The Ibo and the Inhaca islands: the sea and its resources between norms, culture and daily needs

E. Mariano
Eduardo Mondlane University, Faculty of letters and Social Sciences, Mozambique
esmeraldamariano3@gmail.com

This paper aims at demonstrating that in two different contexts in Mozambique coastal area, high seas and coastal seas are at the crossroads of norms, cultures and daily needs. Ibo and Inhaca islands of Mozambique are taken as a reference in this study, based on anthropological research carried out under the MOZALINK MASMA project (2014-2017) and funded by WIOMSA. By conducting comparative analyses of the perceptions and meanings between these two communities that dependent on sea resources and on their connections across the Mozambique Channel, it is here highlighted how external agents (organizations, migrants, tourists and developers) impact these communities differently. Marine resource management encompasses broader dimension of the interactions between people and environmental authorities, the views of the space and the social and economic needs. Finally, it is here analyzed how culture and perceptions are treated as categories that refer to the process by which the knowledge and thoughts about the sea and its resources are generated and negotiated.