1. Introduction

The objectives of this study are 1) to clarify fishing and boat cultures of maritime societies along the Red Sea in Sudan from the cases of Dongonab and Suakin in Port Sudan and 2) to develop an idea of assessing the environmental effects of development in the coastal arid tropical zones from the viewpoint of human subsistence ecosystems. This is a tentative report on the study up to now. Recovery of coastal livelihood in the Red Sea state through the modernization of artisanal fisheries and the creation of new market opportunities (SECS-RSS 2010) has reported on the general outline and faced problems of the nine selected fishing villages located in the middle to southern part of Port Sudan: Figa; Daror; Halot; Port Sudan;
Kalanaeib; Suakin; Sheikh Ibrahim; Sheikh Saad; Eiram, by using the questionnaires survey in 2010. The report points out that the fishery practiced at those fishing village is a small scale; mainly hand line fishery with small wooden boats, and have common problems such as the lack of social service, markets, refrigerated facilities, and distribution systems and unlikeable relationship between fishermen and traders; traders control the market price and then monopolize the benefits. Moreover, although each fishing village has fishermen association carried by the local chief (omda), it is usually inactive well. This study focuses on a fishing village of Dongonab; previous report doesn’t cover this village, located at the northern part of Port Sudan. The Dongonab Bay (with Mukawar Island) is selected as National Marine Park. Dongonab Bay NMP lies 125km north of Port Sudan and covers 60km of coastline and a shallow bay with a wide diversity of marine habitats, including coral reefs and seagrass beds that support a large population if endangered dugong (UNEP 2007). Dongonab also has the same problems as above nine sits, however, some fishermen said to relate with traders is necessary because traders provide them essential goods for fishery on a regular basis. Although fishing villages along the Port Sudan have similar problems, as a matter of course, each village has particular situations: location, natural and social environments, history, ethnic/tribe composition, number of population, and so on. An anthropological long-term field research concentrated on one fishing village, in a deferent method from a widespread area and short-term questionnaires’ survey, is needed to understand the detail and characteristics of each maritime life of local community. However, there was a little study on the human subsistence or culture done in the coastal areas of Port Sudan. This study emphasizes on the importance of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional ecological
knowledge (TEK) support the human subsistence in maritime societies along the Red Sea in Sudan. Knowledge on the fishery and boat will be discussed.

1. Objectives

The aims of the study are:
1) To clarify the TK /TEK (on fishing culture) of Dongonab Bay
2) To clarify the Boat culture along the Red Sea in Sudan
3) To develop an idea of assessing the environmental effects of development in the coastal arid tropical zones from the viewpoint of human subsistence ecosystems to contribute to the futureable development and conservation for maritime societies and environments (further issue).
4) To compare the research results to the case of the Swahili maritime society for the comparative study on the Western Indian Ocean Maritime World (further issue)