

Political Ecology on Changes in Environmental Use among the Sandawe in Tanzania.

Year: 2005

Place of fieldwork: Tanzania

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Key Words: Sandawe, Hadza, livelihood, change in environmental use, indigenous people

- Research background

A lot of discussions regarding how indigenous or hunter-gatherer societies are spaced in today's world, under the process of Globalization in Africa are conducted in political and cultural contexts. Within those discussions, one of the most important topics is the way of maintaining their basic subsistence. Their subsistence is closely related to their current and past environmental use. We need to clarify today's subsistence and the environmental use of indigenous people from the perspective of ecological history, in other words, it is essential to evaluate their lives as the products of changes in their society, environment, and culture over the long run.

- Research purpose and aim

The Sandawe and the Hadza make up the Khoisan language group people of East Africa. Although the Khoisan language group people have been regarded as hunter-gatherers, the Sandawe who live in Kondoa district had already adapted cultivation during the colonial period. Whilst the Hadza have continued their hunting and gathering-based subsistence, they have on the other hand been included in many government policies such as those of settlement, education, and medical treatment, designed to shift their lifestyle towards a more modern and convenient one. This study aims to bring a new perspective regarding the maintenance of their livelihood through a comparison of the historical changes in their environmental use.

- Results and achievements of fieldwork

After the villagization of my Sandawe research village in the early 1970's, the district government made them manage a huge cooperative field in a seasonal swamp, which they had not previously used for cultivation. Afterward these kinds of changes have increased the number of new cultivation fields in the area and in 2008 many villagers have now opened their own cultivation fields in the area for cash crop cultivation. While, in the settled area of the Hadza, which is not far from the most popular national park in Tanzania, tourists often come to observe their nature-dependent lives. Many Hadza live through outsiders such as getting money from tourists than by concerning themselves with nature such as through cultivation, hunting and gathering. Thus, the Sandawe and the Hadza, the Khoisan language group people in East Africa, have totally different situation in their present environmental use. In particular the Hadza's livelihood is uncertain, and this is strongly related to their lack of land rights.

- Implications and impact on future research

I'm planning to present the above results and to discuss them with villagers at my research site. Regarding the Hadza's cultivation, I would like to analyze their possibilities with reference to their land rights.



Pic.1 The Hadza women crush maize. (Karatu district)



Pic.2, A cultivation field on the site of a cooperative field.
(Kondoa district)



Pic.3, Husking sunflowers harvested in a field
on the site of a cooperative field. (Kondoa district)