

Geography 67 Notes: Conservation Politics and Climate

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Conservation in Southern Africa:

Transforming Conservation into Cash: Summary of findings

- Conservation acts as a means of economic accumulation particularly for residents of areas involved in ICDPs.
 - Tourism employment is the main driver of household accumulation in Namibia.
 - Produces uneven economic landscapes.
 - Tourism does not have as strong a negative or positive effect in Mozambique since it reaches households.
- People are not satisfied with ICDPs, and monetary benefits compared to cost.

Recent History of Mozambique:

- Portuguese colony and gained independence in 1975.
 - Immediate civil war 1977-92.
- Post slavery (apartheid) and forced labor.
- Natural Disasters.

Recent History of Namibia:

- Post apartheid, formerly south west Africa.
- Gained independence in 1990.
- World leader in community based resource management:
 - Great conservation strategies: issues of commercial poaching, local people not feeling local ownership of the wildlife.
 - Conservancy: recognizes the local people as the gatekeepers of wildlife, and they are incentivized to manage and protect the resources.
 - Tourism is essential to this – “responsible travelers”.
 - Poachers are apprehended and community members have become stewards of wildlife.

What is an ICDP:

- Integrated conservation and development programs: dual goal of preserving biodiversity and alleviating poverty.
- Criticisms:
 - Commodification of nature.
 - Change local economic activities.
 - Decreases local access to natural resources.
 - Causes social disruption.
- Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM).
 - Programs that empower local communities by giving them a voice in conservation decisions, build local knowledge on sustainable resource use, encourage conservation compliance.

ICDPs in Namibia and Mozambique:

- Tourism is significant in both Namibia and Mozambique.

- Namibia ICDPs:
 - Communal conservancies
 - High autonomy, high level of local involvement required, democratic election.
 - Revenue sources from community partnerships with private enterprises.
 - Benefits (cash and employment) distributed to individuals.
- Mozambican ICDPs:
 - More top-down, less autonomy from the government.
 - Management is not democratic. Leaders appointment by the government.

ICDP Implementation:

- Namibian has stronger systems of monitoring and reporting.
- Level of local participation and inclusion in implementation.
 - Concentrations of power.
- Discrepancy in policy articulation and implementation.

Results and Findings:

- Economic benefits are products of ICDP.
 - Dissatisfaction is still widespread.
 - Is tourism always be a stable market in the long run?

Conclusion:

- Article shows that conservation acts as a mean to economic accumulation, and a main driver in some cases.
 - Locals despite not being satisfied with tourism are optimistic.
 - Increase the agency of individuals that may lead to development of democratic institutions.
 - Overall do benefit locals.
- However, ICDP's:
 - Benefits vary significantly depending on location.
 - Are disruptive to local livelihoods.
 - Economic compensation is not enough to balance negative effects of tourism.
 - May lead to elite capture, and as a result may lead to lack of participation.
 - May decline economic standing of households with more assets because of restrictions.

Canned Hunting in South Africa:

- Does canned hunting accomplish what it claims to do?
 - Not sustainable – diverting hunters from killing wild lions and pushing them to kill captured lion.
 - Increase pool of people interested in hunting instead of reducing them.
 - Should look at whole system of animals instead of just lion population when evaluating this method.
 - More successful method: drag down demand of canned hunting.
 - Campaigns against canned lion hunting.