

Challenges in the transformation of land-unequal local economies: from Land Reform to Territorial Development?

Findings from Brazil and South Africa

Julian Quan, Natural Resources Institute, UK
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Starting point: “Impasse” in agrarian reform

- Delivery problems and ideological controversy: state vs markets
- Hostile Trade, macro and policy environments to poor and to land reform
- Persistence of social movements and links landlessness / poverty
- Uncertain economic impacts? - context of complex livelihoods, migration, rural-urban markets
- Potential of area based and territorial Land reform initiatives in Brazil and South Africa



Land, Language & Territory

- Land
 - (Land tenure / use / occupation / distribution)
- Foncier, Fundiário
- Territory
 - Territoire, Território



Ideas of territory

- Geographical areas occupied and used by specific social groups
- Areas under the control of particular political authorities or forces
- Geographical space + social and market relations
- Areas with common cultural and social identity, environmental features, economic and trade networks, and development poles
- Areas with a common development project and vision: Rural Territorial Development



Rural Territorial Development: emerging approach to rural development focussing on specific geographical areas and multiple actors

- Promote economic development and competitiveness of rural areas
- Shift from top down sectoral planning to more integrated territorial planning, linking levels of government: new institutional arrangements
- Facilitate emergence of shared territorial identity and development vision
- Understand urban - rural linkages; regional contexts; realities of complex livelihoods and migration
- More inclusive participation in development planning and delivery; roles of social movements and partnerships
- Link productive and institutional transformation



Land access and territorial development in Brazil

- Territorial Development Secretariat in Agrarian Ministry (2003) and new National Land Reform programme (2004)
- Group rural municipalities into priority territories (target 50%) based on concentration of land reform projects, potential of family farming, and strength of civil society
- Strategic alliances and partnerships of state and civil society actors organised in stakeholder fora
- Make decentralised resource allocation more transparent and responsive to social need; harmonise government initiatives at different levels
- Link land transfers to infrastructure and service support for economic development
- 15 year 3 phase programme: diagnosis / initiation; capacity building – Territorial Agreements; implementation

Medio Sao Francisco, Bahia, Brazil
“Territorio do Velho Chico”

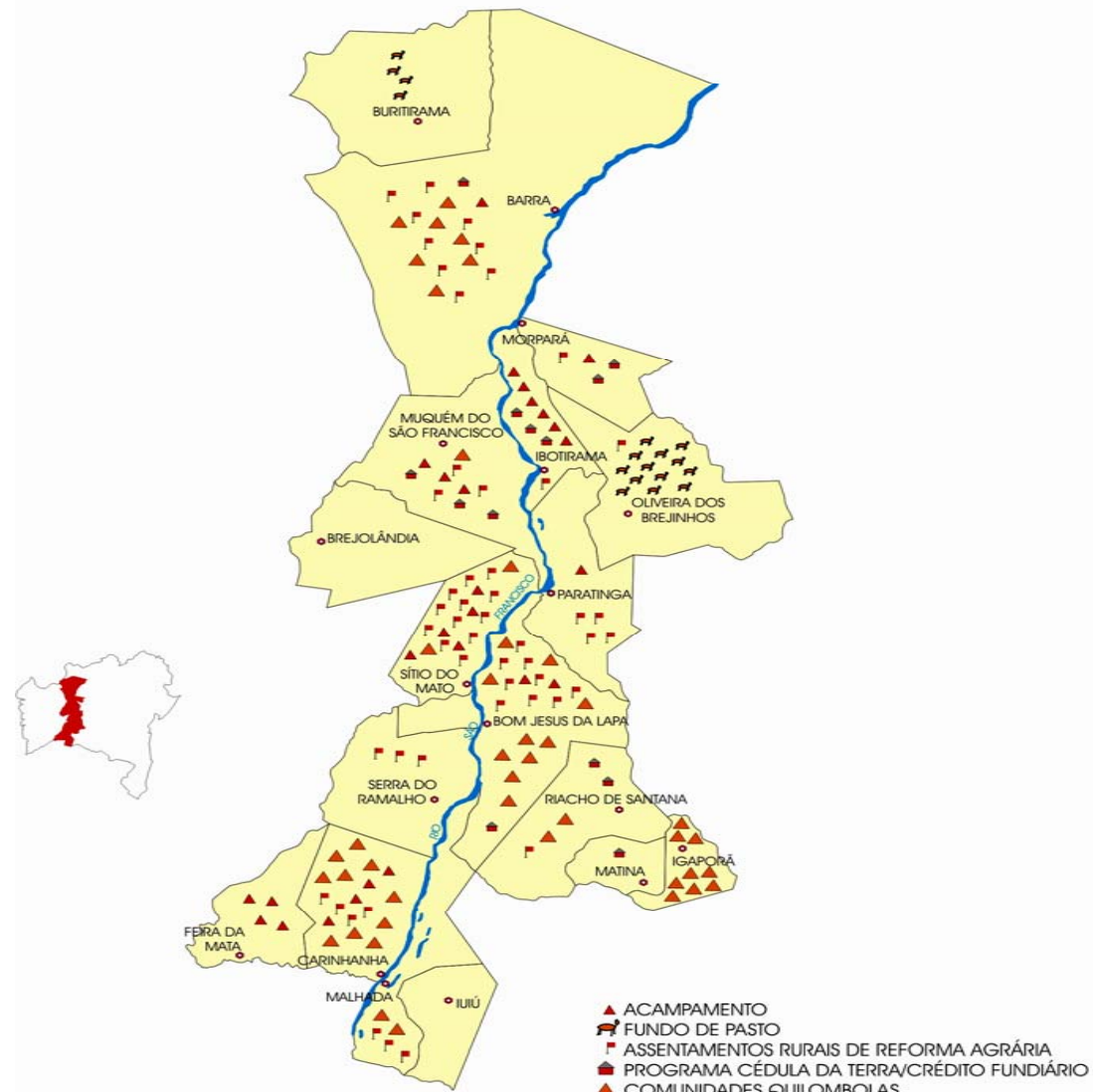




Medio S.Francisco, Brazil

- 16 municipalities, 2 urban centres, 373,000 people, 60% rural, poor & isolated
- Livestock rearing, rainfed farming, fisheries and NR extraction, labour migration to Sao Paulo.
- Subsidised private land development in 1970s led to an artificial land market, rising & land values, illegal occupation , expropriation of the poor.
- Shared historical and cultural identity, based on the river and religious pilgrimage

ESTADO DA BAHIA
REGIÃO DO MÉDIO SÃO FRANCISCO
FORMAS DE ACESSO A TERRA
2004





Land reform rural population in MSF > 80%

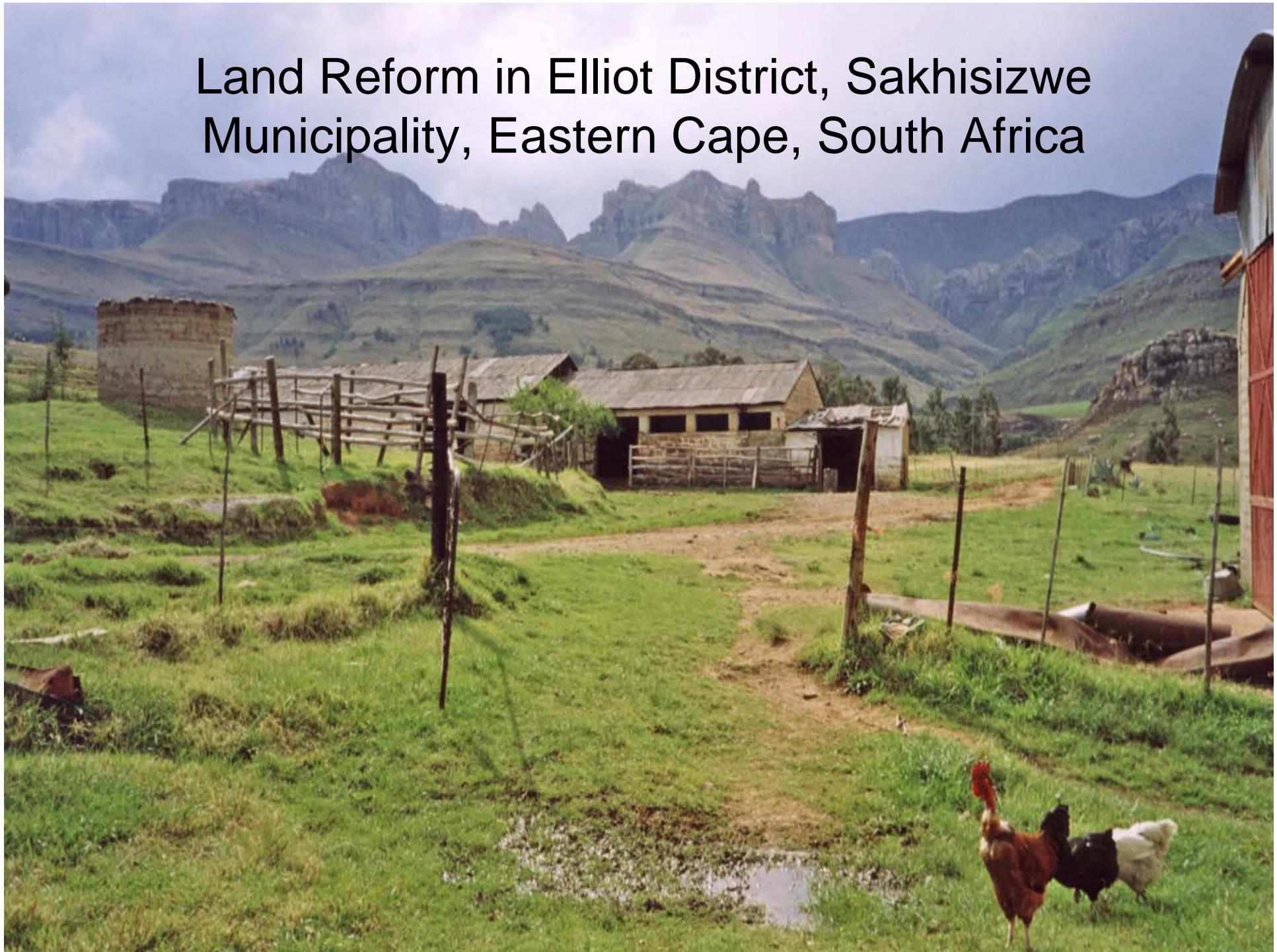
Social Group	No. of communities	Estimated % of rural population
Land Reform settlements	52	20%
Land Occupations	28	6%
Land Purchase schemes	16	1%
Quilombolas	60	34%
Fundo de Pasto	17	7%
Irrigation and Settlement schemes	3	14%
Indigenous villages	3	0.5%
Riverine people		No data
Farm dwellers / workers		No data



Territorial land access issues in MSF

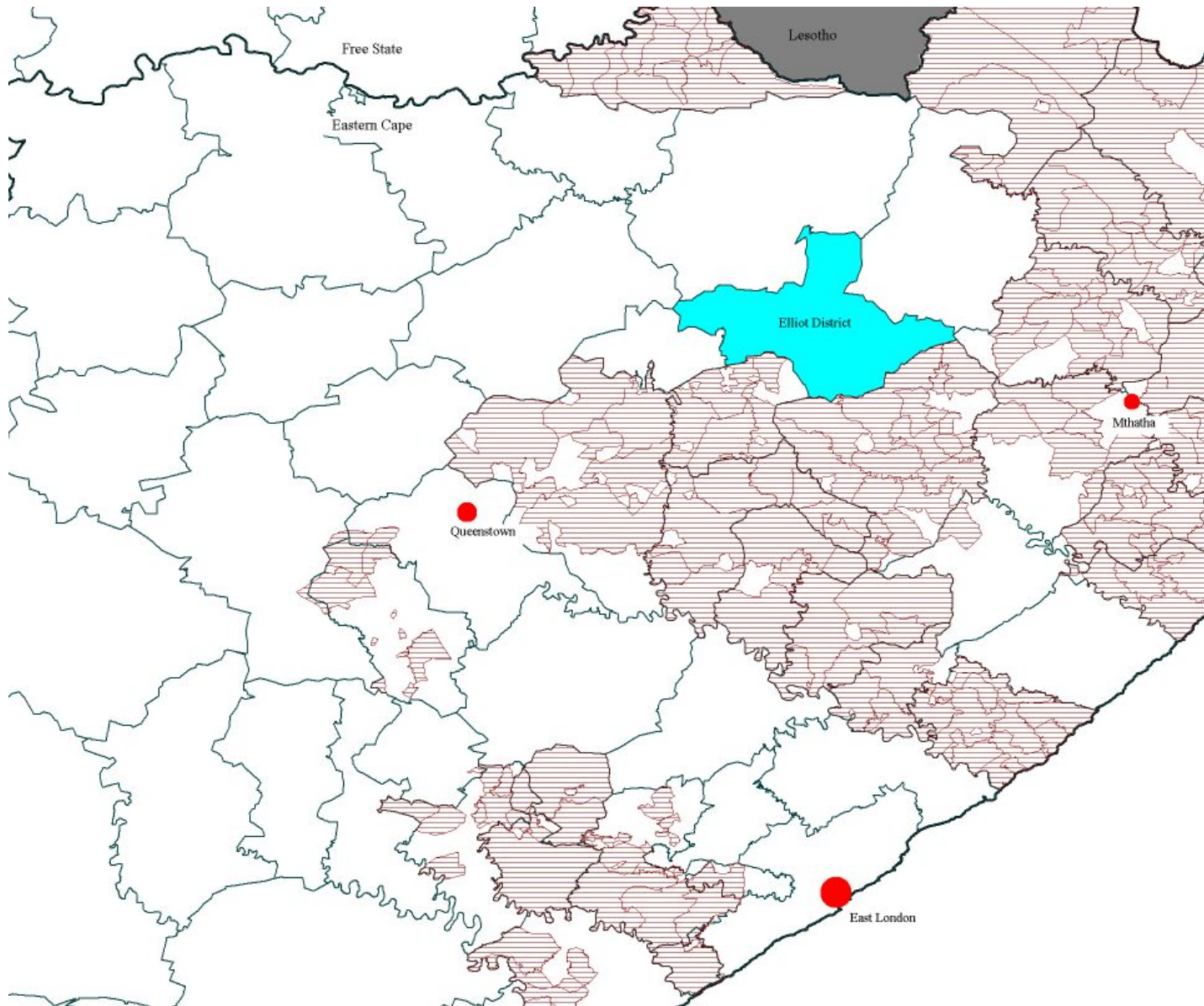
- High rate of illegal private land occupation – limited role for the market
- Huge need for tenure regularisation including collective rights: *quilombolas*, pastoral groups, riverine people and farm dwellers
- Access to / management of fragile environmental resources (River S. Francisco, charcoal extraction) plays a critical role
- Weak participation by municipal government: institutional and legal problems in implementing priority projects
- Absence of private sector
- Challenge to integrate action at various scales: regional; territorial, municipal; social movements, local communities and specific social groups

Land Reform in Elliot District, Sakhisizwe Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa



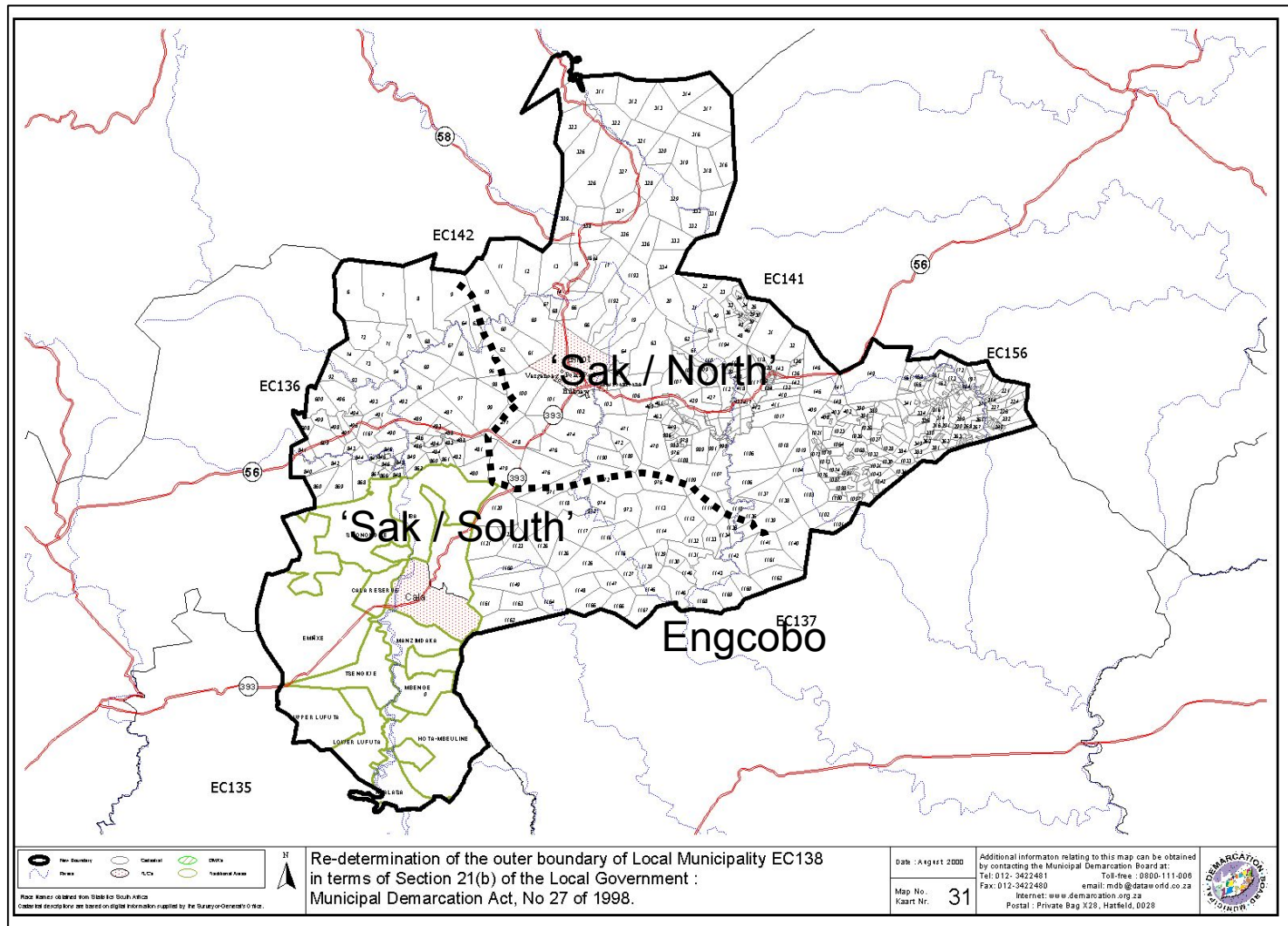
Elliot district and former Transkei

(map courtesy of Michael Aliber HSRC)



Sakhisizwe

(courtesy Michael Aliber HSRC)





Findings from Sakhisizwe

- Livestock rearing, high quality pasture, limited rainfed agriculture
- 15% of white farmland transferred through a targeted market approach
- Farm employment has declined approx 50% over a 30 year period – land reform has limited impact or benefits for farm workers
- Poor coordination between Land Affairs / Dept of Agriculture: land reform projects undercapitalised and with limited market access
- No linkage of Land Reform with Municipal IDP processes which delivers infrastructure and service support and plans economic development
- Broader territorial frame of analysis needed encompassing neighbouring municipalities, land supply and demand, employment trends



Conclusions

- Value of territorial analytical perspective:
 - Social diversity of land occupation and land claims
 - Utility (or not) of markets
 - Conflicts of interest and scope for convergence
 - Potential economic impacts – jobs and livelihoods
 - Provide for communal / collective resources
 - Go beyond narrow administrative units
- High potential but limited progress in territorial approaches to delivering agrarian reform
 - Strong central policies, resources and political will needed
 - Critical role of civil society – weak in S.Africa
- Institutional issues
 - Align resource allocation and planning within a common spatial framework
 - Engagement with local government essential



Territorial consensus and contestation

- “the promise of territorial development”

(World Bank WDR 2006)

- “Land, Territory and Dignity”: - territorial rights and struggles

(Final declaration of civil society social movements ICARRD, Porto Alegre 2006)

- Territorial issues are broader than land: how can decentralisation deepen democratic control over local economic development?

- Structural inequalities, power relations, and historical dynamics of land occupation need to be understood

- Territorial approaches are no substitute for land reforms - land reform may be a precondition of inclusive territorial development

- Territory of its nature is contested and Rural Territorial Development must address social conflict