

Community Participation in Fisheries management in Tanzania

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Abstract

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT Abstract: Artisanal or Small scale inshore fisheries are one of the economic sub sectors of the economy and make valuable economic contribution to the coastal communities of Tanzania. It provides rich protein food, employment, income thus contribute to their livelihood. The fishery also contributes significantly to foreign earnings and revenue. Small-scale fisheries is by far the most important sector in coastal communities as it employs more than 177,527 full time fishers and over 4 million people who were engaged in various fisheries related activities. Consequently, the demand for fishery resources for export and local consumption (food security) is growing, leading to further pressure on finfish and high value invertebrate fish resources, with the open access nature of the fishery and subject to little management control, resulted into increasingly problems of overexploitation and overcapitalizations which calls for management measures to rescue the situation. In most fishery, the great challenge of fisheries management is to choose the best management regime and strategies to achieve the objectives of managing fishery resources. Human and financial resources must be obtained in order to manage the resources in a sustainable manner. In the absence of human resources fishing communities can be used in fisheries-dependent monitoring because reliable and accurate information is crucial as only well informed decision makers can make good decisions in managing the fishery resources. Tanzania initiates a participatory resource management approach by involving local fishing communities, a system commonly known as co-management.