

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 4)

[Episode 4: Eco-Colonialism and Environmental Justice in the Global South](#)

Overview: In this episode, Dr. Joseph E. Mbaiwa (University of Botswana) and Dr. Chris Brown (Carleton University) help us examine the theme of eco-colonialism and global environmental justice through a case study on wildlife conservation in Botswana.

Key Takeaways

- Botswana is an “elephant superpower.” This is tied to the growth in elephant populations within the country and growth of an elephant-based tourist sector, contrasting to the ongoing challenge of declining elephant populations across the continent of Africa (Dr. Chris Brown 4:14-8:29).
- The governance of elephants (and of natural resources and wildlife more broadly) are the subject of both domestic and global ecopolitics. Policies are shaped by global political trends, but also specific to national economic, social, cultural, and political contexts that shape the outcomes of specific policy measures.
- This case study demonstrates how the national context is not isolated from the priorities of specific groups of activists in the “Global North”, global economic interests, and international institutions. Colonial relations of power continue to be expressed in the “Global South” today, they just manifest in new ways.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are some of the challenges related to ecological protection and environmental policy-making for states in Africa? To what extent are these states free to define their own conservation policies?
2. Dr. Brown and Dr. Mbaiwa discuss how various actors have contributed to contemporary elephant wildlife management policies within Botswana. What actors (e.g citizens, political leaders, NGOs, powerful states, global institutions, etc.) do you think hold greater power to shape environmental policy-making in the Global South, and why does this matter?
3. What is the relationship between global and local political power? How are local communities able to influence change on global environmental issues?

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Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Joseph E. Mbaiwa

- <https://www.ub.bw/user/2447>

Select articles, books and videos

- **Mbaiwa, Joseph E.** “Effects of the Safari Hunting Tourism Ban on Rural Livelihoods and Wildlife Conservation in Northern Botswana.” *South African Geographical Journal*. 100, no. 1 (2018): 41–61.
- **Mbaiwa, Joseph E.** “Ecotourism in Botswana: 30 Years Later.” *Journal of Ecotourism*. 14, no. 2-3 (2015): 204–222.
- **Mbaiwa, Joseph E,** Amanda Stronza, and Urs Kreuter. “From Collaboration to Conservation: Insights From the Okavango Delta, Botswana.” *Society & Natural Resources*. 24, no. 4 (2011): 400–411.

Dr. Chris Brown

- <https://carleton.ca/polisci/people/brown-chris/>

Select articles, books and videos

- **Brown, Chris.** “Botswana Votes 2019: Two-Party Competition and the Khama Factor.” *Journal of Southern African Studies*. 46, no. 4 (2020): 703–722.
- **Brown, Chris.** “Southern Africa in the Post-Apartheid Era: The Freeing of Domestic Politics.” *International Journal (Toronto)*. 46, no. 2 (1991): 267–290.

Explore resources mentioned in this episode

- BBC News. “Botswana to ban hunting over wildlife species decline.” November 29, 2021. Web. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20544251>
- CBC News. “Botswana lifts ban on elephant hunting, conservationists fear poaching” May 23 2019. Web. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/botswana-elephant-hunting-ban-1.5147049>
- National Geographic. “The Last Lions | National Geographic.” Documentary Trailer. Youtube. January 31, 2011. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ7SvK7w1xA>
- Humane Society of the United States. “New Poll: Vast majority of Americans oppose elephant and lion trophy hunting.” December 5 2017. Web. <https://www.humanesociety.org/news/new-poll-vast-majority-americans-oppose-elephant-and-lion-trophy-hunting>

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Learn more about Eco-colonialism, Colonialism and Environmental Justice:

- Bobby Banerjee, Subhabrata, Rajiv Maher, and Romy Krämer. “Resistance Is Fertile: Toward a Political Ecology of Translocal Resistance.” *Organization (London, England)* (2021).
- Bumpus, A.G and D.M Liverman. “Carbon Colonialism? Offsets, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, and Sustainable Development.” In *Global Political Ecology*, 217–238. Routledge, 2011.
- Cole, Luke W., and Foster, Sheila R. 2000. *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*. New York: New York University Press.
- Ergene, Seray, Subhabrata Bobby Banerjee, and Andrew J Hoffman. “(Un)Sustainability and Organization Studies: Towards a Radical Engagement.” *Organization Studies* 42, no. 8 (2021): 1319–1335.
- McGregor, Deborah. “Traditional Ecological Knowledge.” *Ideas: The Arts and Review*. 3 (1): 6. 2006.
- Sultana, Farhana. “Decolonizing Development Education and the Pursuit of Social Justice.” *Human Geography*. 12, no. 3 (2019): 31–46.