

Marine Conservation and Strong Economic Growth

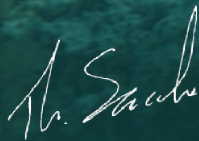
Zanzibar has recovered very well from the Covid crisis. All indicators - economy, population, tourism, construction activity, infrastructure - are rising sharply.

Is this a good thing?

As tourism and population increase, better protection of the sea and coral reefs become even more important, not least as they are among the island's main attractions. With increasing revenues and a rising GDP, one might think that there would be more opportunities to invest in environmental protection. However, if one puts in relation Tanzania's to Europe's figures (GDP/capita Tanzania 2022 > 1'250\$; GDP/capita EU 2022 > 35'000\$; GDP/capita Switzerland 87'000\$) and follows the discussions in Switzerland and the EU about an efficient reduction of CO2 emissions, it becomes pretty obvious that there is still a very long way to go before the Zanzibari state will be able to afford effective marine protection.

The financial support of local marine conservationists and thus the work of NGOs such as [marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org) will thus remain a matter of vital importance for the foreseeable future.

Thomas Sacchi
President



Annual Report 2022/23



[marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org)

Aquaculture & Marine Conservation

Does Our Commitment Make Sense?

The last three years were good for the coral reefs in the Western Indian Ocean as the La Niña-related cooler seasons led to less stress for the corals and an encouraging trend in coral reef recovery. Coral bleaching was reported only sporadically and our reforestation activities are yielding encouraging results. It seems that if the conditions are right, our efforts to preserve and protect these vital ecosystems can make an important contribution.

However, the forecasts suggest significant changes in climatic conditions: El Niño is back. Higher seawater temperatures and widespread coral bleaching can be expected over the next three years. Faced with this challenge, we are working toward increasing our output. We have trained four more coral farmers while two new coral reef restoration projects will start August 2023 in Tanga and Pemba.

Of course we realize that our efforts are the famous drop in the ocean. Fast-acting global action is needed to ensure the long-term survival of corals and related ocean biodiversity. Please advocate for politicians to finally introduce and enforce universally binding climate targets.

Christian Vaterlaus
Managing Director



Sponge Farming

Sponge production in Jambiani is still smallish but of good quality and since a few months completely in the hands of the farmers. We act mostly in an advisory capacity. The income differences among the farmers are massive and it is apparent who works consistently and efficiently. Thanks to a sponsored fund, the cooperative can now buy and stock the harvested sponges from the farmers, which is particularly important during seasons with less tourists. As soon as the tourist stores order again, the money flows back to the cooperative.

In May 2023, we ran an awareness campaign in Tunisia - the country with the largest "sponge production" in the world - to commence natural sponge farms. Like in Zanzibar, aquacultures are intended to generate jobs while protecting natural sponge populations and promoting their recovery. Our partners from the governmental marine research institute INSTM have now set up two test farms in both Djerba and Kerkennah with our help. Two more test farms are to be established this year with the Fisheries Committee and a women's organization in Zarzis.

We hope that within a year small broodstocks can be established in all test farms and INSTMs researchers can collect data to determine growth rates of local sponge species, survival in the farms, financial viability, and effects on recovery of natural populations.



Coral Reef Reforestation

Coral farming has been our biggest focus this year. The cooler seawater temperatures La Niña brought over the last three years have not only led to a welcome recovery of coral reefs but also spurred our reforestation efforts.

Our coral farming courses have already left visible traces on Mnemba Island and in neighboring Matemwe. The 1-2 week theoretical and practical trainings with a certificate of the "Reef Resilience Network" are well received, and the newly graduated coral farmers are also enthusiastically getting to work on the islands of Mafia and Shungi Mbili. Not only are more new corals being grown in the process, but reforestation activities in the region are increasing. And there will be even more in the next year and a half.

In August 2023, we will launch two more reforestation projects as part of the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park (TACMP) expansion and a new protected area on Pemba Island. The Pemba Channel in northern Tanzania was identified as an important refuge for marine habitats in the wake of climate change and is considered one of the world's most important hotspots for coral reef, mangrove, and seagrass biodiversity.

Fisheries Management in Jambiani

Our progress in this area continues to be very slow. However, the Mwambao organization is very successful in other coastal areas. We are enormously grateful that our project manager Ali Mahmudi can participate in Mwambao workshops and hopefully transfer some of the knowledge to Jambiani.

The small local NGO Jamabeco, with whom we have been cooperating since we started, has reformed and is much more active. Jamabeco primarily operates on the grassroots level: with fishermen, boat captains and school classes. They are now coordinating their activities with our coral farmer team, which consists exclusively of people from the village. After 13 years, marinecultures.org is still perceived as a white initiative and the villagers seem more comfortable reaching out more among themselves.

Our management seems to have more leverage with local authorities, the official fisheries committees and the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries. That's where we are starting another workshop series with our partner Blue Ventures 2023. Our goals are to make the management of the committees more effective and to promote a better understanding of co-management, to include all parties involved in the fisheries management process.





Organization

marinecultures.org is a Swiss non-profit organization. Registered as an association in the trade register office of the Kanton Zurich (UID CHE-114.582.081). We are re-registered as an NGO with the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government in 2018 with the new No. Z0000008818. Our Tax Identification Nummer (TIN) is: 110-483-058.

We are financed by membership fees, donations and project support contributions. Donations are tax deductible in Switzerland.

Bank: Postfinance, Bern, Switzerland Account No: 85-51774-9, IBAN: CH77 0900 0000 8505 1774 9, BIC/SWIFT: POFICHBEXX

Statutory auditors: BDS Wirtschaftsprüfungs AG, Stammeraustasse 9, CH-8500 Frauenfeld, Tel.+41 (0)52 722 31 53, ralph.schaepli@bds-audit.ch, www.bds-audit.ch

| Finance review (CHF) | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| as per 31.12.2022 | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Members | 6'550 | 6'186 | 6'006 |
| Donations | 43'522 | 19'520 | 41'093 |
| Grants | 29'365 | 57'098 | 69'799 |
| Others | 3'695 | 16'029 | 5'881 |
| Special Reserves | 30'000 | | |
| In-house efforts | 52'806 | 52'346 | 50'108 |
| Total Income | 135'478 | 151'179 | 172'887 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Projects * | 112'701 | 122'667 | 137'443 |
| Governance ** | 10'291 | 11'444 | 12'152 |
| Total Expenditure | 122'992 | 134'111 | 149'595 |
| Increase/Decrease Income (Ref. previous year) | 93.1% | 109.0% | 111.5% |
| Percentage of governance ** | 8.4% | 8.5% | 8.1% |

* incl. 90% of the managing director's salary and social costs

** incl. 10% of the managing director salary and social costs

For detailed financial and audit report 2022/23 see www.marinecultures.org

Who we are

marinecultures.org is a small non-profit organization on the island of Zanzibar; organized as an association and founded in Zurich, Switzerland in 2008. We are financed by membership fees, donations and project grants.

Why we are involved

Overexploitation of the seas destroys the ecological balance and coastal populations lose their livelihood. Our goal is to improve the quality of life of the population and protect natural resources.

What we are committed to

We want to preserve the diversity of marine fauna and create sustainable jobs through the development of aquacultures.

How we get involved

As an alternative to overfishing the oceans, marinecultures.org researches and develops ecologically compatible aquacultures in cooperation with the population.

Where we get involved

The focus of our activities is in Jambiani, a fishing village on the east coast of Zanzibar. We also operate individual projects on other coasts in Tanzania and East Africa.

Verein marinecultures.org

Kalkbreitestrasse 6, 8003 Zürich Switzerland, +41 79 479 48 01

Association marinecultures.org Zanzibar

House 65, 72108 Jambiani (Kibigija) Zanzibar, +255 783 357 357

info@marinecultures.org, www.marinecultures.org



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