

# Conflict between stakeholders in fishery management

Year: 2010

Place of fieldwork: Republic of Senegal

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Keywords: Marine Protected Areas, Stakeholder, NGO, Resource Management, Senegal

## Research background

As a marine policy idea of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) [FAO 1995], the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries states that the participation of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) as interested parties is essential (Article 4), and it encourages them to participate in meetings of regional fisheries (Article 7). The role of NGOs is considered to be that of a supporter of a new public sector, and NGOs are expected to work in the area of resource management.

Bamboung Community-based Marine Protected Area (BMPA) is the first marine protected area (MPA) in Senegal. It was organized in 2002 by an environmental NGO that took a strong initiative. In BMPA, they establish eco-lodges, promote eco-tourism, and strive to return profits to the local community. However, the legitimacy of stakeholders conflict in terms of ownership, use, and management, and the existence of the MPA itself is doubted as a result of insufficient scientific knowledge on the part of the shareholders as well as the low socioeconomic effect [Sekino 2010].

## Research purpose and aim

This research aims at analyzing the conflict structure of stakeholders, and proposing constructive ideas related to the resource management of BMPA, where the conflict has intensified among local populations in regard to the existence of the MPA and the partnership with the environmental NGO.

## Results and achievements by fieldwork

The research is mainly based on interviews with the local population in villages around BMPA. Research into the existing literature was carried out at the Institute of Research for Development and Cheick Anta Diop University. Additional interviews were conducted at government institutions.



Photo1 Research in village

This year, the research focused on the structure of the conflict among stakeholders. There appear to be three levels of conflict over the MPA: local level, national level, and global level.

The local level pertains to conflicts among villages. These conflicts are based on the traditional tenure of the river and different ideas relating to the creation of the MPA. The interviews clarified the conflicts occurring inside villages. In the same village, people (even those in the same family) placed different value on BMPA and the environmental NGO. For example, S village has 334 people and previously profited from the environmental conservation project through a strong partnership with the environmental NGO. Mr. I of S village is president of the MPA Steering Committee and has built a strong partnership with the environmental NGO even though he says “Ideal resource management is done only by the local population without intervention of the nation or the NGO.” According to residents, when Mr. I had a serious illness, Mr. A, the leader of the environmental NGO, paid all of his costs and ensured that he received treatment abroad. Mr. I thus owes his life to Mr. A. This may be a major reason why Mr. I decided to coexist with the NGO despite the fact that he has conflicts with other people. The mother of the present village chief) of P village told a similar story. When she suffered from elephantiasis, Mr. A helped her. She emphasizes that it was only Mr. A who helped her, and that the others did not. It is of note, however, that her son criticizes Mr. A because his NGO took forcible measures in villages. The NGO told fishermen that they would close the fisheries for only three months for the experimental installation of the MPA. Fishermen in all six villages where interviews were conducted had been informed that the fisheries closing would only last three months. The closing was extended to six months, then one year, and was finally made permanent. One of the original causes of the serious conflict between the local people and the environmental NGO was this insufficient explanation regarding the length of the fisheries closing time.

The national level relates to jurisdictional disputes. Usually, the Department of National Park sets up an office and the office administers an MPA by cooperating with a local committee. However, in BMPA, the Department of Waters and Forests, Hunting, and the Protection of Soils insists on their right to administrate because of the presence of mangroves. The Fisheries Economic Ministry administrates seashore areas based on maritime code. Since the declaration at the World National Park Congress, the Department of National Parks has held the initiative of the MPA. However, the conflict between ministries has increased because of the expectation of large-scale financial support of the MPA project. The Fisheries Economic Ministry created the Direction of the Community Marine Reserve, and the Minister declared that “The MPA is a jurisdictional matter of the Fisheries Economic Ministry” at the conference at the head of the Fisheries Economic Ministry Department held in October 2010. The Department of Water and Forests, Hunting, and the Protection of Soils strives to expand their authority to fisheries resource management. This department holds jurisdiction for inland water fisheries.

On a global level, there are differences in an environmental sense regarding whether or not precautions should be taken despite a lack of scientific evidence. Environmental NGOs act as conservationists that insist on complete protection through a no-take zone. The Senegalese government currently faces a problem in satisfying the Millennium Development Goals by the United Nations and the MPA network. Neighboring countries have started

to protect living aquatic resources in their home country, and the need for the Senegalese government to conserve aquatic resources is a pressing matter. However, the fishery is an indispensable industry that realizes poverty reduction in a country in which the agriculture and tourism industries are economically depressed. The promotion of MPAs may have profoundly negative effects on the lives of impoverished fishermen.

It is possible that an advanced MPA with a no-take zone in Senegal could become a dangerous device if it acts as a dispute amplifier.



Photo2 Former fishing ground



Photo3 Fishermen in a traditional canoe

### **Implications and impacts on future research**

Sufficient information could not be obtained from the Cheick Anta Diop University library because materials were not organized well enough. Local claim for fishing is based on village histories, so the ongoing research for these will be performed at the archive center in France.

### **Bibliography**

FAO. 1995. *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. Rome: FAO.

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