

Recommendations

1. There are a diversity of marine ecosystems and methods for resource extraction. However the Fisheries Act lumps together all types of fishing activities and restrictions. The ban on use of certain fishing gears should not be uniform. The Fisheries Act should differentiate the different fishing environments and gears so that the DO's and DONT's apply to different environments and species in relevant ways.
2. We are barely involved in policy formulation and there are few grassroots mechanisms to seek redress and to voice community concerns. We want communities to be actively involved in policy formulation through functional grassroots and national fisherfolk networks. The Kenya Marine Forum can also represent us.
3. The beach buffer zones have been encroached on by private developers due to non-compliance and inadequate enforcement of the laws. We need to be strict in law enforcement and vigilant in compliance.
4. There is no documentation or study that shows the link between good legislation, sustainable fisheries management and economic/social benefits. We find it hard to be motivated. We would like a study to be done that shows best practice and demonstrating the economic link between good fisheries legislation and management and improvement in coastal peoples' livelihoods and hence poverty alleviation.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with Coastal Oceans Research and Development-Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) convened two coastal community workshops in Kenya and Tanzania in 2007/2008. Community representatives reflected on the status of the marine environment and put forward concrete recommendations on improving marine resources and livelihood sustainability and enhancement. This series of one page publications are a product of this work.

The community workshops are part of a bigger project 'Conservation as Core Assets for Livelihoods in Eastern Africa' funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), The Ford Foundation and also 'Building capacity and strengthening policies for coastal communities to manage their marine resources in East Africa' funded by the Kiedanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF). The objective of these projects is to enhance knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity conservation to livelihoods and to assist communities to demonstrate to politicians and senior policy makers on this importance.

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of IUCN, IDRC, The Ford Foundation, KNCF, CORDIO or EAWLS.

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Building Capacity for Coastal Communities to Manage Marine Resources in Kenya



Kenya's Coastal Fisherfolk



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Introduction

Kenya fisheries are mainly composed of fresh water (lakes) and marine (Indian Ocean).

The fisheries sector plays an important role in the economic and social development of the country providing livelihoods for over 600,000 Kenyans. The coastal marine area is endowed with vast fisheries resources. Despite this, marine fisheries contribute less than 5% of the national total fish production. 95% of fish production is derived from inland water bodies particularly that of Lake Victoria.

Most coastal fisher folk are artisanal and subsistence fishers. Most are men. Most fishing is carried out inshore close to the reefs. Rarely is fishing undertaken beyond the territorial waters. Artisanal fishing is mostly done from small non motorised boats and dugouts. The most common gears used are gill nets, seine traps, and hand lines.

The main fishery products consist of snappers, tuna, prawns, lobsters, octopus and squid. Generally we see a decline in catches everywhere.

The under utilisation and poor management of marine fisheries can be attributed to the following;

- Inadequate fish landing sites. Most fishers have difficulties in accessing landing sites due to development of private properties, hotels and other unregulated physical development.
- Lack of credit facilities and supportive technical and physical infrastructure. The post harvest losses, production and distribution costs are high for local fishers.
- Fishers lack strong cooperatives or associations. As such they are poorly represented at national policy and decision making forums and in influencing government policy.

Summary of community aims, activities and issues of concern

ORGANISATION	AIMS AND ACTIVITIES	ISSUES OF CONCERN
Mwagugu Fishermen Cooperative Society Vanga - Kwale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding ready market for harvested fish • Giving loans to members of the Cooperative • Poverty eradication • Provision of cold storage facilities to members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of project management skills • Decline in fish catch and diversity
Wavuvi wa Kilelenjwani Kilelenjwani Fishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of proper fishing gears

- The Department of Fisheries, which is the key institution charged under the Fisheries Act {Cap 378} with the management of Kenya's fishery resources lacks important facilities such as modern patrols equipments, communication systems and boats. This limits surveillance effort resulting in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in Kenya waters by distant water fishing fleets and immigrant fishers.

A national coastal community workshop was held in Kilifi from 17th to 19th December 2007. The aim of the workshop was to give coastal communities an opportunity to interact and share practical experiences in marine resource use and management and to articulate their needs. As Coastal Fisher Folk we gave our views, aims, activities and issues of concern at this meeting. These are presented below. We also came up with recommendations which appear at the end.

Issues of concern

Kenya's territorial waters and fishing grounds are increasingly being over fished and excessively exploited. This is not only caused by an increase in the number of local fisher folk but also an increase and 'invasion' of foreign fisher folk and an increase in the intensity of their activities. For instance, the 'Wapemba' fishermen from Tanzania are fishing all over the Kenyan coast from Vanga-Shimoni in the south to Kipini Lamu in the north. Kenya is not coping well with 'Wapemba' invasion particularly in relation to surveillance and monitoring.

The commercial offshore fishing vessels (mainly purse seiners and long liners) have also intensified their activities. Although licences are issued to these vessels the operators disregard the conditions of their licences and encroach on our fishing grounds.

The result of all these fisheries problems is diminishing fish stocks, declines in fish catch and declines in the variety of fish species we now harvest.

Coastal Fisheries Management in Kenya

1. The current Fisheries Act applies blanket Regulations on gears across all marine habitats and fishing areas. Since Kenya's coastal fisheries are highly diverse we believe fisheries management should be specified according to the species and locations of the different fisheries. It would be better if fishery resources were managed according to the ecology, biology and appropriate gear for each species group. For example a blanket mesh size cannot be applied to nets when nets are used to catch both sardines and kingfish.
2. Legal, but unregulated, and illegal gears and methods are contributing to the destruction of the marine environment and its fisheries resources. Examples of destructive practices include the use of dynamite and poison. The use of ring net and *jarife* (beach seine) though acceptable in open water, can be destructive in coral reefs and in shallow water areas.
3. The use of unregulated and illegal destructive fishing practices is partly due to a lack of awareness, knowledge and clear understanding by fisherfolk of the laws regulating this industry. In addition, there is inadequate monitoring, surveillance and inventory to ensure Regulations are obeyed and to ensure we use approved, appropriate and ecologically sound fishing gears and practices.
4. People do not appreciate the important contribution of coastal fisheries to coastal communities livelihoods and well-being.

