



Eastern Africa Atlas of Coastal Resources



TANZANIA

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A project of the United Nations Environment Programme with the support of the Government of Belgium

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Tanzania



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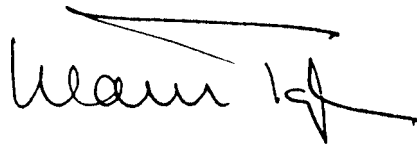


Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam
Zanzibar, Tanzania

The Government of Belgium, through its Directorate-General for International Cooperation, and the United Nations Environment Programme are pleased to be associated with this worthwhile project under the auspices of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment. We have always had a special interest in the Eastern African Action Plan activities and we see this project as providing a sound information management basis for the sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources of this region.



H. E. Mr. Leo Willems
*Ambassador of Belgium in Nairobi,
Permanent Representative to UNEP*



Klaus Töpfer
*Executive director
United Nations Environment Programme*

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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>viii</i>

Introduction

The Eastern African Region	1
The Eastern African Coastal and Marine Environment Resources Database and Atlas (EAF/14 Project)	2

Tanzania: An Overview	5
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PART 1: THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Physical Characteristics	9
Coastal Ecosystems	24
Coastal Forests	24
Seagrass Meadows and Seaweeds	31
Coral Reefs	33
Marine Turtles	38
Marine Mammals	39
Migratory and Other Birds	40
Species at Risk	40
The Human Dimension	41

PART 2: COASTAL RESOURCES AND THEIR USE

Historical and Cultural Resources	49
Fisheries and Aquaculture	51
Minerals and Energy Resources	57
Ports and Shipping	62
Recreation and Tourism	65
Industry	68
Agriculture	68
Environmental Pressures	69

PART 3: MANAGEMENT OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Introduction	77
Traditional Management Systems	77
Policies and Legislation	79
Coastal Planning	83
Marine Protected Areas and Reserves	90
International Perspective	98
Administration: Institutional and Governance Structures	99
Research and Training Institutions	102

Bibliography	105
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ANNEX 1: THE EAF/14 DATABASE IN TANZANIA

Available Information and Structure of the Database	A-1
Achievements and Problems	A-2

MAPS

Map 1.	Tanzania—regional administrative boundaries	6
Map 2.	Prevailing winds and approximate location of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) over Africa, January (left) and July (right) (after Ker et al., 1978)	10
Map 3.	Map and graphs showing average annual rainfall distribution and monthly average windspeed	12
Map 4.	Geological map of coastal Tanzania (numbers indicate year of last earthquake)	14
Map 5.	River systems in coastal Tanzania	16
Map 6.	Distribution of coastal habitats (corals and mangroves) and selected terrestrial land cover types	25
Map 7.	Marine turtles main distribution areas by species	38
Map 8.	Population projections (estimates) for settlements and districts in Zanzibar for the year 2000	42
Map 9.	Gross domestic product in Coastal districts of Tanzania and the gross national product per capita in Africa	44
Map 10.	Infrastructure in the coastal areas of Tanzania	46
Map 11.	Mariculture sites and prawn trawling grounds and zones	54
Map 12.	Location of hydrocarbon exploration wells, mining of minerals and powerplants in coastal Tanzania	61
Map 13.	Industry and tourism areas	67
Map 14.	Coral mining, sand mining and shell collection	71
Map 15.	Conservation areas in coastal Tanzania	92
Map 16.	Zoning of the Mafia Island Marine Park	93
Map 17.	Menai Bay conservation area	96

Foreword

Tanzania has over 800 km of coastline, characterised by a mixture of beautiful sandy beaches, rocky outcrops, extensive coral reefs, and dense mangrove stands, especially around river deltas. Among the more famous of these natural resources are the beaches of Bagamoyo, the Jozani Forest Reserve, the coral reefs of Mafia, Zanzibar and Pemba, and the Amboni Caves. These coastal ecosystems support a wide variety of marine life. In addition, the coastal area's historical attractions, including old buildings, ruins, and monuments, particularly those in Zanzibar and Bagamoyo, are among the finest in the region. It is also rich in cultural attractions, mainly related to people's values, customs and traditions.

Coastal resources are valuable assets to the country and the coastal and marine environment provides numerous opportunities, thus encouraging concentrations of people and development activities there. In Tanzania over 20% of the population lives in its five coastal administrative regions, which encompass about 15% of the country's land area. These areas are subjected to increasing pressures from a variety of activities, such as fishing, coastal aquaculture, salt making, waste disposal and the indiscriminate cutting of mangroves and coastal forests for fuel and timber.

Environmental challenges such as marine pollution, the use of destructive fishing methods and over-fishing, habitat destruction, coastal erosion and coastal urbanisation are highly complex issues, and require an integrated approach to address them. In this regard, the availability of relevant information and expert advice from various disciplines is necessary for the formulation of appropriate management actions. A number of marine environmental studies have been conducted in the country on aspects such as fisheries, mangroves, coral reefs, erosion and coastal tourism, among others. However, most of the information generated is not accessible for management purposes.

Through the Eastern African Coastal Resources Database and Atlas project, some of the data and information gathered have been processed and transformed into base maps on land and water use and functional zones using geographical information systems (GIS). Other data and information have been stored in the database established at the Institute of Marine Sciences of the University of Dar es Salaam and will be updated regularly. The database will help in achieving improved description, assessment, analysis and management of environmental issues.

This Atlas of marine and coastal resources in Tanzania is designed to raise the awareness and understanding of non-specialists, particularly decision makers, resource managers, students, and the general populace, on coastal and marine environmental issues and related challenges in Tanzania. It is written in non-technical language to make it easy to understand and use. It is hoped that the information contained in it will establish a new baseline of practical information to guide the research and planning of management initiatives in the coastal areas.

The book underlines the importance of the coastal and marine environment, not only as an environmental concern, but also as a political, social and economic issue. Used appropriately, I believe that it will go a long

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