Mountain Resident's Livelihoods: Adaptation Strategies in the Swiftly Progressing 'Weather' of Tourism in Protected Areas

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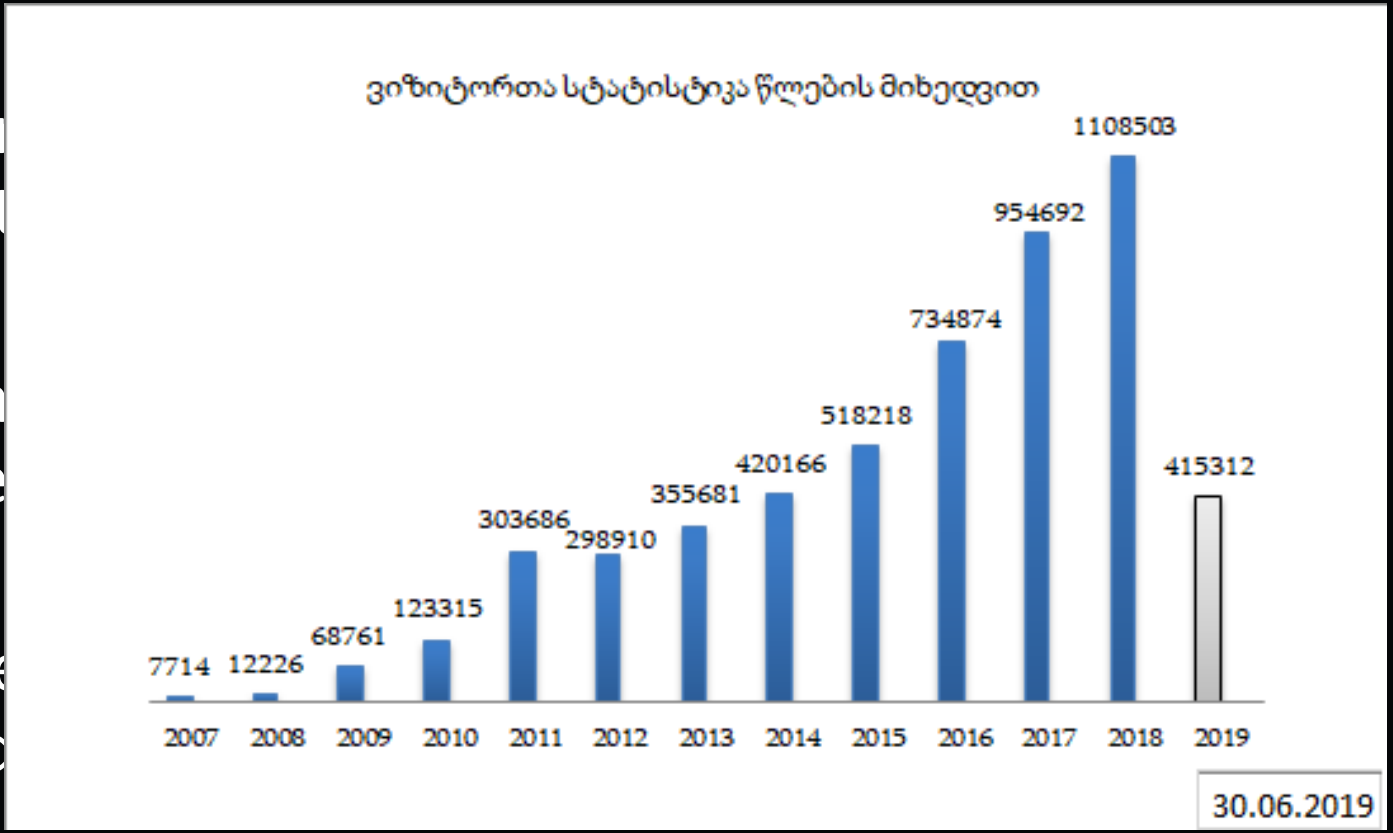
Background info

- Since 2011 the coverage of Pr
833 hectares (1,3%), which at
the territory of Georgia);
- Georgia faced rapid developn
development” and their cove
areas;
- The mountain of data collecte
speaks a thousand words and
of visitors.



Problem Statement

- Delivering mountain protected areas as sustainable tourism destinations are seen as a source of employment and additional economic benefits;

- Protected areas introducing new regulation, which may also trigger disorganization in traditional economic performances of local residents, living in or at the edge of PA.

Methodology –Rural Sustainable Livelihood Concept

Machakhela MAXQDA

Quantitizing Habitus Urbanized Protected areas

Rural sustainable livelihood concept Households

In-depth interviews

Participatory approach In-depth interviews CAQDA software

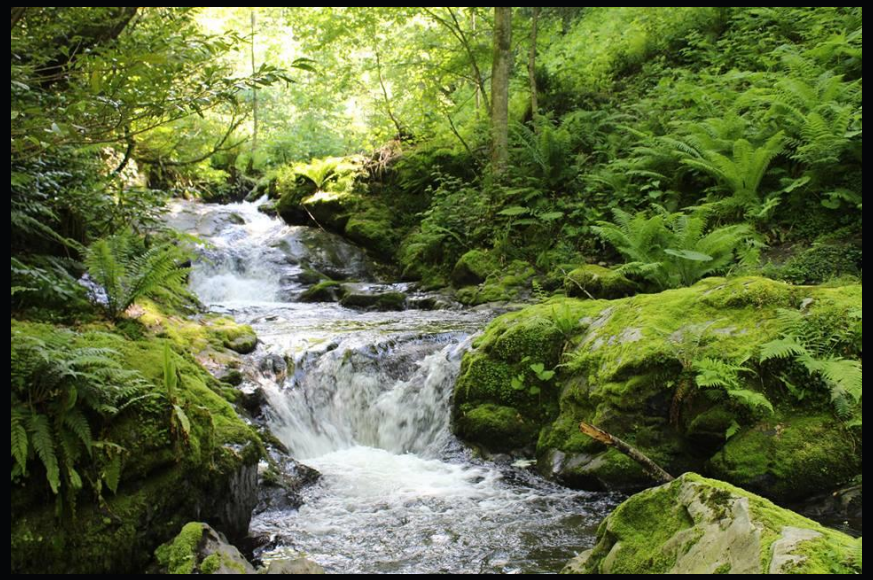
Type-building Heterogeneous sampling

Safe space Pilot study

Aim and Research Questions

- Ambivalent peculiarities of protected areas calls into question the resilience of locals in the process of adaptation of sustainable livelihoods;
- Who is left behind amid rapid development of PA?
- Which capital plays a crucial role to adapt new livelihood practice under the new regulation?

Natural Capital



The waterfalls, spectacular views, fresh air, Machakhela National Park (2 tourist routes), seasonal activities (collecting mushrooms, berries) etc.

Economic/Financial Capital

Private infrastructure (locals use their own houses to develop guesthouses), lands to cultivate agricultural products and serve to tourists; local and international grants to promote tourism business development, own investment of local dwellers in tourism facilities development;

Cultural Capital

The homemade local traditional dishes, handicrafts, local folklore performed by host family;

Social & Human Capital

Social capital – connections to tour operators, taxi drivers, tourism administration in Batumi as well as authorities of Machakhela National Park administration;

Human capital – high-experience in cooking local traditional dishes; familiarity of the available natural and cultural sights, basic skills to serve tourists in a proper way;

Thank you for your time !