

# Institutionalising of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation: Towards an integrated socio-economic transformation in Southern Africa

Contribution to the workshop "Resources, Livelihood Management, Reforms, and Processes of Structural Change" in Gobabeb, Namibia, September 18th – 23rd 2006

## Starting Point and Study Area:

1. Corridor development and selective migration
2. Socio-cultural and socio-economic shocks of transformation
3. Depopulation of peripheries/urbanisation
4. Increasing regional Vulnerability
5. Decreasing Resilience
  - Circulus vitiosus
  - System dynamics of "Lose-Lose-Processes"

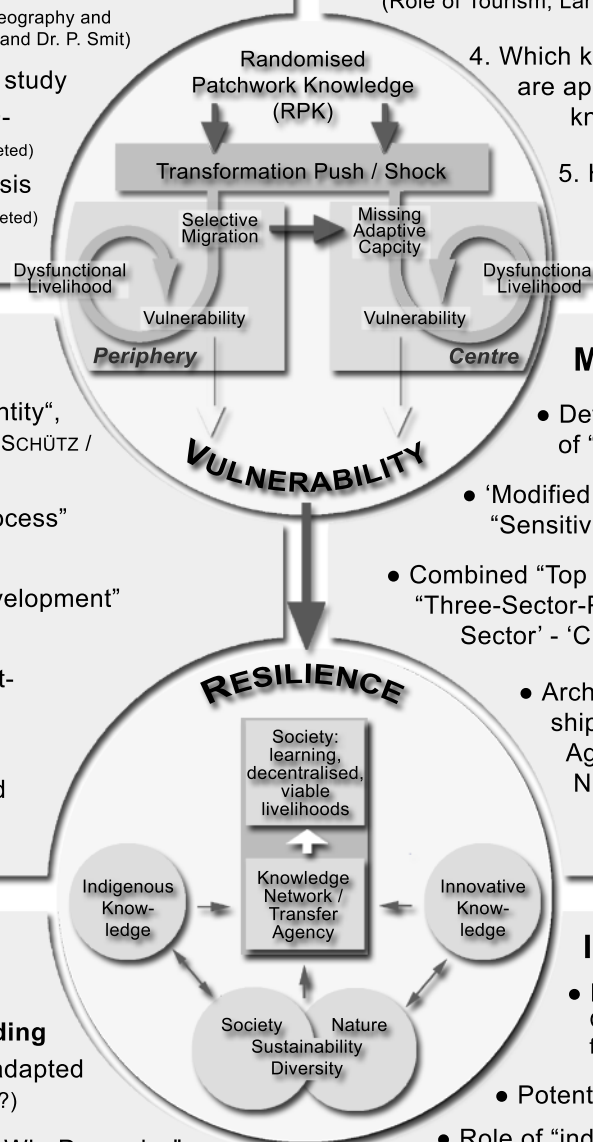
## Study Areas

(in co-operation with UNAM, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Prof. Dr. F. O. Becker and Dr. P. Smit)

- O-Regions: Ongoing feasibility study
- Caprivi Region: 1 ongoing PhD-Thesis; 2 Diploma-Thesis (completed)
- Southwest Zambia: 1 PhD-Thesis and two Diploma-Thesis (all completed)

## Research Questions:

1. What are the beneficial potentials of knowledge societies for peripheries? (Stabilisation of Places; Strengthening Resilience; ...)
2. What is the role of indigenous knowledge with regard to capacity building? (Sustainable Land Use Techniques; Pharmacy; Traditional Law; ...)
3. In which fields of competence should indigenous and innovative knowledge be combined or integrated? (Role of Tourism; Land Use Techniques; Potentials for Start Ups; ...)
4. Which kind of institutions / knowledge networks are appropriate for filtering and transferring knowledge/good practice? To whom?
5. How will "institutionalised knowledge transfer" sustainably financed?



## Theoretical References:

1. Concept of "Place", "Local Identity", "Social Capital" (see: BUTTIMER; SCHÜTZ / LUCKMANN; BOURDIEU)
2. Sustainability as "Learning Process" (see: BIRKMANN; BUSCH-LÜTHY)
3. "Evolutionary Approach of Development" (see: GRABHER)
4. "Networking", "Learning by Networking", "Learning Regions" (see: BUTZIN)
5. Concepts of "Vulnerability" and "Resilience" (see: CHAMBERS; HOLLING; ADGER; TURNER et al.)

## Methodology:

- Defining and operationalising the concepts of "Vulnerability" and "Resilience"
- 'Modified Sensitivity Analysis', derived from the "Sensitivity Modell" of F. VESTER
- Combined "Top Down" - "Bottom Up"- Process, "Three-Sector-Participation" ('Private Sector' - 'Public Sector' - 'Civil Society')
- Architecture of "Private - Public - Partnerships" (PPP) and "Knowledge Network Agencies" (Universities; Public Authorities; NGOs; companies; ...)

## Results/ Expected Outcome:

### Institutionalised Capacity Building

- Needs and modes of regional adapted "Knowledge Transfer" (Agencies?)
- Turning "Lose-Lose-" into "Win-Win-Dynamics"
- Needs and potentials for "Job- and Income-Generation"
- Revitalization / strengthening of "Local Identity"
- Diminishing local / regional "Vulnerability" and fostering "Resilience" ("Creative Milieus"; "Regional Economic Cycles")
- Maintenance of "Cultural Diversity"

## Issues for Discussion:

- Network Partners (Universities, R&D-Companies, NGOs; Tourism; other private firms; ...)
- Potential of local experts
- Role of "indigenous knowledge" and "social capital" regarding "Resilience", "Vulnerability" and "Capacity Building" by 'Knowledge Transfer' and 'Innovations'
- Gender: Womens role as 'key actors' and 'local multipliers'
- Modells of 'Knowledge Transfer': e.g. 'Train the Trainers-Modell'; courses; field work; ...