Globalisation and women in coastal communities: Local experience in Tanzania
Theoretical framework

- The ‘solitudes’ between social and marine science
- The concept of integrated household and community analysis – ‘just fish is not enough’
- Feminist critiques of globalisation and re-structuring
- Bringing critiques down to the community level
Tanzanian coastal communities

- Kilwa district
- Somanga and Songosongo
- Marine resources
- Social, health and education infrastructure
- Economic resources
Despite richness in marine and other resources, the people in these coastal communities are extremely poor, and have severely sub-standard social, education and health resources.
People in Somanga and Songosongo survive using a variety of strategies, including, but not limited to fishing.

The household is the key unit in ensuring survival.

The contribution of women is key to the survival of the household.

Women’s contribution is especially vital in women headed or polygamous households.
Economic activities

- Fishing (bream, grouper, parrot fish, snapper, rabbit fish, emperor, shark, ray, sea cucumber, lobster, prawns, shrimp)
- Octopus trapping
- Seaweed farming
- Keeping livestock - chickens, goats, cows
- Selling fried fish
- Cutting mangrove
- Coral mining
- Making lime (from coral)
- Gardening
- Making salt
- Coconut trees (nuts and leaves)
- Selling cassava, fruit and vegetables
- Selling fresh fish
- Growing crops (cassava, beans, water melon, cashew nuts, mangoes, maize, pumpkin, sweet potato, rice, banana, millet)
- Collecting and selling seashells
- Bee keeping
- Carpentry
- Wood cutting and selling firewood
- Boat building
- Food vending
- Charcoal making
- Selling water (Songosongo)
- Hunting
The case of seaweed farming

- Seaweed farming in Songosongo (Euchema Cottonii)
- Undertaken by women as income generating activity
- Monopoly role of large companies
- Increase of value of product as globalised
- Consequent takeover by men
- Reduction in price paid to primary producers
The case of octopus trapping

- Octopus trapping in Songosongo and Somanga
- Undertaken by women as income generating activity
- Monopoly role of large companies
- Increase in value of product as globalised
- Consequent takeover by men (diving)
- Reduction in price paid to primary producers
The consequences of globalisation

- Coastal communities integrated at the lowest point in restructuring, globalised processes.
- Previously use-value goods enter commodified market
- Pressure from external large enterprises first raises and then lowers the price for primary products
- Fishing and other income generating activities are restructured by gender, class and other social and cultural divisions
Why does this matter?

- Women versus households
- Women as households
- Cross cutting effects of gender, class, age, religion
- Culture works in complex ways to exacerbate the effects of globalised processes
Conclusions

- The integrated nature of survival in small coastal communities
- The key role of women in sustaining their households
- The complex effects of globalisation on coastal communities
- The necessity of integrating feminist and NRM analysis in understanding coastal communities
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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