

Using gender to improve marine conservation and fisheries management

Elizabeth Matthews, PhD
Wildlife Conservation Society
Bronx, New York

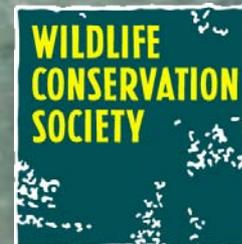


Photo by Matt Kieffer

Overview

Gender and fisheries study
Results
WCS and marine conservation
Implications to how we work



Gender and inequity

Gender ≠ women

Socially ascribed roles, responsibilities and opportunities associated with women and men, as well as the hidden power structures that govern relationships between them

Inequities → women



Gender and fisheries study

3 components

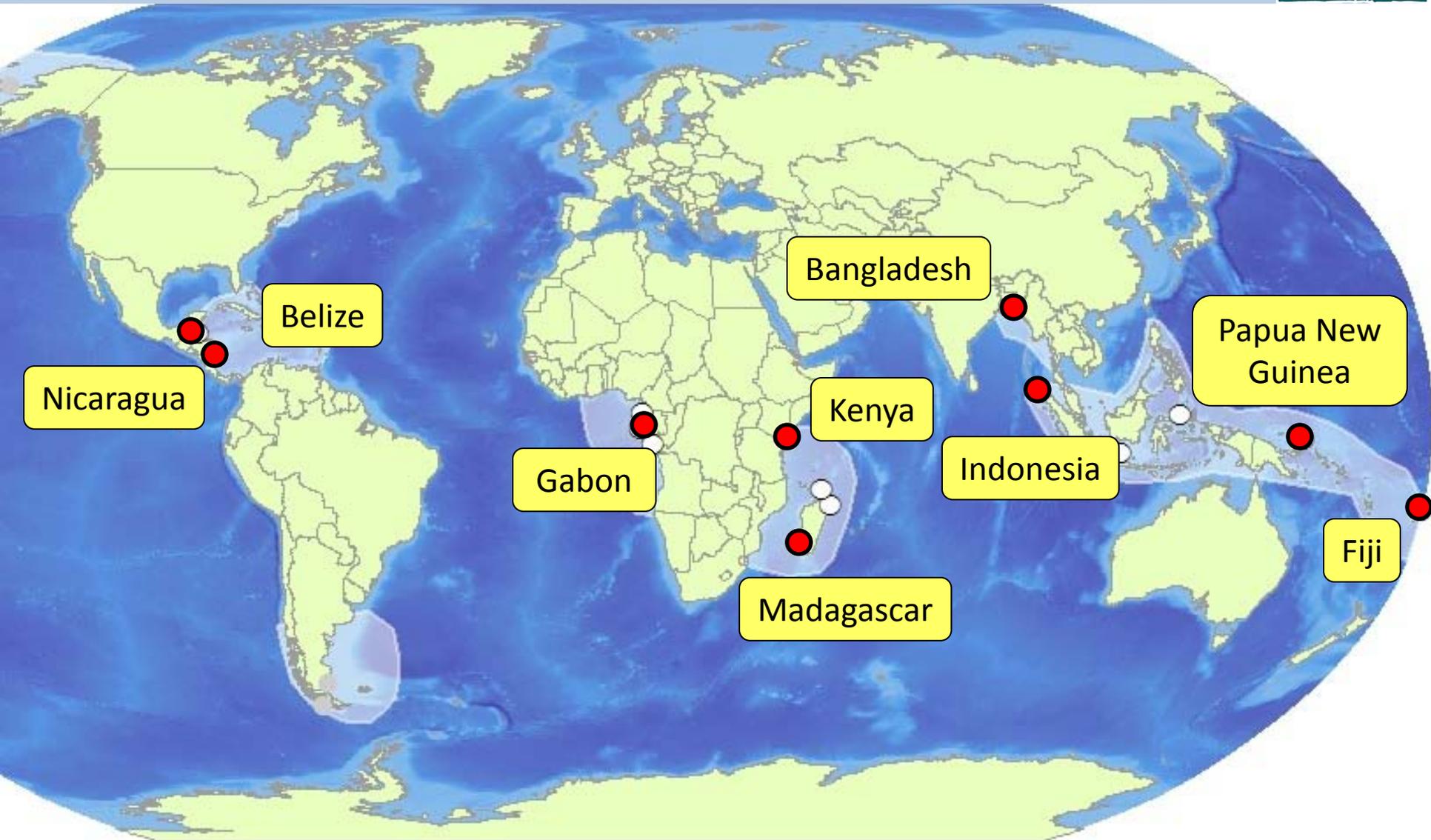
Global overview – NewCourse

Questionnaire of 9 WCS field programs - E. Britton

Field visits - NewCourse

Kenya, Madagascar, Aceh (Indonesia)

Questions to field programs



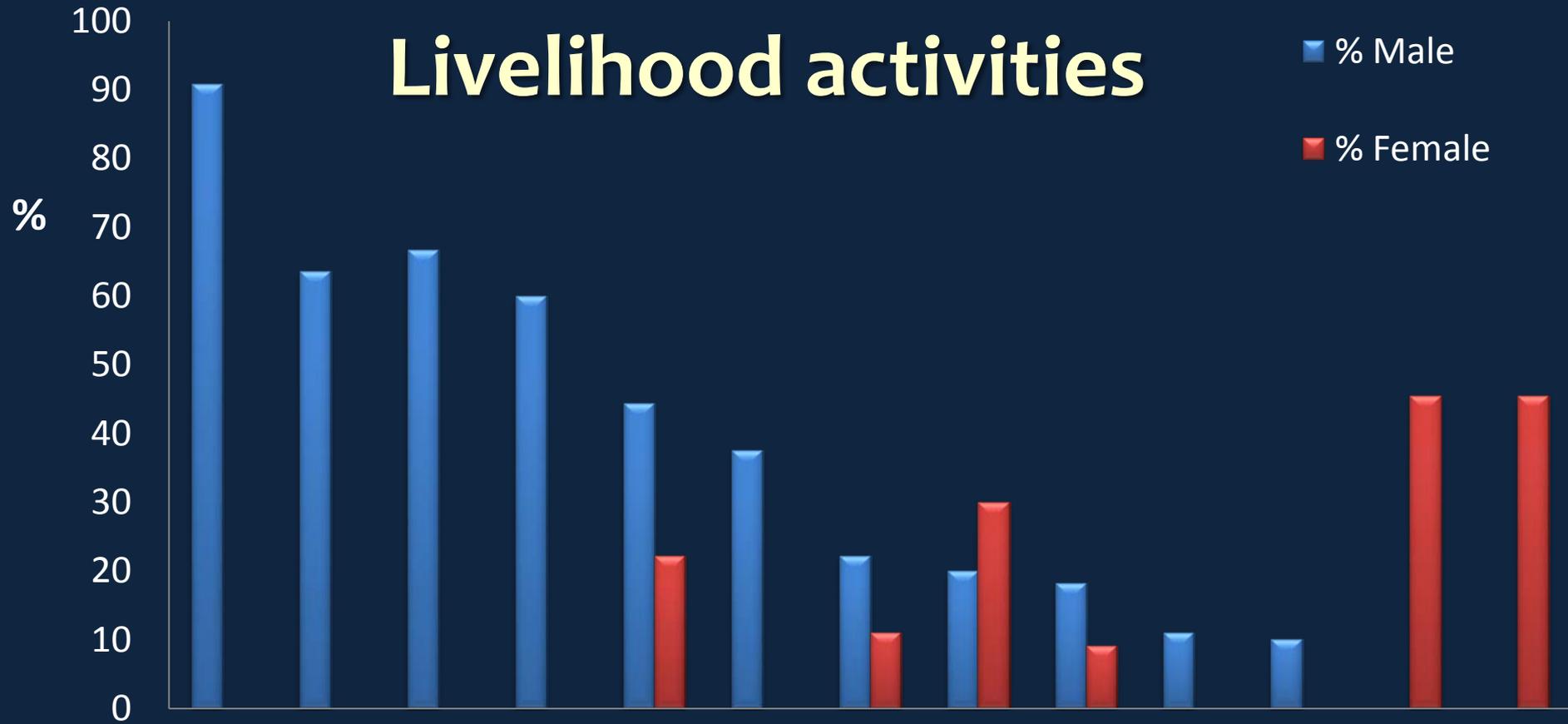
Results



Livelihood activities

■ % Male

■ % Female



fishing (commercial)

fishing (subsistence)

illegal activities

dive/tour guide

marketing (crops)

Hunting

farming (commercial)

marketing (seafood)

informal employment

salaried employment

farming (subsistence)

gleaning (intertidal)

processing (fish/seafood)

Defined gender roles



Kenya



Photos by Josh Cinner, JCU

Variable gender roles



Photo by Phaedra Dukakis

Madagascar

Inheritance, tenure, credit

Kenya

PNG

**Inheritance
patterns**

Patrilineal

Matrilineal

Land tenure

Men

Customary -
decisions on land
use dominated by
men

Access to credit

Men: banks

Men: banks

Women: micro-
credit

Women: micro-
credit

Decision-making in fisheries

Participation in decision-making

High

Low

♂ PNG
♂ Belize
♂ Kenya
♂ Gabon

♂ Madagascar
♂ Nicaragua
♂ Bangladesh
♂ Fiji
♂ Indonesia

♂ Men & women ♀

♀ Fiji
♀ Madagascar

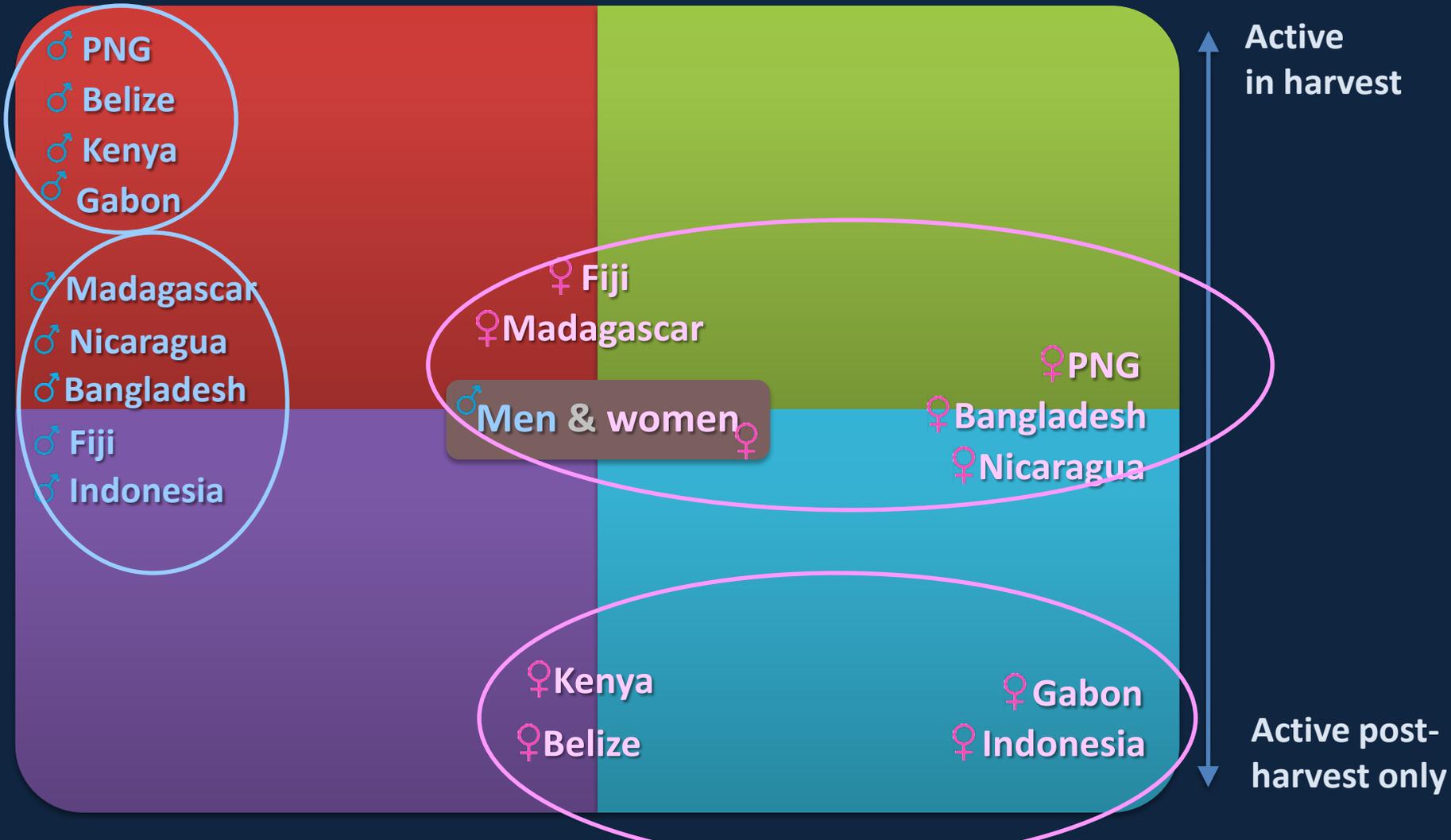
♀ PNG
♀ Bangladesh
♀ Nicaragua

♀ Kenya
♀ Belize

♀ Gabon
♀ Indonesia

Active
in harvest

Active post-
harvest only



WCS marine programs

WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY



Photo by Kara Stevens, WCS

Who do we work with?



Photos by Elizabeth Matthews, WCS



Fishermen's Associations - Madagascar

Mangrove crab collectors - PNG

A tale from Kenya

WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

WCS Kenya

Coral reef research

Climate change, resilience

Reduce fisheries impacts

Gear restrictions, reserves

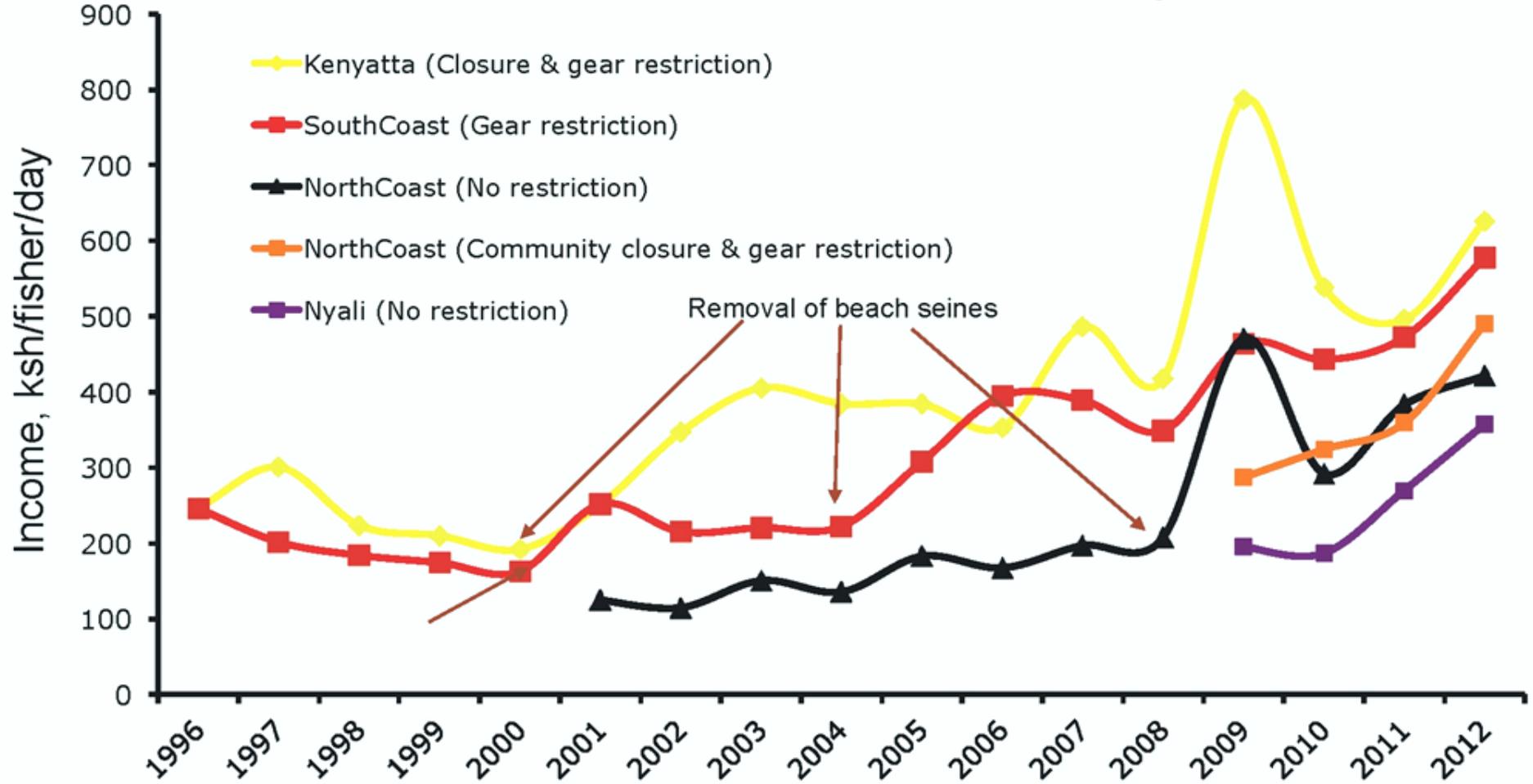
Management preferences

Fishers' Forum



Photo by Tim McClanahan, WCS

Fisher's income in southern Kenya



Muana's story



What else is happening?

Mama karangas
(female fish traders)

Access to fish ↓

Income ↓

Time spent ↑

Subtle biases

Use of terms: fishermen or fishers ?

A focus on fish (omits invertebrates, often collected by women)

Focus on managing the catch of fish

Gender balance, interests, expertise and comfort of office staff

Cultural norms determine who should interact with whom in village settings

Implications & questions

Do we understand our real impacts?

We have (subtle) biases

Focus on different species?

Different parts of value chain?

How do we empower women in:

- decision making processes

- income generation

- education

Health, nutrition, hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS



What could we do better?



Recognize biases and assumptions

Consider entire value chain

Improve decision-making processes

Broaden participation in governance

Build capacity – for everyone

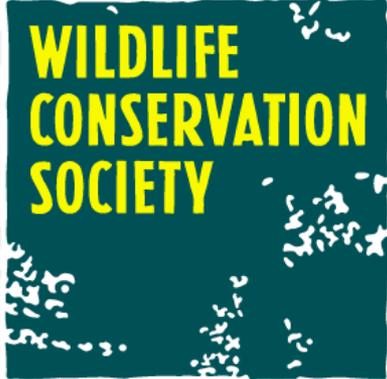
Empower communities; benefits

Forge new partnerships (health sector)



Photo by Matt Kieffer

A Gender Perspective on Securing Livelihoods and Nutrition in Fish-dependent Coastal Communities



www.wcs.org/genderfisheries