

Annual Report 2018



marinecultures.org

Aquaculture & Marine Conservation

Protecting the oceans, empowering people

The inhabitants of Zanzibar's coasts still live mainly from fishing and collecting marine animals in the lagoons. For years, however, fishermen and gatherers have been confronted with the decline of their yields from the sea.

Climate change is exacerbating the pressure on marine resources and increased water temperatures are leading to the death of corals. Tourism is an additional burden on the environment; pollution and anchoring boats damage coral reefs.

Healthy coral reefs are crucial for the entire food chain in the sea and thus for the nutrition of the population on the coast.

Therefore, marinecultures.org supports people on the coast of Zanzibar with projects in two areas: the development of aquacultures and the implementation of marine conservation measures. We implement the projects together with fishermen, collectors and the authorities.

Thomas Sacchi
President



Our activities 2018

The year 2018 brought us a number of new developments: partial success, small setbacks and some surprises. Once again, it was apparent that we are still manoeuvring in the field of marine aquaculture on little-explored new territory - or rather: that we are navigating unknown waters and therefore have to react flexibly.

An epidemic of small starfish has greatly reduced our sponge seedling farm and slowed down the development of new sponge farms. Nevertheless, the handover of the project to the community by the end of 2021 remains our goal.

New scientific findings in coral reef restoration have forced us to rethink and adapt our methods.

Thanks to the increased support of the fishermen the octopus management made progress in its second edition and will be further expanded in 2019.

A large sea cucumber, crab and fish hatchery started operation in Stonetown in 2018. The supply of seedlings for various aquacultures opens up new prospects for the future.

Christian Vaterlaus
Managing Director



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Activities: Growing sponges

The sponge farms in Jambiani suffered a setback in 2018 due to an epidemic of starfish. The eleven women farmers suffered some losses and no new farms could be established. In the first quarter of 2019, the seedling farm recovered and production can increase again.

We are now advising an NGO in Madagascar and a sponge diver in Tunisia about setting up sponge production facilities.

The small menstrual sponge project on mainland Tanzania was cancelled. The new sponge species, as well as the local growing conditions, were not suitable for the production of menstrual and bath sponges for various reasons.

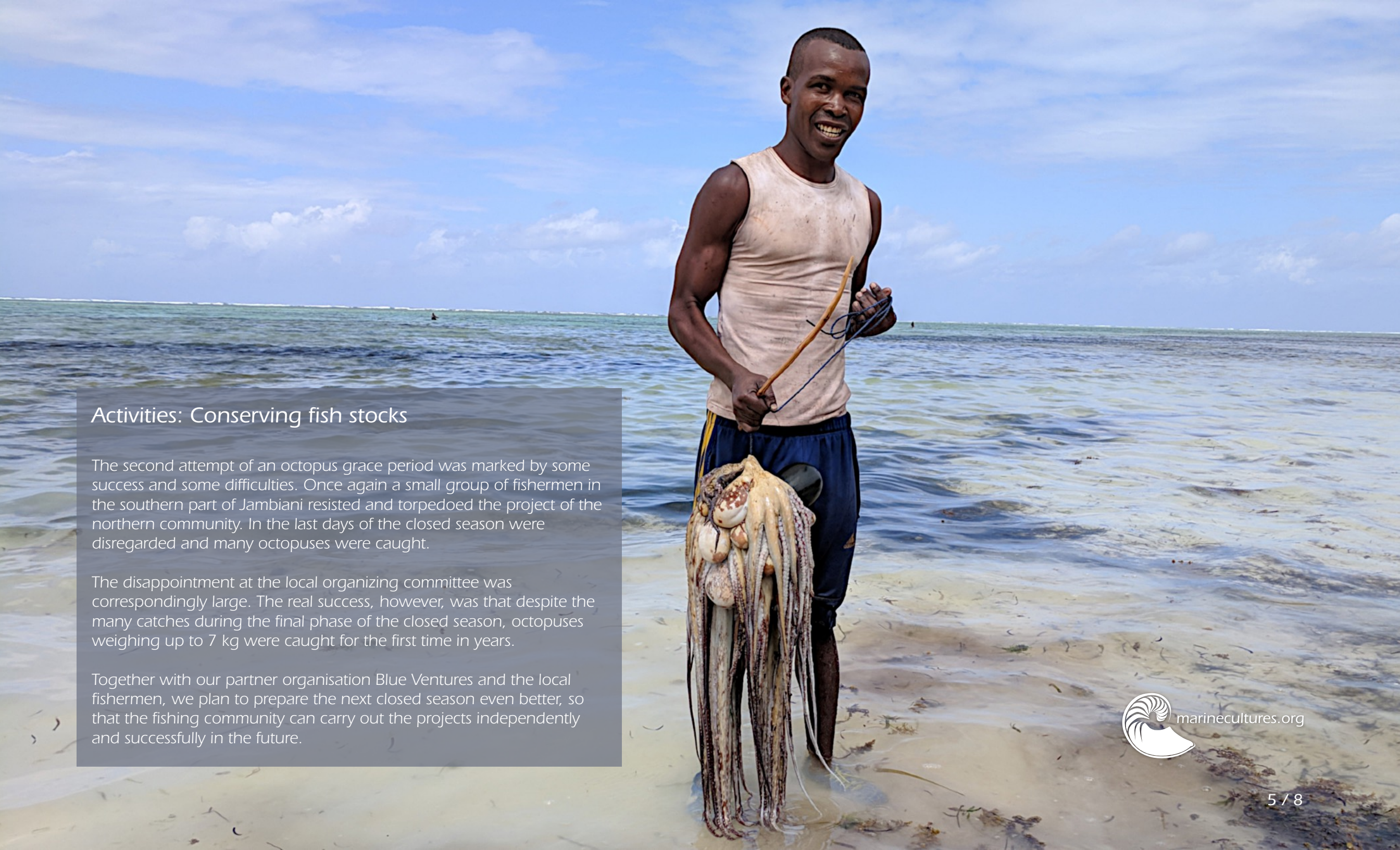
In 2019 we set the course for the complete handover of the sponge farms to the community. The challenges are permanent continuation of training for apprentices, as well as the maintenance of the seedling farm.

Activities: Protecting coral reefs

In 2018/19 we intensified the restoration of damaged coral reefs: efficient methods, cost reduction and the improvement of the diversity of coral types are the most important points. For the first time, we have found a way to avoid losses due to annual coral bleaching. We temporarily relocated the endangered coral seedlings to greater water depths in front of the outer reef.

Two new coral farmers from Kendwa were successfully trained to build a second coral farm in northern Zanzibar. Unfortunately, the project was delayed due to problems between the investor and the local population.

We sensitized the fishermen and tourist boat captains about the importance of the coral reefs supporting them to adapt their behaviour. The success of our activities is ultimately measured by the extent to which the local population is committed to protecting their coral reefs.



Activities: Conserving fish stocks

The second attempt of an octopus grace period was marked by some success and some difficulties. Once again a small group of fishermen in the southern part of Jambiani resisted and torpedoed the project of the northern community. In the last days of the closed season were disregarded and many octopuses were caught.

The disappointment at the local organizing committee was correspondingly large. The real success, however, was that despite the many catches during the final phase of the closed season, octopuses weighing up to 7 kg were caught for the first time in years.

Together with our partner organisation Blue Ventures and the local fishermen, we plan to prepare the next closed season even better, so that the fishing community can carry out the projects independently and successfully in the future.



Organisation

marinecultures.org is a Swiss non-profit organisation. Registered as an association in the trade register office of the Kanton Zurich (UID CHE-114.582.081). We are 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. The organisation is funded by the contributions of its members, by donations and project contributions.

Bank: PostFinance AG, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030, Bern, Switzerland, Account No: PC: 85-51774-9
IBAN: CH77 0900 0000 8505 1774 9, BIC / SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

The statutory auditors after 2017: BDS Wirtschaftsprüfungs AG, Stammeraustasse 9, CH-8500 Frauenfeld,
Tel.: +41 (0)52 722 31 53, ralph.schaefli@bds-audit.ch, www.bds-audit.ch



Finance review (CHF)	2016	2017	2018
Income			
Members	5'784	6'220	7'742
Donations	22'639	35'712	24'228
Grants	19'500	37'961	63'561
Other Income	7'899	4'036	4'593
Special Reserves	0	0	0
In-house efforts	81'800	66'904	65'458
Total Income	117'623	150'833	165'583
Expenditure			
Projects *	136'872	134'990	132'789
Governance **	7'062	6'953	12'082
Total Expenditure	143'934	141'943	144'871
Increase/Decrease Income (Ref. previous year)	171,5%	128,2%	109.8%
Percentage of governance **	4.9%	4.9%	8.3%

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

** incl. 10% of the managing director's salary and social costs plus from 2018 IT expenses

Financial statements and independent auditor's report >> 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 contributions.

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

P.O.Box 210, Jambiani (Kibigija) Zanzibar, +255 783 357 357

info@marinecultures.org, www.marinecultures.org