**MIKO CONTINENTAL CASE STUDY**

**Miko** is located in the South West of the Indian Ocean. The coastline of **Miko** from the North to the South is around 560 km. The northern part of **Miko** is well developed while the Southern part is largely inaccessible and less developed.The coastal region is home to just 20% of the country’s population and more than half the coastal population are in the commercial port city of **chata.**

**Economy of Miko**

The country has largely built its economy on rich farmland, tourism in its capital city, **Fola**, which serves as a regional hub in telecommunications. Fisheries access agreements with over a dozen individual countries have generated significant revenues. Thus, fisheries are considered as the 4th most important sector in the country’s economy. Despite several years of reports from the Department of Fisheries, the parent Ministry of Fisheries only began to appreciate that the fisheries sector was in disarray when local fishers begun travelling very far and continuously declining catches.

**THE COASTAL TOWNS**

**Miko** has three smaller villages and suburbs: **Abla**, **Obax** and **Ruva**. **Abla is** in the middle of the coastal belt in the country’s main commercial port and trade centre. It is a bustling trade centre of nearly 400,000 people. The port serves the interior of the country and neighbouring countries. **Abla** is served by road and rail links. The city has grown rapidly in the past 20 years and despite its prosperity has outgrown its infrastructure. Only a fraction of the population is served by the central sewerage works. As a result of *ad hoc* drainage systems elsewhere, the creeks and remnant mangroves behind the port have become heavily polluted with untreated sewage. The City Council engineers are more concerned with the shoring up the crumbling seawalls that line the coast road, the main transport axis within the city.

**Obax** is a South West suburb. It is a major commercial fishing port and home to several fish processing factories. The industry supports around 1200 workers, down from over 6000 in its heyday. Nowadays the factories are often quiet as catches by the domestic fleet have declined and increasing quantities of fish and shrimp are being exported for processing elsewhere.

**Ruva** is in the further South of the coastal belt. It is a quiet village of just 6000 people but its historic buildings and ruined fort testify to its former importance as a trading town. Traders shifted their emphasis to the slightly north. There was a diversity of mangroves in the Delta area of **Ruva** **River**. This river once supported rich shrimp production. The main economic activities of **Ruva** are seaweed farming, small scale farming and fishing. Poverty is high in this area owing to lack of adequate employment opportunities and dwindling fish stocks. The increasing poverty is now causing havoc:

* illegal wanton destruction of mangroves,
* use of illegal fishing gear and
* rise in the level of crimes which is impacting on the commercial centres of **Obax** and the touristic area of **Abla**.

**Abla** is more expansive in area and hosts a number of hotels attracting visitors from the capital and a handful of international tourists. A number of speculators are interested in developing the wider region of outstanding scenic value - into a major tourist destination. Conservationists have suggested the area slightly to the North of **Abla** has potential to become **Abla**’s second marine protected area. This is because of its rich and largely undamaged coastal ecosystems still prevailing over there. There are many competing uses of the beach and coastal land such as tourism, curio selling, local massage parlours and fishing. However, the adjoining land to the West **Abla** is increasingly becoming industrialized. In the South of **Abla**,there is ahighly populated squatter settlement. This settlement is causing social problems as those affecting the **Ruva** Village.