



Environmental Sustainability in the Eastern Cape Province: A case of Livelihood strategies in Coastal OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo Region



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Introduction

Environmental Sustainability and Zero hunger are one of the United Nations SDGs which South Africa has adopted and aiming to achieve. Like any other Country with a growing population, increasing in human basic needs, poverty and degradation of ecosystems are prevalent features . livelihood insecurity of rural coastal areas, as supported by (Jayaweera, 2010). This based on the high birth rate reordered by StatsSa 2011 which has resulted to more marine based livelihood strategies. With tertiary education being a dream in most of the households in the rural coastal area, the marine life is seen as the only solution to poverty and economic relief.

Research Problem

Livelihood strategies in these two regions is a complex socio-ecological phenomenon. When unemployment is moving up at a very fast pace as it is at forty four percent in OR Tambo Region and forty three percent in Alfred Nzo Region people tend exploit whatever resource that is at their disposal just to survive without considering sustainability.

Research Aim

This study aims at establishing the role of livelihood strategies employed in rural coastal Areas of Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo Region . In doing so this study will investigate the extent to which the employed strategies are having an impact on the management and sustainability of the available marine resources in these two regions

Preliminary Results

Marine Resources- Based Livelihood Activities (2006)

	Frequency	Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Fishing (Ukuloba)	10	33.3	33.3
Mussel (Imbaza) Collection	14	46.7	80.0
Crayfish (Unonkala Omde) Collection	6	20.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

Marine Resources- Based Livelihood Activities (2019)

	Frequency	Percent%	Cumulative Percent%
Fishing	4	13.3	13.3
Mussel (Imbaza) Collection	20	66.7	80.0
Crayfish (Unonkala Omde) Collection	6	20.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

Marine Resources- Based Livelihood Activities (2006)

	Bootstrap for Percent%			
	Bias	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
Fishing (Ukuloba)	.0	8.6	18.7	50.0
Mussel (Imbaza) Collection	.1	8.8	30.0	63.3
Crayfish (Unonkala Omde) Collection	.0	7.3	6.7	36.6
Total	.0	.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1: Marine Resource Based Livelihood Activities (2006)

Marine Resources- Based Livelihood Activities (2019)

	Bootstrap for Percent%			
	Bias	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
Fishing	.1	6.0	3.3	26.7
Mussel (Imbaza) Collection	.0	8.3	50.0	80.0
Crayfish (Unonkala Omde) Collection	.0	7.3	6.7	36.6
Total	.0	.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2: Marine Resource Based Livelihood Activities (2019)

- There is great pressure exerted on Marine resources especially the Mussels as they are the most collected marine resource . The rapid population growth has led to a twenty percent increase in the collection of the mussel over the thirteen years and this creating an imbalance in the marine ecosystems.
- From table two it shows that fishing as a livelihood activity has dropped with almost twenty percent and this due to strict measures that have been put in place both OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo Regions.
- Other activities which include sand mining which led to great offshore land degradation in the two regions.

Study Area



Figure 1: Map of Study Area

Methodology

This study used quantitative data method as it relied mostly on secondary data to formulate the closed ended questions which existed in the pilot study . Furthermore a lot of comparison was done during with already existing with results acquired through the pilot study of thirty respondents . The data from the pilot was analysed using SPSS.

Conclusions

- With the rate at which mussel collection going in these two regions it is evident that awareness about the importance of mussels to the communities is needed. The awareness must not an event thing but it must be of their daily lives .
- The thirteen percent of the respondents who engage on fishing as livelihood activity do not have permits to do so as they claim not to know anything about the permit, this also requires awareness on why it is important for them to have permits and how it help their communities.
- The livelihood strategies in the coastal areas of the two regions are unsustainable and they have a negative impact on the environment.
- Further studies on livelihood strategies in these coastal rural communities should be done as most studies have inclusive of the both rural and urban coastal areas.

References

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