

Mariculture in Gazi Bay, Kenya

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Mariculture in Gazi Bay

Background

- Gazi is a small fishing village in the South coast of Kenya. The people of Gazi rely heavily on artisanal fishing as the main source of livelihood.
- However, due to increasing population, the pressure on the capture fisheries has escalated leading to fewer fish per fishing trip.
- The locals are too poor to afford motored boats and fishing gear to allow them to exploit the offshore fishery and so are not able to benefit from that resource.
- Instead, fishers from elsewhere, who have better boats and gears, benefit from this particular fishery which is also threatened due to an increase in demand. .

Gazi Bay



Development of mariculture project has been seen as an approach to reduce pressure on wild fisheries

Mariculture development in Gazi Bay

Site selection



Naturally bare areas like the above in mangrove forests are suitable for sustainable mariculture

Pond size measurements



Notice the measurement stakes in the foreground and middle ground and some mangroves in the background

Mariculture development in Gazi Bay

Pond construction



Feeder canal



Watch the mangrove area in which fish pond is constructed

Mariculture development in Gazi Bay

Completed pond



Apart from the project helping the local Gazi community have an alternative source of fish, it was hope that the project would also give for the ecosystem a chance to recover

Milk fish (*Chanos chanos*) has been chosen for the project whereas the focus is on local consumption