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Philipps Universität Marburg

Local resilience strategies and human contributions to confront climate change. Perspectives from the margins

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EUPeace Research Hub
Climate Science & Just Transition

RESEARCH SEMINAR
Climate change, emerging conflicts and population movements

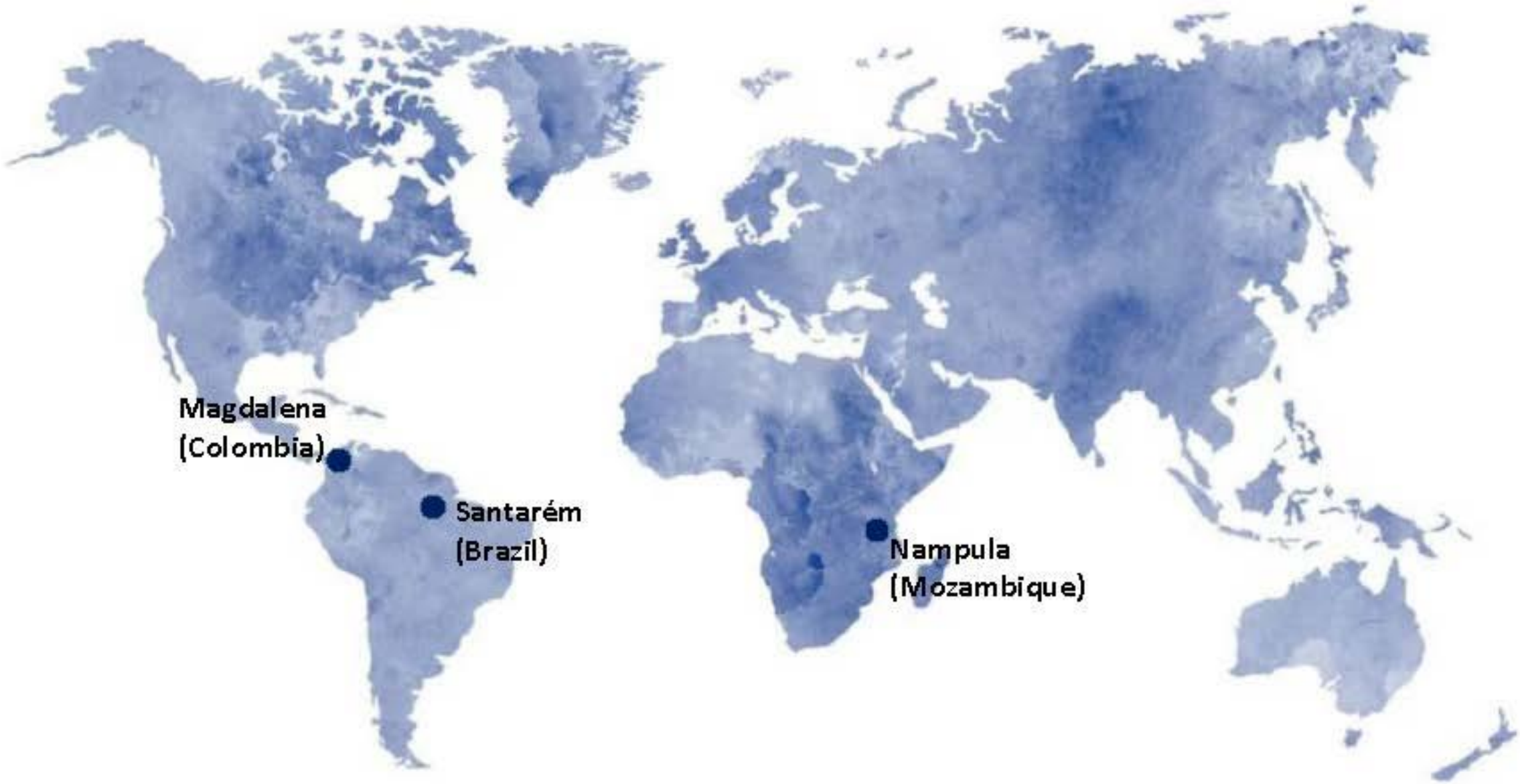
SOCIAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA (NISANSA)

- University Marburg & University Gießen

- 7 subprojects, one social-anthropological

- SP 3: **Local climate initiatives between regional preconditions, national policies and global programs**
  - with Michaela Meurer, Post-Doc

- German Federal Ministery for Education and Research (2021-2024)
- - https://nisansa.org



https://www.trenddeko.ch/wandtattoo-aquarell-weltkarte-blau-inkl-5-bilderrahmen-wa205233-m

Local climate initiatives

- we aimed to understand the multiple and multifunctional responses and ways of dealing with climate change.
- Local peasant communities and initiatives
  - Initiatives that address CC, but are not CC specific (Fridays for future)
  - integrational models of resilience, locally adapted, multifunctional in their need to address local social and ecological complexities
  - address climate change challenges, but at the same time aim to secure and develop subsistence strategies, maintain food security, defend land right, develop new form of social organization etc.
- forms of living are under threat by social dynamics and the pressure that results from CC.

Low emitting groups – Carbon inequality

- with people **barely generate emissions and yet are significantly affected**
- global climate politics urge the implementation of sustainability innovations oriented at the needs of the top 10% of emitters
- these communities belong to the lower part of the bottom 50% emitters of the global population that emit only 13% of global climate gases, whereas the top 10% emits 47.6% (31 t/y) and the top 1% 16% (110 t/y) or the same amount of CO2 as the poorest two thirds of humanity (five billion people).
- →**hardly any political activities may be observed to avoid that low emitters increasingly adopt non-sustainable forms of living, to learn from their locally grown solutions**, etc.

Margins

- discourses and practices concerned with the social reproduction of marginalized actors
  - Margins as
    - Socio-spatial sites (not in the focus of climate discourse)
    - Conceptual sites (different conceptions and practices)

- Das, Veena, and Deborah Poole, eds. 2004. *Anthropology in the Margins of the State*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.
- Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 1994. “From the Margins.” *Cultural Anthropology* 9 (3): 279–297.
- Ahrens, Jörn; Halbmayer, Ernst (2023): Climate Change Epistemologies in Southern Africa. Social and Cultural Dimensions. London [u.a.]: Routledge (Routledge Studies in African Geography Series).
- Halbmayer, Ernst (2024): Empowering Margins. From Climate change politics and technologies of aggregate states to place-based human contributions. In: *Margens* 18 (30), S. 20-44.
- Meurer, Michaela; Rodriguez, Alexander; Ntunduatha, Jemusse; Salas, Ana; Teles, Eliana (2024): Confronting climate change in the margins. An ethnographic exploration of local resilience startegies. In: *Margens* 18 (30), S. 62-88.
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Climate epistemologies - How we know things about CC?

- On the one hand: highly scientific definitions….
- “Global warming is caused by high accumulation of green house gases in atmosphere. **These gases affect the ozone layer through some reactions e.g. carbonmonoxide react with ozone to produce carbondioxide and oxygen(CO+O3→CO2+O2)”**

- On the other hand: blending of science, and experience and own conceptions …
- **Hybridity of knowledge**–
- “occurs when two different knowledge systems,e.g. a local way of explaining the weather and scientific knowledge on climate, are combined into one of making sense of the weather”(Schnegg et al., 2021)

- Climate Perception
- Climate Reception (embedded in local/regional institutional, infrastructural and socio-cultural structures → transformed, selectivly adapted, hybrid versions)
- Climate Resiliance → Multiplicity of Climate Change Conceptions and their Significance for Resilience Measures

Dimensions and potentials of local strategies for confronting climate change

a) technical practices in everyday life
b) knowledge dynamics
c) Social organization and commoning
d) the development and adaptation of new practices

Limitations

a) Structural restraints
b) Upscaling
c) Downscaling of conflicting adaptation measures – the case of the Wayú

a) Dimension of technical practices in the everyday

a) Dimension of technical practices in the everyday

"Some time ago it was normal for us to construct our houses with four-sided roofs. We do not always have to invent something new – sometimes it is suficient to remember."

Senhor B., Matharia/Nampula, June 2022

b) Dimension of knowledge dynamics

Knowledge

Exchange of local expertise

Transfer

Combination → new hybrid strategies

b) Dimension of knowledge dynamics

Knowledge

Exchange of local expertise

Transfering external knowledge

Combination → new hybrid strategies

Prognóstico da estação chuvosa, sua interpretação para agricultura e recomendações agro-técnicas 2021-2022 para província de Nampula

1. Previsão Climática para a Estação Chuvosa 2021-2022

Para o período **Outubro-Novembro-Dezembro (OND) de 2021** (Figura 1), há uma maior probabilidade de ocorrência de:

⇒**Chuvas normais**: Grande extensão da província da Zambézia, Nampula e da província de Niassa;

⇒**Chuvas normais com tendência para abaixo do normal**: Em toda a extensão da província de Cabo Delgado, Noroeste da província de Nampula e partes da província de Niassa.

Figura. 1: Previsão Sazonal para OND - 2021

Para o período **Janeiro-Fevereiro-Março (JFM) de 2022** (Figura 2), há uma maior probabilidade de ocorrência de:

⇒**Chuvas normais com tendência para acima do normal:** Toda a região centro do país, sul das províncias de Nampula, Cabo Delgado e Niassa.

⇒**Chuvas normais:** em quase toda zona Norte do país.

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b) Dimension of knowledge dynamics

Knowledge

- Exchange of local expertise
- Transfering external knowledge
- **Combination → new hybrid strategies**

Documentary “Resilientes” by Alexander Rodriguez Contreras – Oraloteca Santa Marta, Colombia
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN8tWNuAYvA&t=74s

c) Dimension of collectivity/Commoning

Resilience strategies

- Locally adapted
- Multifunctional
  - climate adaptation
  - Self-organisation in spite of threads
  - subsistence based - food souvereinity
  - territorially based - local biodiversity

  - → **multiple factors for becoming displaced**, internal and international migration, flight & return → population movement

2. Potentials and limitations of local strategies

Limitations

...on the local level
...regarding ecological conditions
...due to structural conditions
...upscaling

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Thank you!