

# Annual Report 2019



marinecultures.org

Aquaculture & Marine Conservation

## Creating sustainable jobs

The worldwide Covid crisis is hitting Tanzania and Zanzibar particularly hard: a large proportion of jobs on the island is directly or indirectly dependent on tourism, which has almost completely collapsed. The lack of this important source of income will have devastating effects on the population. In this difficult environment, marinecultures.org shows once again that it is clever to focus on the development of local aquaculture projects independent of tourism.

While Covid-19 has a tight grip on the world, the climate crisis does not stop. The water temperature in the Jambiani lagoon continues to rise and is in the process of destroying the coral reefs and thus the basis of life. Here, marinecultures.org is working together with the local fishing authorities and fishermen to introduce marine reserves and closed seasons for the most important species and to rebuild damaged coral reefs.

We must act now!

Thomas Sacchi  
President

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## 2019 – A year of change

After almost 10 years of fruitful cooperation, our local project manager Okala took the step into self-employment and said goodbye to marinecultures.org. Luckily, he remains with us as a member of the board, a friend, and a faithful companion for our mission. The timing was good as Ali Mahmudi who grew up in Jambiani, was ready and a perfect fit to fill the vacant position. A fresh graduate from university, where he studied project management for community projects, Ali joined us with great enthusiasm and is a fast learner.

And we finally have a new base. Since the start of our activities in 2009 we have seen steady growth. Our equipment and storage room was bursting at the seams. It was a huge relief when the opportunity opened up to rent the perfect premises nearby. After two months of renovation and rebuilding, we were able to move in at the end of 2019.

This marks the start of the final phase of the sponge farm project, which was launched in 2010: The complete transfer of the project to the local community by the end of 2022 for which the new location is pivotal.

Christian Vaterlaus  
Managing Director



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## Activities: Cultivating sponges

After the nursery farm for the sponge seedlings had fully recovered from a starfish epidemic in 2018, we were able to resume building new farms and training farmers. More and more the experienced farmers are taking over training activities. Four farmers and two members from our coral team were also trained as swimming instructors.

Fortunately, the production of sponges is continuously increasing. Due to the new premises, some processes must be adapted and extended structures have to be established. Until [marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org)'s planned exit from the sponge farming project in 2022 we want to achieve the following:

- The sponge farmers are organized in a cooperative and can continue their activities completely independent from [marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org).
- A new nursery farm is established and financially independent.
- A local organization is responsible for the training of new sponge farmers and installs new farms.

Our goal: The sponge farmer cooperative, the seedling production and the local organization are empowered to continue all activities independently. [marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org) will remain on site beyond 2022 and monitors the sustainability of the project with minimum interference.



## Activities: Coral reforestation

In spring 2019, a wave of criticism went through the online coral community. It was correctly criticized that more and more organizations reproduce corals or clone them without the necessary know-how. Clones are less adaptable and hence less resistant than sexually reproduced corals, because they all have the same DNA inherited from the mother coral. Sexual reproduction, on the other hand, preserves and promotes genetic diversity in nature.

Sexual reproduction of corals for reforestation is unfortunately far too complex and expensive for a small organization like [marinecultures.org](https://www.marinecultures.org). However, there is a good middle way to achieve significant diversity from transplanted corals. This involves the collection and rearing of coral fragments from different locations that were broken off as a result of storms or human intervention. Together with our partner Coral Reef Care we have decided to follow this new way consequently and have adapted all procedures accordingly.

Our three employees currently raise about 8-10'000 corals per year and transplant them onto damaged reef structures. We can only hope that CO2 production will be reduced massively as quickly as possible to halt a further rise in seawater temperatures which would ultimately destroy our activities.





## Activities: Preserve fish stocks

Due to the lessons learned from the partially failed octopus conservation periods, we and our partner Blue Ventures conducted various workshops with local authorities in 2019. We want to empower decision makers to successfully implement complex projects for marine protected areas or closed seasons. To this end, we cover topics such as how to create structures, assign clear roles and train those responsible in dealing with expected problems.

Things seem to move in the right direction after the two fishing committees in Jambiani have been newly elected. For the time being, the newly constituted committees have decided against holding another octopus conservation period, but they want to install two no-take zones. Of course, we very much welcome their decision.

After similar initiatives by fishermen failed in 2013 and 2015, we hope that this time people in charge will be better prepared for tricky situations. We accompany their ambitious undertaking and offer support wherever necessary.





# marinecultures.org

## 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. Z000008818. Our Tax Identification Nummer (TIN) is: 110-483-058. Bank: PostFinance AG, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030, Bern, Switzerland, Account No: PC: 85-51774-9, IBAN: CH77 0900 0000 8505 1774 9, BIC / SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

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Finance review (CHF)	2017	2018	2019
<b>Income</b>			
Members	6'220	7'742	6'199
Donations	35'712	24'228	26'475
Grants	37'961	63'561	44'357
Others	4'036	4'593	17'025
Special Reserves	0	0	30'000
In-house efforts	66'904	65'458	61'686
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>150'833</b>	<b>165'583</b>	<b>155'743</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Projects *	134'990	132'789	124'057
Governance **	6'953	12'082	8'054
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>141'943</b>	<b>144'871</b>	<b>132'111</b>
Increase/Decrease Income (Ref. previous year)	128,2%	109.8%	91.2%
Percentage of governance **	4.9%	8.3%	6.1%

\* 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](http://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

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