Fisheries governance in coastal and marine Kenya under the Kenya Coastal Development Project

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The Ministry of Fisheries Development Strategic Plan (2008–2012) outlines Kenya's development agenda as set out in the Kenya Vision 2030. The goals of the strategic plan are geared towards achieving an effective institutional, policy and legal framework; sustainable utilization of the natural fisheries resources, promotion of aquaculture development; promotion of fish safety and quality assurance, value addition and marketing; improvement of infrastructure, strengthening human resource capacity, conduct fisheries research and strengthen monitoring and patrol units along the coastal areas.

These goals, which are being implemented through the state department of fisheries (SDF) and Kenya Marine Fisheries Institute (KMFRI), are in tandem with the actualization of KCDP Project Development Objective (PDO), which is to promote an environmentally sustainable management of Kenya's coastal and marine resources by strengthening the capacity of existing relevant government agencies and enhance the capacity of rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in selected coastal communities.

The project endeavours to improve marine fisheries governance, through increased marine fisheries management capacity, by implementing a cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) for inshore and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Law enforcement remains the main challenge in fisheries management; however periodic inshore patrols in collaboration with Beach Management Units (BMUs) and development of Management Plans for Priority Fisheries is a possible alternative.