

Research Article

Using Kantian Ethics in Dissolving Disputes over Management and Distribution of Natural Resources in Tanzania

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Abstract

The broad range of the managements of the natural resources in Tanzania has resulted into the creation of complex organizations and systems which has led to the exploitation of the workers depending on these resources for livelihood. These are various groups of actors such as insurgents' groups, minority groups, and corrupt democratically elected leaders. Obviously, these leads to internal mistrust and commotion within a state rendered in calmness and contrary to peaceful coexistence. As a researcher the bottom line of these constrains needs holistic education and realization to combat the eminent crisis at hand. Each person has a role to play for the peaceful living in a society with great goals and opportunities. The dignity and integrity of each person is a very important and at stake. My research analysis indicates how Kantian ethics will tackle the above mentioned constrains for the peaceful coexistence in the society. For Kant, every human being has a right and obligation for every moral action. In any democratic society where laws and statutes are adhered to the issues of natural resources must be accounted for with the aim of common good. Using Immanuel Kant's dictum on categorical imperative, these transformations in the management of the natural resources in Tanzania can be effectively be achieved.

Keywords

Natural Resources, Management, Government, Citizens, Tanzania

1. Introduction

The broad range of the managements of the natural resources in Tanzania has resulted into the creation of complex organizations and systems which has led to the exploitation of the workers depending on these resources for livelihood. Thus, this paper aims to present ethical management and distribution of natural resources here in Tanzania. To develop it effectively, this paper presents the topic under the following subtopics: background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and methodology of the study, literature

review recommendations and finally conclusion of the study.

2. Background of the Study

Tanzania as other African countries has a lot of natural resources which are valuable and demanded worldwide, apart from this real fact of many African countries Tanzania is still termed as one of the poorest countries in the world comparing to some western countries that have limited resources. The

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main question to ask ourselves is how are we involved as a country in managing and distributing chains of these God-given resources, in what aspects does the country benefit, in what ways does it gain or lose, what are the reasons leading to the pros and cons of the use of the natural resources. These questions erect my mind to find out for the ethical management and distribution of the natural resources in Tanzania.

The status of management and distribution of natural resources in Tanzania can be traced even before independence of Tanganyika, hence this can be investigated under three epochs: pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial epoch. In pre-colonial epoch there was communal based management and distribution of natural resources like forests, rivers and lakes, land and minerals [1]. Apparently, management and distribution was binded by customary laws of the society. Under colonial domination Pederson amongst assert, management and distribution of natural resources was under the colonial masters such as Germany from 1885 - 1919 and British from 1919 – 1961 [2]. Colonial masters created companies to ensure maximum exploitation of both human and natural resources to meet metropolitan demands.

After attaining her political independence, Woodroffe, N. and his colleagues claim that management and distribution of natural resources shifted from the hands of colonial government to the government of indigenous, hence, natural resources including land, thick forests, oil, gas and alike were nationalized and the government has power over them [3]. Management and distribution of resources was under the government of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of citizens of Tanzania. Apparently, management and distribution is binded by the constitution of Tanzania. For instance, the land act of three C provides that, the presidential trustee execute land and natural resources management and monitoring under the specific laws [4].

From Nyerere's presidency to date, Tanzania has experienced a number of law reforms and policies that aim to protect, monitor and administer proper utilization and maximum usage of natural resources. All these reforms and policies aimed to tackle challenges that rose from management and utilization of these resources, but the status quo reveals that still the problem of distribution and management of these resources for the benefits of all Tanzanians persists. This challenge is very serious in rural areas where still pastoralists-agriculturalists conflicts persist, humiliation and exploitation of the indigenous people over their land by the government for investment purposes is also done to the great extent plus many other challenges. All these challenges calls for the new approach of reflection so as to solve and restore the happiness of the indigenous people over their land and resources.

Statement of the Study

Management and distribution of natural resources in Tanzania as stipulated in this study creates tensions to majority of Tanzanians. For instance, Amnesty international claims that the tension between the government of United Republic of

Tanzania and Maasai people over the ownership of Ngorongoro region leads to the emergence of public discussion about the indigenous rights over their ancestral land [5]. Some people went on air claiming that, the government of Tanzania exploits and humiliates her citizens since people are forcefully uprooted from their homeland without considering the claims of the native people who inhabit that land. As the government continues to confiscate the land forcefully, inhabitants face threats from the government and other forms of coercions including demolishing their huts (bomas), shutting down all social-economic services so as to force migration of citizens to leave the land [2] The main argument of inhabitants is that, they have inherited the land and its natural resources from their great grandparents, thus the land is their property intrinsically. Legal and human rights activists also claims that, the region and the Maasai permanent residence within the Ngorongoro region with their cattle's are protected by the law passed during 1959. Thus, uprooting and forcing them to leave their native land and regroup them in another new land is unethical as it will cut off their ancestral relationship. Some go even further by claiming that, the government does not consider their claims since it evidently knows that it is contrary to the ethics of taking land from the native people.

In contrary, the government of Tanzania claims that the whole land and its natural resources as it is stipulated in official documents is under the control and management of the state and thus, the president of the United Republic of Tanzania has that power to take and reallocate the land of Tanzania depending to his/her national plan [plan which aims to promote common good to the whole people]. The land Act section 4 clearly shows that if it is the matter of public benefit like national project construction, environmental conservation and other social-economic agenda that will directly touch the national resources like land, minerals, oil et cetera for the common good then it is permissible to take those resources however under some conditions. These conditions including proper transfer of the native community with their transferable properties and giving them incentives [compensations] to sustain their new lives. This debate between the government of United Republic of Tanzania and her native inhabitants concerning the right of land and its natural resources ownership creates a gap of knowledge as a number of authors have presented their views on the topic but still Tanzania faces conflicts over natural resources. Thus, this paper aims to solve this dispute over natural resources management and allocation by inviting adoption of new approach [Kantian ethics] so as to settle the dispute ethically.

3. Research Objectives

3.1. General Objective

This study aims to establish ethical way of dissolving disputes over natural resources in Tanzania.

3.2. Specific Objectives

1. To analyze management of natural resources in Tanzania.
2. To examine Kantian ethics.
3. To demonstrate by adopting Kantian ethics in providing the ethical solutions toward the problem of natural resource management and allocation here in Tanzania.

4. Methodology of the Study

This study employs hermeneutical phenomenological method. This method was advocated by Edmund Husserl, it seeks to attain absolute certainty concerning the subject matter. To attain certainty of the subject matter therefore bracketing of the lived experiences is necessary [6]. Thus phenomenology as a method of study employs that the researcher has to learn from the subjective experiences as it is manifested to him or her daily life. Like Husserl, Martin Heidegger claims that hermeneutic phenomenology is mainly concerned with subjective experience that man (Dasein) encounters in his daily life [7]. However, Heidegger contrasts his form of phenomenology from the Husserlian method of philosophizing, as he claims that, the main focus of his method is to create meaning and achieving a sense of understanding the 'Dasein' [8]. Hermeneutic phenomenological method as the researcher employs in this study therefore would mean that the researcher strives to capture the meaning and understanding the descriptive experiences that people encounter in their daily lives.

5. Literature Review

Tanzania is among the countries in Africa with abundance of natural resources. Here the term natural resources means whatever that nature gives including land, minerals, oil, forests and wild animals, wood and other products that human being did not impose their efforts for their existence, rather they proceed from the nature. These natural resources are mainly used by man for his satisfactions and existence. Some resources are not even necessary for the existence of man but are exploited because of advancement of science and technology. These resources include minerals like gold, tanzanite and natural gas. All these resources are used for man's pride and satisfactions. Contrary from these resources; land, forests, water bodies are vital for the existence of human beings as they foster development of his life as they give him food, source of fresh air and water.

These natural resources as Schillebeeckx, S., claims are not merely consequential components of the Earth, but are the products of the interactions of plants, animals, climate, soils, and water that are linked together by the flow of matter and energy [9]. Schillebeeckx admits that, this harmonious links between soils, plants, animals, solar energy, and water in a

functioning Earth ensures the availability of natural resources such as clean water, fertile soil, and clean air to sustain human existence. Thus, there is serious need to manage consumption and extraction of these resources in order to ensure continuation of human life and the life of other species on this planet earth.

Utilization of human resources started since human being appeared on this earth. However, as civilizations become bigger and grow rapidly, natural resources become so valuable and of scarce around the globe. This is mainly influenced by over utilization of these resources where by humans started to use them not for their life sustenance, rather for profit making. This influences other societies to extend their boundaries so that they may utilize also the resources that has being reserved as national parks, game reserves, and other prohibited land for environmental conservation. In another way, our governments after knowing the potentials that found in certain society either arable land favorable for establishment of big farms, land with minerals, oil, natural gas or any other resources will start to plan for community's shift so as that the native community of that land may lease that piece of land to the government so that the government may start to utilize it for the common good.

This means that, these resources should be managed and utilized wisely so that they may also benefit the future generations and may ensure and promote existence of humans and other living organisms on this planet earth [10]. Saglie further this explanation claiming that, the juxtaposition of protection needs to ensure the ecological preservation of the area and, on the other hand, the diversity of divergent spatial human usage claims evinces the need for the implementation of a coherent and effective natural resource management. To ensure its durability, management practices to sustain these resources are often a contentious issue. Thus, the effectiveness of management practices should strive to ensure that sustainability of these resources is often disputed within the natural scientific and technological discourses.

Apart from using scientific and technological mechanism to ensure proper management and protection of natural resources for the benefit of humanity, also independent countries may adopt internal mechanism either by adopting formation of natural resources protection and management policies which directly stipulate on how to deal with anyone who consciously intrude reserved areas like wild forests and game areas. Also the policy should clearly stipulate on how to deal with reallocation and shifting process of native community from their native land to another land after observing that the society in one or another way will contribute to destruction of reserved area or the government aims to take the land for project and other social – economic schemes. As Ekstrom, J. explicates, this is to say that, there should be a closer cooperation between the communities and the government in identification of the resource users, ways to utilize them properly and wiser distribution of the benefit gained from the utilization of that resources [11].

From the very beginning as the Land Act of Tanzania of 2019, it shows that, natural resources are justifiably vested to the hands of the president of the URT. This means that, the president of URT [through the specified ministries either the ministry of land and natural resources] is the one to decide and to supervise utilization of the natural resources of Tanzania however for the common good of all Tanzanians. Thus, involvement of a number of state and non-states actors on natural resources like extraction of minerals, natural gas or crude oil may in one way or another way lead to the conflict of interests among these actors [12]. Thus, to foster proper management and utilization of these public resources for the common good, then it is categorically to ensure that the laws and policies that are formulated solely for this purpose are well formulated and are publically known. If the leading actors left unguided by the proper laws and regulations of the state that aims to regulate their utilization then these actors may over utilize them or may coerce the native societies that are around that land so as they may take advantage over the land and that is when those actors will create tensions between them and the native societies that inhabit the land. To avoid such tensions, Hecllo 1930 claims that there should be a proper configuration through which leading policy makers move and do business with each other and the society that inhabits the land that contains either minerals of natural gas, oil is respected and given its due. For this reason, it is therefore essential to identify who the key actors and their interests in public policy making are, how they interact and what effects their interactions have with respect to management decisions.

Leaving actors unaided by the proper laws and regulations also may create loop holes whereby an individual company or person creates a huge channel of benefiting the fruits of that natural resource under the expense of poor people or become in charge of that public property for his/her personal gains. Because of this, many African countries including Tanzania has experienced conflict between the native people and their government or private actors over natural resources. This is a reality in Tanzania whereby the Maasai community of Ngorongoro are in conflict with the URT over the ownership of the Ngorongoro land. The president of the United Republic of Tanzania claims that the land should be given to the government as the government aims to restore its natural status since the Maasai community has destroyed the area by building their bomas inside the park. The United States of America supports the government of Tanzania over this tension by claiming that, Tanzania's initiative over Ngorongoro aims at sustaining critical wildlife habitats, reversing land degradation, restoring watersheds, protecting wildlife, and improving community livelihoods through conservation enterprises Saglie, adds that, this initiative also aims to encourage maximum promotion of tourism industry in Tanzania and protection of natural forests for the future usage. Also this initiative as the government of Tanzania and the supporting organizations like UN claims that it aims to conserve environment by promoting environmental protection and en-

courage world's initiatives of mitigating the effects of climate change.

Tensions between the government or private actors over natural resource has led to serious challenge to the pastoralists and agriculturalists as they started to fight over arable land for their livelihood. For instance the tension between the government of the republic of Tanzania and Maasai people of Ngorongoro has led to death of huge number of cattle and people resulting from the government's mechanism of shutting down social-economic activities like health programs and provision of clean and safe water for people and their cattle around Ngorongoro region. Apart from that, this mechanism of forcing Maasai people to leave their home land and regroup them in new area where there is limited source of grass [green pastures and water] to feed their cattle will intensify the conflict between pastoralists and agriculturalists since both societies needs land to carry their day to day activities. Thus, as the pastoral society lacks enough area to feed their cattle, then they will enter into agriculturalist's fields and feed their cattle whatever is there. Thus, there is no way we can avoid the conflict between these two societies when their native land is taken and given other lands which are not enough for their social-economic activities.

Thus the conflicts and tensions over natural resources in Tanzania between the government and other actors like private companies and individual investors shows that there is a serious challenge in management and controlling chains. This is simply to say that, if there could be a stable management and controlling chains then these conflicts over these resources couldn't become serious as it is explicated in different writings since the trusted boards could justly solve them. Although there is specified ministries like the ministry of natural resources, land and other ministers which are responsible to handle these issues, but still conflicts are there. National Environment Management Council [NEMC] is among the governmental agencies that is responsible for managing and controlling utilization of natural resources for the benefits of the current and the future generation. According to its report NEMC claims that in order to ensure proper utilization of environment and its natural resources, there should be an ethical usage of its natural resources since unethical usage leads to environmental hazards like climate change and other natural calamities [13].

To ensure ethical usage of natural resources of Tanzania, Kantian ethics is important to be considered. Immanuel Kant centers his moral philosophy in what he calls "categorical imperative". According to him, this theory from its very beginning aims to develop a foundation of rational freedom of moral agents [human beings] since the authority of reason should be used to determine how people ought to act highlighting that reason should be used to determine how to act [14]. From this line of thinking, Kantian moral philosophy assumes that since all human beings are rational creatures as they are all endowed with reasoning, therefore they are capable to develop some moral codes which will be used to

determine their moral actions; as the knowledge of good implies also to do good [15].

Kant thought that this principle should be the universal principle of governing human actions as he claimed that we should normally act only in accordance to the maxim by which we at the same time Wills that act to become the universal principle. In order for this principle to become a universal law, Kant transcends his arguments by claiming that humanity should be treated as the end itself not as a means to achieve something else. Because of our egocentric tendencies, Kant noted that sometimes humans act contrary from this universal principle of moral acts. Thus, to avoid egocentric characters in his principal Kant claims that, the means that we use to pursue our human actions should determine the ends. This simply means that if the means of pursuing our actions is morally bad, then no matter the fruits it brings, the action will remain an evil and thus it should not be committed. Following that moral principle of universal law of acting according to Kant, as a rational beings human beings are obligated to do good deeds for their sake not for the sake of achieving something else.

Kantian moral philosophy as it is implied in this topic reminds us that first of all the managing and directors of natural resources and other trusted boards are there to lead these resources for the betterment of the whole nation not for their betterments. Thus, whatever the action they initiate, these actions should solely aim to promote betterment of the whole country. Thus, utilization of these resources for their own interests is morally wrong. As moral and rational beings, Kant also reminds that the laws that the government formulates to govern the utilization of these resources should aim at promoting and enhancing good rapport with its people. For instance, even if the government has that mandate to allocate and reallocate the land and natural resources of Tanzania to an individual, a group of people or to the company for project or other usage, the government should at the same time look back the means to carry it its decision.

Intentionally, shifting the natives from their home lands to another lands so that they may allow the government to implement its developmental projects like construction activities or conserving the region is good as such project aims to bring betterment of the whole country, also it will bring benefits for the future generations as the project is of long term. However, the means to ask the native people to shift and leave the land raises ethical concerns. What brings serious tensions between the government of the united republic of Tanzania and the people of Ngorongoro is not the question over the land per se. What makes this tension even worse is the fact that, the government of Tanzania applies coercive means to force these people to leave their native land something which is ethically wrong as the means used is already morally evil. Cutting social services like health services, social security and other social-economic services to the Maasai people of Ngorongoro so as to force them to decide to leave their ancestral land is wrong ethically. Kantian ethics shows that, the means of pursuing our goal should be ethically correct and sound for the

action to bring an ethical end.

6. Conclusion

As Kant put an emphasis of duty, the duty of the government of the united republic of Tanzania is to protect and ensure that her citizens are enjoying being part of their country and are peacefully carrying their day to day activities. This is by ensuring that all necessary social, economic and political services are available to her citizens. Banning all these necessary services to the Masaai people so as to force them to leave the land implies that the government cares nothing like people's lives rather it cares only pursuing her missions under any way. This is not the only tension that faces Tanzanians, as it is explicated in this study, some Tanzanians are facing serious challenges resulting from the ownership of land and other natural resources including mineral pockets, big farms and other estates as sometimes private companies, public companies and well financed people forcefully take their fellows' properties as they think they are not supposed to belong to them. This work has shown endemic problem facing the management and distribution of natural resources in Tanzania. It is absurd that it has reached unattractive and unpleasant level in the society tending to perceive it as a normal scenario. Different scholars have their different opinions on these facts but the truth remains that this problem can be sorted from within and not from without. Stakeholders have a role to play from the local citizens to the government institutions to attain the good management level that is required. Thus, to attain that spectacular epitome of good management in Tanzania, Kantian ethics reminds us through our moral duty as moral agents endowed with reasoning. That the respect and dignity is paramount in every society. In fact, for a better outstanding society all moral actions must stem from duty regardless of the consequences or circumstances. Every citizen of this great nation Tanzania must act rightly to safeguard this nation not because of the impartialities rather because it is the right thing to do. The synthesis of Kantian ethics with the management of natural resources will promote good planning, organization, leadership and control of the resources for the common good. This study has come to conclusion that with the rational Kantian ethics the sense of belonging will be developed within the state.

7. Recommendation

As tensions over natural resources is a serious challenge that faces many people particularly poor people in Tanzania, this study establishes the following facts which will help to reduce these conflicts over natural resources. To establish just society of Tanzania where all Tanzanians will enjoy fruits of their natural resources, here are some recommendations which will foster proper management, controlling and distribution of these resources justly. These recommendations

range from social, trusted boards and finally to the government of the united republic of Tanzania.

In social level where social conflicts between individuals and one society to another happen, it is necessary for the majority to know that there is boundaries between the properties of one person to another one. Exceeding these boundaries is where conflicts of interest emerge. For instance, there is clear notion that it is not only ethically, also socially and economically wrong for the pastoralists to feed their cattle crops which are still within the field since the goal of that farmer is to harvest his crops and after few days to take them to the market ready for consumption. Allows cattle to enter into such field and destroy crops will therefore disturb the whole chain plus unending conflict between these two societies. To end this conflicts therefore, individual people should be ready to accept and recognize boundaries of his freedom since exceeding the limits of one's freedom is where intrusion of others freedom comes in.

Knowing and practicing this act is not an easy task to do. However it can be done through slowly nurturing and culminating these ethos into the minds of young generation. Doing this over a quite period of time as Aristotle in Stumph, E. says will become the habits of the people to respect and know that their freedom ends when they straight their hands. Culmination of these ethos also can be imparted from one to the other generation be educating the majority about the effects of intruding the rights and freedom of others in the society and into the national level. Conflicts of one society to another over land for instance obstructs not only social welfare of the society, also economic welfare which results to other challenges, thus (formal or informal) education that young people of such societies should show how people are suffering from such conflicts and ways to overcome them [16].

The trusted committees and other managing boards either National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST), Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI) and other institutions that are responsible for management, overseeing and develop Tanzania's natural resources for the current and future usage should carry their duties and activities knowing that these resources are of the nation. Thus, whatever the action that they implement should solely aim at promoting and considering welfare of the whole nation and not for the few groups of people or their own benefits. As Kantian ethos remind us that in whatever action such action should fall under the universal moral laws and the doer of such action should at the same time will their action to be done to them. Thus, personnel of these institutions should not accept utilization of these resources in a manner that they desire not their leaders or trusted official personnel to do once they become ordinary people in their country.

Under the governmental sphere, the government of the united republic of Tanzania as it is stipulated in official documents that the president has power to act upon and allow utilization, allocation and reallocation of land and its natural resources for the common good then there should be some ethics of managing,

allocation and controlling them so as to create a just Tanzanian society. In order to create just Tanzanian society by ensuring proper management of the resources, there should be a clear and straight forward laws, policies and regulations. This does not mean that the government of united republic of Tanzania is without laws, regulations and policies that safeguard utilization of natural resources. Tanzania has these laws, policies and regulations, however some of them are not well formulated as they do not put forward interests of the nation as whole. Thus, these laws, regulations and policies should be reviewed and documented clearly so as to ensure that all people benefit from them.

Apart from ensuring well formulated guidelines are clearly documented, the government of united republic of Tanzania should clearly know that even though these resources are under her control, coercing the native people by sending police forces, banning social-economic and political activities to the people of that land like the Ngorongoro's scenario is against the laws since both sides should agree willing to execute shifting process. Thus, since it is morally wrong to coerce people so as to accept execution of the action, thus the government and the trusted boards should find alternative ways to make sure that all claims of both sides are well articulated and settled without denying rights of any part (mostly the rights of the citizens).

Abbreviations

NEMC	National Environmental Management Council
URP	United Republic of Tanzania

Author Contributions

Osawo Antony Otieno: Conceptualization and Data Curation

Thomas Marwa Monchena: Supervision and validation.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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