

Swahili names for fish, animals and Coastal “things”.

Samaki ya maji ya chumvi- salt water fish

shark	papa
stingray	taa, tua
tarpon	chache
dorab/herring	kasumba panga
cat-fish	fumi
eel	mkunga
gar-fish	mutumbo, sambereru
barracuda	tengesi
red soldier fish	kifoovoo, foofoo
sucker fish	chaza
rock cod	tewa
caranx, jack	koli koli
golden caranx	kotwe
giant caranx	karambesi
pompano	nisessi
5 finger jack	pandu
rainbow runner	kilualua
black runner	kilualua nyusi
queenfish	pandu majasi
dolphin fish	falusi
mullet	mkundaji
spade fish	chembu
scavenger	chole
snapper	tembu
yellow snapper	kitambue
grunt	futi
king (blue) parrotfish	kele
parrotfish	pono
bonito	sahaywa
tunny fish or tuna	jodari
king fish	nguru
wahoo	nguru
sail fish	suli suli
marlin	sansuri
trigger fish	tundui, chale
squid	mzia
octopus	pwesa
mackerel bait	oona
sardine	simu
anchovy	kombo
prawn	kamba mdogo
mullet (bait)	mkisi

half-beak	tchutchungi
crab	kaa
crayfish	kamba wa mtoni

Samaki ya maji baridi- fresh water fish

Lake Victoria lung fish	mamba, lamba
Lake Tanganyika tiger fish	kibebe
Athi River rhino fish	matonzi, kambale
Athi River barbus	kasimba (Mzima Springs)
Lake Victoria butter-fish	sire, nembe, nchere (Athi River, Tana River)
Fresh water cat fish	setuntundu
Nile perch	mputa
tilapia	mbiru (Lake Victoria), ngege (Swahili)

Coastal names around Mombasa + bits and pieces

Mombasa Island	Mvita
cave	shimo, as in Shimo la tewa
beach	pwani, ufuko
reef	miamba
sand	mchanga
sea	bahari
ocean	bahari
coral	marijani
sea urchin	mwanamisi
wave	kivimbi
North monsoon	Kaskazi
South monsoon	Kusi
high tide	maji kujaa
low tide	maji kupwa
wind	upepu
ship	meli
boat	mashua
dhow	jahazi
canoe	ngalawa
harbour	bandari
jetty	gati
mooring	malezi
anchor	nanga
rope	kamba
pole (for punting in canoes)	upondo
oar	kasia
paddle	kafi
coconut	mnazi

baobab
mango
maize
sugar cane
roof thatching
millipede
centipede
lizard
mangrove
ferry (as in Likoni)
fishing rod
fishing line
fishing hook
bait
spear gun
cart
railway engine

mbuyu
mwembe
mahindi
miwa
makuti (from coconut palm leaves)
jongoo
tandu
mjusi
mkandaa
kivuko
mwanzi
mshipi
ndoana
chambo
bunduki ya mkuki
gari, as in hamali cart
gari ya mosi

Wild animals

elephant
rhino
lion
leopard
cheetah
hippo
crocodile
buffalo
zebra (Burchell's)
zebra (Grevy's)
giraffe
hyena
wild dog
caracal
wild cat
civet
genet
mongoose
dwarf mongoose
honey badger
otter
aard wolf
jackal
bat-eared fox
baboon

ndovu, tembo
kifaru
samba
chui
duma
kiboko
mamba, ngwena
nyati
punda milia
kanka
twiga
fisi, nyangou
mbwa mwitu
samba mangu
paka pori
fungo
kanu
kicheche
kitafe
nyegere
fisi maji
fisi ndogo
bweha
bweha masigio
nyani

monkey
colobus
bush baby
hyrax
ant-bear
pangolin
porcupine
cane rat
hare
squirrel
hedgehog
warthog
bush pig
eland
roan antelope
sable antelope
orxy
greater kudu
lesser kudu
waterbuck
wildebeest
hartebeest
topi
sitatunga
impala
bushbuck
reedbuck
gerenuk
Grant's gazelle
Thomson's gazelle
grey duiker
red duiker
blue duiker
oribi
steenbok
dik-dik
klipspringer

Domestic animals

sheep
cow
goat
dog
cat
horse

tumbili
mbega
komba
perere
muhanga
kakakuona
nungu
ndezi
sungura
kindi, kidiri
kalunguyeye
ngiri
nguruwe
pofu
korongo
pala hala
choroa
tandala kubwa
tandala ndogo
kuro
nyumbu
kongoni
nyamera
nzohe
swala pala
pongo
tohe
swala twiga
swala granti
swala tomi
nsya
funo
paa
taya
tondoro
dikidiki
mbuzi mawe

kondoo
ng'ombe
mbuzi
mbwa
paka
farasi

donkey
chicken
duck
pig
pigeon

punda
kuku
bata
nguruwe
njiwa