# Globalisation and women in coastal communities: Local experience in Tanzania



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#### 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

- Milwa 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
- M Keeping livestock chickens, goats, cows
- Selling fried fish
- Cutting mangrove
- Coral mining
- Making lime (from coral)
- Sardening
- 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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