

Preface

This book is about institutional arrangements at the intersection of conservation, development and tourism. More specifically, it discusses and compares distinctive arrangements in eastern and southern Africa, ranging from conservancies in Namibia, community-based organizations in Botswana, tourism-conservation enterprises in Kenya, private game reserves in South Africa and sport hunting in Uganda, to transfrontier conservation areas.

This book project is a spin-off of a research project on tourism-conservation enterprises in Kenya, sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research's program on Responsible Innovation (NWO-MVI). During this project, we realized that the organizational form of tourism-conservation enterprises is just one example of an institutional arrangement that intends to address the challenges associated with the 'fortress' conservation model that has long dominated the conservation agenda in Africa. Moreover, we recognized that the emergence of novel institutional arrangements do not occur in a vacuum. Not only do conservation professionals switch jobs to other conservation NGOs, exchange ideas, experiences and practices at conferences and workshops and through participation in scholarly research projects, they are also embedded in different conservation and development discourses that guide their work. Finally, we noted how transformations in the conservation-development-tourism arrangements and their contributions to wildlife and habitat protection and people's well-being are assessed differently, from optimistic to critical. By bringing together different case studies on institutional arrangements at the intersection of conservation, development and tourism, we thus aimed to present an overview of the diversity of institutional arrangements currently at play in eastern and southern Africa. We are very grateful for the expertise provided by the authors, as without their contribution we would not have been able to fulfill this objective.

The introduction chapter sets the stage for a range of detailed case studies, which share experiential knowledge of the potential benefits and pitfalls of each arrangement, and in so doing provide managerial insights. The concluding chapter

compares and contrasts the institutional arrangements featuring in this book and explores what developments may prompt transformations in these arrangements in the next decades.

This book is intended both for those scholars and students interested in the role of tourism to leverage conservation impacts and alleviate poverty and for practitioners in nature conservation and development organizations, community-based organizations, donor organizations, tourism ventures, and governmental bodies. Finally, by presenting an overview of different arrangements that link the commercial activity of tourism with nature conservation and poverty reduction goals, the book also speaks to a growing group of social entrepreneurs and social impact investors.

This book is the product of the broader research and teaching agendas on tourism, conservation and development at both the Maastricht School of Management and Wageningen University, the latter also having been sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund Netherlands, IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, CORDAID and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Next to these sponsors, we are grateful to the support of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. With this book we hope to contribute to the understanding of contemporary changes in nature conservation, development and tourism in eastern and southern Africa.

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A Dynamic Perspective

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