

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

### Special Edition of the *Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science*

**Theme:** *Livelihoods and Gender Dimensions in Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the WIO Region*

#### Overview

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are critical to coastal livelihoods in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. These fisheries generate employment and income not only through fishing itself but also through the entire fishery-based value chain. However, many people engage in fishing as a supplementary livelihood and are often not formally registered. Despite their significant contributions to local economies and community well-being, this informal nature of SSF activities leads to underrepresentation in official statistics and policies.

While most registered fishers are men, women are also deeply involved in activities like seaweed farming, shellfish collection, and various land-based livelihoods. Women often dominate post-harvest activities like trading, processing, and transportation and are crucial in pre-harvest activities like boat building, gear making, cooking, and retailing. These roles are vital but frequently overlooked, contributing to coastal communities' social, economic, dietary, and cultural aspects in ways that are not always measurable.

Challenges to SSF livelihoods are increasing due to the conflicting use of coastal areas for industrial, tourism, and urban development, environmental degradation, and climate change. Power asymmetries and land tenure systems can also exclude specific groups, such as migrants and women, from accessing land for processing and other essential activities. Gender dynamics in SSF are complex, with growing competition for fish commodities intensifying tensions between local traders and agents representing exporters or producers. These dynamics often exacerbate gendered inequalities, especially in the context of climate change and food security, where women play a crucial role.

#### Call for Contributions

We invite researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to submit their contributions to a special issue of the *Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science*, focusing on *Livelihoods and Gender Dimensions in Small-Scale Fisheries in the WIO Region*. Submissions may include original research and review articles. Contributions should address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- **Gender Relations in Fishing Communities:** Historical and contemporary perspectives on the roles of men and women in SSF.
- **Gendered Responses to Environmental and Climate Events:** How women and men in SSF respond to extreme environmental changes.
- **Men's and Women's Work in Fisheries:** Capacity building, labor relationships and opportunities in the fisheries, access to credit, training, and the role of technology in enhancing women's participation.
- **Equity, Equality, and Human Rights in Fisheries:** Men's and Women's access to resources, sea tenure, markets, and marketing resources.
- **Women's Well-being in Fisheries:** Issues related to food security, education, occupational health and safety, and gender-based violence in fishing communities.
- **Recognition of women's role in food security and nutrition:** Women's skills, constraints, and agency in supplying affordable, safe, and nutritious aquatic foods.
- **Women's Participation in Decision-Making:** The role of women in resource management and establishing autonomous organizations.
- **Gender-Sensitive Public Policies:** Recognition of women's needs and the inclusion of gender-transformative policies in SSF.

- **Gender Transformative Approaches to Development:** Strategies for promoting gender equity in coastal and fishing communities.

### Submission Guidelines

- All contributions must be in English and adhere to the submission guidelines of the [Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science](#).
- Manuscripts can be original research papers, reviews, or short communications.
- Submissions should clearly address one or more of the suggested themes related to livelihoods and gender in SSF.

This special edition is supported by the Norad-funded SAMAKI project, a collaboration between Norwegian partners (University of Tromsø, University of Bergen, and the Institute of Marine Research) and Tanzanian partners (University of Dar es Salaam, State University of Zanzibar, and Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute).

The Samaki project plans to organize a special session on gender and small-scale fisheries during the 13<sup>th</sup> WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, which will be held in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2025. Selected accepted papers will be presented in the special session.

### Important Dates

Activity	Deadline
Submission of abstracts	30 November 2024
Submission of full papers	31 March 2025
Online publication	31 October 2025

Please submit abstracts and full papers to: [jfwoiso@yahoo.com](mailto:jfwoiso@yahoo.com)

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We look forward to receiving your valuable contributions to advance our understanding of the vital roles of livelihoods and gender dimensions in SSF in the Western Indian Ocean region!

For more information or any inquiries, please contact [jfwoiso@yahoo.com](mailto:jfwoiso@yahoo.com)