

Title of the talk: Biodiversity, local participation and gender

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Local participation is still neglected in many researches on biodiversity. Although at current condition, local participation lead as global fashion in the management of biodiversity and has played as an important element of a globally leading discourse on environment and development. The discourse analysis used in this study and to simplify for instance for good, discourses is embedded in language, enables to those who subscribe, interpret bits of information and put them together into coherent stories or accounts. Each discourse rests on assumptions, judgments, and contentions that provide the basic terms for analysis, debates, arguments, and disagreements, in the environmental area no less than elsewhere. Indeed, if such shared terms did not exist, it would be hard to imagine problem solving in this area at all. Two leading discourses globally on area conservation are related to clusters of discourses on environment and development: 1) the fortress conserve discourse and 2) the community based conservation discourses (CBCD). The study showed the main aspects of four types discourses on environmental and development in correlation with the important of conservation, the needs and interests of local people and positive to partnership local or external factors.

From investigation of claims by the CBCD, the local people in and around the protected area allowed to participate in the management of the natural resources in a satisfactory manner. It means both local men and woman should take part on equal terms as local participant. That is assuming in coherent with CBD, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Declaration. A case study in Tanzania showed that the local men and women do not take part on equal terms as “local participants”. Woman had a low participation in decision-making. Nevertheless, there is a consciousness and concern about gender, environment and development in developing countries. While in Europe, a high degree of gender equality will be expected when local participation today is implemented in cases of management of natural resources. The two cases of establishment of new protected areas in Norway have given an example how local participation is implemented for decision making in local level. From the finding, it is important to involve women among local participants in decision-making and management of biodiversity conservation. Women are seen as the natural caretakers of nature –e.g. Vand. Shiva. Political rights of rural women, local participation in conservation to ensure local legitimacy for conservation and local and practical knowledge is often gender. Nevertheless, findings from Norway has investigated that local participation is most often men. There are two logical explanatory factors effecting on various matter: 1). Perceptions among local people of gender and natural resources, 2). Characteristics of the selection situations for local participants. The finding suggested popular improvement among local people - especially women - but extremely unpopular among some of the local men currently in power positions who may feel this focus as a threat. The main challenge is that on the national level where administrators in the state sector of the environment and natural resources neglect the sector responsibility to enforce gender equality.