



Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro- Optimism?

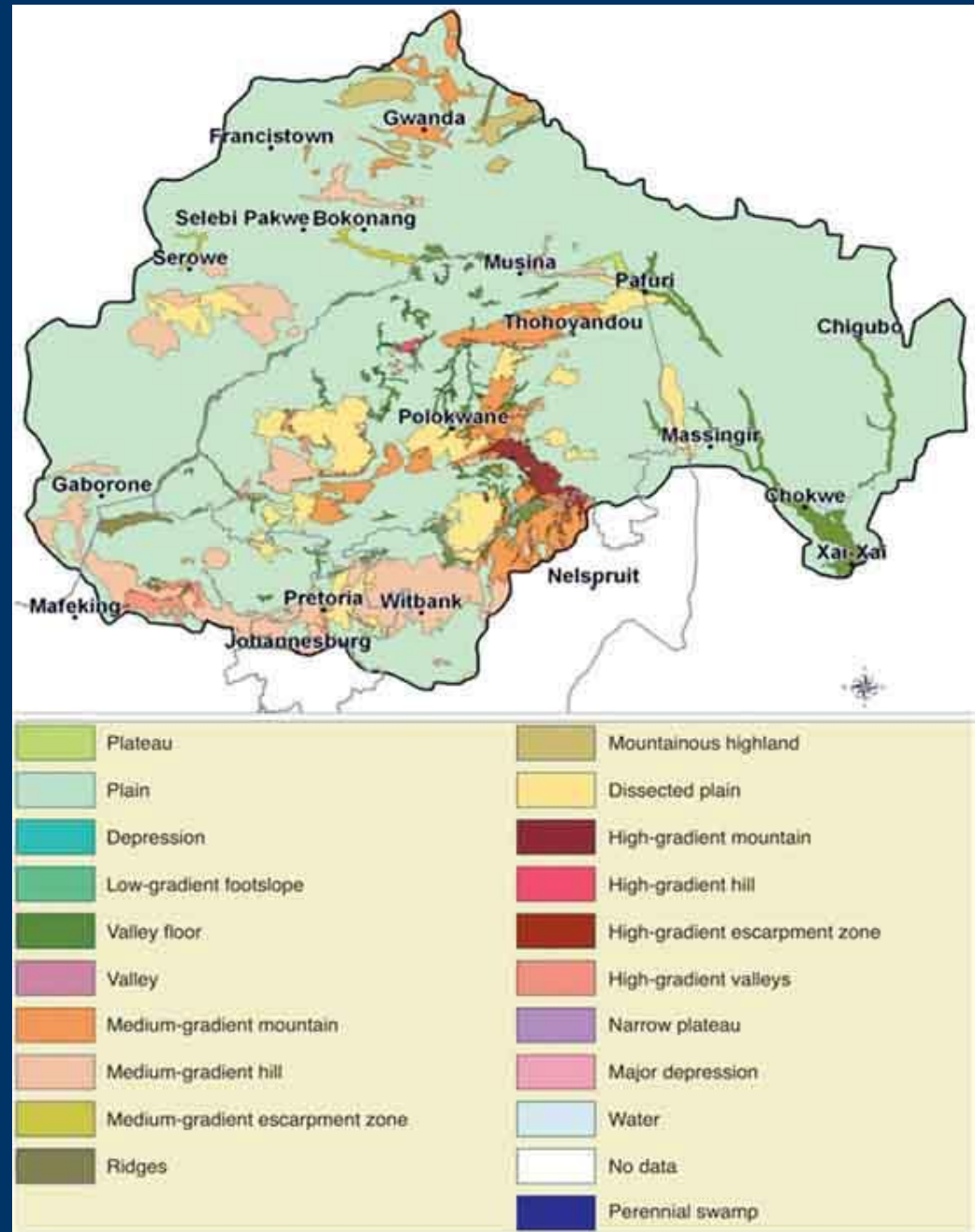
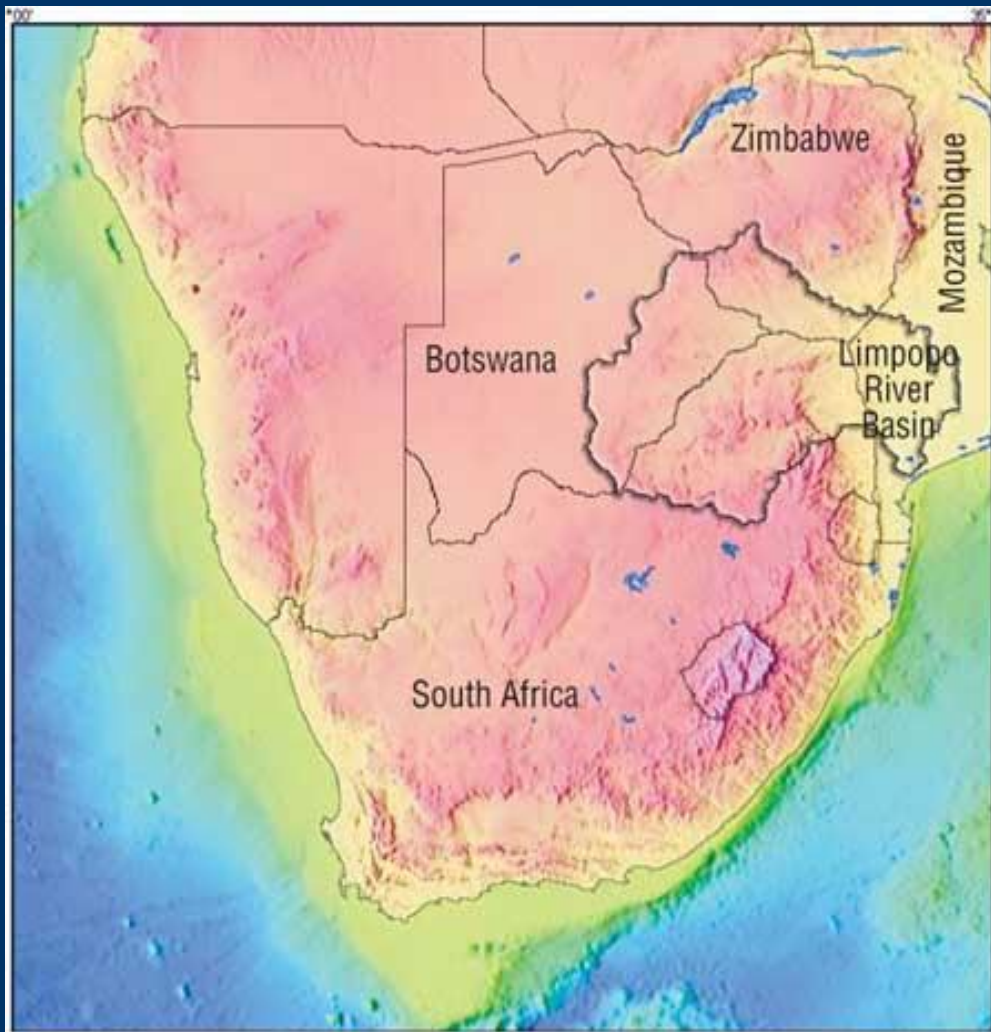
Água em África: Hidro-pessimismo ou Hidro-optimismo

Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal, 2-3 October 2008

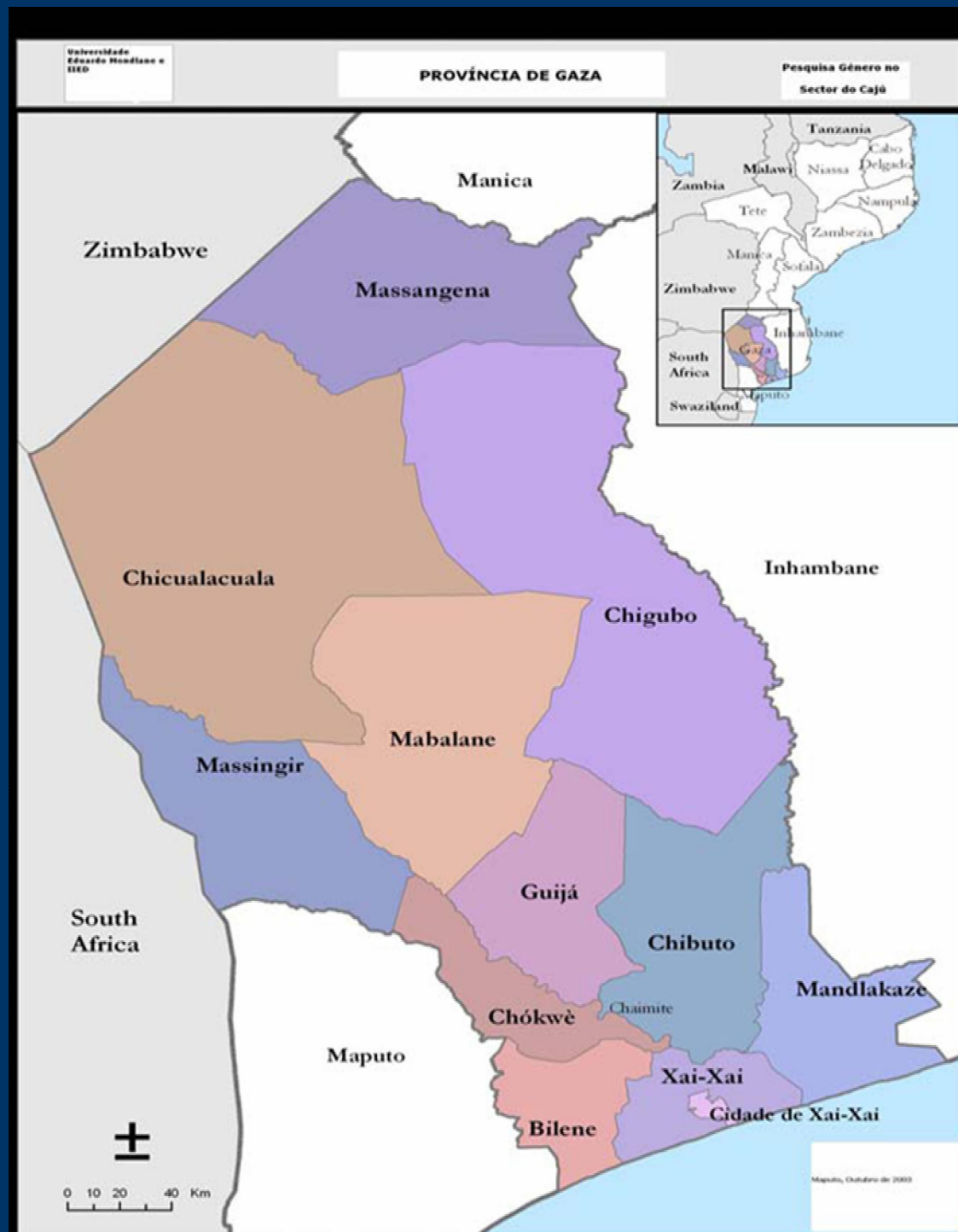
*“Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?”
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“Water users must be efficient producers”:
gender perspectives from irrigation schemes in
Mozambique and South Africa

Roberta Pellizzoli, Dip. di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia – Università di Bologna



Limpopo River Basin



Chókwè irrigation scheme

- 1950-54: construction of the IS and 1st land expropriation
 - 1977-1983: 3rd Frelimo Congress: “the Limpopo Valley has to become the *breadbasket* of the country”. Floods. 2nd land expropriation and cooperatives established
 - 1984-1995: redistribution to family and private sector. PRE. Divestiture of state farms
 - 1997: Land Law. HICEP established. Rehabilitation of canals
 - 2000: Floods
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**World Bank and
donors**

Ministry of Agriculture

Biofuel producers

**Chokwe
Union of Farmers'
Associations**

HICEP

WUA

**JICA
Japanese Cooperation**

**CIC-Batà
Spanish Cooperation**



Views from HICEP...

- «in the irrigation scheme all the production has to be for commercialisation, not for subsistence»
 - «the water fee should increase up to 125 US\$ in order to balance all the expenses. This will happen when rehabilitation is finished»
 - «if you live in a luxury house you have to deserve it and to take good care of it»
 - «everyone should produce rice! But small farmers would rather grow vegetables. And if they grow rice, they would sell it to Palmeiras rather than do contract farming for MIA»
 - «small farmers are not efficient, they mainly use irrigated plots for subsistence production. It's a waste of water. Water users must be efficient producers.»
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...and from women farmers

- «Without fertilizers or pesticides, nothing will grow out of this land! »
 - «HICEP has nothing to do with land and with what we produce and has just to provide water. It's the ministry of Agriculture that should tell us what to do»
 - «It's unlikely that I'm going to produce rice. Where will I sell it? It's more profitable to grow vegetables, but they often go wasted because we do not know where to store them»
 - «Yes I'm doing rice, but I'll keep it for myself: do you think that I want to spend all my money for a 25 kg bag of rice in the shop?»
 - «WUA? We do not have any WUA here in Chokwe.»
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- competing demands and pressures that are posing a threat on rural livelihoods based on subsistence agriculture, particularly so on women smallfarmers

debate on water
and land rights

commercialization
requirements...
but where are
the markets?

biofuel
producers

lack of funds
to support
subsistence
agriculture

HIV-AIDS
crisis

quality of the soil

high % of WHH

Association	Ha	♂	♀	% ♀	Ha/Member	
<i>21 de Maio</i>	80	1	77	99	1,02	
<i>IV Congresso</i>	24	5	19	79	1	
<i>Josina Machel</i>	89	17	100	85	0,76	
<i>Casa Agraria</i>	45	10	66	87	0,59	
<i>Zonas Verdes</i>	19	10	12	55	0,86	
<i>Agropem</i>	50	16	35	69	0,98	
	307	59	309	84	0,83	

Chókwè Union of Farmers'Associations involved in the Spanish cooperation project

Water Users Association	ha	n. of water users (WU)	Ha/WU	♂	♀	♀ %
Nelson Mandela	326	484	0,67	258	226	47%
Armando Guebuza	459	481	0,95	339	142	30%
Eduardo Mondlane	423	150	2,82	113	37	25%
Samora Machel	127	207	0,61	117	90	43%
Maria Guebuza	262	200	1,31	117	83	42%
Gajane	534	429	1,24	340	89	21%
Cocotive	40	26	1,54	11	15	58%
Nhongane	50	15	3,33	13	2	13%
Produtores Cereais Macarretane	300	14	21,43	13	1	7%
Combatentes da Luta de Liberação Nacional	30	12	2,50	9	3	25%

WUA established by HICEP

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL MAP



Makuleke irrigation scheme

- 1985: a dam was built, land prepared and underground pipes put in place (Development Bank of South Africa)
 - 2001: IS restructured under the RESIS programme (focus on revitalization)
 - 2001-05: 1st strategic partnership – unsuccessful
 - 2006: RESIS-Recharge (focus on rehabilitation)
 - 2006: 2nd strategic partnership (potatoes and maize)
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and the women?

- IS is 232 ha
 - 31 men and 10 women farmers, but some of them rented their plot
 - “if the man farmer dies, the wife can take over his land”
 - ...”by virtue of God, husband is the household head: you cannot mix this issues with land rights!”
 - subsistence farmers in the dryland areas are mainly women
 - leaders in the community are all men
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pro

- “makuleke brand”:
considered a key-actor in
SA
- job creation: people
employed in the IS for
40R/day
- indirect benefits for the
whole community



cons

- some individuals are
benefiting by excluding
other: class differentiation
process
- lack of inputs belonging to
the community
- high amount of fertilizers
and pesticides: public
health concerns
- quality of the soil
- pressure from outside

some conclusions - 1

- increased access to inputs and credit
 - training and extension services
 - perceived increased security with title deed or PTO
 - sense of belonging and will to fight for a common cause
 - mutual help
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some conclusions - 2

- problem is not access to but the use that women make of land: their productivity is linked to the kind of hh they belong to
 - gender inequalities that have characterized the colonial/apartheid period and the migrant labour system have not changed: the neo-liberal market remains gender biased
 - Moz and SA gov. do not have the capacity to invest on subsistence farming: commercialization is the main focus
 - environmental concerns
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