

## Assessment of Socio-economic Factors Driving Fisheries Resource-use Patterns in the Tana River Delta Ecosystem, north coast Kenya

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Socio-economic factors driving fisheries resource-use patterns in the lower Tana River delta and estuary are described within the context of the ESTUARIZE project, a socio-ecological study of estuarine fisheries in the Western Indian Ocean. Artisanal fisheries and associated direct and indirect employment opportunities in communities around estuaries, such as fish marketing, transport and distribution, gear and boat building, organization by middlemen, and decision-making and fisheries management play an important role in coastal livelihoods and food security. Increased exploitation, declining catches, and environmental change are predicted to affect socio-economic circumstances. This situation is exacerbated by lack of information on the main socio-economic drivers that influence fisheries resource-use patterns. This study aims to identify the main socio-economic drivers affecting the artisanal fisheries resource-use patterns in the lower Tana River delta. The study relies primarily on analysis of existing data, with data gaps to be filled with collection of new data on field trips. A participatory approach based on household surveys and fisher interviews using semi-structured questionnaires will be used as tools for data collection. Secondary information sources will be used to assess the demographic characteristics of the dependent community in the area. We anticipate that full-time fishing as a livelihood source will dominate around the river mouth and near-shore estuary, while both subsistence fishing and agriculture are expected to become more important with increasing distance away from the river mouth. Distinct differences in resource-use are expected to prevail between gender in addition to variation in intensity and types of alternative livelihood sources between the seasons, and how these reduce pressure on the fisheries resources. Findings of this study, combined with information on fisheries resources and estuarine variability modules of the ESTUARIZE project, are expected to provide an information-base that can be used to simulate potential outcomes of management recommendations.