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The Final Oral Examination for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Department of Geography

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“Governance of Protected Areas in the Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania”

Friday, September 13, 2013
10:00am
David Turpin Building, A144

Supervisory Committee:
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Dr. Lisa Mitchell, Department of Anthropology, UVic
Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to assess the contribution of protected areas (PAs) to the attainment of both conservation and social outcomes including poverty reduction. The research focused on the role of governance as a factor influencing the attainment of these goals, within the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem in Tanzania.

This research was carried out in the Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Meatu districts. Two villages were selected from each district using stratified sampling techniques to obtain villages bordering many PAs including the core PA (i.e. Serengeti National Park). Mixed methods approaches were used in this research which comprised of quantitative interviews with 389 households; key informants interviews with 88 stakeholders; 15 focus group discussion and document analysis.

The effectiveness of governance as perceived at the household level can be measured using a quantitative questionnaire. The questionnaire yielded 10 governance factors that accounted for 85% percent of the explained variance using factor analysis.

The findings indicated weak governance particularly for Ikorongo-Grumeti Game Reserve. When examined across the ecosystem, weak linkages were evident between PAs and other actors particularly at local community level. There was no difference in governance scoring between community-based PAs and the more traditional top-down government owned PAs. Furthermore, local
communities were not adequately represented in PA governance despite being important actors. Findings indicated mixed results in terms of conservation and social outcomes. Results indicate implied relationship between mixed outcomes and weak governance with weak outcomes thought to be related to weak governance.

This study recommends adaptations in the Serengeti ecosystem particularly the reengineering of the ecosystem governance structure to bring onboard more actors in decision-making and management processes and actions through increased linkages between governance actors, governance structures and processes.

**Presentations**

