

# Sustainable coastal and marine fisheries resources in Kenya: forging linkages between research and policy for societal benefits

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The coastal and marine resources in Kenya include the living and non-living resources such as coral reefs, seabed grasses, beaches and fish stocks and mangrove forest all providing useful services to Kenyans. Fisheries resources remain very important to the coastal communities in terms of livelihood, food and nutrition security. The demand for fish in the domestic and global market continues to increase as the population grows. The common vision of the agriculture sector in Kenya is 'a food and nutrition secure nation'. This calls for increased production and productivity. To ensure sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources in Kenya, the sector requires to invest in technology and innovations for societal benefits. For formulation of dynamic management decisions and policies, we need to get sound research findings to drive the sector. Development of the strategic priority actions to ensure food and nutrition security without jeopardizing the sustainability of the resources, will arise from uptake of these technologies. This paper looks at the status of coastal and marine fisheries and aquaculture resources in Kenya, the management and research responses. It further identifies the key research interventions that have been developed, the adoption and their impacts on management responses and societal benefits. It recommends further research needs to address the Country's development agenda and sustainability and suggests linkages that will increase information flow and synergies between research institutions and society.