

BLUE-ZAN – Increasing climate resilience of Zanzibar with integrated marine management and sustainable Blue Economy

Institutional Cooperation Instrument (ICI) project between Finland and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

People of Zanzibar are dependent on the ocean and its resources (Fig. 1), and blue economy is envisioned as a driver of economic and social development. This development needs to be sustainable. If the usage of the sea surpasses its carrying capacity, the resources will be depleted, and blue growth reverses to a blue decline.



Fig. 1. Traditional swahili dhows, still used in artisanal fishing in Zanzibar. Photo: M. Viitasalo, Syke

BLUE-ZAN bases its work on the following premises:

1. Blue Economy is necessary for the economic development of Zanzibar.
2. Certain areas are already over-used. Climate change causes extra burden to the marine ecosystem.
3. Decline of marine production affects coastal communities dependent on fishing and aquaculture.
4. Sustainability can be improved by protecting hotspots of biodiversity and biological production.
5. Sustainable use of the sea increases climate resilience of Zanzibar.

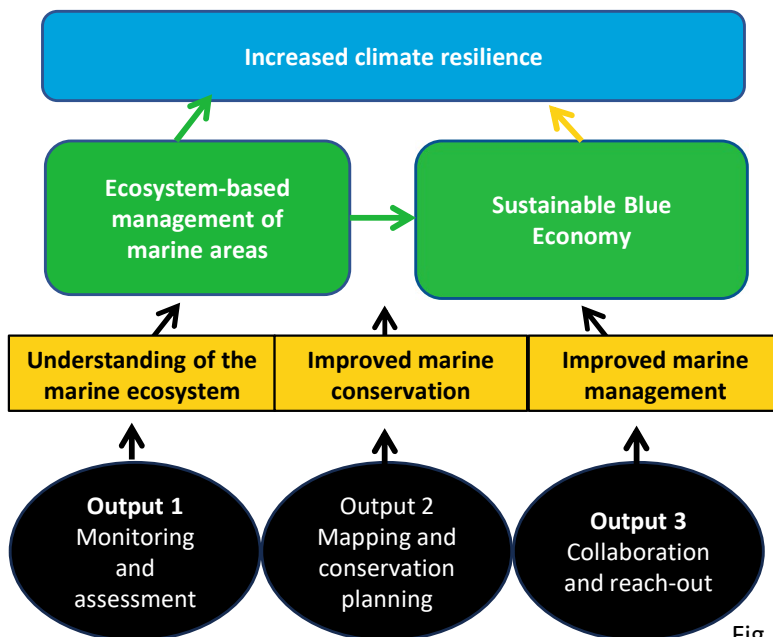


Fig. 2

Methods: For detecting symptoms of climate change (heat waves and shore erosion), we use remote sensing. For collecting data on key biodiversity areas, we use remote sensing and underwater video methods (Fig. 3). We also plan to facilitate collaboration between government units and stakeholders.

PROJECT INFO:

Funding: Government of Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Budget: 1 million € (ca. 2800 million TZS)
Duration: 2023–2027
Partners: Dept of Environment (DoE); Zanzibar Environment Management Authority (ZEMA); Dept of Marine Conservation (DMC); Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute (ZAFIRI); Finnish Environment Institute Syke
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BLUE-ZAN produces three **outputs**:

1. Monitoring and assessment the state of the coastal and marine environment.
2. Mapping of marine habitats and conservation planning.
3. Collaboration and reach out.

Outcomes and impacts: We will support sustainable blue economy in a changing climate. The aim is to strengthen the management of coastal and marine resources and to improve sustainability of Blue Economy, and, eventually, increase climate resilience (Fig. 2).

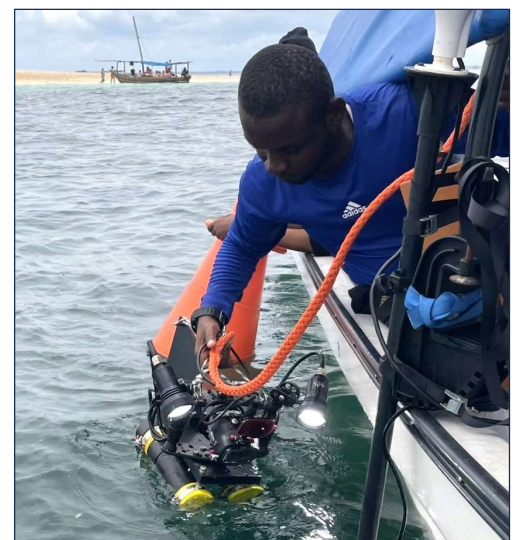


Fig. 3. Using the underwater camera in Menai Bay, Zanzibar. Photo: V. Karvinen, Syke