Today, urban waterfront development is widely regarded as a frontier on contemporary urban development, attracting investment and publicity. The Urban waterfront is a significant urban element of the town or city and is a vital economic and socio-cultural datum from where urban life starts and proliferates. For these reasons, the condition of the waterfront in terms of economic vibrancy via tourism or urban blight is directly reflected in the rest of the urban fabric.

Whereas the Kenyan coast is popular with local and foreign tourism, their current condition and constitution in terms of maritime recreation and economic development is insufficient to exploit its full economic potential. In most scenarios, as evidenced in the city of Mombasa and Malindi town, the urban waterfront is not only under-developed for renewal and recreation but is also a blighted window where dumping of waste and pollution is massively experienced. These waterfronts can be harnessed and revitalized to meet the contemporary trends practiced in the developed cities of the world today for economic regeneration urban renewal.

The purpose of this study thus is to establish the contemporary trends in waterfront revitalization as successfully employed in developed cities and the application of contextual integration principles to regionalize them to their contexts. Malindi and parts of Mombasa urban seafronts (Mama Ngina public waterfront, Old town seafront) were selected as the areas of study due to their urban qualities outlined elsewhere in the dissertation. Data was collected using interviews and observation techniques following a criterion obtained from review of literature and analysis of preceding best practices namely The Baltimore inner harbour waterfront, Sydney city's Darling harbour waterfront and the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town Qualitative methods were used to analyse the data obtained.

Out of the three areas of study, the author endorses a list of recommendations to revitalize each in its peculiar context to introduce a vibrant people presence at the waterfront through out the year, respect and exemplify their historical legacies/heritage, offer education intertwined with recreation and environmental conservation all geared towards urban renewal and economic regeneration.