CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS: THE CASE OF ANJOZOROBE-ANGAVO FOREST CORRIDOR, MADAGASCAR

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CONTEXT

RCP8.5 2081–2100

Projected Temperature Change

Source: IPCC 5th Assessment Report

Photo credit: Cerian Gibbes
LAND USE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

• Demarcation of sacred areas, the allocation of totems
  • Kalahari and Moremi Reserve Botswana
  • Matopos National Park in Zimbabwe
  • Mamili National Park in Namibia
• Stratified access and use of resources
• See Murombedzi (2003), Nhira and Fortman (1992), Matowanyika (1991), Schoffeleers (1979)
EXCLUSIONARY APPROACHES

• Reports of a pristine landscapes teaming with wildlife

• “A profound belief in the possibility of restructuring nature and re-ordering it to serve human needs and desires" (Adams, 2003).

• Fines and fences
  • National Parks and protected areas
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- International conservation pressures
  - Individuals, communities and institutions seeking balance between environment and humans

- CBNRM

Category I
- Strict Nature Reserve

Category VI
- PA w/ sustainable use
Understanding patterns of land and resource use while at the same time examining solutions to contemporary challenges remains a core of our discipline (Turner 2003).
MADAGASCAR

- Fourth largest island
- Settled 2,000-4,000 years ago
- French colony 1905-1960
- Political upheaval since independence
  - 2009 political crisis
- Biodiversity “hotspot” (Myers et al. 1988)
  - 80% of species are endemic
  - Threatened by human activity
- 2003 Durban Vision
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- Topography: hills, granite outcrops, savanna, rainforest fragments
- Cultural diversity: Merina, Betsimisaraka, Betsileo
- Economy: agriculture, timber, charcoal, tourism

Photo credit: Kate Wright
Site: Anjozorobe-Angavo Forest Corridor
- Co-managed by NGO Fanamby and local communities
- ISP as undergraduate in 2009
- Research question: How have residents of the Anjozorobe-Angavo Forest Corridor adapted their resource use practices to conservation policies?
  - Specifically, how do conservation regulations impact charcoal production?
METHODS

- Semi-structured interviews with residents of the corridor
  - Local guide as translator
  - Wide and diverse sample of residents
- Observations of charcoal production and forest resource use
CHALLENGES
REVISED QUESTION AND METHODS

• New research question: How do local residents participate in community-based conservation at Anjozorobe-Angavo Forest Corridor?
  • In what ways are they excluded from park and resource management?
• Methods: interviews with community leadership about involvement in the creation, management, and future planning of the protected area
  • ~ 45 community interviews total
  • Interviews with Fanamby personnel and other interest groups
  • Observation of forest resource use within and outside of protected area
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

• Trends in residents’ responses
  1. Different threats perceived by residents of eastern and western sides of the forest corridor
  2. Variation in communities’ collaboration with Fanamby on conservation and community livelihood projects
  3. Interviewees tended to indicate “others” for environmental destruction

• Residents’ perceptions contrast with Fanamby’s stated goals
FURTHER ANALYSES

• In-depth analysis of interview results
  • Patterns in geographic location
  • Power differentials based on political scale
• Incorporate new data
  • Satellite image analysis to determine land cover change at park boundaries
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• Research in community-based conservation
  • Sub-Saharan Africa
  • United States
• Ecotourism to achieve conservation and community goals

Photo credit: Kate Wright