

## Data archeology in the framework of a long-term Kenya Belgium Cooperation

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The “Kenya-Belgium Cooperation in Marine Sciences” or KBP was initially launched in 1985 as collaboration between the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) under the supervision of the late Prof. Dr. Philip Polk. In 2012, this long lasting collaboration resulted in a formal “Memorandum of Understanding” (MoU) between the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI). This MoU aims to promote further partnership in the field of marine sciences between Belgium and Kenya (in a coordinated way). One of the activities within this MoU is the recovery of data resulting from marine research in Kenya.

The Kenya-Belgium data collection currently includes about 111,800 biotic observations on benthos, algae, fish, zooplankton, phytoplankton, birds and mangroves which cover more than 400 unique locations that were sampled between 1873 and 1999. The dataset provides a better insight into the different types of research conducted between 1985 and 1996 in framework of the “Kenya-Belgium Cooperation in Marine Sciences (KBP)” and can facilitate further coastal biodiversity research in Kenya.

The Kenya-Belgium data collection is online available through the LifeWatch portal (<http://www.lifewatch.be/en/marine-data-archeology>) and can be assessed through the Integrated Marine Information System hosted at VLIZ.

<http://www.vliz.be/en/imis?module=dataset&dasid=5821>

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