu.

Clayvi is Claudia se **seun**. / Clayvi is Claudia's **son**.

Claudia ke ng Clayvi se **xainki**.

Claudia is Clayvi se **ma**. / Claudia is Clayvi's **mother**.

Jakobus ke ng Mary-Ann se **ainki**.

Jakobus is Mary-Ann se **pa**. / Jakobus is Mary-Ann's **father**.

Mary-Ann ke ng Jakobus se Ɔoaxe.

Mary-Ann is Jakobus se **dogter**. / Mary-Ann is Jakobus' **daughter**.

Quinton ke ng Mary-Ann se ||âu.

Quinton is Mary-Ann se **broer**. / Quinton is Mary-Ann's **brother**.

Mary-Ann ke ng Quinton se ||aaxe.

Mary-Ann is Quinton se **suster**. / Mary-Ann is Quinton's **sister**.

Rachelle ke ng |oba.

Rachelle is 'n **kind**. / Rachelle is a **child**.

Joshua n|a Chermelle ke ng |oeke.

Joshua en Chermelle is **kinders**. / Joshua and Chermelle are **children**.

Jaydene ke ng |oba Ɔũ.

Jaydene is 'n **baba**. / Jaydene is a **baby**.

Jaydene n|a Thea ke ng |oeke Ɔone.

Jaydene en Thea is **babas**. / Jaydene and Thea are **babies**.



9

KA DIERKE Diere Animals



|qhuisi
voël
bird

||haqba
korhaan
korhaan



g!uuke
gompou
kori bustard



!abakakeha
sekretaris voël
secretary bird



|qhui
aasvoël
vulture



n!ûu
uil
owl



tyoe
volstruis
ostrich



si!uxu
zebra
zebra



|ee
blouwildebees
blue wildebeest



!ae
gemsbok
oryx



saa
eland
eland



!aa
rooihartbees
red hartebeest



†un
steenbok
steenbok



g!ae
springbok
springbok



n!âu
haas
hare



ts'uruke
muis
mouse



!oqe
skilpad
tortoise

#Khomani Cultural Landscape

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1545>

Description

Maps

Documents

Gallery

Indicators

#Khomani Cultural Landscape

The #Khomani Cultural Landscape is located at the border with Botswana and Namibia in the northern part of the country, coinciding with the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (KGNP). The large expanse of sand contains evidence of human occupation from the Stone Age to the present and is associated with the culture of the formerly nomadic #Khomani San people and the strategies that allowed them to adapt to harsh desert conditions. They developed a specific ethnobotanical knowledge, cultural practices and a worldview related to the geographical features of their environment. The #Khomani Cultural Landscape bears testimony to the way of life that prevailed in the region and shaped the site over thousands of years.

Description is available under license [CC-BY-SA IGO 3.0](#)

English

French

Arabic

Spanish

Dutch



 South Africa

S25 41 15.4 E20 22 28.5

Date of Inscription: 2017

Criteria: (v)(vi)

Property : 959,100 ha

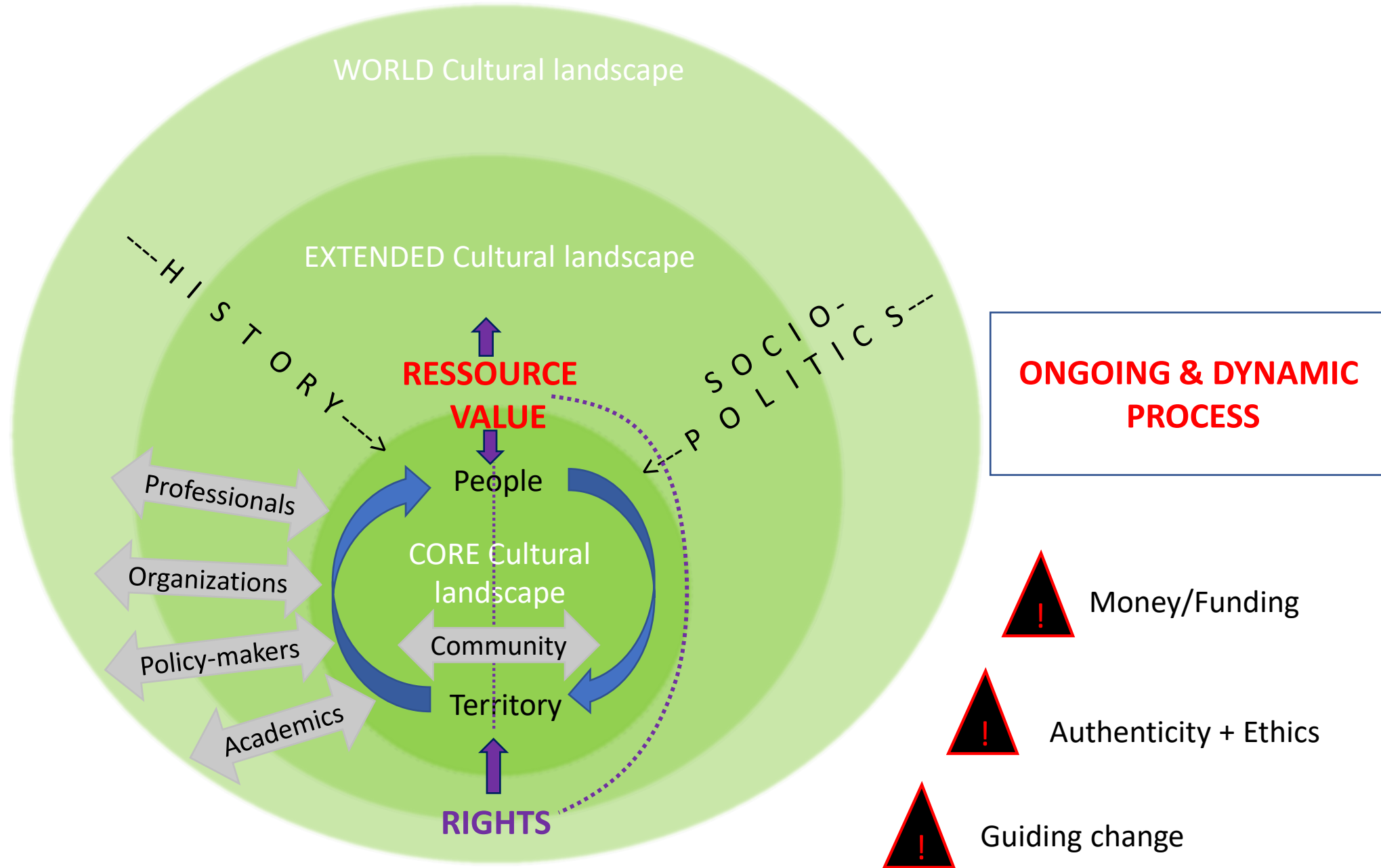
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Media

News

Integrated Cultural Landscape Management ?



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<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/>

Movie « Lost Tongue », D. Mudzingwa & F. Hweshe: <http://myaproductions.com/losttongue/>

Photo credits:

Khomani San Hugh Brody Archive, *Digital Collections of the University of Cape Town*

<http://www.digitalcollections.lib.uct.ac.za/khomanis/>

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