

Internationalisation of Policymaking and State Power in Mozambique: The Case of the Conservation Sector

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The conservation sector in Mozambique is characterized by an important involvement of international actors (donors, conservation organizations). Policy making at the central level (Maputo) is negotiated between the state and the donors' representatives, through the "new aid architecture" (Mosse, 2005), which favors a sector-wide approach for the elaboration of national regulations. The new legislation in the conservation sector is made of the institutionalization of donors' agenda and narratives, many of them neoliberal ones. Nevertheless, the analysis of the aid relationship shows that conservation in Mozambique, through the institutionalization of neoliberal tools (Harrison, 2010), is both a matter of international inputs and of expansion of state power. Indeed, a process of re-politicization is often at work.

Decision making at the local level reveals the same dynamics. The study of Gorongosa National Park's institutional set-up, characterized by a public-private partnership, shows how the daily management of the national park is for a great part disconnected from the state apparatus. However, the latter (re)appears at the periphery of the park's activities, when it is about territory and population government in the buffer zone. Although managed by the state, the Limpopo National Park shows comparable trends. The emphasis on the development of private concessions within both parks and on a rights-based approach towards the communities of the buffer zones is quite linked to the current discourses in Maputo, supported by donors like the World Bank.

This paper thus proposes a dialogue between these two scales: the central one, located in Maputo, and the local one, in Gorongosa and Limpopo National Parks. The two levels are deeply interconnected in terms of resources, narratives and actors – notably the 'transfer brokers' (Whitfield, 2008), the national- internationalized agents who are at the interface between the state and the donors. In both cases, the relationship between the state and the international apparatus is about the making of a conservation sector that conceals the donors' priorities, made of the alliance between conservation and development, and the ones of the state, made of the politicization of the protected areas (and notably their peripheries), a tool for the expansion of the state power.