Source Analysis

Assessing participatory GIS for community-based natural resource management: claiming community forests in Cameroon

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Article

This article examines the use of Participatory GIS in community-based natural resource management in Cameroon. The authors argue that PGIS can be a useful tool for empowering communities to take control of their natural resources, but that there are also challenges to its implementation, including issues around data ownership and access, technical capacity, and the need for community participation and engagement. The article presents case studies of two communities in Cameroon that have successfully used PGIS to map and manage their community forests. In this article it does not explicitly address issues related to sense of belonging, community, identity, race, and mental health. The article discusses how Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS) can be used to empower communities to take control of their natural resources. This can lead to a greater sense of belonging and community ownership over local resources, which can contribute to a stronger sense of community and identity. This relates to the conversations we had in class in a way that defines the reason for GIS such as the ways that Dr. Bennett showed in her research. The article also highlights the importance of engaging local communities in natural resource management. This can be particularly important for marginalized communities, which may include youth, low-income individuals, and those affected by violence. By giving these communities more control over local resources, PGIS can contribute to more equitable development and potentially reduce some of the negative impacts of poverty and violence. These are ideas that are very similar to information that we gathered through our interview at the YWCA it also hits some of the points we talked about with Dorothy and our research questions.