



AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO MARICULTURE IN KENYA

Kenya's fisheries subsector plays an important role in the national economy, supporting about 80 000 people directly and 800 000 people indirectly. Aquaculture contributes approximately nine percent of total national fish production, with an annual production of about 20 tonnes. The Government is committed to the growth of sustainable mariculture to feed its population and develop fisheries products suitable for international markets. However, mariculture is faced by several challenges in its efforts to feed the population and contribute to export markets in a sustainable way. The need to develop a good mariculture plan with ecosystem considerations was therefore paramount. The Government of Kenya requested assistance from FAO to boost its efforts to transform and upscale the subsector. FAO responded to this request with the current project, assisting coastal region farmers to achieve food and nutrition security by improving the ecosystem services of coastal Kenya. The synergies between this project and project FMM/GLO/112/MUL "Ecosystem Service and Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security", part of the wider Blue Growth Initiative (BGI), resulted in an increased knowledge of the environmental and socio-economic value of the ecosystem, mangrove restoration, small-scale mariculture demonstrations the conservation of biodiversity and conflict management among resource users and the mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) in national policies.



©FAO/M. Namundjebo

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project targeted 15 groups with 442 beneficiaries (260 female, 182 male), supporting them in a series of livelihood and development interventions. Following a mariculture status assessment of the Kenyan coastal region, recommendations were made and initiatives undertaken, the most important of which was capacity development in EAA for farmers and ministry staff. Mariculture development was emphasized, with demonstrations of various technologies involving marine species as milkfish, shrimp, oyster and crab along with intensive mangrove restoration and other Environmental Awareness Campaigns on the socio-economic value of the ecosystems in the area. Seaweed production, processing and marketing were also highlighted. Training in best production management practices of mariculture, seaweed and value addition was provided for 315 (163 female, 152 male) beneficiaries. The project supported needs-based production inputs among different target groups. As a result of the synergies between this project and the BGI project and the integrated cross-sectorial approach, the National Mariculture Policy and Strategy were developed and are anchored on the principle of "production efficiency with reduced impacts on the environment".

IMPACT

Comensum self-help group was formed in 2010 by 15 community members who wanted to start milkfish farming. Since then the group has expanded rapidly and now has 30 members (17 male, 13 female). With project support, the group constructed and stocked two milkfish ponds in 2015, and began to farm oyster and crab, which they harvest and serve at the group's restaurant. With the profits made from the ponds, the group has already planted 500 000 mangroves. One significant result of the mangrove restoration programme is an observed increase of biodiversity in fish fingerlings and other aquatic animals within the restored areas. These enterprises have created jobs for members and non-members in the community. At Mida Creek, with inputs provided by the project, Dabaso conservation group has established not only a farm, but also a resource centre with a conference facility and a restaurant with crab value-added delicacies, produced by the group. The farm and the centre have improved the livelihoods of the group members and the community; they are also marketed as a tourist attraction by the Kenya Tourism Board.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 490 000

Duration

March 2015 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF)

Beneficiaries

Fish farmers, consumers, traders, seed and feed suppliers, and ancillary enterprises



©FAO/G. Grepin

ACTIVITIES

- National Mariculture Policy, Strategy and Plan developed.
- Baseline report of mariculture potential in Kenya developed.
- Management plans of mariculture areas, water and other natural resources, including negotiation mechanisms among concerned stakeholders, established.
- Investment opportunities for both public and private sector identified and documented.
- Best management practices for farmer groups prepared and adopted.
- Farmers trained to practise better business and marketing planning.
- Management skills of farmers' organizations in seaweed, mussels and other farming systems enhanced.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code
TCP/KEN/3502

Project Title
Support to the Implementation of Mariculture in Kenya within an Ecosystem Approach

Contact
FAO Representation in Kenya
FAO-KE@fao.org



Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Team
Reporting@fao.org