

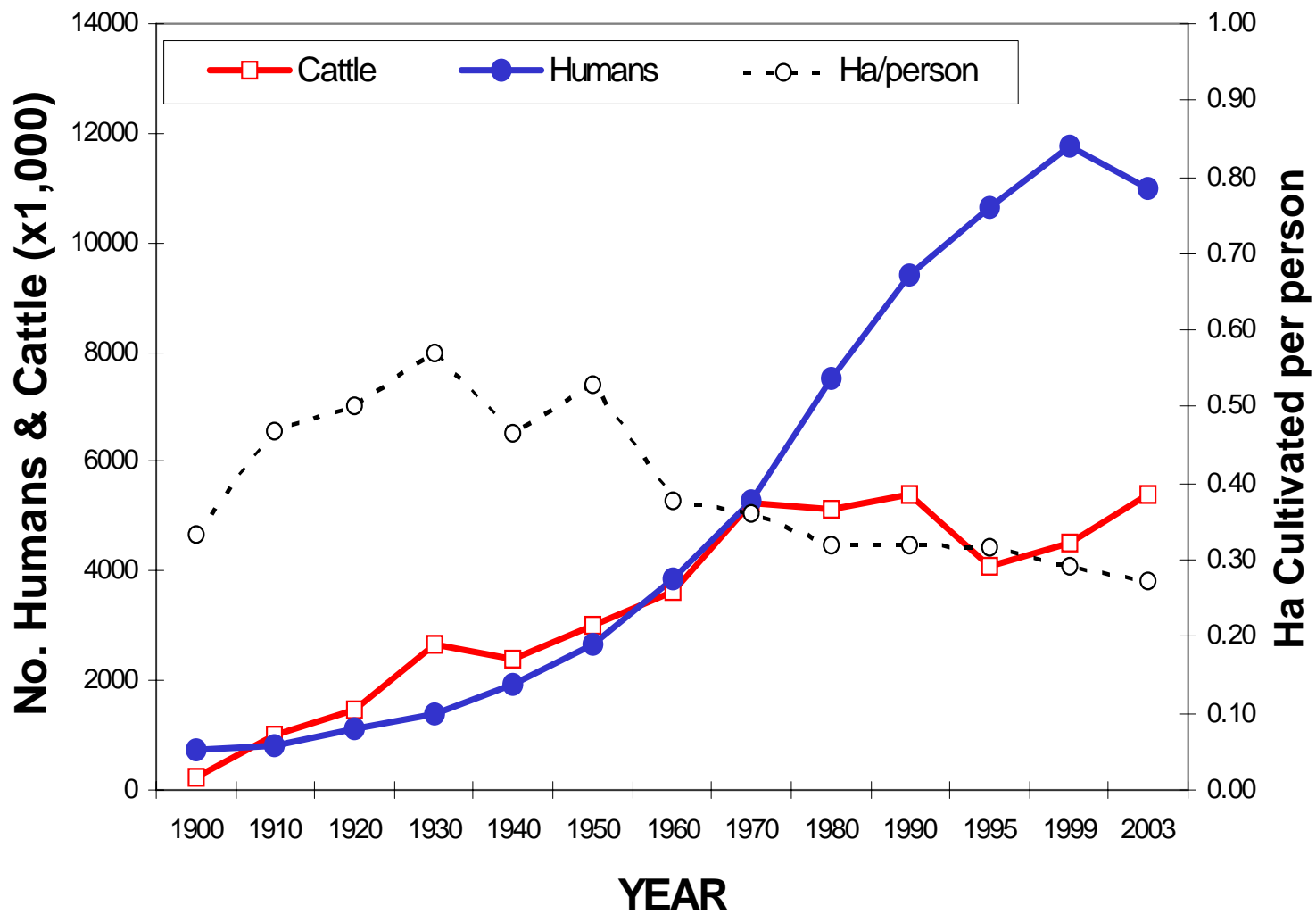
Collapse & Renewal in South Eastern Zimbabwe

David Cumming

Percy FitzPatrick Institute, UCT
and
TREP, University of Zimbabwe

Outline:

- National Context
- South East Lowveld
- Parallel narratives 1890 - 2005
 - ✓ Communal Lands and poverty traps
 - ✓ Commercial cattle to game ranches
 - ✓ Game ranches to resettlement
- Reorganisation – 2006 ?
- Tentative conclusions & policy prescriptions



Changing Land use

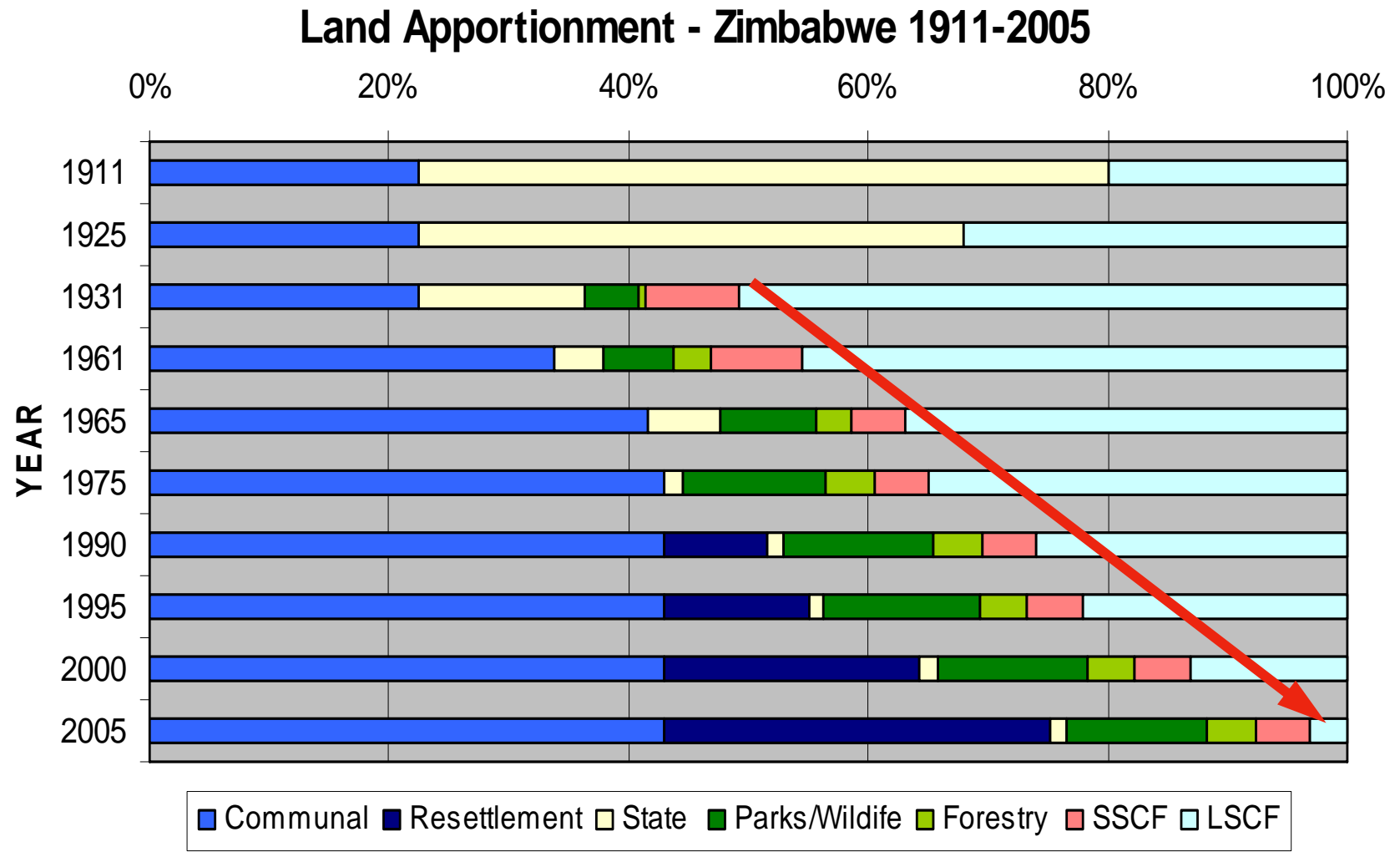
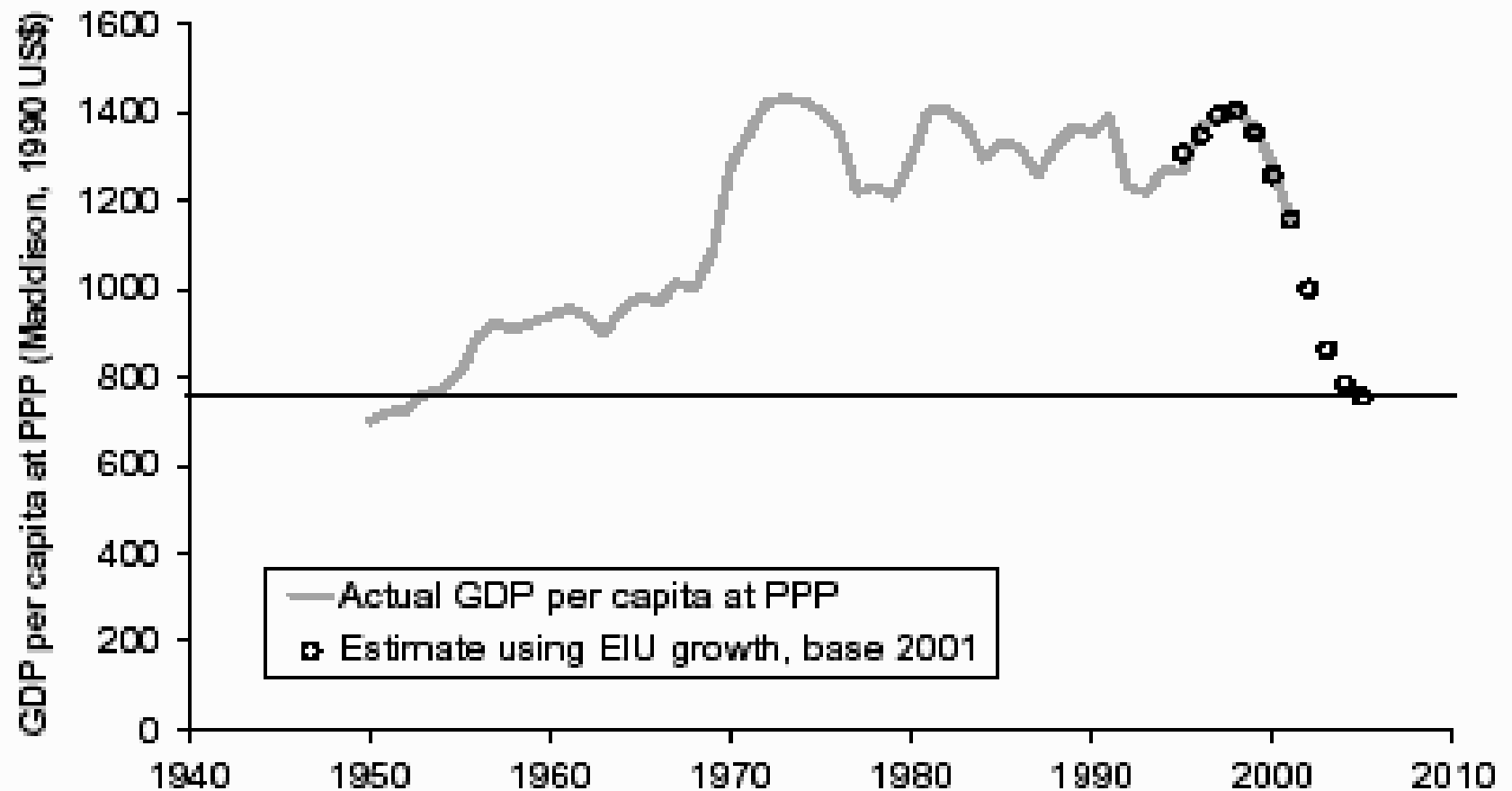
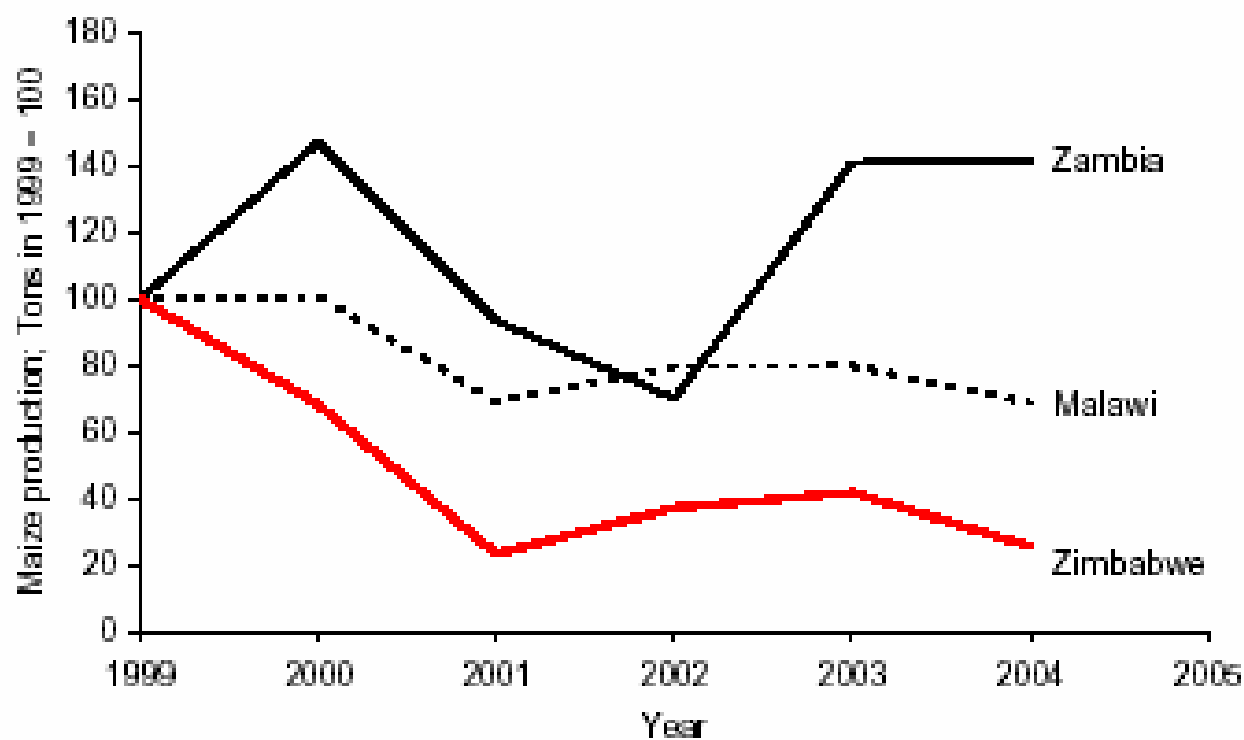


Figure 1: Wiping out 52 years of income growth

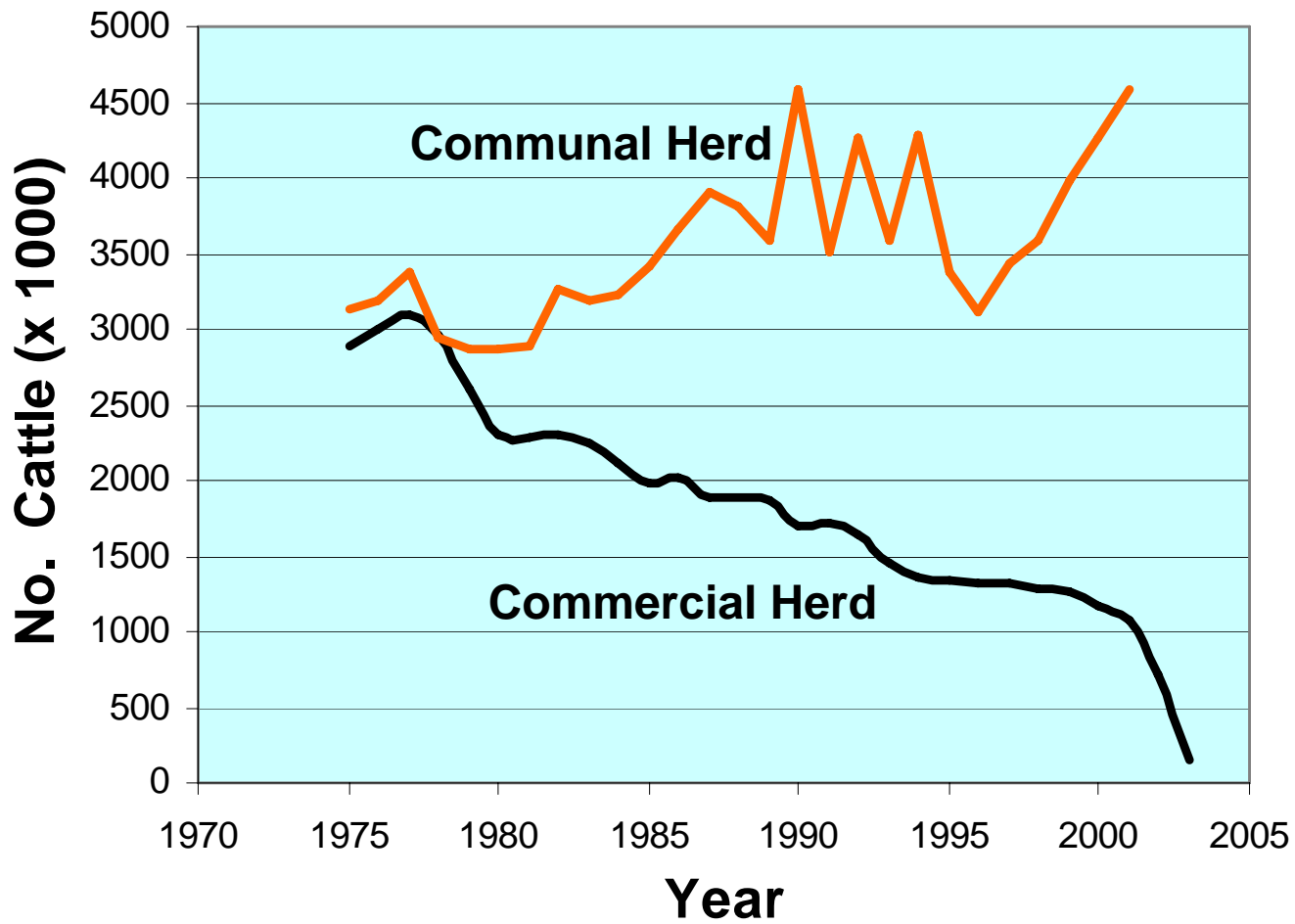


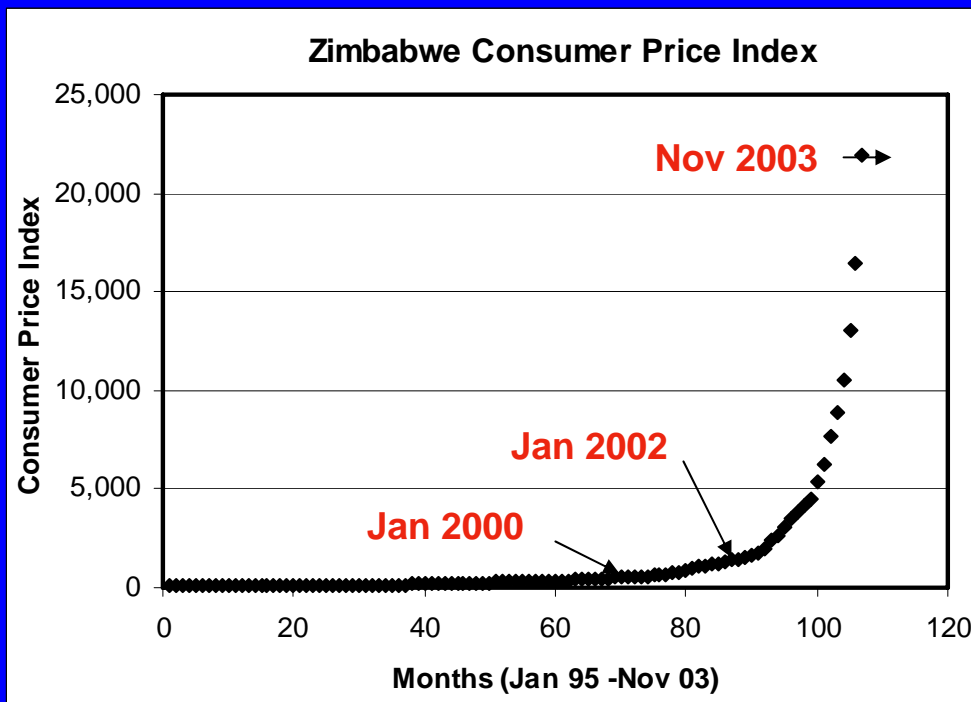
Sources: Maddison (2003), EIU, UN

Figure 4: Maize production, 1999-2004



Source: USDA

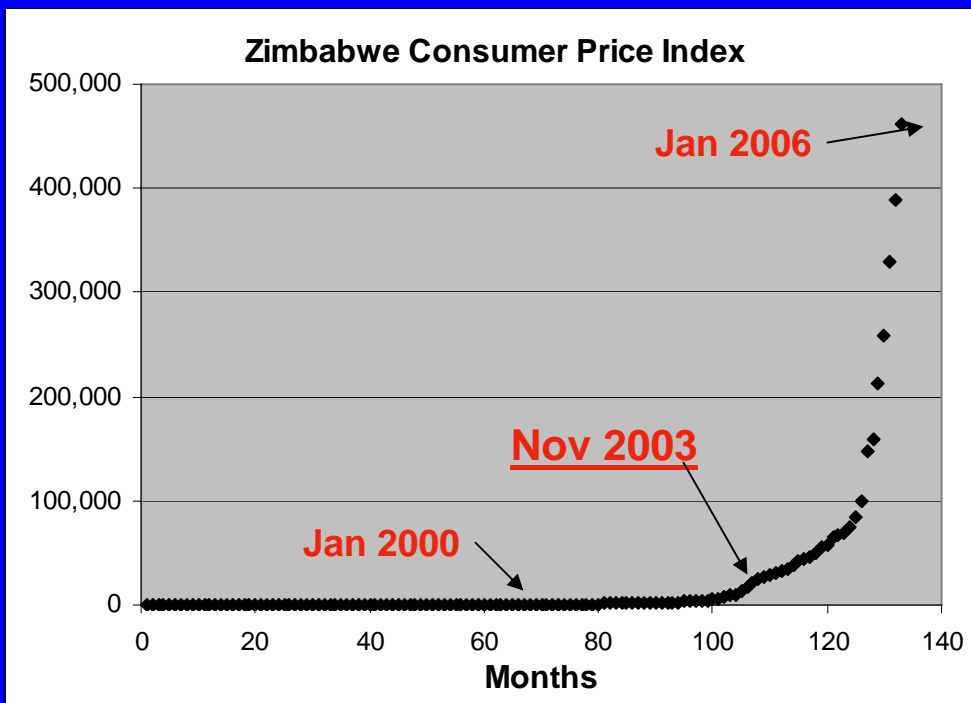




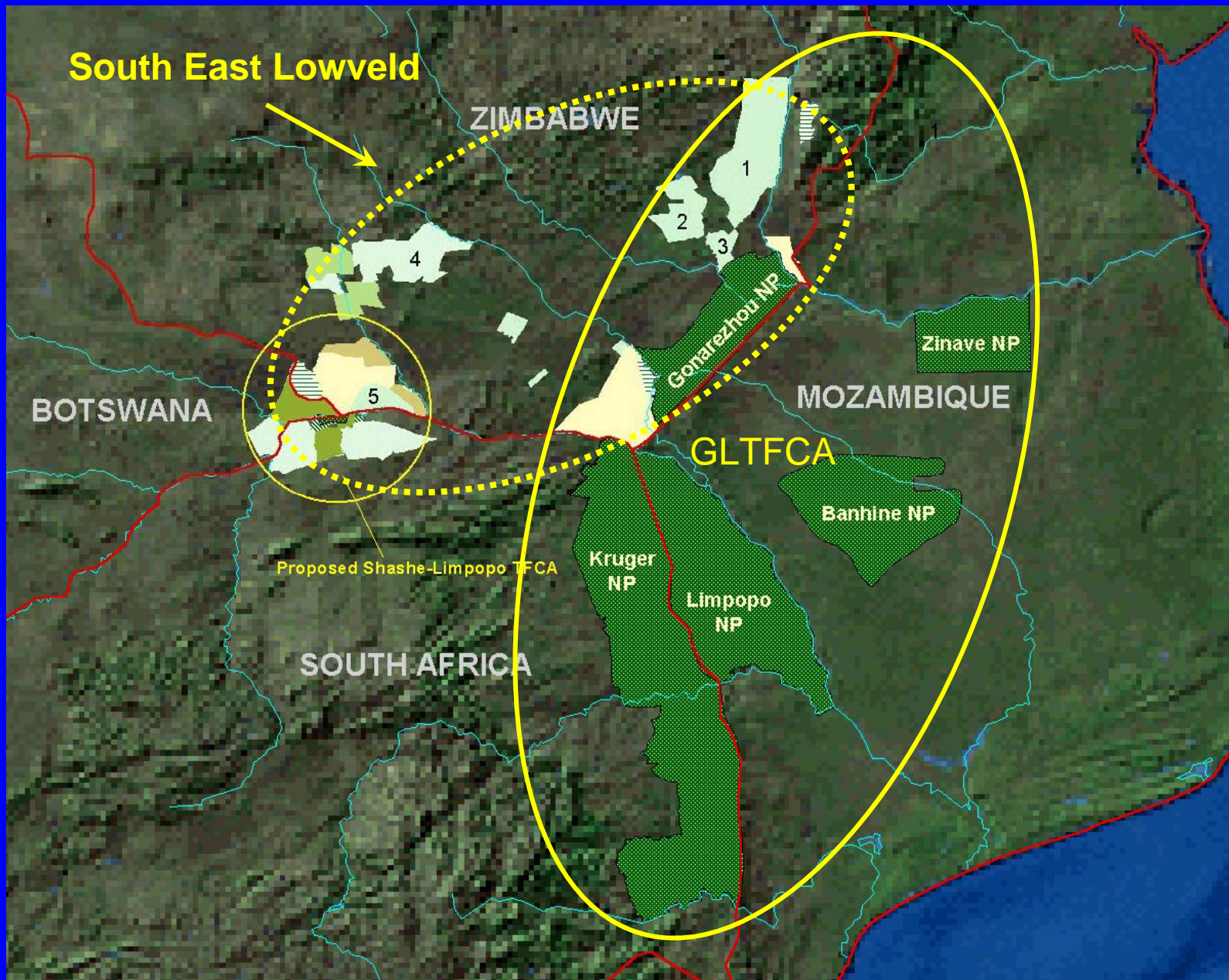
Zimbabwe Consumer Price Index

(Jan 1995 = 100)

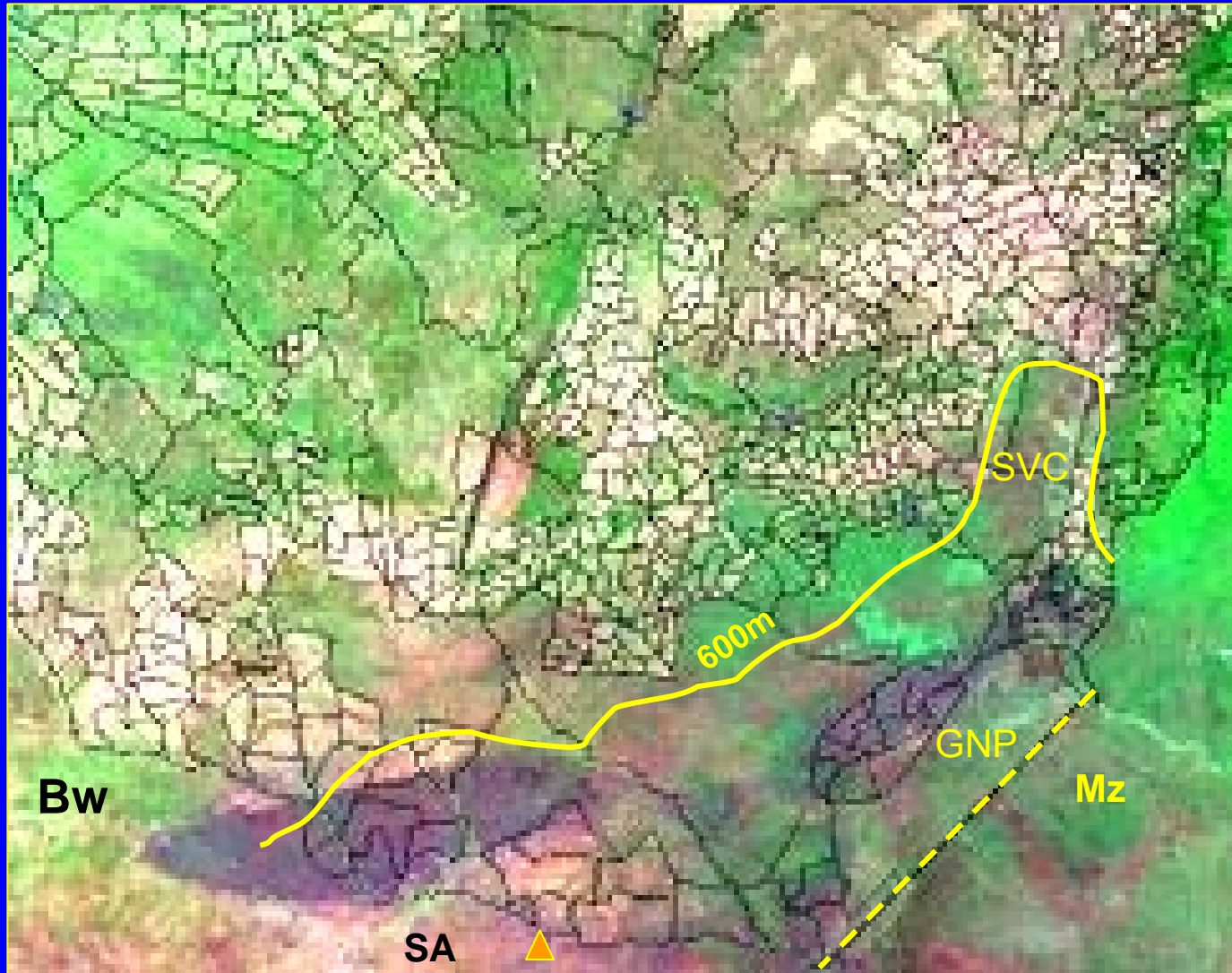
a) Jan 1995 – Nov 2003



a) Jan 1995 – Jan 2006



South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe



Area:

c. 43,000 km²

Altitude:

300-600 metres

Rainfall:

<450mm,
CV >35%

Temp:

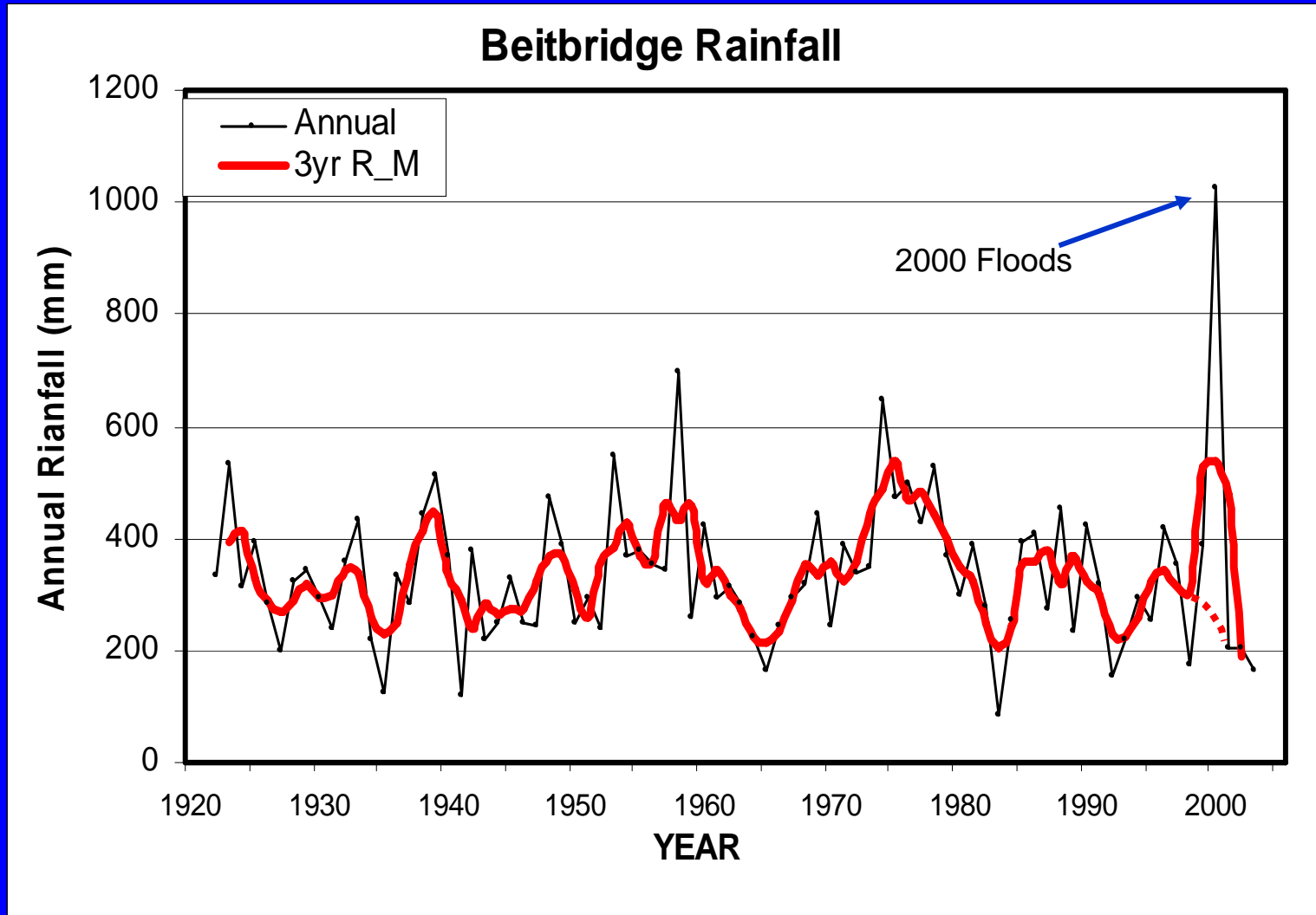
25-27.5° C

Growing season:

c. 90 days

Run off: < 4%

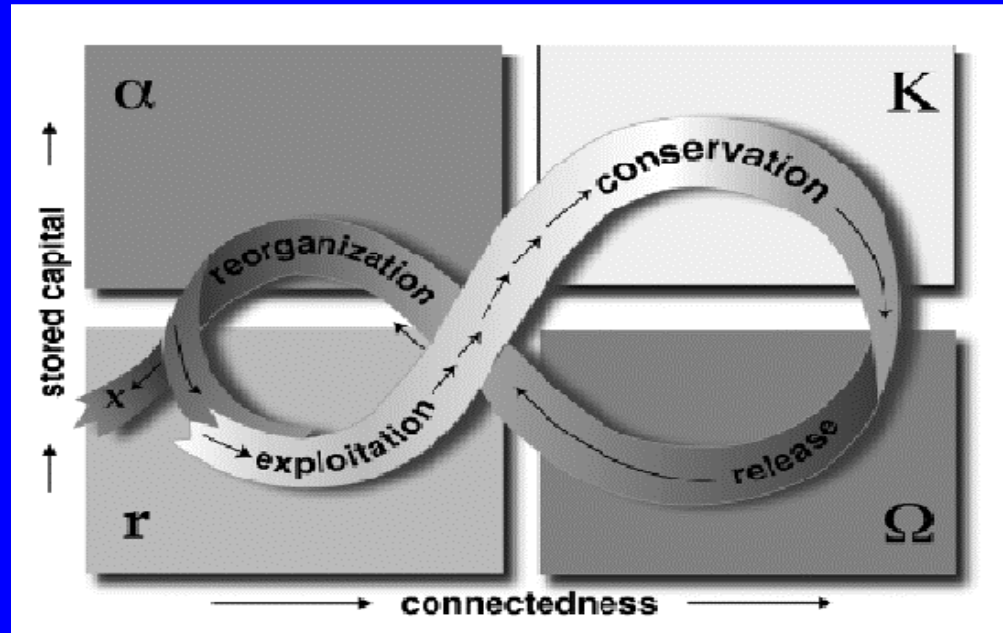
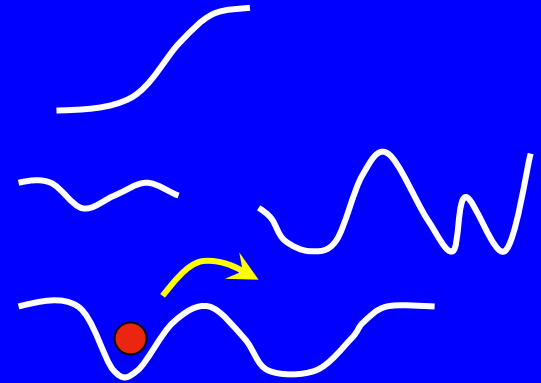
South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe



Beitbridge Rainfall 1920-2003

Meta-models and Metaphors

- Succession
- Equilibrium – disequilibrium
- State and transition
- **Adaptive Cycle**



South East Lowveld – Where from?

Parallel Narratives: 1880 – 1950s

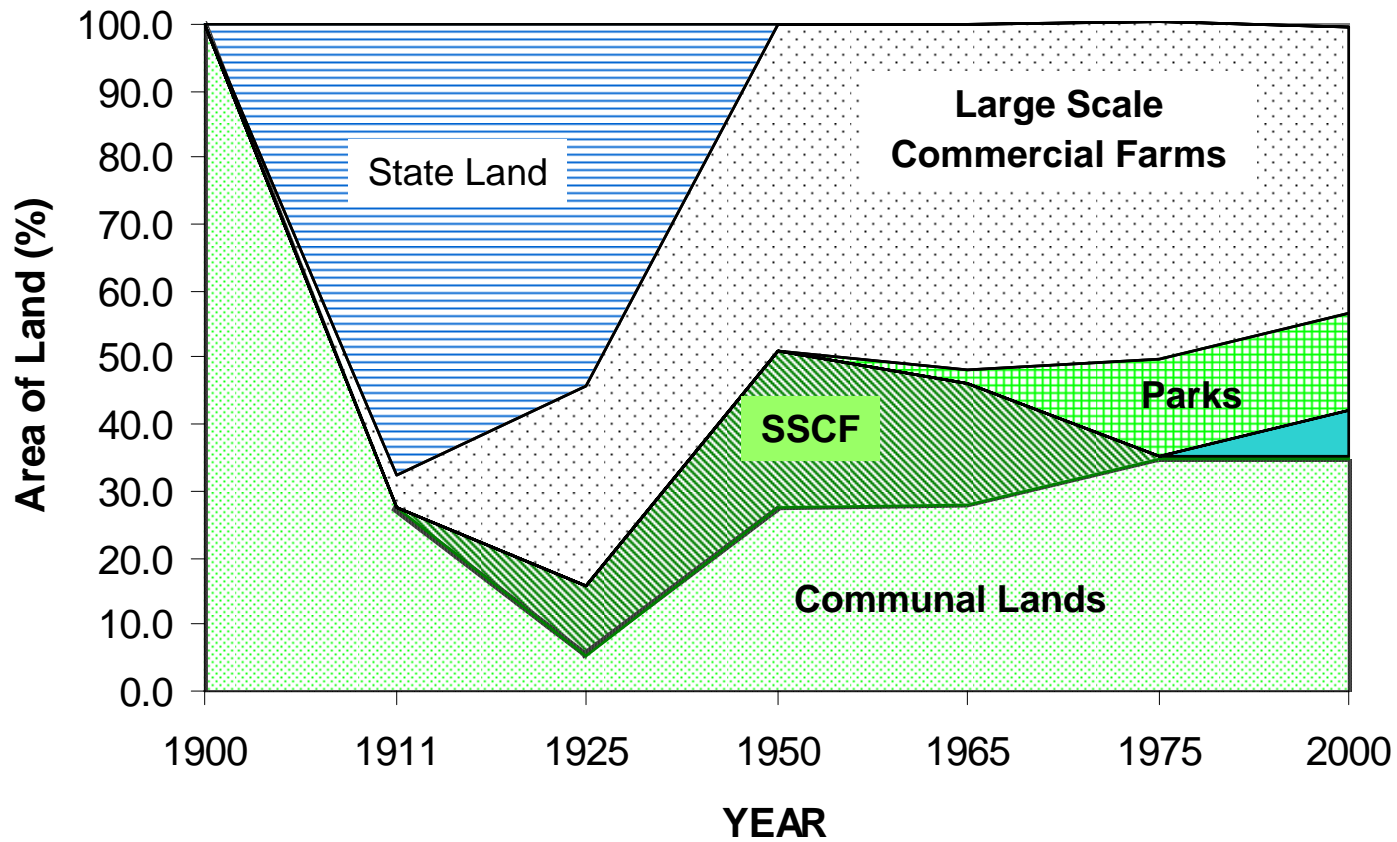
Period	Small scale AP	Cattle Ranches	Wildlife
1880s	> 1,000ha per HH Access to wildlife & grazing over wide areas		Ivory traders, elephant populations collapse
1890s	Rinderpest – lost all cattle		Wildlife decimated by rinderpest
1920s	Relocations & smaller land holdings, no access to WL	V. Large cattle ranches established	Wildlife populations start to recover Gonarezhou GR gazetted
1950s	More displacements & land holdings below threshold of 400ha /HH	More ranches allocated for cattle ranching	Wildlife competing with cattle Game Ranching starts

South East Lowveld – Where from?

Parallel Narratives: 1960s – 2000s

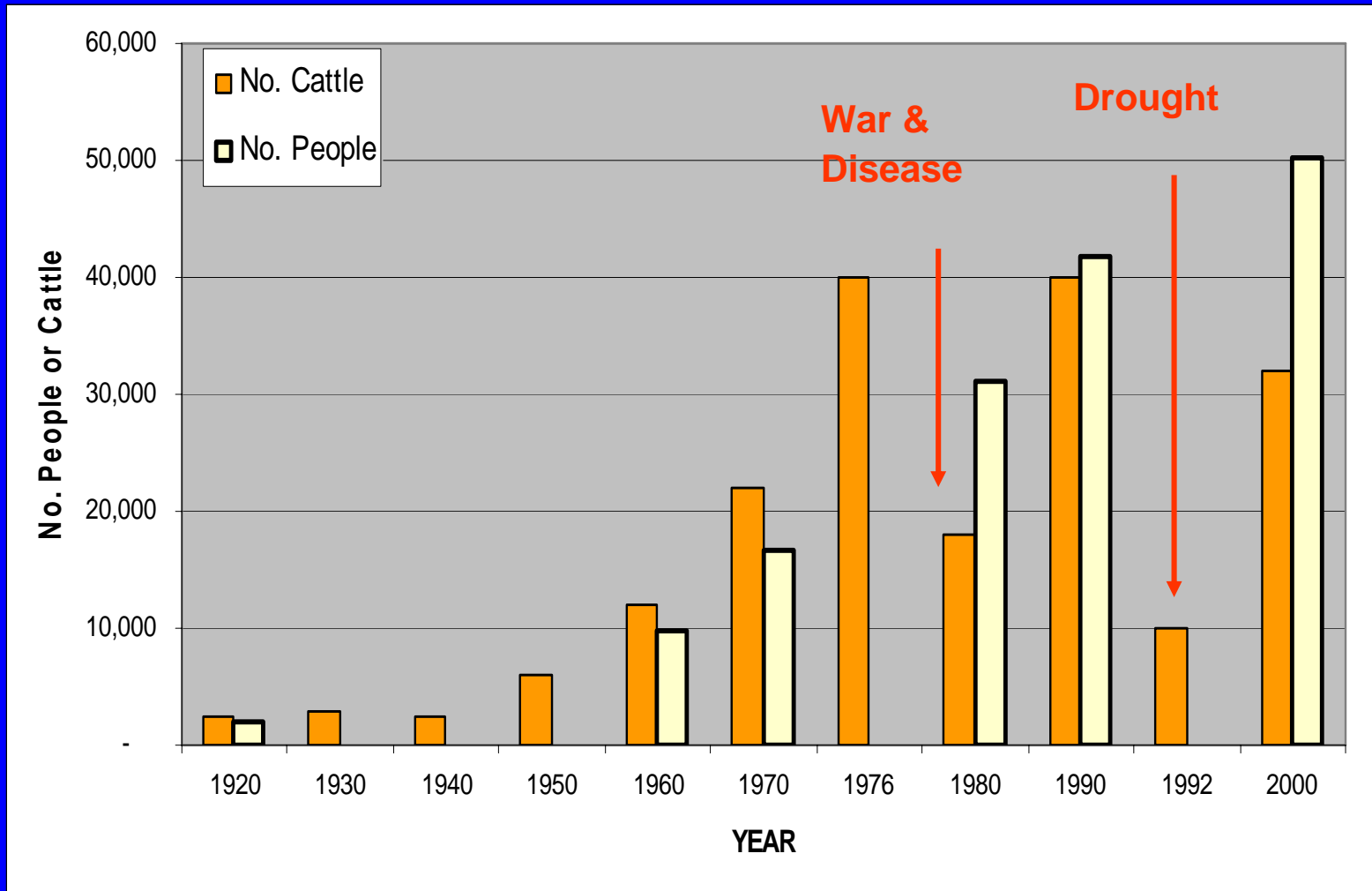
Period	Small scale AP	Cattle	Wildlife
1970s	Land appropriated to NP, War and displacement to “Protected Villages”	Cattle rustling Disease outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife eradication to control tsetse & FMD - No buffalo• New Wildlife Act• Gonarezhou NP
1990s	Access to < 15,000 km ² , <100 ha per HH Livestock depleted in drought, Food aid	Beef industry starts to collapse after 1991/92 drought	Wildlife and tourism expands, Conservancies created
2000s	Floods and droughts	FMD outbreaks Land invasions	Tourism collapses Land invasions & poaching, Anthrax

SEL – Changing land tenure

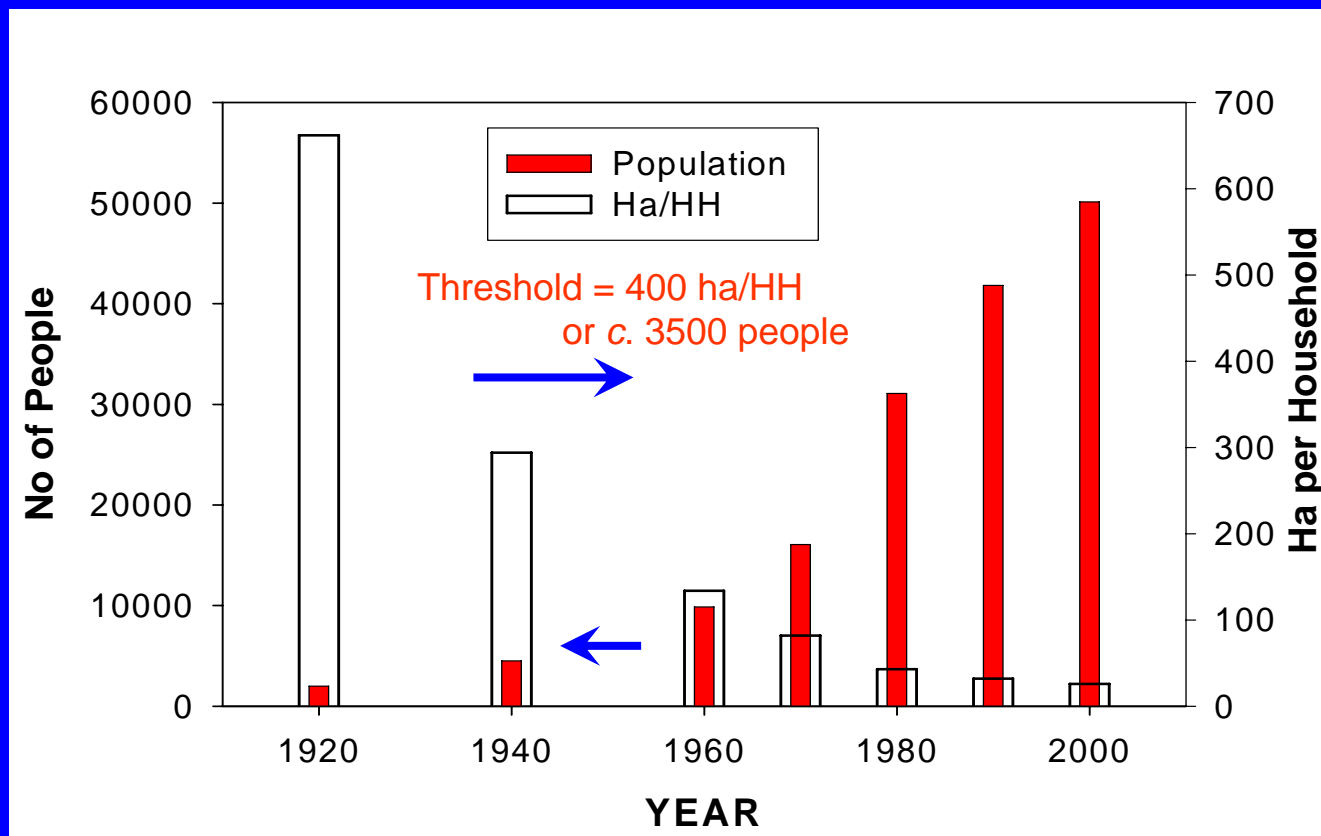


Small-scale Agro-pastoralism – subsistence & vulnerability

Fluctuations in livestock holdings – Matibi II Communal Land



Communal Lands – farm size e.g. Matibi II

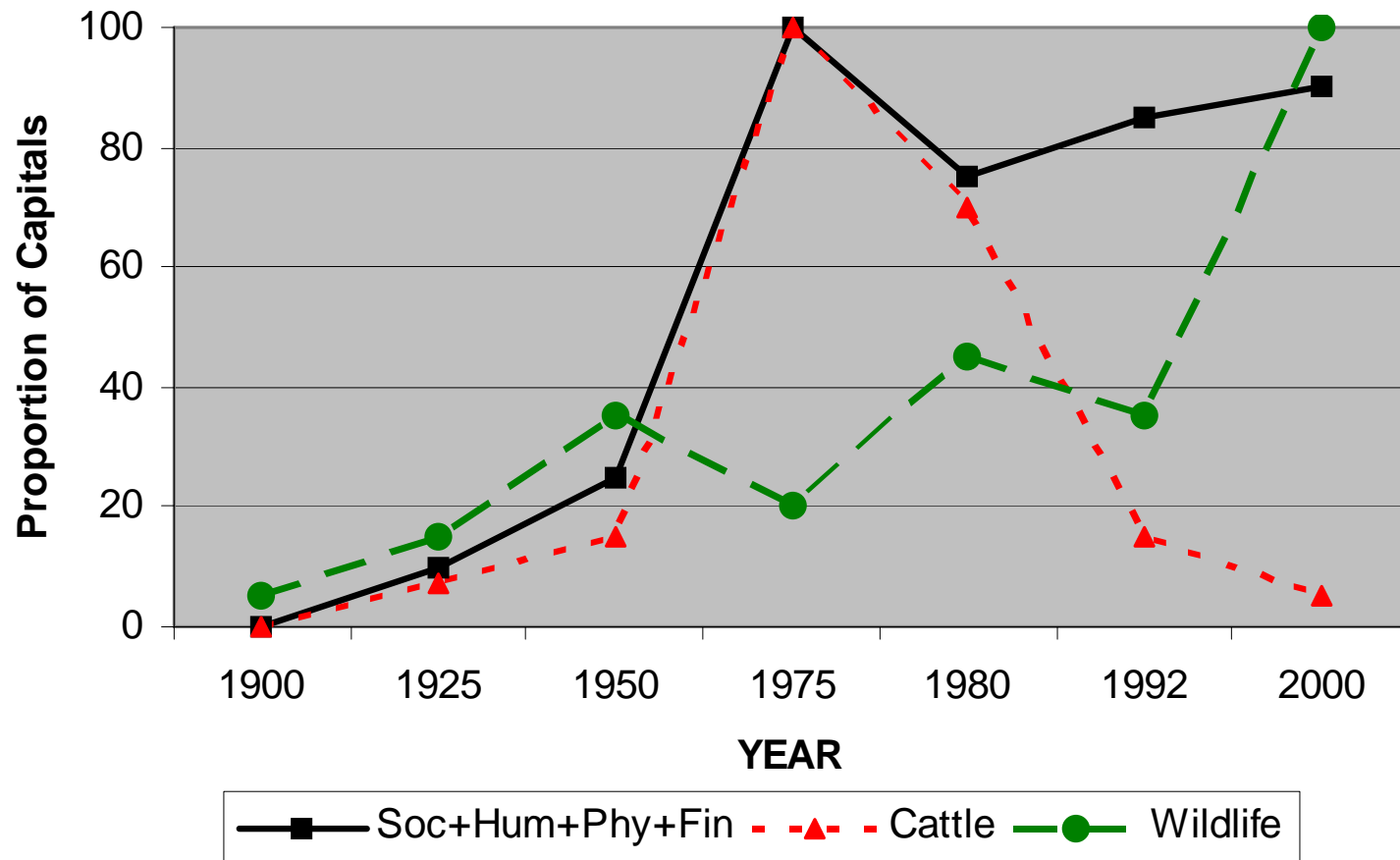


Land required per HH with minimum external inputs:

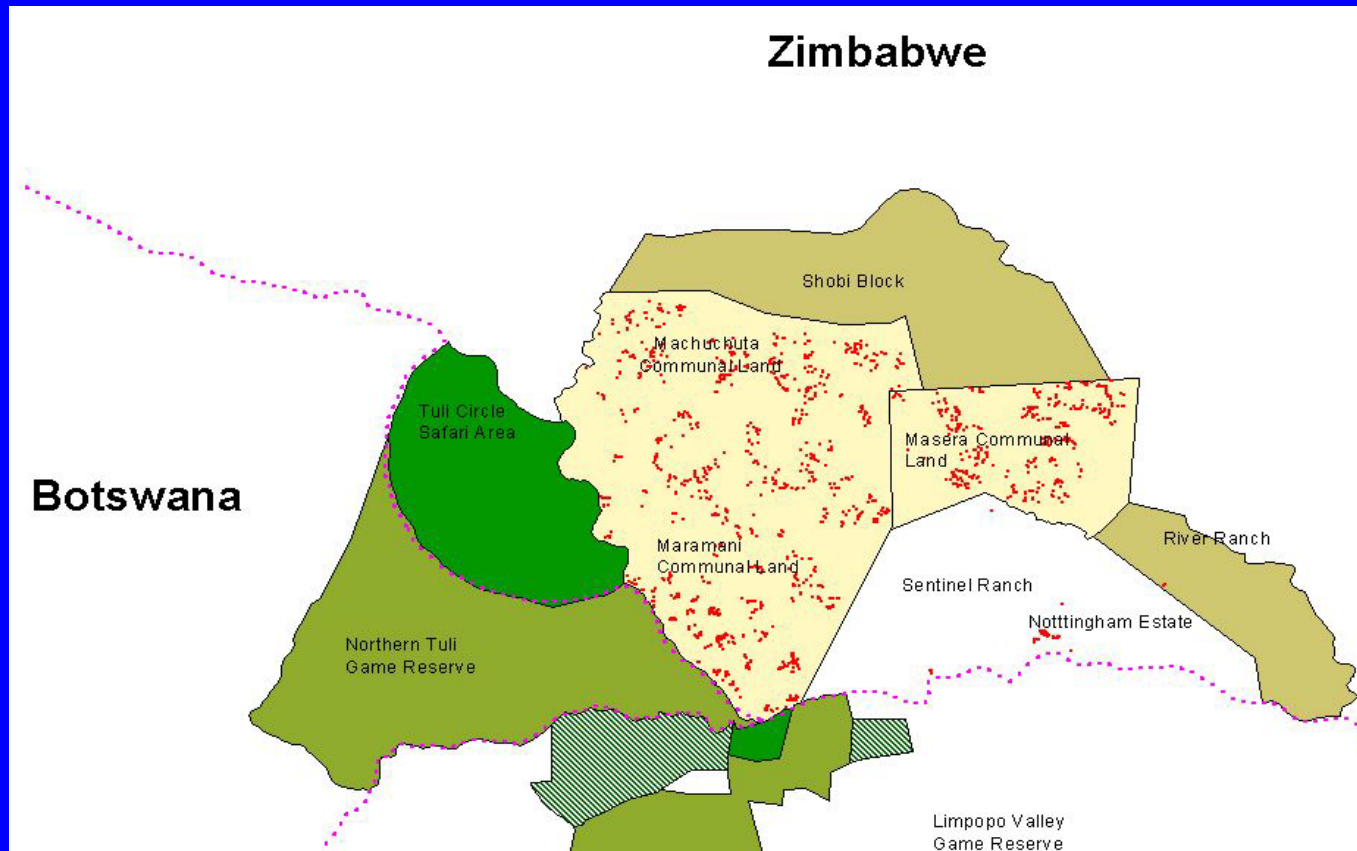
- Access to 20 ha arable (5 year rotation of 4 ha)
- c. 400 ha of grazing land to maintain a herd of 25 cattle and 35 goats

→ ***By 1945 land available per HH was less than required***

SEL – Cattle to Wildlife



SEL – Wildlife to Resettlement in TFCA



2001: Ranches resettled, 300 families - 3 Tier model

2002: Drought, Livestock collapse, Wildlife reduced & poached

2003: Settlers worse off, game ranch non-functional,

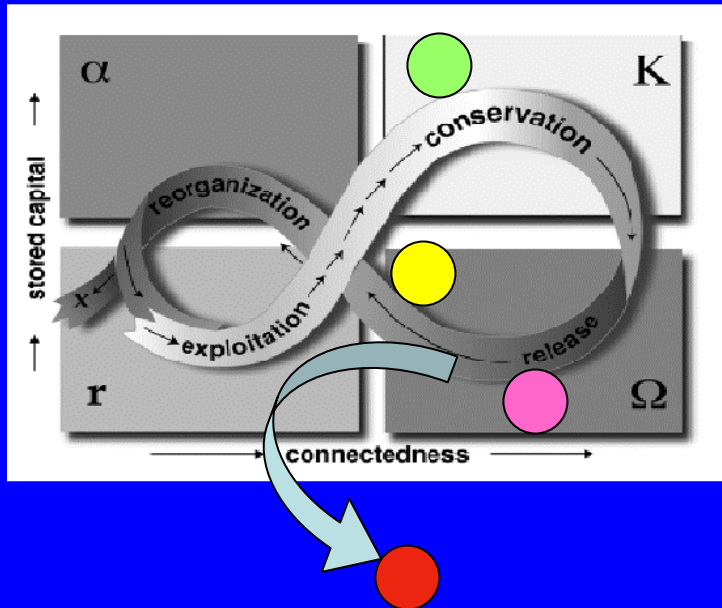
2005: Settlers and Ranchers are talking about a joint venture

SEL – Summary

Conservancies (former Cattle Ranches) ●

Social, Human, Physical and Financial Capitals
Mostly intact → successful release & re-organisation
of natural capital livestock to wildlife

Resilient & adaptable



Communal Land ●

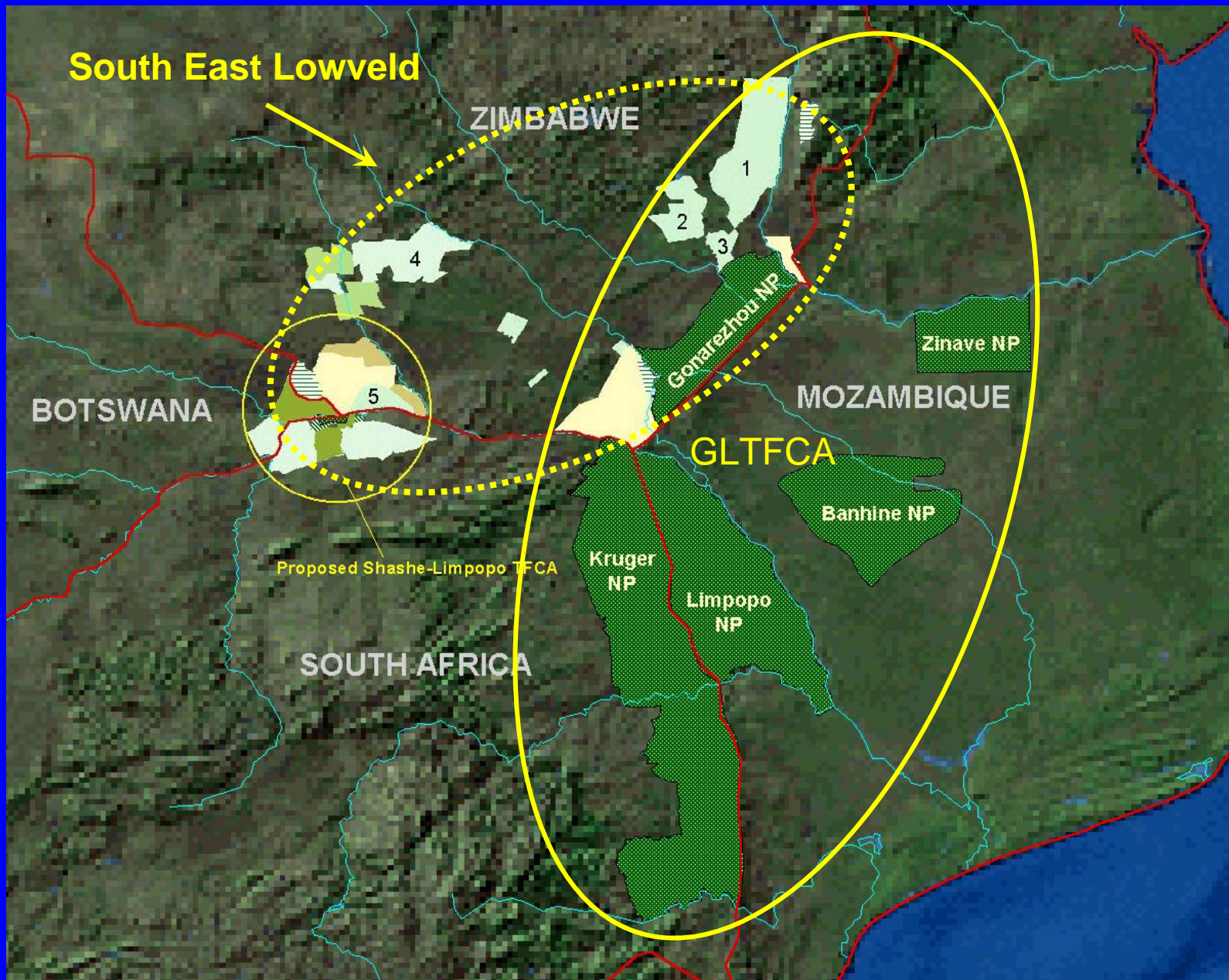
Continuing loss of capital assets and inappropriate policies and subsidies (e.g. food aid) have maintained a poverty trap.

High Resilience

Resettlement Land ● or → ●

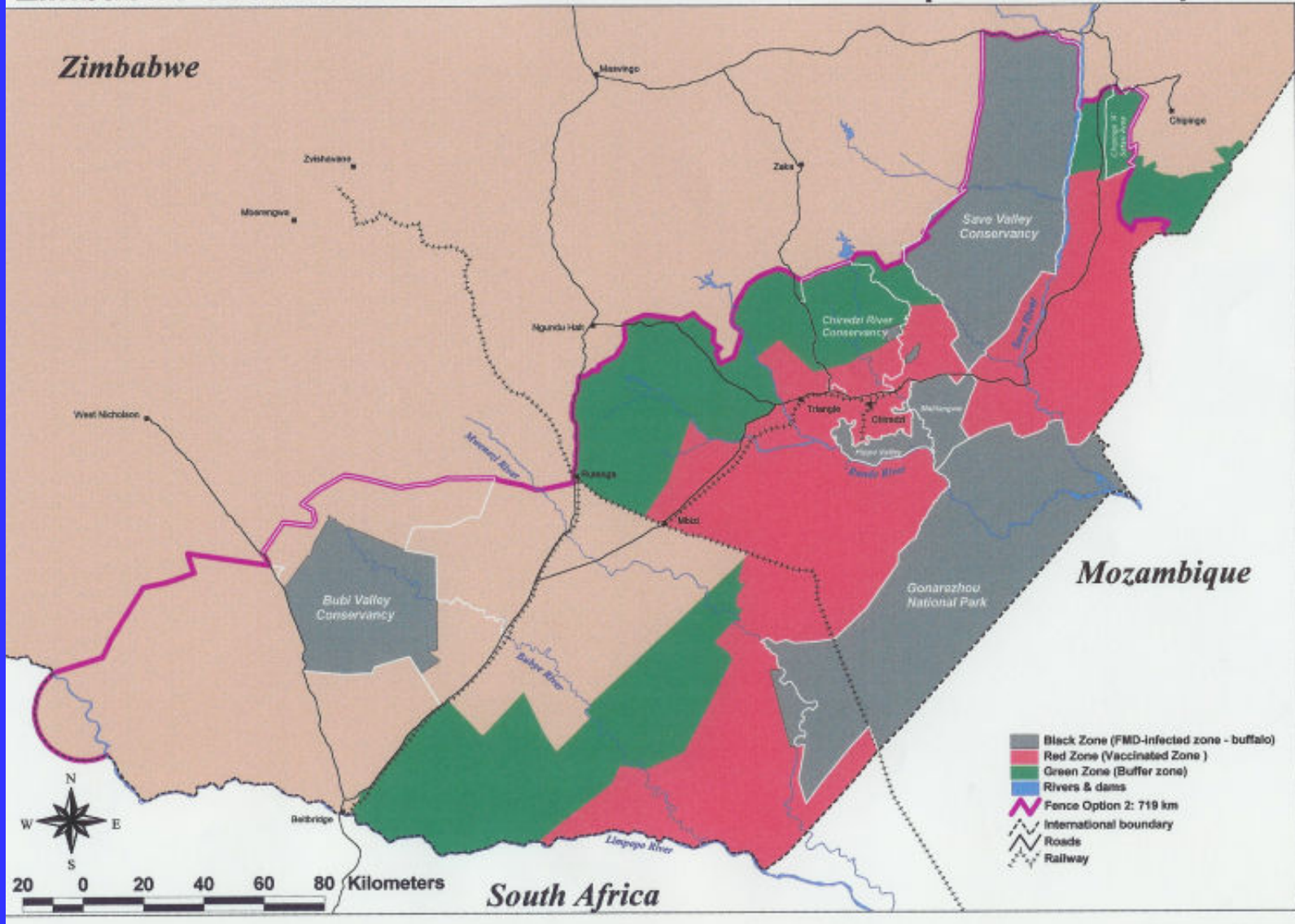
Loss of capital assets by Ranchers and Settlers → collapse into a new domain?

Loss of resilience and adaptability ???



Extending the TFCA?

Zimbabwe Southeastern Lowveld FMD Zones and Proposed Fence Option 2



SEL – Insights & Policy Implications

- Despite national level negative trends and economic decline, local pockets of innovation and adaptability remain and are emerging.
- External capital inputs are probably crucial for re-organisation.
- Continuing subsidies (e.g. food aid) without the capacity for self-organisation can sustain an undesirable state.
- Develop policies that enable, rather than stifle, innovation and adaptability in local natural resource management and resource access rights.