The University
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‚Forest management' through ‚participation':

History of knowledge-power relationships in the Angai Forest, Tanzania

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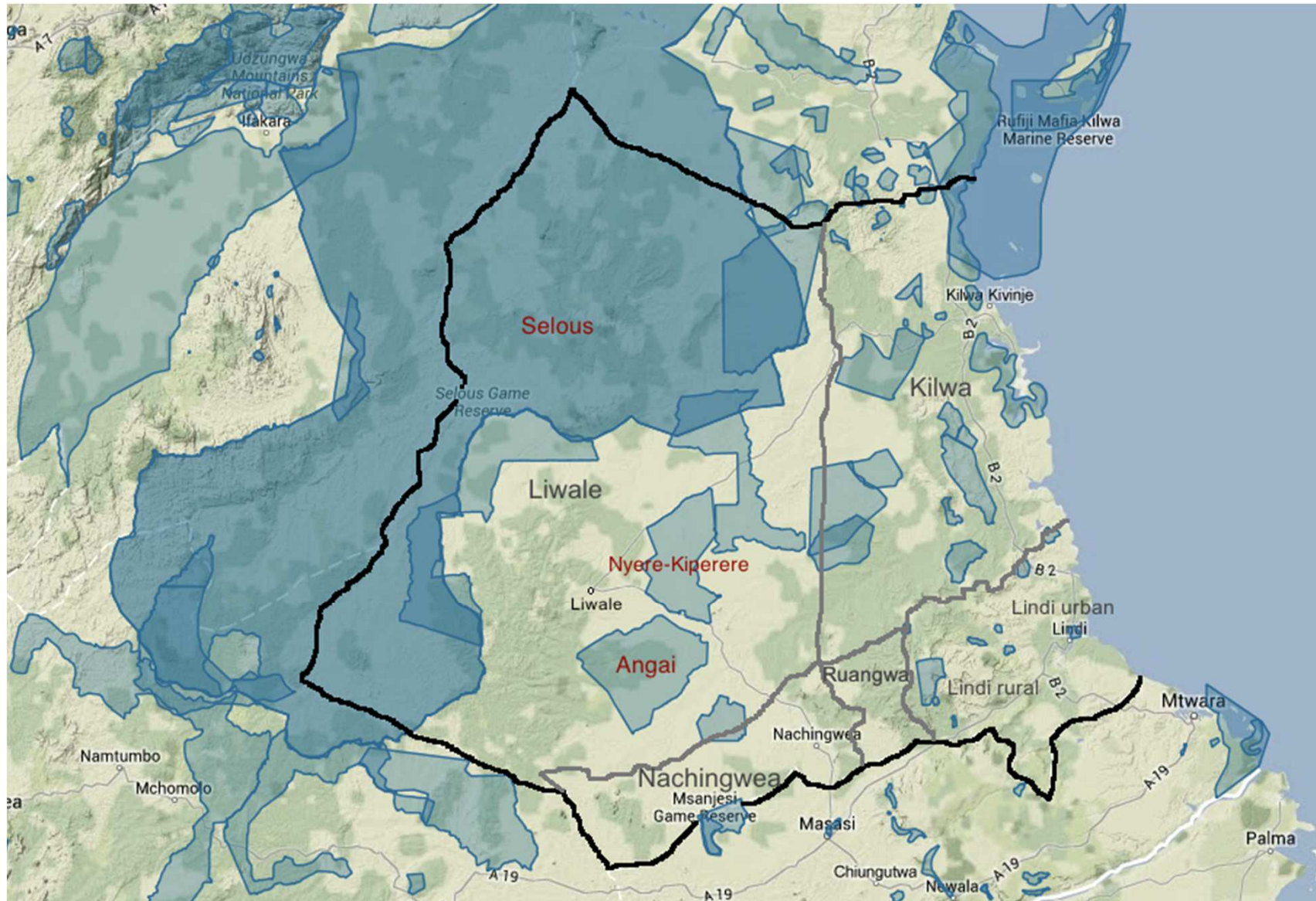University of Eastern Finland

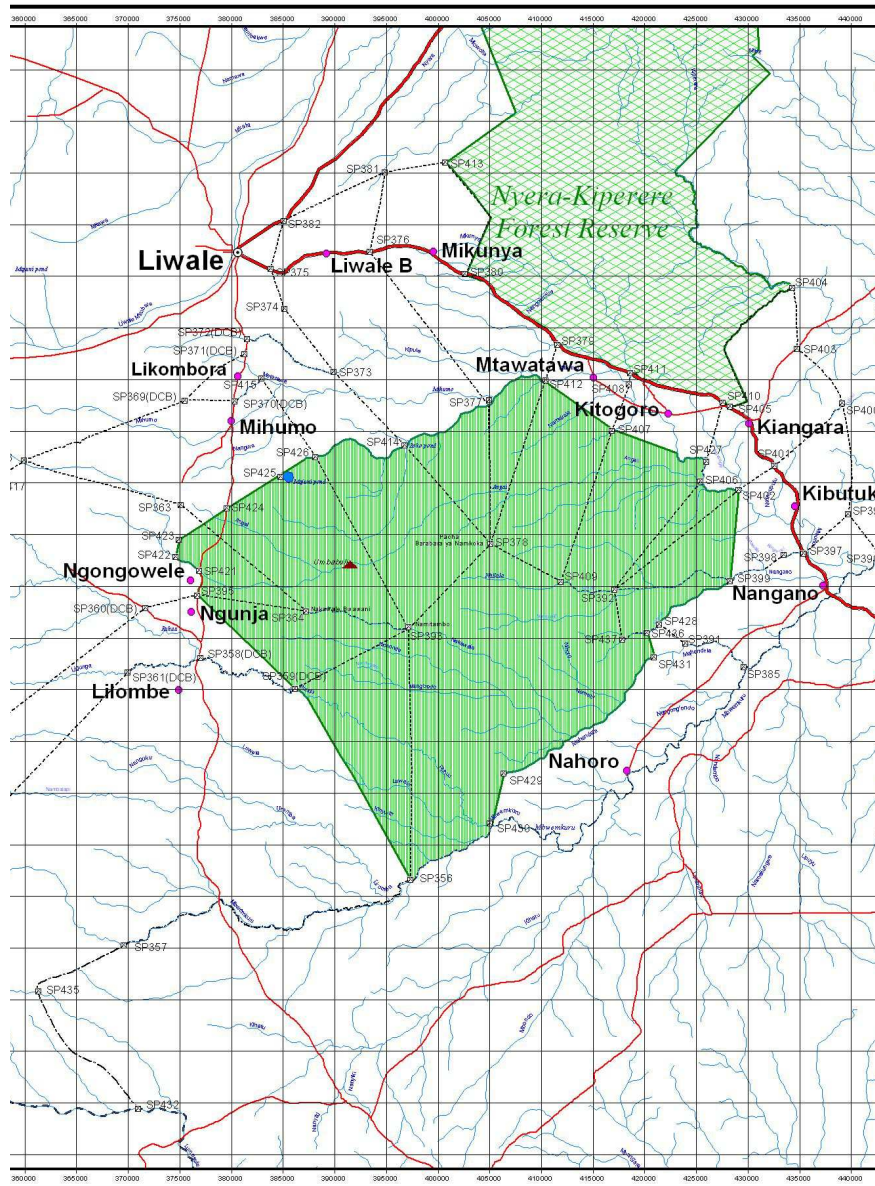Hadija Malimusi

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ISSRM 2014 Hannover Session No. 18.1: Science and Power in Participatory Forestry

CBFM in Angai Forest, Liwale, Tanzania

- Total size: 139,420 ha

- Covers 24 villages (previously 13)

- M/D: 11,792 of 29,555 ha
- N: 6,626 of 19,200 ha

- Eastern Africa Miombo Woodlands Ecoregion

- Dry Miombo, Closed dense forests, riverine and wet miombo

- Valuable timber species

- Small-scale farmers

- Slash-and-burn agriculture

- Dependence on (forest-)land

Research context

- Long-term research by Irmeli (since 2000) as a development worker and researcher
- Community-based forest management & REDD+
- Various researchers involved over the years
- Masters research Hadija
- PhD research Andreas

- Participant observation
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus Group Discussion
- Household survey
- Document analysis

… community-based forest management emerging in that country [Tanzania] offers an unusually powerful paradigm, precisely because it is prepared to share authority and even forest ownership, not just benefits, with local people in order to sustain forest resources. This relocates decision-making to the most immediately local, and therefore effective, level and into the hands of those with the greatest vested interest in seeing the forest remain intact. Real costs to government decline sharply, allowing it to refine and focus its role as technical adviser and environmental watchdog. Forest, state and people all gain.

Wily, L.A. (2001). Forest Management and Democracy in East and Southern Africa: Lessons from Tanzania. Gatekeeper Series No. 95. London:IIED

Decentralisation process in Angai

- 1993-94: District's idea of forest reserve
- 1994-2000: RIPS negotiation with district council over the decentralisation of forest management
- 2000: Consensus reached. Initiation of CBFM
- 2001-05: Demarcation of boundaries
- 2007-08: Draft FMP & bylaws
- 2009: Irmeli letter to FBD
- 2009-12: REDD+ & PFCA research project
- 2010: Mpingo C&DI Draft FMP & bylaws
- 2008: Division of 8 villages that resulted in a new total of 24
- 2010-14: LIMAS - start the process a fresh because of new boundaries

... a neoliberal development process monopolises expertise and authority by professionalising and technicalising development interventions from without, thereby shaping expressions of dissent and potentially limiting critical, challenging and emancipatory approaches.

Kothari, U. (2005). Authority and Expertise: The Professionalisation of International Development and the Ordering of Dissent. Antipode, Vol. 37(5), 425-446.

The power of knowledge

- necessity of „Western" ‚expertise' knowledge

- Devaluation of other forms of knowledge

- Capacity requirements that only certain actors can fulfil

- Exclusion of villagers from benefits (donor money, forest resources)

- Participation but instrumental use of local knowledge

- Rendering politics technical (Li, 2007)

- Scientific knowledge empowering and further excluding

- What is the value of created knowledge?
  Complex inventories, resource asessments, rules and regulations

Value of expertise knowledge

- FMP & bylaws do not reflect dynamics on the ground
  - Ownership of forest reserve
  - Management responsibility of forest reserve
  - Forest uses in the reserve
  - Regulation of open area
  - Awareness of forest management plans and bylaws
  - Members of village institutions gained personal benefits
  - Lack of transparency and accountability

- REDD+ project
  - Basic awareness
  - Much uncertainty
  - Much confusion

REDD+

- Large-scale protection of forests in the South

- Another layer of ‚expertise' and technical knowledge

- Another set of ‚experts' and development actors

- New wave of research and scientific studies

- Participatory approaches and win-win narratives

- Another form of ‚adverse incorporation'?

Power of alternative knowledge

- Investigate the normative and theoretical underpinnings of participation and development

- Relocating participation within a radical politics of development

- Participation in terms of citizenship, as a social practice, to transform the political process of inclusion and exclusion

- Actively engage in political debate to become involved in transformative forms of politics

*Drawing on insights from Sam Hickey, Giles Mohan, Sian Lazar and others...

Thank You!