



MINISTRY OF MINING, BLUE ECONOMY AND MARITIME AFFAIRS
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES



THE WORLD BANK
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FACT SHEET 2024

Supporting the establishment of Fisheries Joint Co-Management Areas

Eight newly approved JCMA's to promote sustainable harnessing of marine resources

Overview

Top-down resource management approaches have contributed to the unsustainable exploitation of coastal and marine fisheries, a situation worsened by climate change impacts. This has led to overfishing and degradation of ecosystems and adversely affected the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Fisheries co-management has been widely adopted as a “bottom-up” approach that involves communities and resource users in making decisions about how common resources should be used.

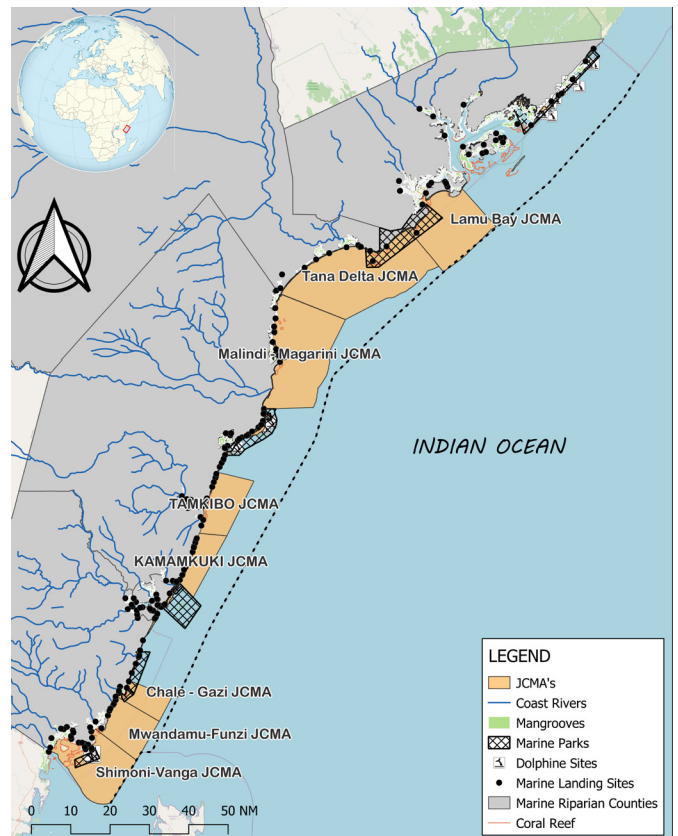
This approach promotes a partnership arrangement that shares the responsibilities for managing fisheries resources between the government, beach management units (BMUs) and other stakeholders. It also ensures that the coastal communities assume a greater responsibility for their resources.

The Kenyan Context

The Government of Kenya has adopted the fisheries co-management approach and entrenched it in law through the Fisheries Management and Development Act and the BMU Regulations.

The approach is facilitated by establishment of co-management areas (CMAs) and Joint Co-Management Areas (JCMA). These areas are managed by communities represented by Beach Management Units (BMUs) in collaboration with the government authorities and other stakeholders.

Due to the unlimited nature of fish movements, shared aquatic resources and fishing grounds and interactions of fishing communities, BMUs utilize fisheries resources



The eight newly approved JCMA's

Why Co-Management?

- To encourage the long-term sustainability of resource use
- To restore the natural state of the marine or coastal environment
- To provide benefits to communities and the country's economy
- To formalize access and tenure rights
- To get communities involved in managing their own resources.

Supporting establishment of JCMAs

beyond their CMA jurisdictions. Thus, it is necessary to establish JCMAs that include two or more BMUs. The JCMAs are effected through plans developed through a participatory process anchored in law.

Effective fisheries Management

Sub-component 1.2 of the KEMFSED project is dedicated to improving the management of nearshore waters through the development and reinforcement of JCMAs. The aim is to increase the effectiveness of fisheries management in about 45% of nearshore waters.

KEMFSED has supported the review of existing co-management areas and the establishment of new JCMAs based on an expert-led process of assessments and consultations across the five coastal counties. As a result, eight JCMAs have been created and plans to manage them developed.

Planning processes

Four teams of consultants facilitated development of the new JCMAs based on a comprehensive process involving technical experts, BMUs and other stakeholders. The JCMAs take into account the ecological, social and economic aspects of fishing. This holistic approach ensures that the fisheries management agencies effectively plan, co-ordinate, prioritize and implement resource management measures. The process of establishing JCMAs included the following steps:

- (a) *Compiling of resource base inventories* through a range of assessments, including ecological assessments, fisheries situation analysis, and fishing patterns surveys. The outcome of this stage includes comprehensive information on the marine resources, detailed maps of critical habitats, analysis of priority fisheries, the status of fisheries, stakeholder mapping as well as socio-economics and livelihood patterns.
- (b) *Stakeholder engagement*: Co-management planning committees involving BMUs and other stakeholders were formed and given orientation on JCMA establishment.
- (c) *Consultation meetings and participatory mapping*: Meetings were held with BMUs and other stakeholders to share information from

the resource base inventories, including the ecological risk assessments. The meetings identified the risks and threats to fisheries, prioritized them and developed management objectives and measures.

- (d) *Preparation of draft JCMA Plans*: The plans were developed through a series of expert working group meetings and informed by insights from the risk assessments (See Section C above).
- (e) *Review of BMU by-laws*: The were revised to align them to the JCMA plans and support enforcement of management measures outlined in each plan.
- (f) *Stakeholder validation*: Public consultation meetings were co-organized with joint co-management planning committees and other stakeholders to validate both the JCMA plans and the revised by-laws. Feedback received was incorporated into revised management plans.

Endorsement of Plans

The Kenya Fisheries Service Director-General endorsed the plans for eight JCMAs developed with KEMFSED support after they were signed by the respective county governments as required by law.

The JCMAs, covering over 6,300 km², are listed below:

- **Lamu Bay** (10 BMUs)
- **Shimoni-Vanga**, Kwale (seven BMUs)
- **Chale-Gazi**, Kwale (two BMUs)
- **Mwandamu-Funzi**, Kwale (six BMUs)
- **TAMKIBO**, Kilifi (four BMUs)
- **KAMAMKUKI**, Mombasa/Kilifi (five BMUs)
- **Malindi-Magarini**, Kilifi (five BMUs)
- **Tana Delta** (three BMUs).



Kenya Fisheries Director-Genral Daniel Mungai (l) hands over one of the JCMA plans to the counties. Photo: G.Obanyi/KEMFSED