

# Pockets of Social Innovation in Landscapes of Fear?

Learning about relational  
development from the environmental monitors in the Tsitsa

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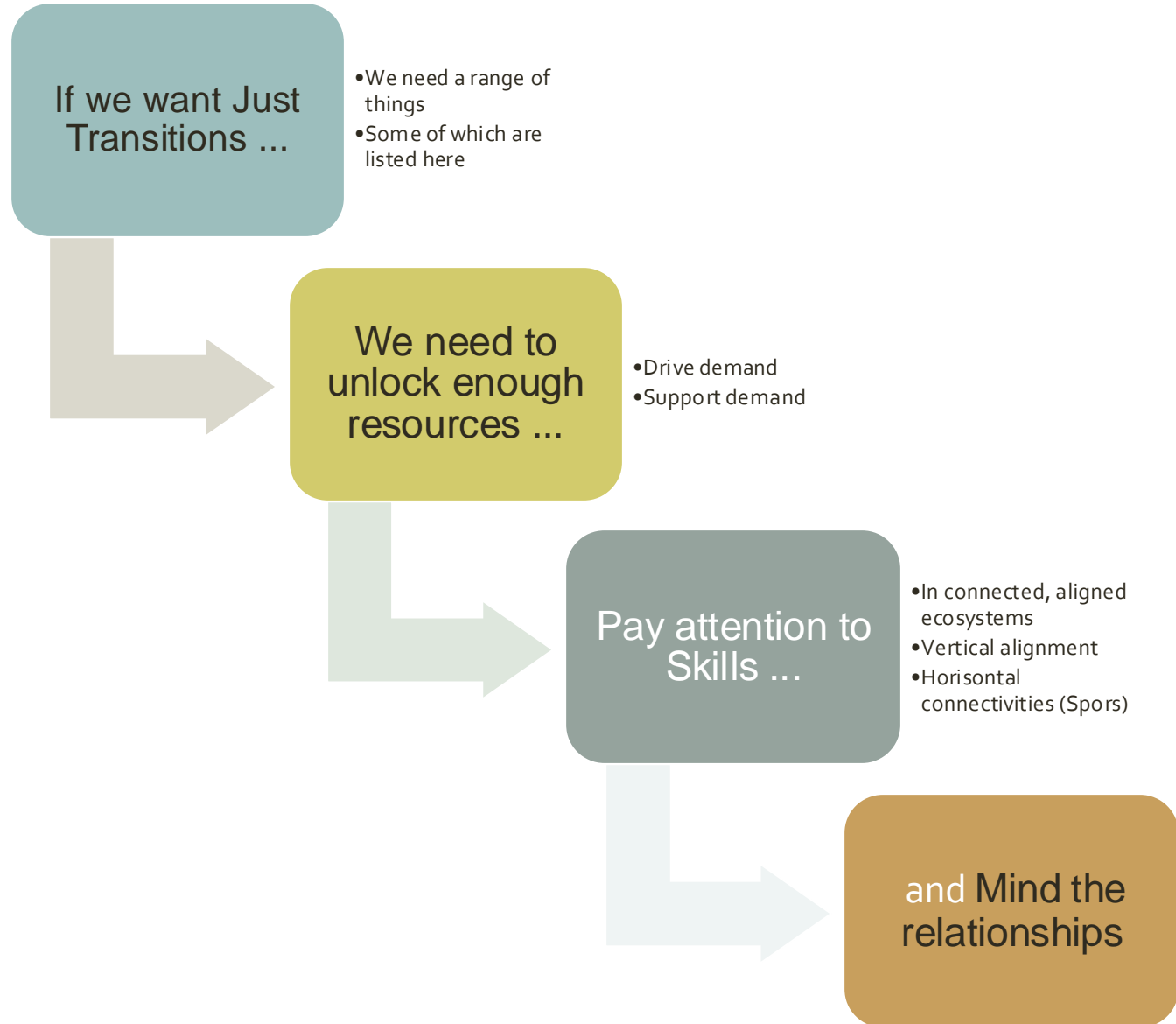


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Consider  
Relationality  
when Planning  
& Implementing  
How?



*Relationality?*

**Self & Others | Here & There | Now & Then**



Based on Barad, K. 2007, *Meeting the University Halfway*, Duke University Press

## Some Studies Referred to in the Paper

- Rosenberg, E., Ngeleza, B., Mukute, M., Jenkin, N. & Kotschy, K. 2021. *Mid-Term Review of the Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy 2010-2030*.
- Rosenberg, E., Rosenberg, G., Lotz-Sisitka, H., Ramsarup, P., Rivers, N. and Togo, M. 2016. *Green Economy Learning Assessment South Africa: Critical competencies for driving a green transition*. PAGE (DEA, DHET, DST, EDD, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNITAR, ILO).
- Mtati, N. 2020. *Towards realising the benefits of citizen participation In environmental monitoring: A case study in an Eastern Cape Natural Resource Management Programme*. Unpublished M.Ed. thesis, Rhodes University Environmental Learning Research Centre.



# Case Study from the Tsitsa River Catchment, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Mtati's Study asked:

Q1: What value did the environmental monitors derive from their work?

Q2: What made them stay as monitors?



## Q2: What made them stay as monitors?

1. Being respected – their person, customs, practices recognized
2. Trust – being able to trust and being trusted
3. Approached in their own language and put at ease
4. Quality training – enough time and opportunities to ask
5. A contact with whom to follow up once the work started
6. Sustained relationships





Q1: What did people value about being a monitor?

1. Tangible benefits – an income and what it enabled
2. Being able to contribute to family - "I am a person"
3. Identity, status – "The kind of person I am"
4. Purpose and meaningful engagement
5. Friendships, meeting new and interesting people
6. Being part of something important
7. Becoming newly aware of the river near their homes

All these demonstrate the importance of various forms of relationships to people



# Simple! But easily overlooked

Especially with an  
interventionist model of  
development – and  
potentially in South  
Africa's proposals for  
Green Transitions

Giqwa, N. 2018. *Waste management knowledge, its production, recontextualisation, and circulation in Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) training programmes*. Unpublished PhD thesis, Rhodes University Environmental Learning Research Centre.





# The cost of a loss / absence of relationality ... A landscape of fear



Game ranger Tsakana Nxumalo.

Rademeyer, J. 2023. *Landscape of fear: crime, corruption and murder in greater Kruger*. Research Paper 36, ENACT

“Today, Kruger’s gravest threat is not poaching but the internal corruption ... poaching syndicates have entrenched themselves around the park and organised crime has spread. As many as 40% of the park’s law enforcement staff – ... it may be as high as 70% in some areas – are believed to be aiding poaching networks or involved in corrupt or criminal activities.

Relations between staff and management have become strained and increasingly toxic, poisoned by mutual mistrust and suspicion. Morale is low.” [viz “toxic work environments” in BHCDs development]

This has been aggravated by a militarised response to poaching. “Kruger’s field rangers, particularly the first responders dropped by helicopter into armed ‘contacts’ with poaching gangs, face enormous psychological and physical pressures that inevitably sap morale ... The enormous costs of the militarised response – in flying hours, technology, manpower and weapons are also questioned, when many field rangers live in substandard housing.

Most of Kruger’s staff live in villages and towns around the park. They are vulnerable to the poaching syndicates and criminal gangs that live alongside them. There are no safe spaces. Police criminality and a lack of skills and resources ... have created a law enforcement and governance void that has helped criminal networks thrive ... [in a context of] pervasive poverty and deep-seated inequality”.

From Rademeyer, 2022, p.3

Friedman, S. 2020: “Corruption is far more deeply rooted than current accounts would have us believe ... It reflects historical patterns which go back many years and springs from the exclusion of many from the benefits which democracy was meant to bring”

Consider  
Relationality  
when Planning  
& Implementing  
Just Transitions  
Initiatives

