

*We are members of an interdisciplinary project studying how communities and their households, land use, and climate interact to create or mitigate vulnerability in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Area of Southern Africa.*

### Objective

We aim to facilitate a broader understanding of how livelihoods, land use and its history, and the environment are changing in this region.

To accomplish this, funded by a U.S. National Science Foundation grant (#1560700), we are collaborating with partner organizations and team members from the **U.S., Botswana, Zambia, and Namibia**. The main goal of this project will be to determine **leverage points** in a conceptual framework that might mitigate how land-use decisions and land-cover change affect vulnerability in the face of uncertainty.

### Methods and Impact

Combining household surveys, remote sensing of vegetation and land use, and innovative modeling, the key leverage points identified will help craft interventions to mitigate different sources of household vulnerability. For more information, please visit the KASAVA project website:

[www.kasava.weebly.com](http://www.kasava.weebly.com)

Our team has developed a conceptual model of how adaptive capacity, exposure to climate variability, and sensitivity to changes in land use might combine to affect household vulnerability. An integrated, quantitative modeling framework will be used to evaluate the strength of this framework and test which of the aspects of the framework are important to support sustainable communities in the KAZA transfrontier conservation area and beyond.

### Key Personnel:

Andrea Gaughan, Project Director ([aegaughan@gmail.com](mailto:aegaughan@gmail.com), UofL), Forrest Stevens (UofL), Narcisa Pricope (UNC Wilmington), Shylock Muyengwa (U. of Zimbabwe), Lin Cassidy Consulting (Botswana), Joel Hartter (CU Boulder), Jonathan Salerno (CU Boulder).

**Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area**

