Applying a gender lens to the Interactive Governance Framework for Small-Scale Fisheries: Kiribati as a case study

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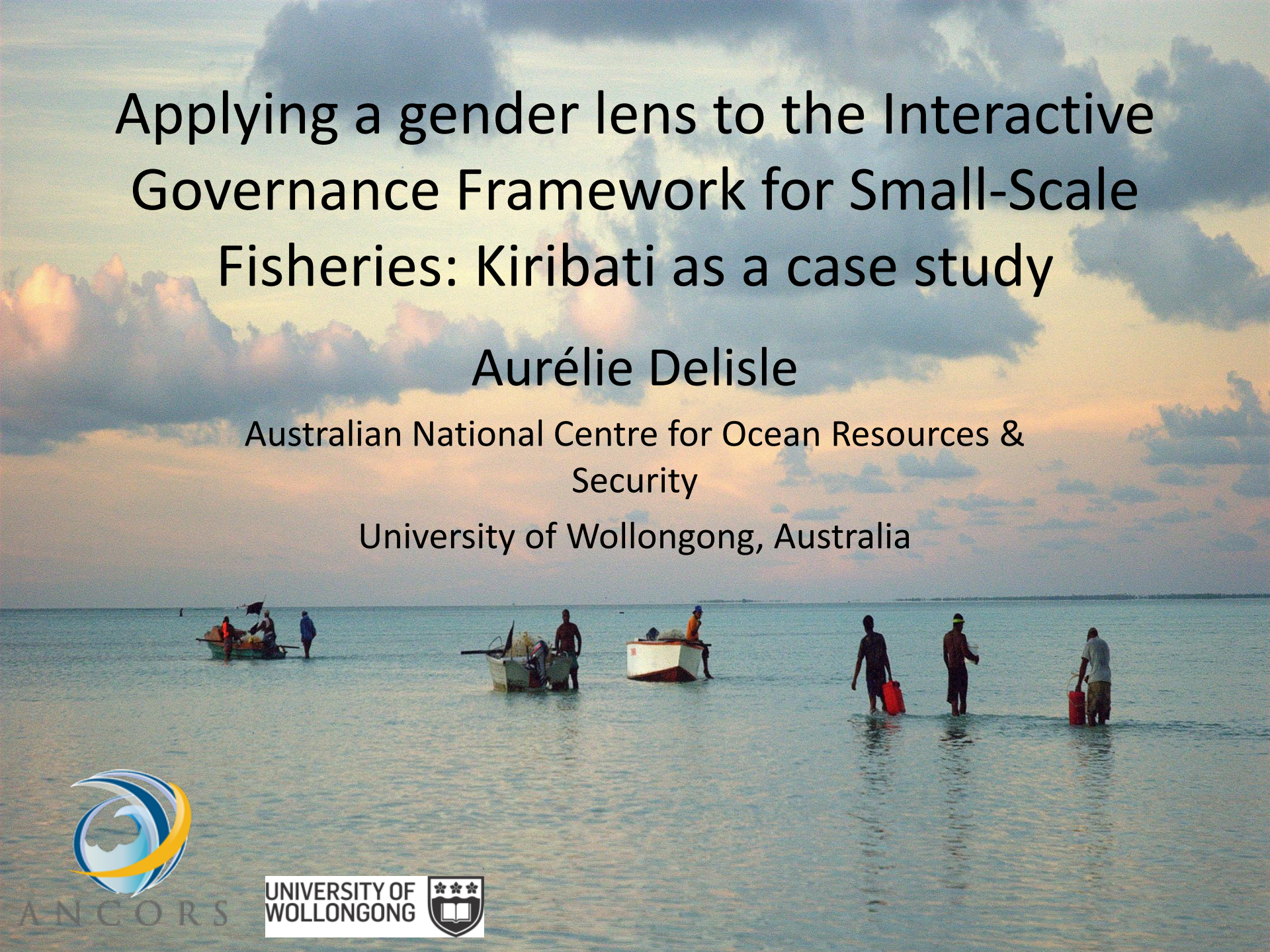
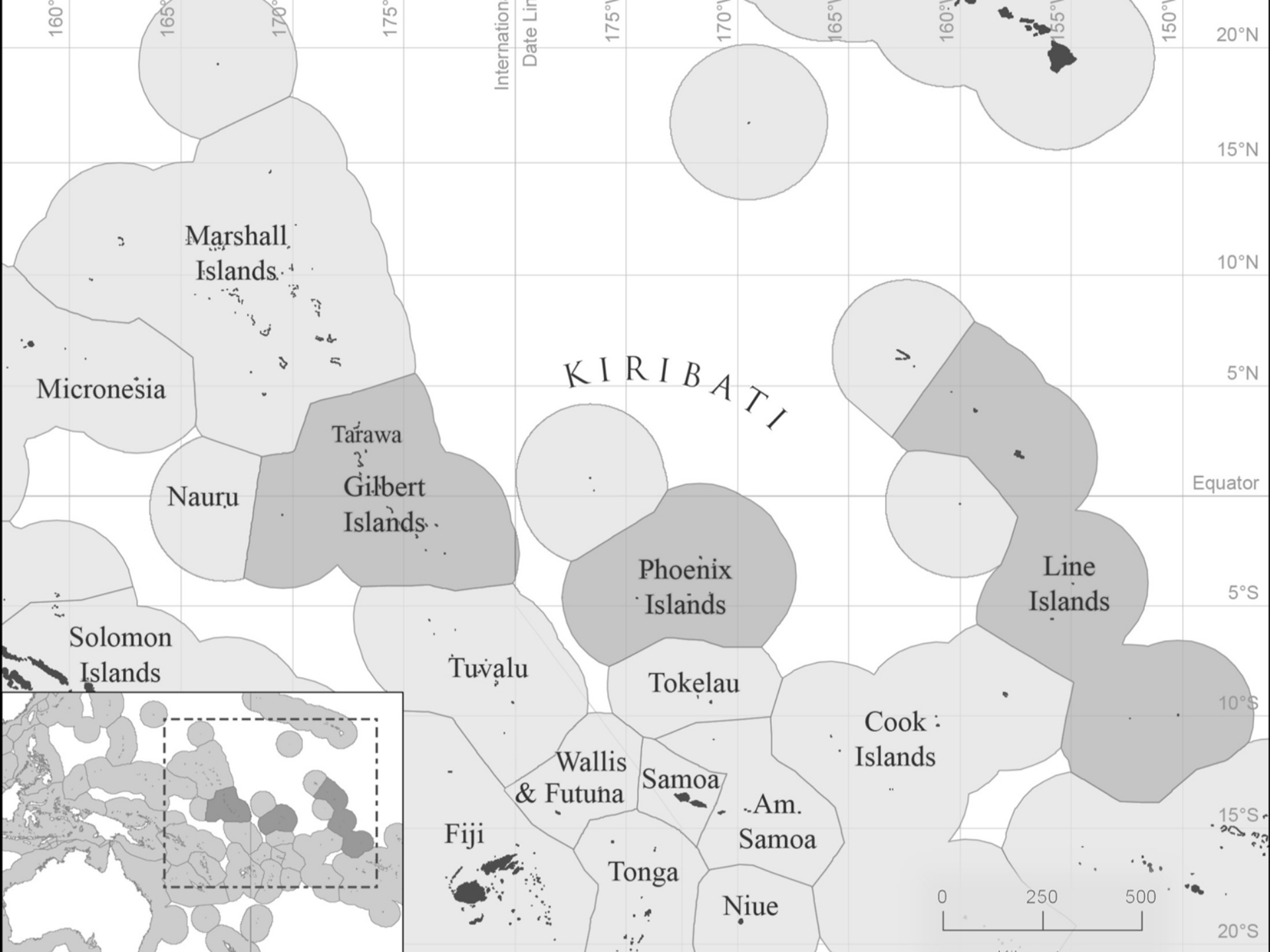


ANCORS

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The project

- “Improving community-based fisheries management in Pacific Island Countries”
- Funding: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).
- Collaborative project:
  - MFMRD in Kiribati
  - Secretariat of the Pacific Community
  - University of Wollongong
  - WorldFish (activities in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)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Line Islands
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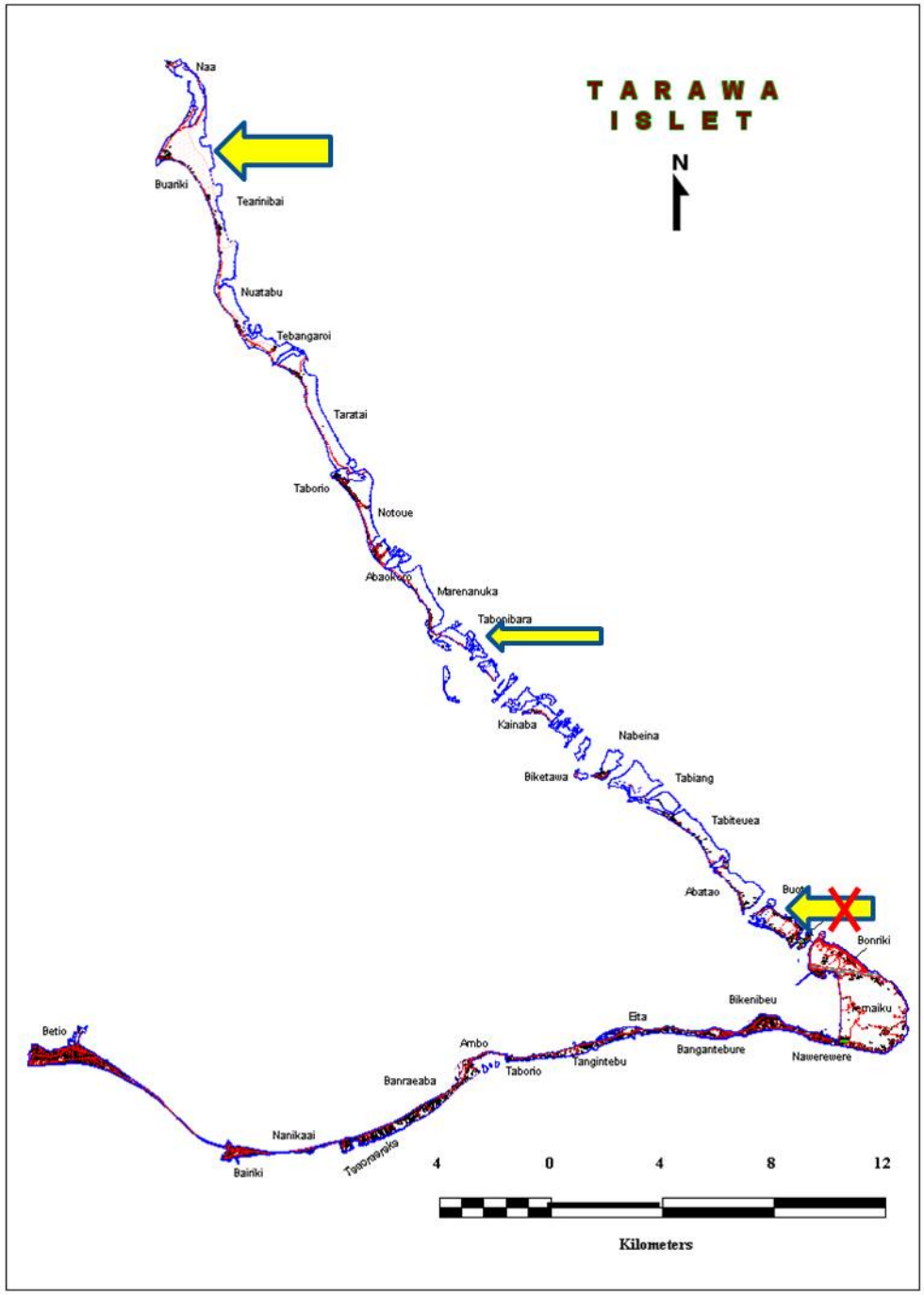
Precursors of the project

- Decline of coastal fisheries stocks
  - Most islands
- Conflicts between communities
  - Mainly close to urban centre
- National Fisheries policy
  - Emphasis on coastal fisheries
  - Involvement of communities
    - Small note on involving men, women and youths.

Community-based fisheries management in Kiribati

- May 2014: start of project to support development of Kiribati Community Based Approaches to Fisheries Management.
- 2 Local SPC staff recruited, working with MFMRD.
- 2 pilot sites (Gilbert Islands only)
  - North Tarawa, Butaritari
- 5 villages: Bikati, Tanimaiaki, Kuma, Buariki, Tabonibara

Map ritari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LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

Interactive Governance Framework

- Transition: Hierarchical to co-governance
- Describe
  - Governing system
  - Systems-to-be-governed (Natural & social)
  - Interactions

    What can the governing system do?
- What about gender?

Interactive Governance Framework

- Meta-order: People's principles, values, worldviews
- System to be governed:
  - Social, cultural, economic, political, institutional
- Governing system:
  - Institutions, rules, policies…
- Governing interactions:
  - Participation, decision-making, sharing, capacity development

Adapted from Sowman 2015

System(s)-to-be-governed: Natural

- Atoll environment
- High marine and coastal diversity (species, habitats…)
- Low value subsistence fisheries
- Environmental decline (habitat loss, pollution…)
- Climate change

System(s)-to-be-governed: Human

- Multi-species fisheries (≠ targets)
- Across range of habitats
- Multi-gear (≠ men and women)
- High participation (80%, men, women, children)
- High population growth
- Urbanisation
- Varying degree of dependency at HH level
- Decline in respect of traditional leaders
- Conflicts: informal vs formal rule settings
- Gender relations

Gender and system to be governed

- Different use of seascape, gears
- Different knowledge level
- Traditional gender roles
- Need to understand gender dynamics
  - Community, HH (use of WorldFish tools)
- Potential barriers for gender mainstreaming in outer islands

Governing system

- MFMRD
- MELAD
- Fisheries Act
- Fisheries Management plans
- Environmental Act
- Local Government Act
- Island Council
- Bye-laws?
- Unimwane
- Church
- Customary Marine Tenure?

Gender and governing system

- No gender focal points in Ministries
- Low understanding of gender in Ministries
- Many gender-blind policies, plans
- Little research on women's involvement in fisheries
- Island and village level: men have traditional decision-making role

Governing Interactions

- Top-down, limited engagement, scientific
- If engagement: often with men only (Island Council and Unimwane)
- Transition to co-governance:
- All community groups to be engaged with
- Sex-disaggregated data
- CBFM village committees include women and youths (4 out 5)

Gender and governing interactions

- Need increased staff capacity
- Revise engagement strategy
- Build capacity of all community members to participate
- Raise awareness of community leaders on benefits of including women

Ways forward

- Need time to change perceptions about gender studies in fisheries
- Co-governance transition highlights principles for potential gender integration into work practices
- Push for gender mainstreaming from national government: in practice?
- SSF Guidelines and “New Song”

Thank you
Kom rabwa