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# Partnership between the EU and the Government of Kenya to advance the Blue Economy Agenda through Coastal Development - "Go Blue"

## Italian Cooperation component

**Implemented by:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

**Affiliated Entity:** International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM Bari)

**Budget:** 4,75 MEUR (total budget for the interventions in all 6 counties)

**Area of implementation:** Kenya coastal counties (Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, Tana River)

**Term:** January 2021 to December 2024 (4 years)

**Partners:** JKP coastal County Governments and JKP Secretariat, Technical University of Mombasa, Blue Economy Secretariat, National Fisheries institutions, Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization - KALRO, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Small Scale Fishery Value chain intermediaries private sector, State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy - SDFA&BE.

**Target Groups:** Mainly Youth, Women and MSMEs in the following selected Blue Economy Sectors:

- Agriculture;
- Fishery;
- Vessel repair and maintenance;
- Aquaculture.

### Strengthened inclusive and sustainable blue economy value chains

#### LAMU County



#### Context

In 2021 the European Union (EU) in partnership with the Government of Kenya launched the Go Blue Programme aimed at advancing the Blue Economy Agenda through coastal development. Go Blue is financed by the European Union and implemented by Italy together with the cooperation agencies of Germany, Portugal, France, two United Nations agencies (UN Habitat and UN Environment Program - UNEP) and in partnership with the Jumuiya Ya Kaunti Za Pwani Secretariat - JKP, the economic bloc of Kenya's six coastal counties. The component realized by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Aics) aims at promoting sustainable economic growth in the six coastal counties with a focus on the inclusive and sustainable strengthening of the blue economy value chains. Part of the activities are realized by Aics in partnership with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari), by virtue of its technical expertise in areas such as coastal and fishery development.

#### Objectives and Activities

**Enhancement of fisheries co-management and strengthened fisheries value chains:** Aics will promote the empowerment of BMUs through capacity development activities and through the development of a Code of Conduct enhancing enforcement of relevant regulations adopted by the Government of Kenya. Fisheries MSME will be provided with skills development, improved infrastructure, value addition equipment and productive resources inputs. Labelling schemes will be introduced to certify well-managed marine capture fisheries. Finally, community awareness campaigns to the benefit of the coastal population will be realized.





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### Beneficiaries:

- Staff from 6 target County governments;
- 9 Beach Management Units;
- Small Scale Fisheries – SSF primary producers;
- 2 groups of smallholder farmers.

Identified BMUs are: Amu and Mbwajumwali (Lamu County), Uyombo and Mtwapa (Kilifi County), Shimoni, Kibuyuni and Mkwiru (Kwale County), Kipini (Tana River County) and Nyali (Mombasa County). Identified smallholders farmers groups are located in Matsangani (Kilifi County) and Majimboni and Kubo (Kwale County) areas. Total number of direct beneficiaries is approximately 3.193.

### Intended outputs:

*Enhanced fisheries co-management and strengthened fisheries value chains:* i) BMUs are empowered to fulfill their mandate in the co-management of fisheries; ii) MSME are empowered to enhance their productivity and competitiveness.

*Improved capacity of farmers to operate along the cassava value chain:* i) Agricultural extension offices of Kilifi and Kwale counties are empowered to support development of cassava value chain; ii) Cassava productivity, production, value addition and marketing are improved.

*Enhanced capacity of JKP Secretariat to deliver its mandate:* i) JKP Secretariat is enabled to support project implementation and coordination; ii) JKP Secretariat is enabled to promote exchange of experiences, knowledge-sharing and learning in the region.

**Improvement of the capacity of farmers to operate along the cassava value chain:** AICS will promote capacity development for extension officers' in Kilifi and Kwale counties, establish cassava demonstration, bulking plots and processing units and promote marketing of cassava products.

**Enhancement of the JKP Secretariat capacity to deliver its mandate:** AICS will provide specialistic support as well as equipment and functioning of the Secretariat. AICS will also promote the organization of a Go Blue Programme workshop to foster knowledge sharing among all stakeholders. Finally, a comprehensive Coastal Master plan will be developed to establish objectives, principles and actions that should be applied to ensure sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

### Envisaged interventions in Lamu County



In Lamu County, envisaged interventions to enhance fisheries co-management and strengthen fisheries value chains include support to Mbwajumwali and Amu BMUs and to local Small Scale Fishery producers through the promotion of skills development and capacity building activities; the construction of small-scale fishing infrastructure; the provision of value addition equipment and productive resources inputs both for the fishery and for the sea cucumber value chains; the development of labelling schemes to certify well-managed marine capture fisheries; the application of a Code of Conduct to enhance enforcement of relevant fisheries co-management regulations; the realization of community awareness raising activities on fish consumption, good handling practice and food safety; the participatory development of a Master Plan establishing the objectives, principles and actions needed to ensure the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries.





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Dried sea cucumber (top). An infrastructure for sea cucumber drying (bottom). 2021

Sea cucumbers represent an ideal resource for fishermen: they are easily accessible in shallow waters, their collection and processing methods require no specialized skills, and once the sea cucumber is processed (dried), it can be stored for many years. In Kenya, sea cucumbers have been harvested for at least a thousand years especially to be processed into a dry product called *bêche-de-mer*, which is considered a delicacy and a medicinal food in the Asian culture. It represents though an important source of livelihood to many households in the coast of Kenya as well as an important sector for the local economies. Through Go Blue, Aics aims at promoting the sustainable fishing of sea cucumbers, ensuring adherence to relevant international regulations and providing fishermen with the necessary skills and capacities to ensure environment friendly fishing practices.

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Infrastructural interventions, value addition equipment and productive resources inputs will be provided as follows:

**Mbwajumwali BMU:** provision of equipment for sustainable sea cucumber fishing; installation of machinery for sea cucumber processing; provision of ice boxes for boats;

**Amu BMU:** construction of n. 1 fish market; provision of fiber boats (8 mt length), ice boxes for boats and fishing gears.

Beneficiaries (Lamu County)

The number of direct beneficiaries in Lamu County is approximately 837:

- 834 members of target BMUs, local traders and women employed in fish processing (Amu - 468; Mbwajumwali - 366);
- 3 technical staff from the County Government benefiting from the participation into the Go Blue Programme workshops.

