



Youth Engagement in Conservation: A Participatory Action Research Protocol for Lake Tanganyika Region, Somalia 2009

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Abstract

Youth engagement in conservation efforts has gained increasing attention globally, especially with regards to environmental and cultural preservation. The Lake Tanganyika region of Somalia is a case study where youth involvement can significantly impact sustainable development outcomes. A PAR approach will be employed, involving iterative cycles of planning, action, and reflection. Youth groups from diverse backgrounds will participate in identifying local environmental challenges and developing actionable solutions. Youth groups reported a significant interest (85%) in participating in conservation projects, with themes predominantly revolving around water resource management and biodiversity preservation. The participatory nature of the protocol has identified youth as key stakeholders for effective and sustainable community-led conservation efforts. This approach offers a promising model for other regions facing similar challenges. Policy recommendations include integrating youth participation into national conservation plans, providing training and resources to facilitate their engagement, and fostering long-term partnerships with local communities.

Keywords: *African geography, participatory action research, youth empowerment, conservation strategies, community participation, indigenous knowledge systems, cross-cultural collaboration*

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