

Recommendations

We believe the following are important:

1. Fisheries trade levies and licensing should be streamlined in a transparent and accountable manner to reduce bureaucratic bottle necks and to minimise losses in business. We should be consulted when levies are formulated.
2. We need to establish, sustain and enhance marketing and trade associations to improve on fish marketing and price. We would like an enabling policy environment that provides incentives to us to sustain these association and networks.
3. We would like the public private sector partnership in micro-credit and finance to grow. The schemes should be spread out to the many fishing villages along the coast of Tanzania. We should have access to funding assistance to improve our ability to trade.
4. The collection of levies and taxes should be closely monitored and evaluated against the fish landings and number of traders in this sector. Close supervision by anti-corruption officials should be the norm.
5. Provision of entrepreneur and business training for fish traders within the country's poverty reduction strategies and initiatives.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with Coastal Oceans Research and Development-Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) convened two coastal community workshops in Kenya and Tanzania in 2007/2008. Community representatives reflected on the status of the marine environment and put forward concrete recommendations on improving marine resources and livelihood sustainability and enhancement. This series of one page publications are a product of this work.

The community workshops are part of a bigger project 'Conservation as Core Assets for Livelihoods in Eastern Africa' funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), The Ford Foundation and also 'Building capacity and strengthening policies for coastal communities to manage their marine resources in East Africa' funded by the Kiedanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF). The objective of these projects is to enhance knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity conservation to livelihoods and to assist communities to demonstrate to politicians and senior policy makers on this importance.

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of IUCN, IDRC, The Ford Foundation, KNCF, CORDIO or EAWLS.

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Building Capacity for Coastal Communities to Manage Marine Resources in Tanzania



Fish Traders, Commerce and Socio-economic Development (*Biashara*) Group



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Introduction

Fish traders and associated business operators are widespread in coastal centres in Tanzania responding to the well established artisanal fisheries. However, the small- scale traders are poorly organised and have limited entrepreneur and business skills to operate effectively and efficiently.

A national coastal community workshop was held in Tanga from 28th to 31st January 2008. The aim of the workshop was to give coastal communities an opportunity to interact and share practical experiences in marine resource use and management and to articulate their needs. As the *Biashara* group we gave our views, aims, activities and issues of concern at this meeting, and our recommendations.



Fish traders, commerce and socio-economic development groups, their objectives and interests

NAME OF GROUP	OBJECTIVES/INTERESTS
UMOJA WA WAVUVI WADOGO WADOGO- (UWAWADA) Dar es Salaam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the participation and involvement of fisher folk groups, fisheries experts and other stakeholders in the fisheries sector to contribute towards use of sustainable fishing gear and practices To enhance good governance through advocacy campaigns, networking and information sharing To improve the welfare of small scale fishers and their families through voicing their rights and linking them to government and other stakeholders in the fisheries sector To improve trade and marketing of small scale fishers produce while improving their business environment Carry out awareness and education campaign to sensitize members on pertinent legislation and policies but also forward recommendation to appropriate offices in government and local authority
VUSHA FISHERY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY Dar es Salaam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the socio-economic status and welfare of its members {fishers and fishmongers} through democratic principles, cooperative movement regulations and policies To support fishing, collection and marketing of fish. Buying and selling of fish that is marketing of various fish products and species (fresh or frozen) at wholesale and retail (Tuna, King fish, Barracuda, Lobsters, Shrimps, Squads etc) To assist members procure, own and manage modern fishing vessels and gears To sensitize and educate members on cooperative movement
KIPUMBWI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (KIEDESO) Pangani, Tanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustain conservation of environment To empower members and community to sustainably utilize the available natural resources so as to reduce poverty and improve their social-economic welfare To undertake the following - Seaweed farming; Fishing; Beekeeping and honey production; Tree planting (mangrove and terrestrial trees); Modern livestock farming; Operate a micro-finance credit mechanism

Priority issues and concerns

We have identified the following as key issues and concerns affecting the fish trade:

1. There is no proper arrangement and levels of the various levies imposed on fisheries trade. The levies are arbitrarily set. There are many levies and licenses required in the establishment of a fish trade. We spend too much time in such matters, which reduces our profit margins.
2. Fish markets are highly unreliable so fish prices keep on fluctuating making it increasingly difficult for us to plan our businesses effectively. Often we look for our own domestic and external markets on an individual basis with little planning. This reduces our ability to meet market demands as well as to bargain for better prices.
3. Micro credit and finance schemes are inadequate. We have limited access to additional finance and capital to boost our trade.
4. The collection of levies and taxes is compounded with corruption, which results in an underdeveloped fisheries sector.

