

This marks my final blog as a QES Scholar under the CAPI Crossing Borders program. This blog will serve as both a short summary of my time spent doing research in Botswana as well as an introduction to my capstone project.



The purpose of the capstone project was to gain an appreciation for the complexity of a given social problem, as well as engage communities and stakeholders as to how to resolve the conflict. Given that I have been studying conflict resolution since undergrad, and am now doing my masters in a similar field (Dispute resolution to be exact) I have taken on this challenge full heartedly and it has actually turned out to

be the centre of my research. Without getting to theoretical, the very basis of my hypothesis is based on engaging whole-systems in managing conflict, in other words: engaging all stakeholders and addressing all aspects of an issue in order to manage a conflict effectively.

At the beginning of starting my research, I decided to go about this as if I was going to tell a story, and that in order to tell it correctly I would need to know all sides. I have learned so much from engaging community members, government workers and researchers in interviews and focus groups. They have highlighted social connections to Human-Wildlife Conflict such as gender inequality, colonialism and political processes. These are only to name a few.

The connections I have been able to make between conflict resolution theories and HWC management systems has been exciting and I am looking forward to discussing more about this in my final capstone project. I have included a small diagram to illustrate some of my preliminary findings from document research, literature review and qualitative research such as interviews and focus groups. The first triangle was extracted from an article entitled “Conservation’s blind spot: The case for conflict transformation in wildlife conservation” by Francine Madden and Brian McQuinn (2014). The second triangle has been adapted from the same diagram. The HWC Conflict Triangle is in the preliminary stages and in this case, is contextual to a given dispute. These triangles provide essential information for the formation of a final model for designing Human-Wildlife Conflict management systems.

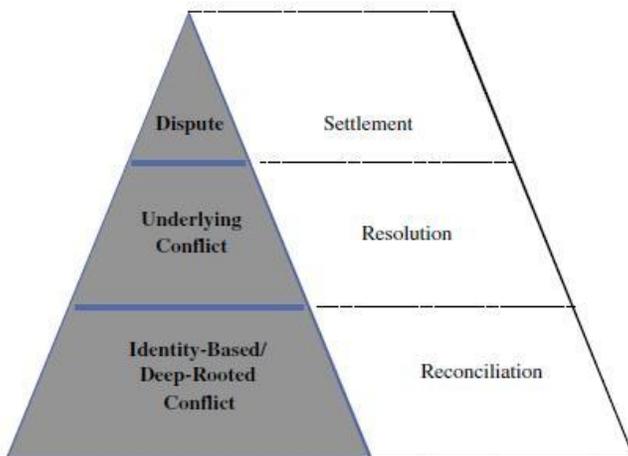


Fig. 1. The three levels of conflict that may exist in the conflict context (and the corresponding process used to address conflict at that level). Source: Adapted from Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (2000, 73).

Mitigation: Use of chili peppers to deter elephants from entering fields

Resolution: Addressing land use policies and engaging stakeholders

Reconciliation: Collaborative engagement between all stakeholders involved, time, transforming relationships,

