

Chumbe Island Coral Park: Helping save the coral reefs of Tanzania

Presented at: A Private Sector Approach –
Conservation Agreements in support of Marine Protection



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Abstract: Marine Park & Forest Reserve Fully protected & legalized since 1994

Private conservation project, established 1991 for sustainable conservation management of uninhabited Chumbe Island

Company mission non-commercial, while operations follow commercial principles

Eco-tourism now fully supports conservation & environmental education for local schools

Sanctuary for endangered Aders duikers & Coconut crabs



Drawing: Jan Huelsemann



Sustainable Park Management, Monitoring, Research & Educational programs



Awareness tours for Government officials

Workshops for fishers

School Excursions for snorkelling & nature trails, 1999-2008:

ca. 2.500 kids,

500 teachers

Guided snorkelling & forest walks for Park visitors



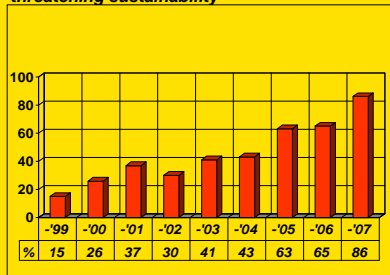
Photos: Lisa Baum

Lessons learned...

Red tape & rent-seeking delayed operations and increased investment costs by ca. 300%

Eco-technology costly & experimental
Need to go **up-market** & for aggressive marketing, but successful

Critical: tourism market volatile, but not threatening sustainability



The biggest challenge were not the fishers..."

Government tourism policy favors big corporate investors;

Low security of tenure & contracts;

No tax relief or other incentives for investment in conservation;

Red tape, ambiguous laws & regulations;

Competition from 'over-funded' donor aid...

Wish list

Conservation should **not be State monopoly**.

Encourage Park management by local stakeholders of formal & informal sectors.

Better Governance also needed in aid industry: transparency & accountability to local people.



Photo: Michael Wadleigh

Agreement Mechanism

Chumbe MPA & Forest Reserve negotiated as Investment Plan with Gov. of Zanzibar (GoZ)

Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP) Ltd created in 1993

Land lease on uninhabited Chumbe Island 1993
Management Agreements between CHICOP & GoZ from 1994-95

Development of Park 1992-1998

Visitor's Centre & Eco-lodge built 1994-98

Baseline surveys & nature trails from 1993

Tourism operations from 1998

Memorandum of Understanding for research with Institute of Marine Sciences from 2004

Project Context

- > Tanzania rich in minerals and wildlife, but among the poorest countries in the world
- > 40% of government budget funded by donors;
- > Exceptional ecotourism potential
- > Marine tourism relatively undeveloped
- > Marine governance problematic, decades of dynamite fishing
- > Zanzibar semi-autonomous, also concerning natural resource management
- > From the 1990s: Economic liberalisation & tourism creating a market for conservation
- > Up to 1996: No legislation & institutions for marine conservation in Zanzibar
- > No managed MPAs in Tanzania up to 1995
- > Chumbe Island uninhabited, traditionally closed for fisheries, still fairly pristine
- > Legal framework for private MPA: Zanzibar Investment Act 1986, Fisheries Act 1988, Land Act 1992 & Management contracts with GoZ

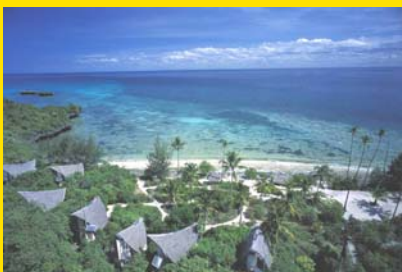


Photo: Manolo Yllera

Process & Issues

Winning public support for the MPA...

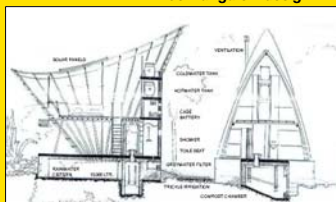
- > Village meetings from 1991
 - > Training fishers as Park Rangers from 1992
 - > Informal on-the-job training by volunteers
 - > Park Rangers "educate" fishers & help in emergency
 - > Environmental Education for schools
 - > Advisory Committee from 1995
 - > Management Plans 1995-2005 & 2006-2016
- Partnerships & Cost control:**
- > With Government, NGOs & Zoos for EE & sanctuaries for endangered species
 - > Volunteers & University researchers for R & M
 - > Sponsors for EE, nature trails, patrol boats etc.
 - > Buy & fix equipment in informal markets

Eco-architecture :

- Rainwater catchment
- Solar lights & water heating
- Composting toilets
- Vegetative greywater filtration



Visitor Centre
Eco-Bungalow design



Design: Prof. Per Krusche, drawing: Jan Huelsemann

Conclusions

Change of paradigms needed:

The private sector – the Bad Guy, to be regulated, controlled & source of funds only?

The 'local community' – not profit-oriented?

Private sector profit always incompatible with conservation?

Government park authorities, donor agencies, NGOs – what are their stakes?

... Donors to help create **incentives** (policy & regulatory) for investment in conservation, rather than only subsidizing state bureaucracy.

Acknowledgements

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