

## Societal and economic benefits of research

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The coastal zone of Kenya is endowed with rich natural resources both in the ocean and on land. The ocean in particular has both fisheries and other resources that provide livelihoods and income to the coastal dwellers. There is however concern that the traditional exploitation of these resources has actually resulted in a 'natural resources trap' with poverty levels remaining extremely high among the local communities. In fact, the exploitation of some of the natural resources has been characterized by serious use conflicts. Some of the interventions that have been put in place by various stakeholders to address poverty have not yielded much because in many cases these interventions are not backed by sound scientific information. This paper therefore presents KMFI's experience on how research information can positively result into societal and economic benefits particularly when the research information is effectively disseminated to communities and other stakeholders. It sheds light on the importance of understanding the socio-cultural and economic setting of the coast, the needs of the local communities, and applying scientific information to address these needs within the existing socio-cultural contexts.