

Fisheries Livelihoods and Conservation in Madagascar: Anthropology of Well-Being

Abstract

This article explores the relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation in Madagascar, from an anthropological perspective. It draws on ethnographic research conducted in two coastal communities in southwestern Madagascar, where fishing is a primary source of livelihood for local people. The research examines how people's well-being is shaped by their dependence on fisheries resources, and how conservation efforts can impact their livelihoods and well-being. The article argues that a focus on well-being can provide a more holistic understanding of the complex relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation, and can help to develop more effective and equitable conservation strategies.



Being Ethical among Vezo People: Fisheries, Livelihoods, and Conservation in Madagascar (Anthropology of Well-Being: Individual, Community, Society) by Frank Muttenter

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 28697 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 255 pages

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Madagascar is a large island nation located in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of southeastern Africa. It is known for its unique biodiversity, including a wide variety of marine ecosystems and species. Fishing is a major source of livelihood for many Malagasy people, and fisheries resources are an important part of the country's economy and food security. However, Madagascar's fisheries are facing a number of challenges, including overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. These challenges are threatening the livelihoods of fishers and their communities, and are also having a negative impact on the marine environment.

Conservation efforts are underway in Madagascar to address these challenges and protect the country's marine resources. However, conservation efforts can also have a negative impact on local communities, particularly those that rely on fisheries for their livelihoods. For example, marine protected areas (MPAs) can restrict access to fishing grounds, and fishing regulations can limit the amount of fish that can be caught. These restrictions can have a significant impact on the livelihoods and well-being of fishers and their families.

It is therefore important to consider the social and economic impacts of conservation efforts when developing and implementing conservation strategies. This article explores the relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation in Madagascar, from an anthropological perspective. It draws on ethnographic research conducted in two coastal communities in southwestern Madagascar, where fishing is a primary source of livelihood for local people. The research examines how people's well-being is shaped by their dependence on fisheries resources, and how conservation efforts can impact their livelihoods and well-being. The article argues that a focus on well-being can provide a more holistic

understanding of the complex relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation, and can help to develop more effective and equitable conservation strategies.

Methods

The research was conducted in two coastal communities in southwestern Madagascar, between 2016 and 2018. The communities are located in different parts of the region, and have different social and economic characteristics. The first community is a small village of about 500 people, located on a remote island. The majority of the people in the village are fishers, and fishing is the primary source of livelihood for the community. The second community is a larger town of about 10,000 people, located on the mainland. The town has a more diversified economy, but fishing is still an important source of livelihood for many people.

The research employed a variety of qualitative methods, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions. The research team spent extended periods of time in both communities, living with local families and participating in daily life. This allowed the researchers to develop a deep understanding of the communities' social and economic dynamics, and the challenges and opportunities that people face in their daily lives.

Results

The research found that fisheries livelihoods are a central part of the social and economic fabric of both communities. Fishing provides food, income, and social status for fishers and their families. However, fisheries livelihoods are also facing a number of challenges, including overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. These challenges are threatening

the livelihoods of fishers and their communities, and are also having a negative impact on the marine environment.

Conservation efforts are underway in Madagascar to address these challenges and protect the country's marine resources. However, conservation efforts can also have a negative impact on local communities, particularly those that rely on fisheries for their livelihoods. For example, marine protected areas (MPAs) can restrict access to fishing grounds, and fishing regulations can limit the amount of fish that can be caught. These restrictions can have a significant impact on the livelihoods and well-being of fishers and their families.

The research found that the impacts of conservation efforts on fisheries livelihoods are complex and varied. In some cases, conservation efforts have had a positive impact on fisheries livelihoods, by helping to protect fish stocks and improve the quality of the marine environment. In other cases, conservation efforts have had a negative impact on fisheries livelihoods, by restricting access to fishing grounds and limiting the amount of fish that can be caught.

The research also found that the impacts of conservation efforts on well-being are complex and varied. In some cases, conservation efforts have had a positive impact on well-being, by improving the quality of the environment and providing new opportunities for income generation. In other cases, conservation efforts have had a negative impact on well-being, by reducing access to food and income, and increasing stress and anxiety.

The research highlights the importance of considering the social and economic impacts of conservation efforts when developing and

implementing conservation strategies. A focus on well-being can provide a more holistic understanding of the complex relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation, and can help to develop more effective and equitable conservation strategies.

Discussion

The research findings suggest that a focus on well-being can provide a more holistic understanding of the complex relationship between fisheries livelihoods and conservation. Well-being is a multi-dimensional concept that encompasses a person's physical, mental, and social health, as well as their economic security and environmental sustainability. By considering the impacts of conservation efforts on well-being, we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the costs and benefits of conservation



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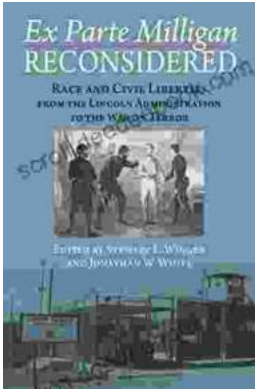
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