# Mombasa (Kenya)

Approximately 8% of Kenya's population lived along the coast in 2014 (Mahongo & Mwaipopo, 2015: 15). The 2009 National Housing and Population Censuses estimates that 32% of Kenya's population was living in urban areas (United Nations Human Settlement Programme, 2013: 5). According to Hope (2012:7), the main drivers of Kenya's rapid urbanization and urban growth include natural population growth, rural-urban migration as well as several other variables, such as refugees and asylum seekers. Population growth and urban growth is associated with having a positive impact on economic growth; however, it is also accompanied by many challenges.

Kenya's coastal zone has the highest percentage of grassland in its coastal area, as well as the second-highest percentage of shrubland cover. Compared to the other mainland countries in the region, Kenya's level of transformation is third lowest at just under 12% of its coastal zone, slightly below the consolidated regional figure of 13%.

According to Cesar, Ekbos and Nyangena (2014: 1-3), the main environmental challenges that Kenya's faces include forest depletion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, water degradation, insufficient waste management and pollution, as well as climate variability and change. The main reasons behind Kenya's environmental problems include the high population growth at the coasts and associated pressures on scarce natural resources. Other significant factors include rapid urbanization as well as a rapid economic growth that is mainly driven by the tourism and agricultural sector, growing infrastructure and increasing energy demand (Cesar et al., 2014: 5). The population has been associated with marine litter. The primary sources of marine litter are reported to be beach recreation (66%), shipping(14%), dumping and surface run-off from urban areas.

For Mombasa Kenya, Ochanda (2017) indicate that the impacts of sea-level rise are likely to be felt beyond coastal and national boundaries. Activities such as infrastructure, tourism, aquaculture and agriculture are likely to be negatively affected due to rising sea level. For instance, in an optimistic scenario under RCP 2.6, a percentage of 25% of the Mombasa District will be inundated. Under the pessimistic scenario of RCP 8.5, the Island city of between 50% will not be available by 2030 and 71% for Lamu island inundated. This rise would also result in losses exposure of 6.4 Billion USD in Mombasa and affect 7% of the population in the Tana Delta, and an area of about 481km2 could be lost between 2000 and 2050 (Ericson and others, 2006; Halo, 2015: 186).