

A breath of fresh air

Zanzibar has weathered the covid crisis well so far with infections and hospital occupancies remaining at manageable levels. However, the economic impact is significant. The poorest communities and nature were hit the hardest. People can't afford new mosquito nets, eat less nutritious food, children can't go to high school, much needed medicine is unaffordable, and there is more fishing and deforestation.

After the 2020 elections and the unexpected death of President John Magufuli in March 2021, Zanzibari Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan takes over the government of Tanzania. With the new focus on 'Blue Economy' according to the Rio 2012 goals and a dedicated ministry for it, we hope to see a push towards those goals in the coming years. We will do everything we can to further our commitment to marine ecosystems, biodiversity and the development of sustainable aquaculture.

Thomas Sacchi
President



marinecultures.org

Aquaculture & Marine Conservation

Annual Report 2020 / 21

A challenging yet successful year

marinecultures.org has received the Blue Champions Award. The global call for entries from Blue Solutions aims to support outstanding practitioners committed to healthy oceans. We feel very honored.

The prize money will be utilized to replicate our sustainable sponge cultivation approach in Tunisia. This follows a request from the Tunisian Institut National Des Sciences Et Technologies De La Mer (INSTM). Tunisian fishermen have been collecting wild sponges for centuries. The INSTM has been successfully cultivating natural sponges since 2008 but has struggled to teach the technique to potential farmers.

Unfortunately, we were not able to start our sea cucumber aquaculture project as planned. The FAO supported hatchery in Zanzibar has had problems with the rearing of juveniles. Unfortunately, this hatchery is indispensable for the 30-40 farms we had planned to establish in Muyuni. The Muyuni community is very motivated, and we hope that the new government manages to find a solution for this absolutely central sector of aquaculture development in Zanzibar.

Christian Vaterlaus
Managing Director



Activities: Cultivating sponges

Sponge farming is attracting a lot of attention worldwide. American newspapers and websites reported, TV stations were almost queuing up at times. Sponge farmer Zedi made her appearance on Swiss television and many people from Poland, Italy and France got to know the fascinating world of the farmers. We try to make those news items accessible via local television stations in Zanzibar

We are noticing larger differences between monthly incomes of our sponge farmers. Not all of them take the work equally seriously. For those who do with a systematic approach, the sponges provide a good income. The problem has been recognized by the newly formed sponge farmer cooperative and it's first mayor decision was a real paradigm shift. In the future, new farms will no longer be given away as gifts, but instead will be leased to the farmers for a limited period.

The women farmers are increasingly making their own decisions. We are concentrating on training teachers and helping to develop the local market for larger volumes. marinecultres.org is gradually pulling out of the daily business.



Activities: Coral Reef Restoration

Our coral farm and the reforested reef structures of the lagoon have become one of the most frequented tourist attractions in Jambiani. Boat captains and tourist guides - mostly young fishermen from the village - were the first to recognize what the young coral farming team is accomplishing underwater.

With a 12-minute feature, Chinese state television CGTN aired spectacular footage of our coral farm to millions of people across Africa and China. The proud coral farming team is planning public screenings and a broadcast on Zanzibari television to show fellow villagers why they go out in wind and weather and what they do underwater.

Fortunately, we have been spared the catastrophic increases in sea water temperature seen in previous years. Only a few of the reared corals have died. In addition to reforestation, which is now a daily routine, we are concentrating on training our coral farmers to become teachers. A partner organization wants to reforest the reefs around Mnemba Island. We will advise them and train their team.

Activities: Preserve fish stocks

Although there was a lot of momentum at the beginning of the year, the work in the two newly elected fisher's committees in Jambiani has been progressing slowly – not least due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Years of effort finally seem to bear fruit! The municipal laws for two new fish sanctuaries are in the final stage of consultation after a long period of toing and froing. After that, the laws need to be approved by the government and communicated to the village. Both sanctuaries are already marked with buoys.

Each of the two fishing committees has its own protected area. Since they almost touch each other, they will merge seamlessly in the future. Together they have an area of 1.6 km² and a circumference of ~ 6 km. Fishing with nets, harpoons and lamp is no longer allowed within those areas. Only sustainable fishing techniques using lines and fish traps are allowed.

After only three months of operation the fishers report visibly larger fish populations. This is motivating but general compliance will be the decisive factor for the success of the sanctuaries.



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)	2018 / 19	2019 / 20	2020 / 21
Income			
Members	7'742	6'199	6'550
Donations	24'228	26'475	43'522
Grants	63'561	44'357	29'365
Others	4'593	17'025	3'695
Special Reserves	0	30'000	30'000
In-house efforts	65'458	61'686	52'806
Total Income	165'583	155'743	135'478
Expenditure			
Projects *	132'789	124'057	112'701
Governance **	12'082	8'054	10'291
Total Expenditure	144'871	132'111	122'992
Increase/Decrease Income (Ref. previous year)	109.8%	91.2%	93.1%
Percentage of governance **	8.3%	6.1%	8.4%

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

** incl. 10% of the managing director's salary and social costs plus from 2020 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

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