

RESOURCE ENDANGERMENT VS CULTURAL ENDANGERMENT

A discourse in the conflicts surrounding land conservation in Tanzania

CONSERVATION

- The National Park model used to create Yellowstone and Yosemite was transplanted into every country to segregate humans from perceived natural wildlife. (Adams 2014)
- Protected areas have proven to provide wildlife refuge allowing for populations to grow and wildlife health to expand.

WORLD
14.8 %

% OF PROTECTED
AREA IN 2014

TANZANIA
32%

(World Bank 2017)

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Protected areas are well regarded at effectively providing refuge for wildlife. But in the designation of protected areas indigenous groups fall victim to outside actors evicting them from their indigenous land.

INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

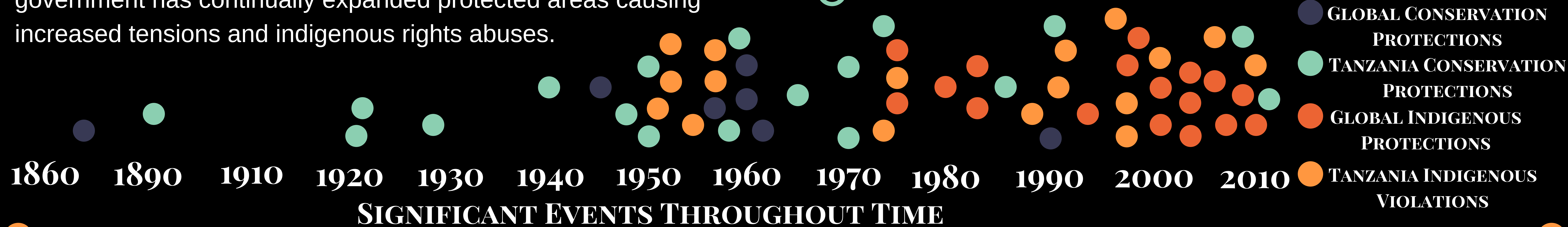
- 1975 started the influx of international legislation regarding indigenous rights it has since grown into an expansive and integral part of international law.
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples released in 2007 has become one of the most influential pieces for protection of indigenous groups. (UN 2007)

HOW HAS DISCOURSE CHANGED?

Over time, the international community has increased regulations to protect indigenous communities worldwide. However, Tanzania's government has continually expanded protected areas causing increased tensions and indigenous rights abuses.

METHODS:

- Timeline of important events on global and national scales for conservation and indigenous rights.
- Article review by number of news articles released by year
- Survey conducted in Tanzania
- Interviews



WHO WINS, RESOURCES OR CULTURES?

Many indigenous cultures have lived amongst their environments for centuries and consider themselves a part of the natural ecosystem. This directly conflicts with the idea of partitioned nature, where a physical boundary separates humans from what they deem is natural. When faced with protecting wildlife or protecting indigenous communities, how do we begin to decide whose rights should be favored? While the answer is not clear, historically at least in the case of Tanzania the groups that are backed with money are more likely to succeed despite regulations.

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