

Protection of the Chumbe Island nature reserve from increased poaching threats due to COVID-19's impacts on Zanzibar's economy and Chumbe's compromised park management, through the re-assignment of local rangers and skills development of youth fishers

Type of priority area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Privately Protected Area

Primary objective

Governance

Target groups

Local Communities

Youth

Fishermen

Main activity focus

Enforcement

Illegal Activities

Awareness/education



Duration

01.05.2021 - 30.04.2022



Type of grant & budget

Rapid Response Grant | Not provided\$



Location

Tanzania, Eastern Africa



Protected & Conserved Areas

Chumbe Island Coral Park



WDPA ID

72397



BIOPAMA RRIS Link

Not provided

Project Lead

Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP)

Description of the project:

The following project activities will ensure that conservation management on Chumbe Island will continue, despite the fact that the eco-lodge still has limited to no bookings, and address the urgent threat on the marine park, Chumbe staff and local fishing communities:

- Vital enforcement of a 55 ha no-take Coral Reef Sanctuary and a 17 ha Closed Forest Reserve and improvements in MPA patrols in order to safeguard Chumbe's unique biodiversity and reduce the prevailing risk of wildlife poaching
- Continuous protection of crucial biodiversity for the East African region and preservation of Chumbe's important function as a fisheries nursery ground benefiting fishing communities through spillover and restocking of adjacent fishing grounds.
- Continued full-time employment of the experienced conservation team who will implement optimal patrol efficiency and monitoring
- Deployment of two additional security officers to assist with the enforcement and upholding of both protected areas during the worsening economic times
- Continuation of the environmental education program with key fishing communities, neighbouring Chumbe Island
- Skills development of local youth from key target fishing villages to be trained as rangers





Diagnostic Tools Used

N/A



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.
- Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management.



Priority Need Addressed

Chumbe Island Coral Park is a not-for-profit private marine and terrestrial protected area in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Funded entirely by sustainable ecotourism, the park has been self-financing for more than 20 years. Due to COVID19 however, tourism came to a complete standstill in 2020 and is still nowhere near to pre-Covid numbers. We have had to put 29 out of 41 staff on unpaid leave and the remaining 12 staff have been working fulltime on a reduced salary to keep the park protected during these difficult times. This project will fund the salaries and patrol costs of the conservation team to keep the island protected and secure from poaching threats.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

Most importantly, project implementation will allow for full patrol operations over the coming 12 months which will decrease poaching attempts inside the MPA and subsequently ensure that 25 years of successful conservation efforts are not lost. Moreover, eight previous Chumbe team members will receive full-time employment for the whole project duration, each supporting on average 12 dependents in their local communities. Zanzibari community members from neighbouring fishing villages will gain knowledge and practical insights in nature conservation through Chumbe's extensive environmental education program which will positively impact compliance to MPA regulations. Especially young fishers, who are economically impacted by the pandemic, will be offered a skill development course with tangible skills that will increase their employability in conservation and marine tourism. Two motivated youth will have access to a six-month internship with the prospect of employment on Chumbe Island once the effects of the pandemic have subsided. At least 15 local rangers from two other marine conservation areas in Unguja will benefit from the establishment of a Ranger Network with enhanced skills and knowledge in effective MPA management which will strengthen relationships and cooperation between the rangers.

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BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

