

ASSESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MARITIME
INSECURITY IN KENYA: THE CASE OF LAKE VICTORIA, HOMA BAY
COUNTY

by

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APPROVAL

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In accordance with Daystar University Policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

ASSESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MARITIME
INSECURITY IN KENYA: THE CASE OF LAKE VICTORIA HOMA BAY COUNTY

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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I am grateful to the LORD for he has guided me on my academic journey. Without Him, I would not have had the strength to complete the work and enjoy the experience.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL	II
DECLARATION	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	VIII
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	IX
ABSTRACT	X
DEDICATION	XI
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY	1
Introduction	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	7
Purpose of the Study	9
Objectives of the Study	9
Research Questions	10
Justification of the Study	10
Significance of the Study	11
Assumptions of the Study	11
Scope of the Study	11
Limitations and Delimitations of the Study	12
Definition of Terms	13
Summary	13
CHAPTER TWO	14
LITERATURE REVIEW	14
Introduction	14
Theoretical Framework	14
General Literature Review	20
Empirical Literature Review	30
Conceptual Framework	33
Summary	35
CHAPTER THREE	37
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	37

Introduction	37
Research Design	37
Population	38
Target Population	39
Sample Size	39
Sampling Technique	41
Data Collection Instruments	42
Types of Data	45
Data Collection Procedures	46
Pretesting	48
Data Analysis Plan	50
Ethical Consideration	51
Summary	52
CHAPTER FOUR	53
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION	53
Introduction	53
Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation	53
Summary of Key Findings	61
Summary	62
CHAPTER FIVE	64
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	64
Introduction	64
Discussions of Key Findings	64
Conclusion	68
Recommendations	69
Areas for Further Research	70
REFERENCES	71
APPENDICES	80
Appendix A: Participants Introductory Letter	80
Appendix B: Consent Form	81
Appendix C: Focus Group Discussions Guide	83
Appendix D: Interview Guide	84
Appendix E: Letter of Introduction	85
Appendix F: Ethical Clearance Report	86
Appendix G: Research Permit	87
Appendix H: Anti-Plagiarism Report	88

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: A Map of Homa Bay County.....7
Figure 2.1: Crime Triangle.....20
Figure 2.2: Conceptual Framework.....34

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMUs	Beach Management Units
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CFCLR	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources
ISPS	International Ship and Port Facility Security
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported
KCGS	Kenya Coast Guard Service
NGAOs	National Government Administration Officers
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOLAS	Safety of Life at Sea
SPSS	Statistic Package for Social Science
UNCCC	UN Convention on Climate Change
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea

ABSTRACT

Maritime security is one of the latest axioms of international relations and diplomacy. It is a term that has drawn attention to new challenges and rallies support for tackling them. The study assessed socio-economic factors contributing to maritime insecurity along the Homa Bay shores of Lake Victoria. This study objectives were: to assess the current status of maritime insecurity at Lake Victoria in Homa Bay County; to find out whether illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing is a form of maritime insecurity at Lake Victoria in Homa Bay County; and to examine the socio-economic factors contributing to maritime insecurity at Lake Victoria in Homa Bay County. The researcher adopted institutional and routine activity theories as theoretical framework. An exploratory research design that incorporated a qualitative research approach were used in this study. The target population were individual and organisations / institutions from Homa Bay Lake Region site. The study used purposive sampling technique and the principle of saturation to obtain a sample size of 36 participants -12 participants for in-depth interviews and 4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) of 6 members each. The study adopted qualitative interviews, FGDs, and observation as data generation tools. The study revealed that the main IUU fishing issues in Lake Victoria, Homa Bay County are unauthorized fishing, criminal gangs and pirates, encroachment by foreign fishers, employment of minors/children as fishers, use of prohibited gears and fishing

methods, and fishing young, endangered and protected fish species. Moreover, fish stocks in Lake Victoria, Homa Bay county are under threat from IUU fishing. The study recommends that there is a need to have more patrol officers patrolling the waters because this will keep illegal fishers and criminal gangs from roaming freely.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to God because through Him, all things are possible. Secondly, I dedicate this work to my irreplaceable Father and brothers, Mr. Caesar Handa, Ms. Lucy Shazima, Mr. Patrick Handa, and Mr. Raphael Ngesa. The love and support was impeccable.

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