

# Assessing the contribution of women to the production of blue foods in the western Indian Ocean (WIO) region;

## A case study of artisanal billfish fisheries on the Kenyan coast

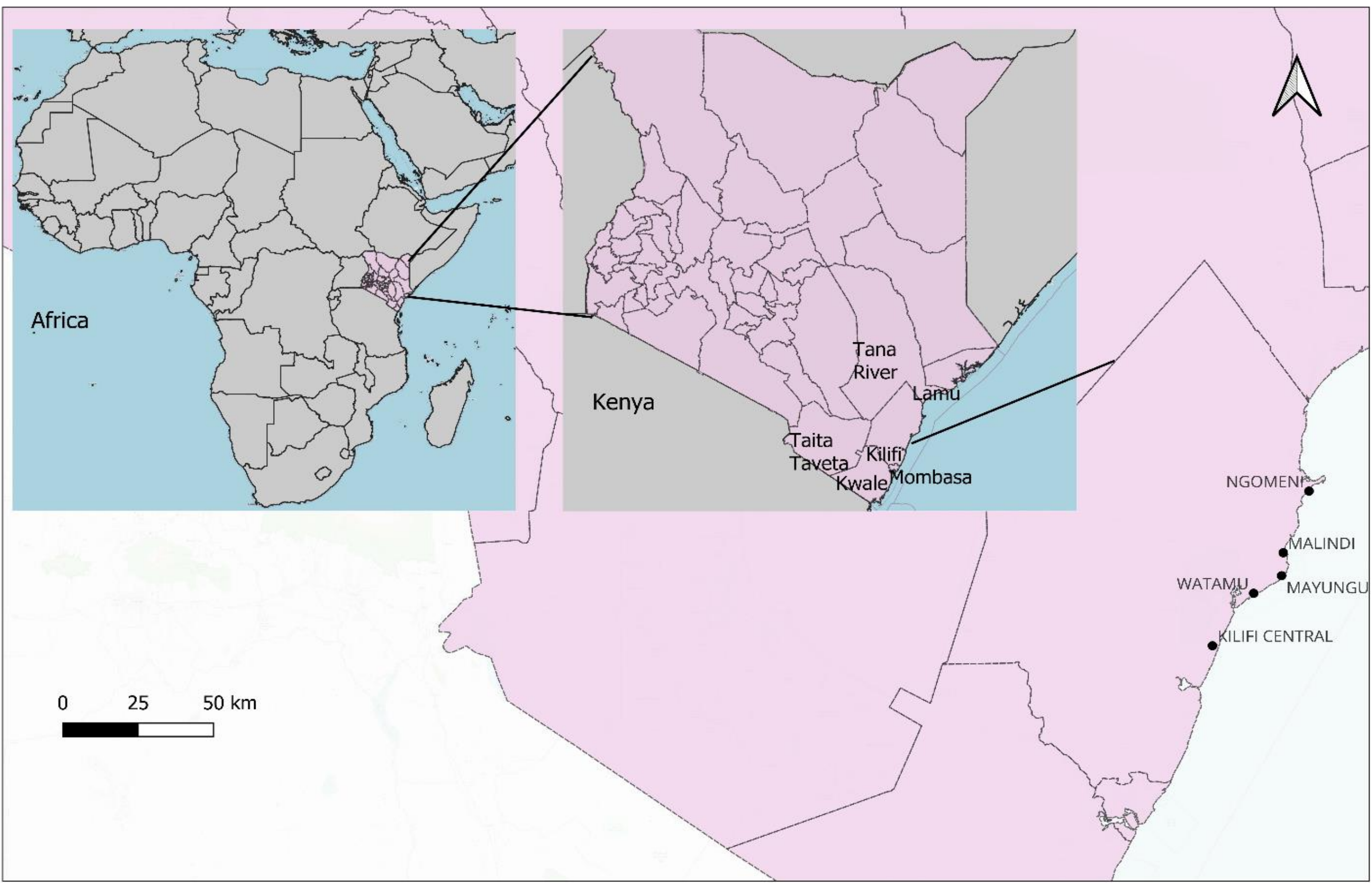
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### INTRODUCTION

- Blue foods refer to aquatic plants, fish, invertebrates, and algae sourced from freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- In Kenya, blue foods mainly consist of fish from freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- These foods are essential components in the diets and incomes of a considerable number of Kenyans, especially in the coastal and riparian communities.
- Billfish fisheries contribute to the availability of these blue foods on the Kenyan coast, which is part of the WIO region.
- There is insufficient information and data about the involvement of women in Artisanal Billfish Fisheries (ABF) in Kenya and the WIO region.

### STUDY LOCATION



### GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

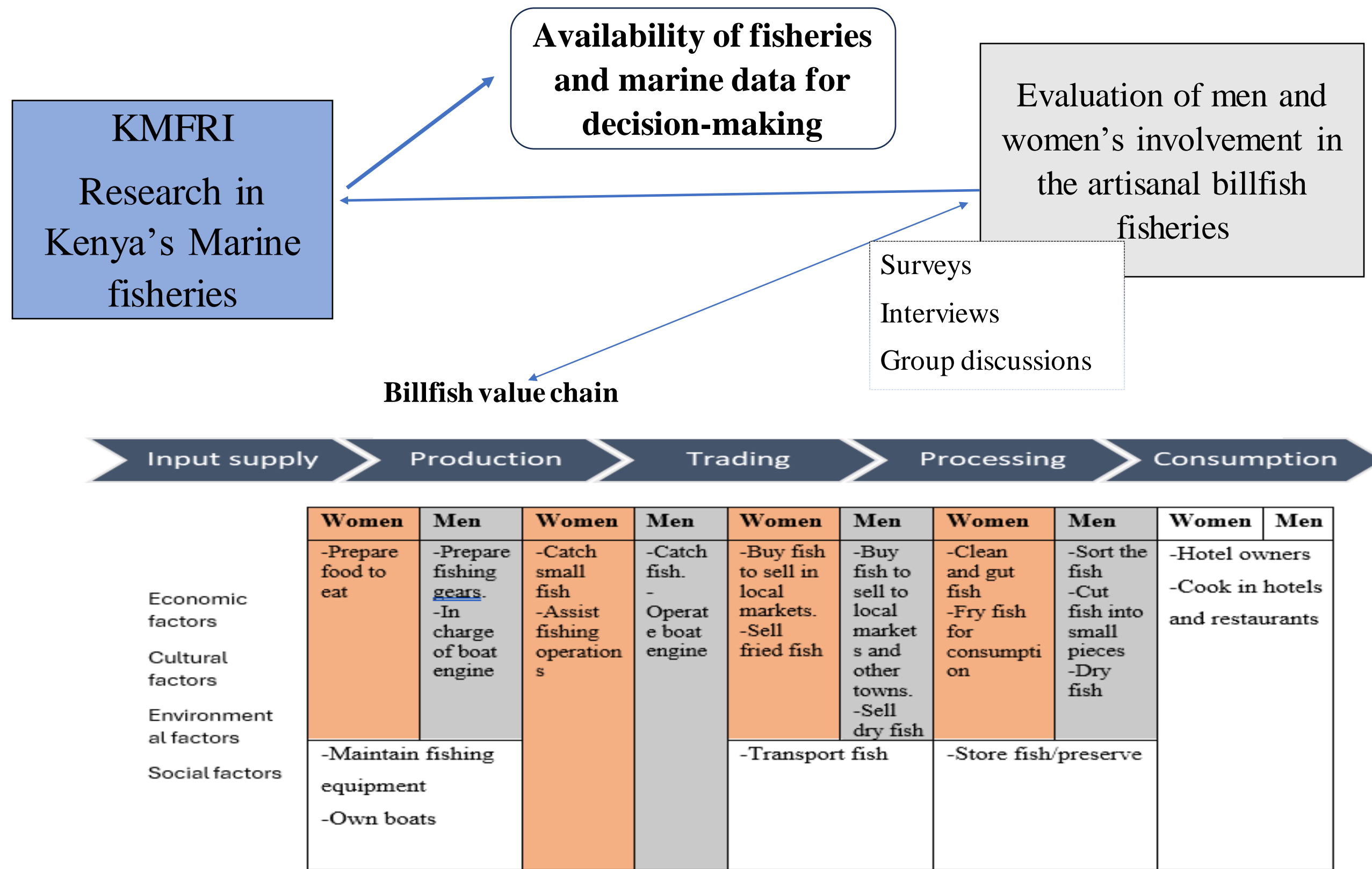
**Goal:** Enhance data and information on the involvement of women to the production of blue foods in the WIO region using artisanal billfish fisheries as a case study.

**Objectives:**

- 1.Characterization of women involved in artisanal billfish fisheries
- 2.Examining the distribution of women participating in billfish fisheries in Kilifi
- 3.Identifying the challenges and opportunities for women in billfish fisheries



### CONCEPTUAL CONTEXTUAL FRAMEWORK



### METHODS

Identification of participants	Data collection	Analysis	
		Qualitative	Quantitative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Snowballing-fishers and traders</li><li>Purposive sampling-Experts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Semi-structured interviews</li><li>Survey of closed and short open-ended questions</li><li>Group discussions</li><li>Ethnographic observation</li><li>Appreciative inquiry</li><li>Information from existing data sets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Content Analysis</li><li>-Themes</li><li>-Patterns</li><li>-Codes</li><li>Thematic Analysis</li><li>-Identify emerging themes</li><li>-Defining the themes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Descriptive statistics</li><li>-Frequencies</li><li>-Percentages</li><li>-Color coding</li><li>-Graphs</li><li>-Tables</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Graphs</li><li>Tables</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Graphs</li><li>Tables</li></ul>

### DATA COLLECTED

25 surveys with research scientists, lab analysts, fisheries officers, technical observers, & data enumerators.

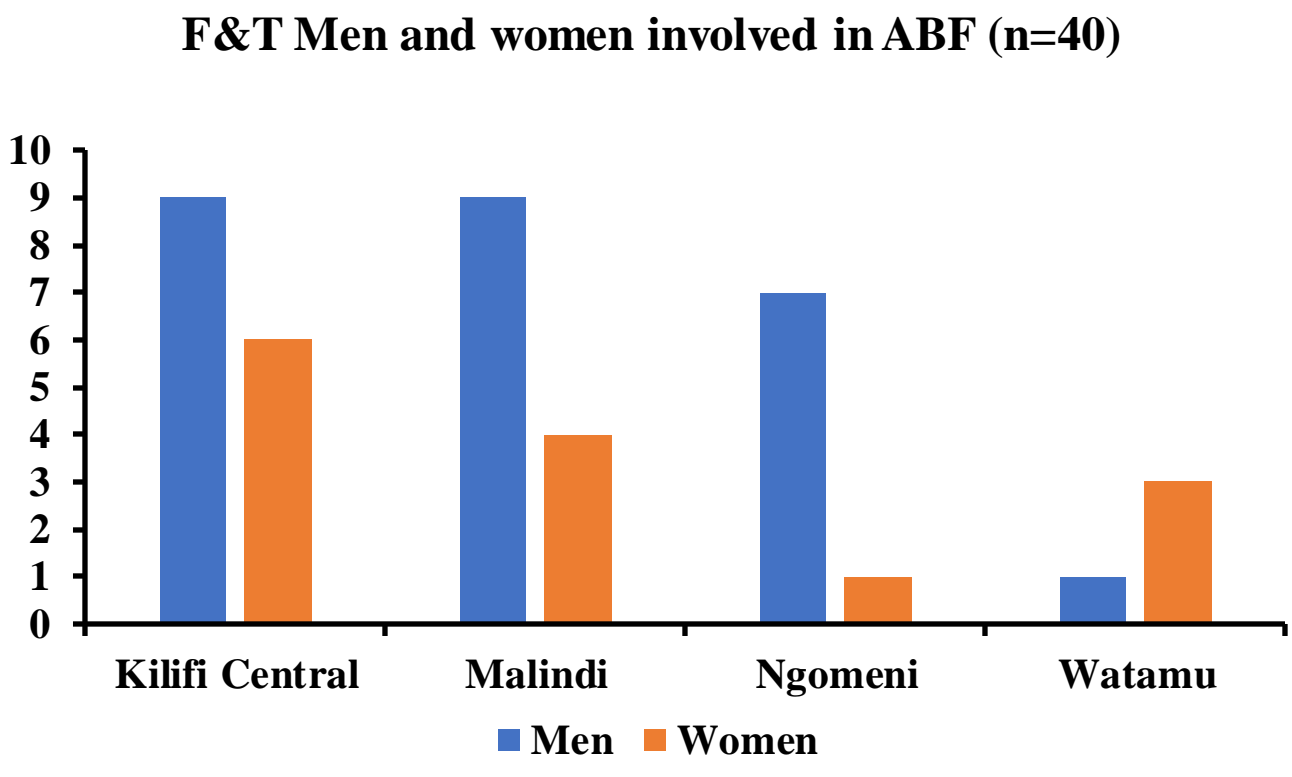
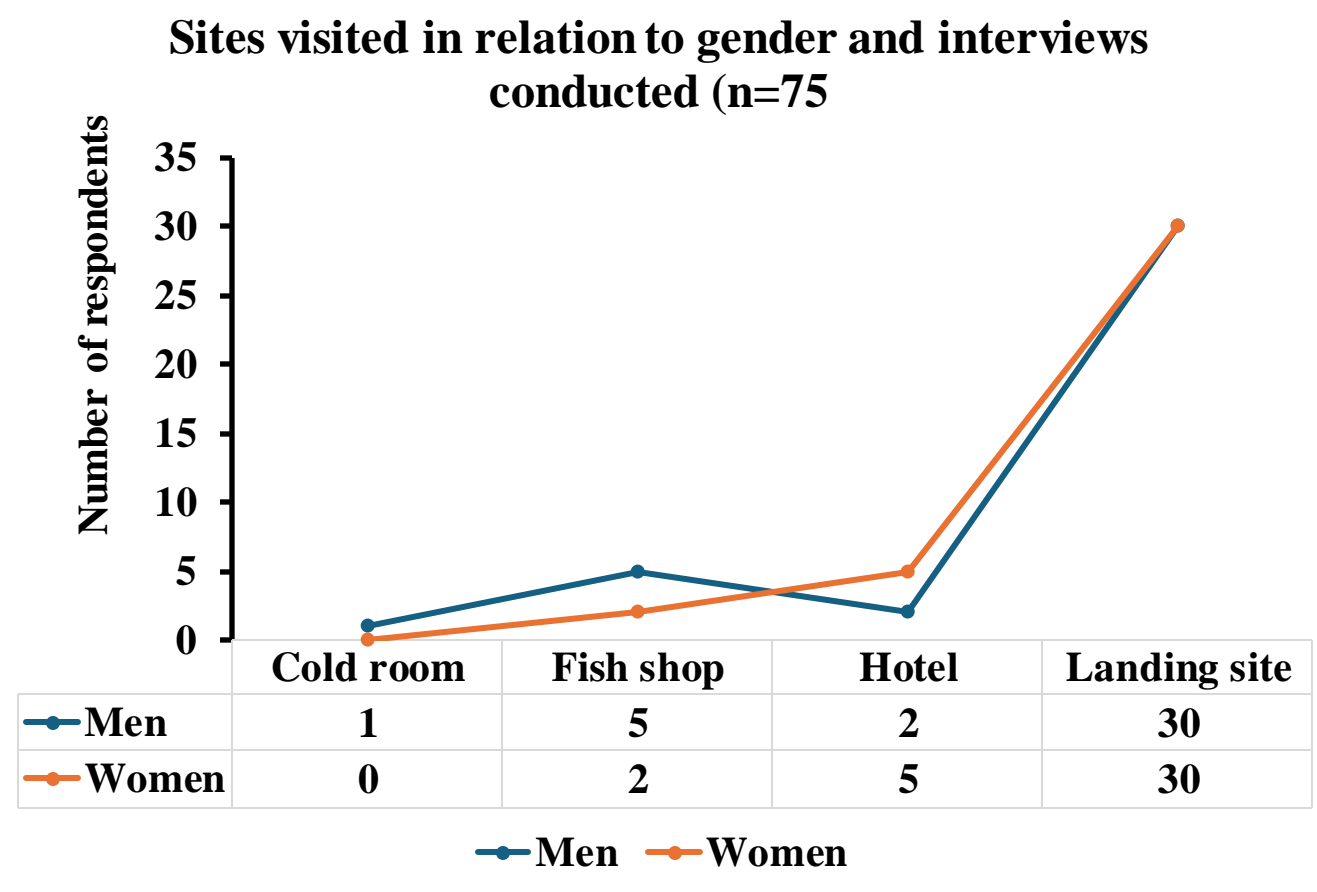
75 semi-structured interviews with fishers and traders (37 men, 38 women).

17 group discussions with fishers and traders.

Integration of Appreciative Inquiry and Ethnographic Participant observation.

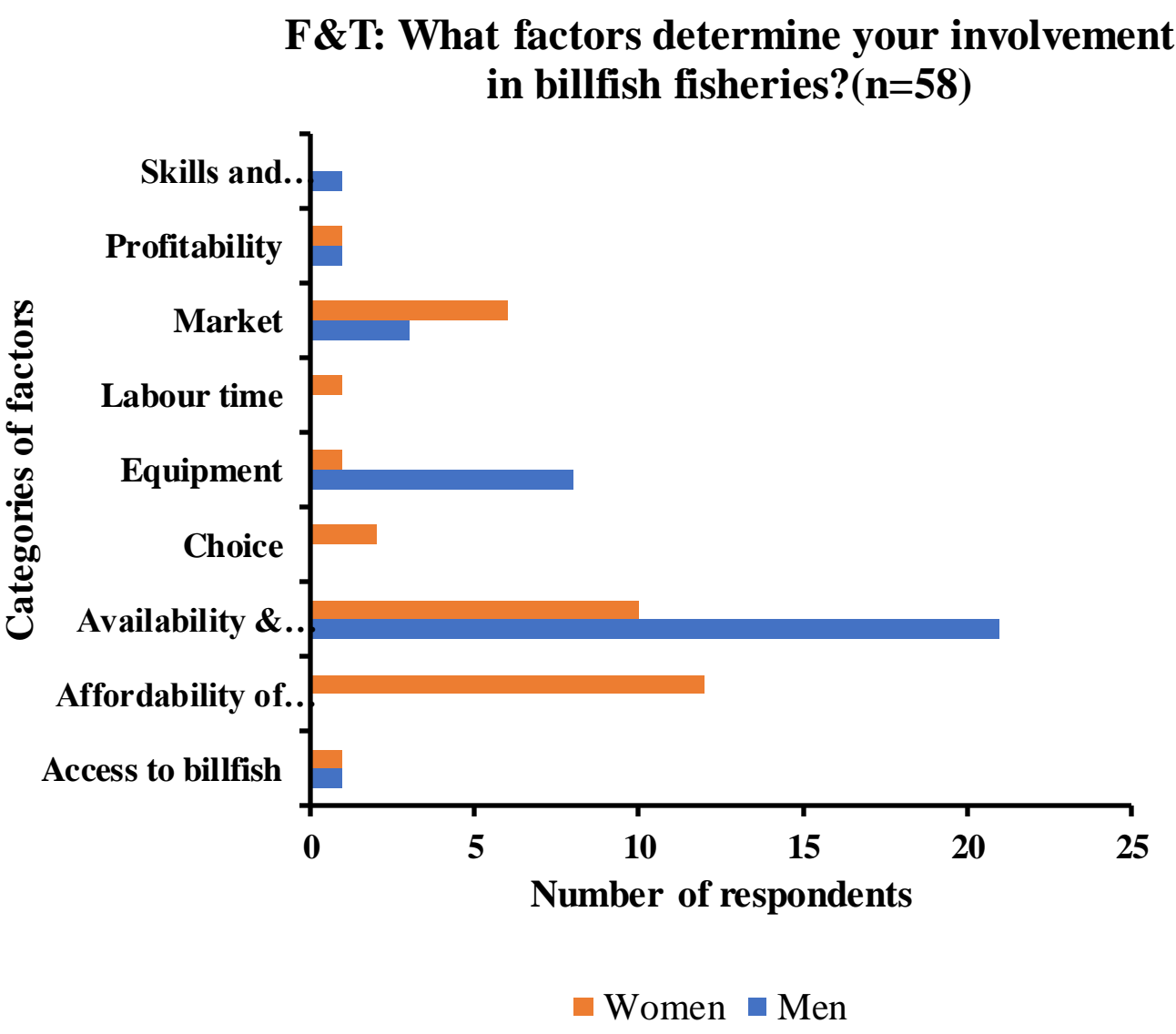


### RESULTS



F&T is Fishers and Traders

Categories of Challenges mentioned by Experts	(f) Men's involvement	(f) Women's involvement
Overfishing	1	-
Fishing Equipment	12	-
Skills	3	2
Knowledge	-	1
Preservation	2	2
/processing/Storage	-	-
Limited capital	2	6
Lack of market	2	1
Culture	-	1
Fish seasonality	-	3
Low catches	-	1
Total	22	17



### KEY FINDINGS

**OBJ 1:** Women play significant roles in trading, processing, and boat ownership of ABF

-Seasonal variations and appropriate fishing equipment influence billfish's availability and the stability of their prices. These factors also determine the level of men's and women's involvement in ABF.

-Customer preferences, skills, and appropriate fishing equipment also influence people's involvement in these fisheries.

**OBJ 2:** Active participation of women in ABF across Kenya's coast; highest numbers found in Kilifi Central and Malindi.

**OBJ 3:** While both men and women face constraints, each related to their roles, the women (mostly traders) additionally share the challenges of men (mainly fishers) because they rely on fishers to obtain fish, including billfishes.

-In an environment that empowers and engages women in fisheries management, they are inclined to explore various ABF activities beyond trading. Particularly, they may pursue roles such as shop and boat ownership.

### CONCLUSIONS

The study sheds light on the complex dynamics of gender roles in ABF along the Kenyan coast. While women actively participate in this industry, their involvement exhibits a marked variance across the value chain. Notably, women predominantly engage in the selling and processing of fish, with roles such as catching fish predominantly undertaken by men.