

Understanding the disaggregated nature of the ecosystem service wellbeing relationship in Northern Mozambique

D. d'Emille Gonçalves, T. Chaigneau & S. Offman

Sustainable Poverty Alleviation through Coastal Ecosystem Services (SPACES)

DICE, University of Kent, United Kingdom

dominiquedemille2@gmail.com

Low economic performance and stochastic events put many countries in extreme and increasing poverty. However, the poorest community members have higher ecosystem services dependence due to the role of natural resources on their livelihood. Fishing communities in Northern of Mozambique still depend on the sea for primary basic needs such as food, medicine and income which makes ecosystem services a safety net for those communities. The mechanisms by which ecosystems services contribute to wellbeing are still not clear. Research carried out by SPACES funded by ESPA in some of the extreme poor coastal communities in Northern of Mozambique aimed to bring light the use of ecosystem services by communities and how this use influences their well-being. To assess this relationship, data was collected using focus group and in- depth interviews which focused on basic needs, access to ecosystem services and subjective wellbeing in four coastal communities. Results shows that communities views on how ecosystem services contribute to wellbeing and, the satisfaction towards it is differentiated especially due to gender, tradition, use, inequality, barriers and but also due to external forces such as immigration, development and conservation. These suggests that there are social and cultural factors acting as internal and external factors impacting the access to ecosystem services. It also provides useful insights in understanding livelihoods and the use of ecosystem services in Northern Mozambique coastal communities and the social and cultural processes underlying the ecosystem services benefits.