

**Coastal Landscapes of Practice:
Adaptive Learning, Harvesting, Natural Resource Access and Well-
being in Ponta Negra, SE Coastal Brazil
(Preliminary Results)**



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Intergenerational Knowledge Continuity

Practice-based perspective

Linkages between environmental learning, harvesting practice, access to natural resources and well-being

A case from Ponta Negra



Context:

Ponta Negra, SE Coastal Brazil

Research approach:

Qualitative research design

Strategy of Inquiry:

Case study

Philosophical worldview:

Phenomenology

Ethno-biology and social science methods:

Document review, semi-structured interviews, community mapping, household surveys, focus-group discussions





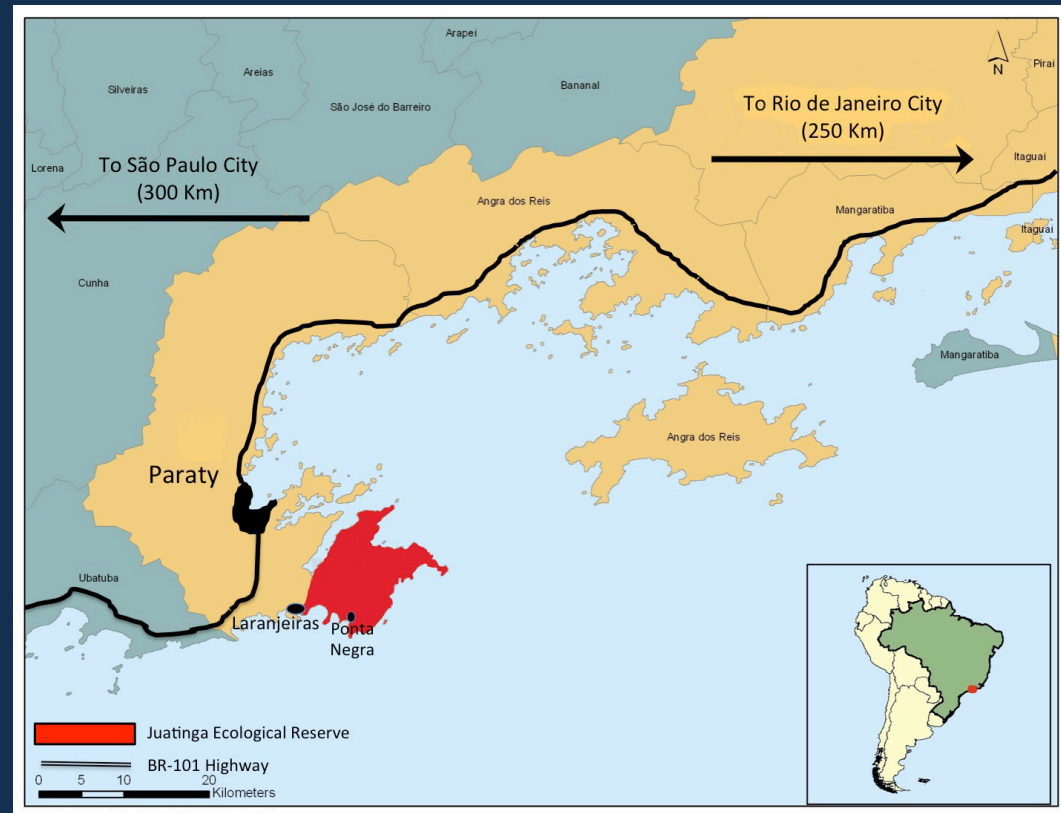
Ponta Negra, RJ State, SE Coastal Brazil

- Pop 158 ppl (82 ♂ & 76 ♀),
- ≈100 children

Local Livelihoods:

- Fishing, shifting agriculture, tourism, civil construction, and collection of forest products
- Cerco fishery largest employer
- Subsidies and pensions

Limited education, No electricity, no road access, no grocery store



TIMELINE

Time Period	Key Event	Remarkable features / consequences
1940 - 1970	Before cercos in PN	Shifting agricultural and fishing main activities Outputs locally consumed, traded in small quant.
1900 - 1950	Growth fishing industry	Fishing: from subsistence to commercial <i>New markets for fish/Jobs in the fishing fleets</i> Access to cash - Improvement of living conditions
1970 – 1990	Arrival of cercos	<i>Social differentiation:</i> 'Owners' and 'non- owners' <i>Shift in livelihoods:</i> Commercial fishing, priority over agriculture Shift in perception, taste and needs (fish more than food)
1990- today	Depletion of the ocean/ Bust fishing economy	<i>Livelihood uncertainty:</i> <i>Fishing not profitable, tourism jobs (tied to class)</i>

HISTORICAL LIVELIHOODS IN PONTA NEGRA

Livelihood diversification not new to the inhabitants of SE Coastal Brazil

Before fishing, local livelihoods tied to economic cycles (sugar cane and coffee)

Coastal peoples known to adapt to booms and busts in commodity markets

Fishing “boom”

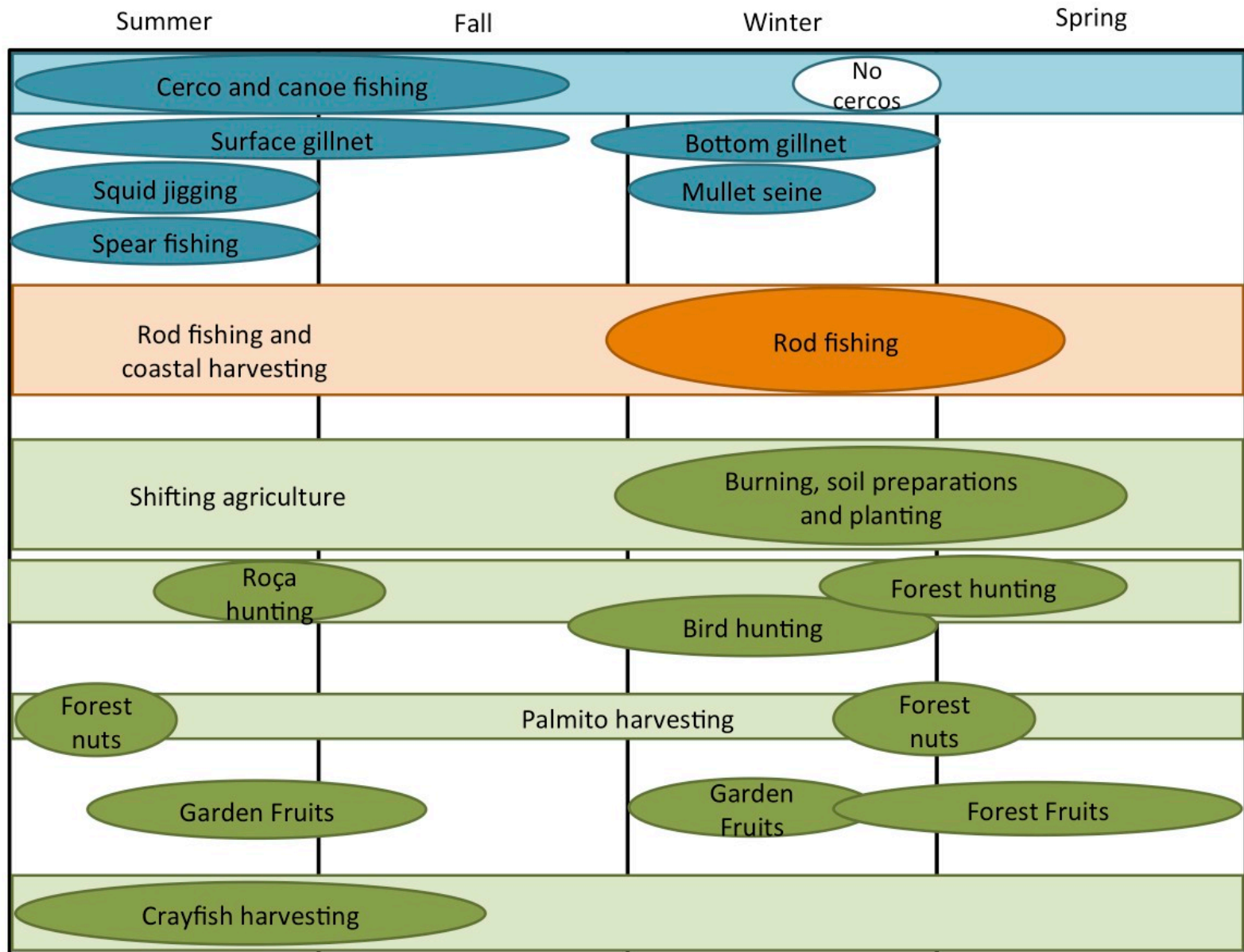
Consolidation of commercial fishing activities :

Structured by regional economy
(lead to Livelihood specialisation)

Structures social differentiation and local access to Natural Resources
(determined Livelihood diversification)

Emergence of local tourism economy and out-migration

NATURAL RESOURCES AND HARVESTING PRACTICE



NATURAL RESOURCES AND HARVESTING PRACTICE

Domain	Practice	Access (Hinder/Enable)	Resources/Outcome
Sea	Fishing	Bust fish econ., limitations for fish trade, tenure, kinship networks	Fish as: food, income, social status/low return, enjoyment
Coast	Harvesting	Kinship networks	Food, enjoyment
Land	Shifting agriculture	Kinship networks, Tourist operators, Tenure, Protected area regulations	Food, enjoyment, income (tied to tourism)
	Hunting/timber and food collection (forest)	Kinship networks, protected area regulations	Food, construction materials. enjoyment

LIVELIHOODS, LEARNING AND WELLBEING

Social class	Livelihoods strategy	Future generations prospects
Cerco owners (and relatives)	Accumulation Invest financial and intellectual resources in the tourism sector	Outmigration (access to better education) Engagement to tourism/ new media Less dependence on NR base
Non-cerco owners	Survival Depend on cerco owners for jobs in fishing and tourist sector <i>"veranistas"</i> (40 properties)	Jobs in fishing (in/out community), tourism Dependence on NR base Outmigration (low skill jobs/ slums)



LIVELIHOODS, LEARNING AND WELLBEING

What is a good life?

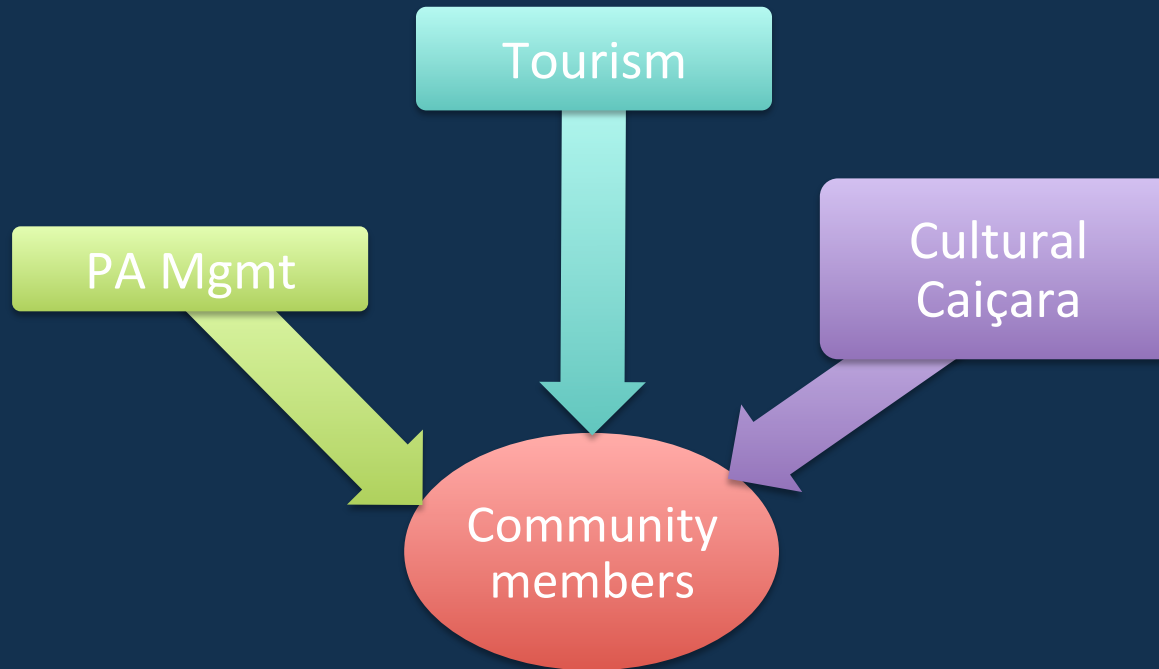
I want to be an independent fisher,
have my own gear and skiff.
I also want to work in tourism,
transporting people, being my own boss.
I want my children to improve their lives.
Good education is a means for them to
get out of fishing

I will stay here until I die, but I don't want
my children to stay

I don't want to live in a city; It's busy and
noisy. I like to live here, it's quiet.
I want a better future for my daughter.
She needs to leave to the city



POLITICAL ECOLOGY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



Park authority official:

To live here is a privilege you have

The Joatinga ecological reserve is important for the quality of life of us all

Community member:

“They (Park Authority) think that we live in the past, the way our parents lived. They want us to live in harmony with nature, but I need the income I make from the houses I rent to pay for my daughters’ university in Rio de Janeiro

POINTS OF INTERVENTION?

Fishing sector:

- Improve access to fishing resources in the community (*fishing spots tenure*) and to markets (*storage infrastructure and channels of commercialisation*)

Agriculture and forest practices:

- Clear and understandable management plan of the reserve
- Effective participation in decision-making
- Mobilise knowledge to the tourism sector (catering services and product development)
- Clarify tenure and status within the protected area

Tourism sector:

- Enskillment in tourism beyond service jobs
- Independence from tourism operators (building capacity and networks)
- Local product development

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