Marine/coastal resources and the inhabitants “fishing communities” are drivers of the economy in the world and because of their outward-looking geography, both the resources and the inhabitants have traditionally been centres for new ideas and innovations. Of recent, investments in coastal/marine areas have been increasingly growing. Same synergies are observed in MBREMP area, which is home to over 45,000 people who depend solely on fishing activities and is by far the most important livelihood in the area. Though very little is know about how these investments do interact with these community’s livelihoods, our main interest was first to map all the investments, know the number, their nature, type and the reasons (favorable conditions) why they invested in the area. It was also important to know how they do interact while working in the same locality/area. Therefore, all organisations, NGOs, Projects, Government Institutions/sectors/ministries and the Local fishing communities with good knowledge on these investments in MBREMP area and 4 village communities outside the Marine Park were interviewed.

Results from this study indicate that, investments in MBREMP including the 4 Villages outside the Marine Park fell under four different categories which include Extraction of Oil and gas and construction of gas pipeline; Conservation (MPAs-Marine Park); Commerce and trade in and around the ocean (Shipping-port expansion, infrastructure and Services, Tourism and Eco-tourism) and harvesting of living Resources (fisheries and aquaculture; pharmaceuticals, chemicals). Their nature (essential qualities, innate disposition) also differed from one investment to another. Through the interviews conducted, about 60% of the respondents said investors do invest in Mtwara because of the easily available resources in the area, 20%-conducive weather, 30%-favourable government policies, 10%-are just doing for trial run. Their relationship is not well connected and defined still. Major setbacks that hinder sound development which is also the principal main areas of intervention include; the creation of an enabling environment for business, overall improvement of social services, encouragement of private sector involvement, overall infrastructure development and good governance. This study concentrated on investments only in MBREMP and their interactions. It is worthy knowing how each investment interacts with the local fishing community’s livelihoods, a paper- coming soon!