

Review of: "“Saving the Forest” with a REDD+ Project: Socio-Ecological Repercussions on Indigenous People in Cambodia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall, your introduction provides a comprehensive overview of the REDD+ project in Cambodia, highlighting its environmental goals and potential socio-ecological repercussions on indigenous communities. Here are some suggestions for review and enhancement:

Introduction

1. Provide specific citations or examples when referring to statements such as "it is claimed" or "fail to emphasize." This will strengthen the credibility of your argument. Please include specific references to the sources of information, especially when citing literature or reports.
2. Refine the main purpose of the paper to clearly articulate the research questions. For example, explicitly state the questions you aim to answer regarding the impact on indigenous people and their rights.

Your methodology section provides a clear overview of your research approach and data collection methods. Here are some suggestions to enhance clarity and completeness:

Methodology

1. Consider mentioning whether your research received ethical approval, especially given that you are conducting ethnographic surveys involving human subjects. This enhances transparency and addresses ethical considerations.
2. Clarify the duration of the long-term established NGO's presence in the Kingdom before discussing the specific REDD+ program.
3. Specify who the key informants are and how they were selected. Providing information on their roles and perspectives can add depth to the description of your research design.
4. Provide more information on the selection criteria for the nine villages surveyed. Explain why these villages were chosen and how they represent the broader context of the REDD+ project.
5. Conclude the methodology section by summarizing the key elements and reiterating how your chosen methods align with the research objectives.

Your findings and discussions section is thorough and provides a comprehensive analysis of the various themes emerging from your research. Here are some suggestions to refine and enhance the presentation:

Findings and Discussions

1. Consider organizing the findings into sub-sections for each theme to enhance clarity and facilitate a structured understanding of the results. Organizing the findings into sub-sections for each theme means breaking down the main findings of your research into smaller, more specific sections, each dedicated to a particular theme or aspect of your study. This approach helps in presenting your findings in a more structured and organized manner, making it easier for readers to follow and comprehend the information. In your case, you already have identified several themes in your findings and discussions section, such as "Gloomy historical legacy of forest protection," "Current deforestation crisis still going on," "Institutional consensus and corporate nature," and so on. Each of these themes represents a distinct aspect of your research. Instead of presenting all findings in a continuous narrative, you can create sub-sections for each theme. Within each sub-section, you would discuss the relevant findings, data, and insights related to that specific theme. To implement this suggestion, you can create sub-headings within your "Findings and Discussions" section, with each sub-heading corresponding to one of the identified themes. Under each sub-heading, you would then discuss the specific findings and insights related to that theme. This approach enhances the overall organization and readability of your research presentation.
2. Clearly articulate the sources of data within each theme. Specify which information comes from personal narratives, informal conversations, interviews, and the systematic literature review.
3. Incorporate direct quotes or examples from your interviews to provide concrete evidence and enhance the authenticity of your findings.

Your conclusion effectively addresses the questionable success of REDD+ projects and their potential implications, particularly concerning carbon markets and the interests of extractive industries. Here are some suggestions to refine and strengthen your conclusion:

Conclusion

1. Ensure that the main argument and its implications are clearly articulated.
2. Make explicit connections between your conclusion and the findings and discussions presented earlier. Refer to specific themes or findings that support your conclusion.
3. Emphasize the human impact of REDD+ projects. Discuss how these initiatives may adversely affect indigenous communities and their traditional ways of life, beyond just economic considerations.
4. Discuss potential policy implications of your findings. What recommendations can be made based on the issues highlighted? How can policies be improved to address the concerns you've identified?