Dealing with the changing face of artisanal fisheries on the Kenyan coast: rationale for strengthening local institutions, challenges and way forward

History and experience with open access

Paul Mboya Tuda

COMRED / ZMT
Kenyan coastline
- 640 Km coastline
- Narrow continental shelf
- Fringing reef (0.5-2km)

Economic activities
- Tourism
- Fishery
Overview

• Marine fisheries is important
  o Artisanal fisheries (14,000 fishers)
  o Industrial fisheries
  o Recreational fisheries
  o Distant Fleets (EEZ)

• Fishing occurs nearshore
  o 0.5 – 2 km (seagrass & Coral reefs)
  o Influenced by monsoon winds
  o Catch per fish is low
  o Annual catch – 10,000 tonnes
Artisanal fisheries characteristics

- Most species landed are demersal

- Marine fishery is data limited
  - Few data
  - Poor quality
  - Raw data yet to be processed

“ [...] of the 121 commercially exploited species only 45 species have been studied in terms of their biology. ” (Fondo et al., 2014)
Description of fishing gears

- **Basket trap**
- **Beach seine**
- **Gill nets**
- **Speargun**
- **Dug out canoe**
- **Boat**

Source: CORDIO EA
• 138 recorded in the catch
  - 17 species dominate catch (90%)
  - 3 species contributed ~65%
Processing and marketing of catch

- Dominated by the womenfolk
Materials and Methods

Fisheries Governance

- Fisher / Vessel Licence
- Gear Restrictions
- Mesh size regulations
- No trade in illegally caught fish
- Closure of fishing grounds

Community based organizations

- Landing sites
- Beach Management Units

Government Institutions

Open Access
Enforcement & Compliance

Beach seining

Source: State Department of fisheries
• Compliance to regulations is low
• 82% of the fishers are not licensed (GOK, 2013).
Current & emerging Issues

- Increase in effort
  - Fishers numbers (48%)
  - Migrant fishers

- Investment in gears & Vessels
  - Increase in powered vessels
  - Increase in hired fishers
  - Push for profits

Source: Wanyonyi
• Promotion of offshore fishery
  o Experimental FAD fisheries
  o Dropline fishery
  o Ring net fishery

• Erosion of cultural & traditional belief systems
  • Increased resource user conflicts
  • Risk of breakdown of co-management systems
  • Loss of traditional authority and leadership
So then what...?

- Recognize fishing ground tenure and access rights
  - Interest in Locally managed areas
    - No of LLMA 1 in 2006 to 14 in 2016
- Support the development and enforcement of local fishing rules
- Support for local enforcement units

Achieving sustainability for the Kenyan artisanal fisheries:

- Tenure of fishing grounds is secure
- Access is regulated with the participation of fishers using that fishing ground.
Asante Sana!