

# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?

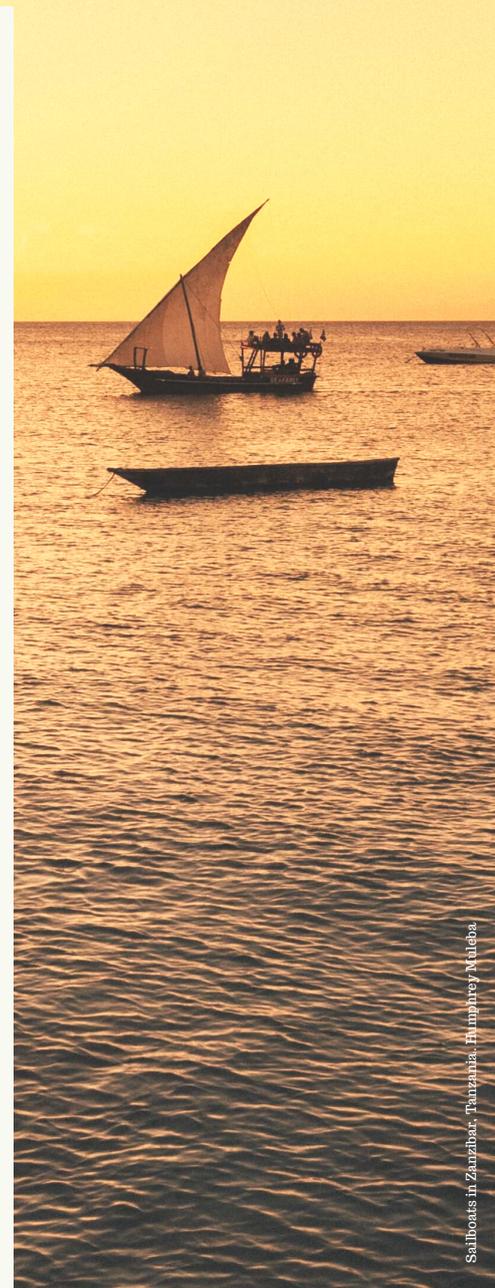
A MPA is an area of the ocean or coastline that has been specifically designated for the protection by law of the ecosystems and associated biodiversity and any object of archaeological or historical interest therein for the benefit of nature and people. The world, including Tanzania, committed to conserving at least 10% of its marine and coastal areas by 2020 under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.5. The *WIO MPA Outlook: Towards achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets* further assesses and analyzes these efforts in order to guide and strengthen marine conservation in the region towards the achievement of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

### WHY ARE MPAS IMPORTANT?

Healthy oceans are critical to human survival. Oceans feed us, regulate our climate, generate most of the oxygen we breathe, and serve as the engine for much of the world's economy.

Yet the ocean and its rich resources are being damaged and depleted faster than ever before. Soon, we may no longer be able to count on the many jobs, health, and economic benefits provided by the ocean.

Marine protected areas offer one of the best options to maintain our oceans' health and avoid further degradation.



Sailboats in Zanzibar, Tanzania. © Humphrey Muleba

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MPAS?

MPAs can bring social, economic, and environmental benefits.

### *Economic:*

- Protect breeding and nursery grounds for fish and prevent over-exploitation of fish stocks, helping **maintain food and job security**
- **Protect jobs linked to the tourism industry**

### *Social:*

- Help keep alive **cultural and heritage practices** intricately linked to the ocean

### *Environmental:*

- Help **protect species, habitats, and ecosystem** functions
- **Build resilience to climate change** events, like floods, cyclones, or sea-level rise

## WHAT IS THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (WIO) MPA OUTLOOK?

The *WIO MPA Outlook: Towards achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets* is the first publication ever to examine the current and future status of MPAs on a regional level. It documents the progress made by nine countries in the WIO region in increasing MPA coverage, highlights best practices and challenges faced by governments in managing MPAs, and provides recommendations for how to make the impact of MPAs even greater.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MPA OUTLOOK FOR TANZANIA?

Tanzania has made significant progress towards increasing the total coverage of MPAs. Currently, Tanzania has proclaimed 18 MPAs protecting over 2143 sq. km of oceans on the mainland (0.92% of its EEZ), and an additional 2282 sq. km in Zanzibar (approximately 1% of its EEZ). These protected areas have given Tanzania the opportunity to maintain food and job security; protect its remarkable biodiversity; and safeguard its cultural heritage.

Yet there are several opportunities to build on this progress and ensure that people, the economy, and nature reap even more benefits from MPAs. Opportunities include:

- Formally designating the proposed MPAs and the Transboundary Marine Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania;
- Diversifying sources of revenue from oil/gas exploration projects, tourism investments, and user fees.
- Further expand MPA coverage to meet future targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Investing in community development programs to educate and raise public awareness to enhance support for MPAs
- Continuing to engage local communities in management of both formal and non-formal MPAs.

## REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- Creating a regional framework to develop the capacity of Tanzania and its neighbors for MPA management
- Ensuring sustainable financing to support equipment, infrastructure, skilled personnel, and effective enforcement of MPA regulations
- Working with other countries in the region, develop a standard, region-wide approach to assess management effectiveness of MPAs.

***READ THE WIO MPA OUTLOOK: TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS AT [NAIROBICONVENTION.ORG/](http://NAIROBICONVENTION.ORG/)***