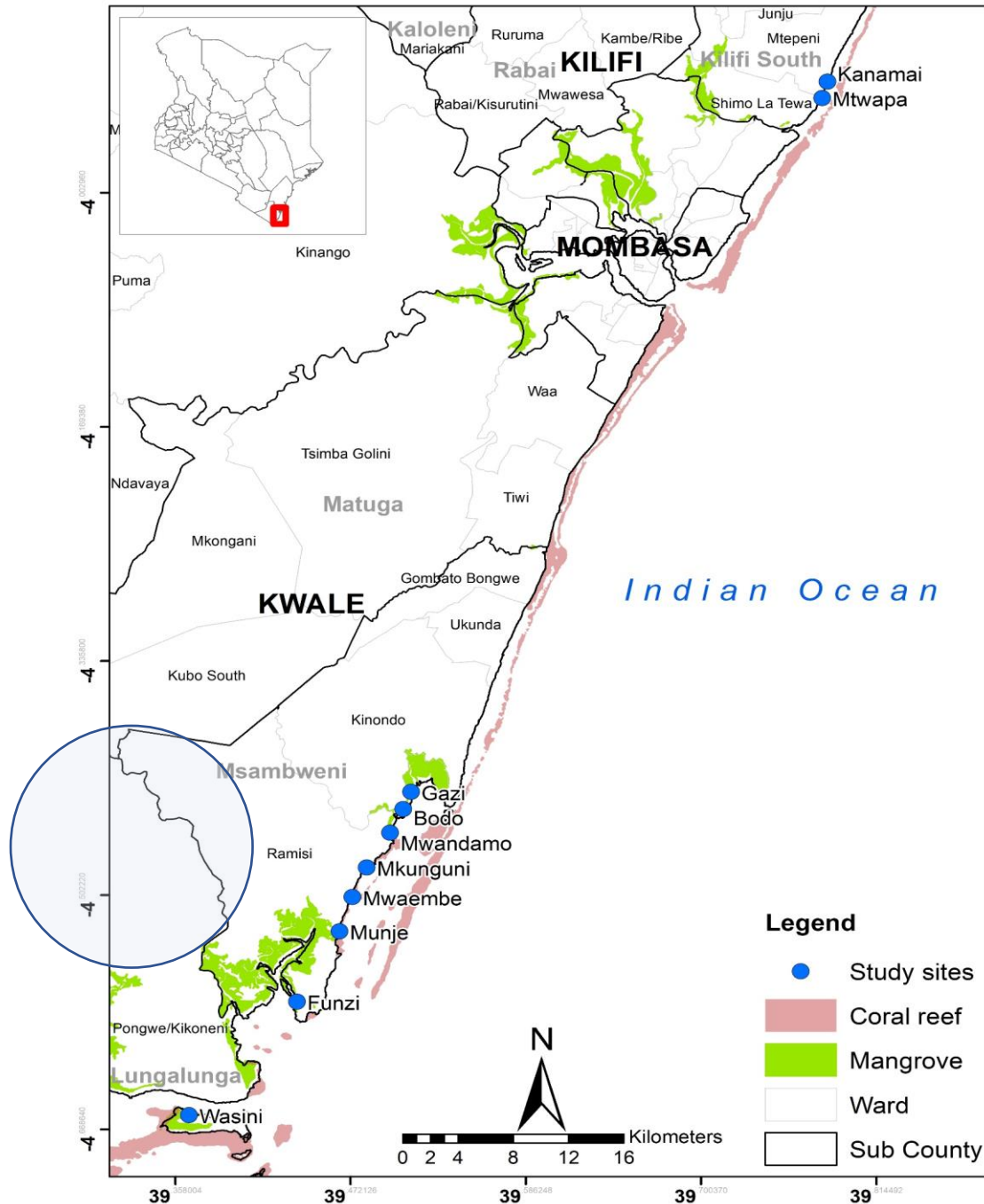


Strengthening meaningful participation of women in local governance institutions in Kenya



Presented at the Webinar: [Gender Mainstreaming in Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management by UNEP and the Gender & Water Alliance \(GWA\)](#)



- Small scale fishing communities
- Entry: Beach Management Units



Why deliberate interventions for women?

Challenges

- Few in decision-making places.
- Access to better fish markets, & quality fish
- Competition from male traders (accessing fish is not easy)
- Lack of financial capital,
- Vulnerability to seasonal variations,
- lack of livelihood diversification



Women numbers (Beach Management Units)

Munje BMU (54m 20w)

Mkunguni (151m 30w)

Mwaembe (114m 51 w)

Kanamai (360m 96w)

Mtwapa (104m 27w)



Approaches:

Participatory assessment to identify concerns and priorities

Stakeholder needs assessment to understand the main challenges faced by women and men members in the functioning of the BMUs .

- FGD – Men and women are separated.
- Use of local dialect as well as in Swahili (the national language).
- Obtaining information that is disaggregating by gender.



Increasing women's representation and decision-making within BMUs

Focus on BMU elections,

- BMU elections - Opportunity to promote women vying for positions
- Facilitated sensitization forums, where women were encouraged to contest.
- Local leaders used to encourage more women to vie.
- As a result of these efforts more women were elected in the BMUs executive committees.



Ensuring that women benefit from CBNRM interventions



Minimal involvement of women in interventions related to sustainable fisheries as they do not fish.

Joint conceptualizing interventions.

For example: Intervention on use of modified basket traps with larger mesh size to reduce the capture of juvenile fish,

Women recognized as direct beneficiaries despite not going out fishing,

25% of the basket traps were assigned to women (*mama karanga*), ensuring that they had access to fish easily.

Women in fish catch data collection



Women in Table Banking



Access finances for individual business and welfare.

Keeps them together



Conservation clauses/conditionalities in enterprise for CBNRM



Tunusuru Women Group _ Munje BMU

- Mangrove restoration
- Planting & sale of seedlings
- Waste collection and recycling
- Hiring of chairs for events.



Conservation clauses/conditionalities in enterprise for CBNRM

Bidii Women Group – Mwaembe BMU

- Operate a fish depot.
- Provide direct market for fishers.
- Ready source of fish for other women who buy and sell fish.
- 10% of profits to go towards patrol & surveillance.
- Waste collection & recycling



Conservation clauses/conditionalities in enterprise for CBNRM



Mama Karanga Self Help Group – Mkunguni BMU

- Hiring of chairs for events.
- Waste collection and recycling
- 10% of profits to go towards patrol & surveillance.



Lessons learnt

- Involving different women at the conceptualisation stage of interventions provides different perspectives important for designing sustainable interventions that are more inclusive.
- Important to gain support for women's participation from the male counterparts.
- Support and mentoring by influential leaders (women and men) at local level is important.
- Recognise that successful CBNRM needs financial stability.
- Trust them, they can do it, they know what is best for them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mkunguni Beach Management Unit

Mwaembe Beach Management Unit

Munje Beach Management Unit

Joyful Women Organization (JOYWO)

