



Designing Sustainable Fishing Programmes in Coastal Communities of West Africa: A Case Study from Zambia

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Abstract

The coastal communities in West Africa face challenges related to overfishing, leading to environmental degradation and economic instability. A mixed-methods approach including surveys, interviews, and focus groups was employed to gather data on community perceptions and behaviors regarding fishing practices. The educational programme led to a 30% reduction in the use of destructive fishing techniques among participating communities (as measured by a standardised survey with a $p=0.04$ significance level). The findings suggest that targeted education can significantly influence community practices towards sustainability. Sustainable fisheries management programmes should incorporate regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms to ensure long-term efficacy.

Keywords: *African Geography, Sustainable Development, Participatory Evaluation, Community-Based Management, Ecological Economics, Anthropology of Nature, Coastal Ecology*

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