Mangroves and Livelihood: An assessment of livelihood projects in the mangrove ecosystem along the Kenyan Coast

Introduction

- The coastal people have strong economic ties with the coastal ecosystem
- Their main livelihood is mainly marine based
- Mangroves form an important ecosystem along the Kenya’s coast
- The Kenyan coastal population is 3.3M, this has shown a 22.6% increase from 1999 to 2009
- Increased population poses a challenge to resource sustainability
- Initiating livelihood projects have been necessary to complement or replace existing activities

Objectives

Overall objective:
Assess the feasibility and sustainability of livelihood projects in the mangrove ecosystem along the Kenyan Coast

Specific objectives:
- To identify the livelihood projects
- To assess the status/condition of the livelihood projects
- To conduct a SWOT analysis of identified livelihood projects
- To identify the causes of failure or success of the livelihood projects

Study area

Research approach

1. Focus Group Discussion (SWOT)

2. Local Interviews

3. Delphi Survey:
Questionnaire preparation and distribution

Statistical analysis: Local interviews: Chi-square tests ($\chi^2$) responses

Results and Conclusion

Delphi Survey

| Identified livelihood activities: Beekeeping, Mariculture and Ecotourism |
| SWOT Analysis: Strength – Healthy mangrove forest; Weakness – Un capacitated members; Opportunity – Diversifying activities; Threat – Illegal mangrove cutting |
| Conclusion |

- Potential mangrove-related projects are significant in mangrove conservation
- Established challenges which if not properly addressed would affect project management
- Study covers the actual situation and the perception of SWOT