Press review of the Zanzibar workshop on blue & circular economy

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*Submission to the Zanzibar 2025 journalism competition.

Najjat Omar (Tanzania); "We Fish, But We Suffer": Women in Zanzibar Battle Climate Crisis to Keep Livelihoods Afloat; The Chanzo, coming soon.

In the early morning light of Paje, Fatma*, a 38-year-old mother of four, walks barefoot along the receding shoreline, net in hand. The ocean is no longer as generous as it once was. "The fish have gone far," she says. "We walk longer, catch less, and earn barely enough."

Fatma is one of thousands of women in Zanzibar who rely on fishing and fish vending to support their families. Women make up 35% of the fishing workforce across the islands, yet they remain under-resourced, under-recognized, and increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

According to the IPCC 2023 report, Zanzibar's coastline is rising by 3.1 mm each year, slowly swallowing fishing grounds and altering marine ecosystems. WWF Tanzania (2024) reports a 20% decline in fish stocks in nearshore waters, while the Zanzibar Meteorological Agency confirms a 15% rise in extreme weather events—all of which make fishing riskier and less reliable.

In areas like Paje, Nungwi, and Zanzibar Town, women not only fish but also dominate the post-harvest sector: cleaning, drying, and selling fish in local markets. Yet many lack access to boats, cold storage, and capital—resources typically reserved for their male counterparts.

"We carry buckets for hours," says Asha, a fish vendor in Nungwi. "We don't have the money or power to compete. Climate change is making our struggle worse."

MONGABAY

Rivonala Razafison (Madagascar) ; Un projet d'extraction d'ilménite à intérêt américain fortement controversé dans le littoral sud-ouest malgache ; Mongabay, publication à venir.

- **Une firme américaine qui lorgne sur un riche gisement des sables minéralisés sur le littoral sud-ouest malgache, entend débuter son extraction en 2027.**
- **Le projet minier le plus important à Madagascar depuis plus de 10 ans suscite de vives tensions entre ses partisans et ses contestataires.**
- **La nocivité de l'activité extractive à cause de la radioactivité et ses effets sur les communautés et l'environnement alimentent des controverses à n'en plus finir.**
- **Pour le gouvernement qui défend le projet, la mise en œuvre de celui-ci est un coup de pouce au développement régional et à l'économie nationale.**

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar — L'atmosphère reste tendue autour du mégaprojet minier de Base Toliara, une filiale de la firme américaine Energy Fuels Resources Inc. qui désire exploiter un riche gisement d'ilménite de Ranobe localisé à 50 kilomètres au nord de la ville de Toliara, sur le littoral sud-ouest de Madagascar. Le projet est qualifié du plus important investissement minier au pays depuis plus de 10 ans.

Après son entrée en production prévue vers fin 2027, la mine fournira sur 38 ans une moyenne annuelle de 800 000 tonnes d'ilménite, de 54 000 tonnes de rutile et un peu moins de cette quantité pour le zircon et la monazite séparés. « La production atteindra la vitesse de croisière au bout de 3 à 5 ans après son début, dépendant des humeurs du marché international », a dit Jean Bruno Ramahefarivo, le directeur général de la société.

Le projet, depuis sa conception qui date des décennies, a suscité des inquiétudes qui n'ont pas cessé de s'amplifier au fil des ans. La controverse autour de lui a culminé en des circonstances périlleuses cette année.

Depuis janvier, de violents affrontements, des provocations frisant la guerre civile en raison de la division en deux factions rivales de la population (une pour et une autre contre), des intimidations de part et d'autre, des arrestations suivies de condamnations par la justice, de sévères mises en garde, des rappels à l'ordre à l'endroit des députés contestataires, des appels au calme et des déclarations intempestives ont ponctué le quotidien de la ville de Toliara, la capitale d'Atsimo Andrefana ou Sud-Ouest, la région d'implantation du projet.

La déliquescence de la situation sur le terrain est telle que le gouvernement a dû retrousser ses manches. Vendredi 11 avril, le Premier ministre Louis Christian Ntsay a débarqué à Toliara. Onze

ministres et de hauts responsables étatiques, surtout ceux chargés de la défense et de la sécurité, l'ont accompagné à cette occasion.

« Le président Andry Rajoelina lui-même s'est investi à fond pour que ce projet ait des retombées tangibles sur le développement de la région Atsimo Andrefana et dans les districts de Toliara I et de Toliara II », a dit le chef du gouvernement. Il a aussi insisté qu'apporter de l'assistance à la réalisation d'un projet d'envergure fait partie des attributions de l'Etat.

Le passage des autorités gouvernementales a été naturellement suivi du déploiement d'une mesure sécuritaire massive. Mais les opposants au projet semblent ne reculer face à la violence légale dont font usage systématique les pouvoirs publics. Seuls les affrontements directs sur le terrain ont connu une accalmie pour l'heure.

Les diatribes contre le projet minier s'enflent avec un argumentaire de poids qui fait intervenir des défenseurs des droits humains et de la nature, des scientifiques et des politiciens. Ils dénoncent énergiquement l'absence flagrante des consultations publiques stipulées par la loi. Pour eux, le projet de Base Toliara est la boîte de Pandore. Sa mise en œuvre présente des risques potentiels pour les communautés et l'environnement.

Les contestataires font des pieds et des mains pour se faire entendre. Mais ils se sentent snobés et non écoutés. « Ils sont une fois allés frapper aux portes de la présidence de la République pour faire part de leurs doléances. Mais ils y ont été repoussés », Volahery Andriamanantenasoa, directrice des programmes auprès du Centre de recherches et d'appui pour les alternatives de développement – océan Indien (CRAAD-OI), a dit à Mongabay.

D'après sa précision, la liberté d'opinion des opposants au projet a toujours été bafouée. « Toute demande d'autorisation de manifester a été systématiquement rejetée. La porte de la prison est agitée devant eux dès le moindre geste. Même les média privés, par peur de représailles, ont refusé de diffuser des annonces payantes en faveur des contestataires. Seule la voix des parties pour le projet a été entendue. Le contexte est donc propice à la descente dans la rue pour les mécontents », a ajouté la défenseuse des droits humains.

Dans une lettre adressée au président Rajoelina le 30 septembre 2024, diverses organisations, dont le CRAAD-OI, ont écrit ceci : « Nous vous adressons cette lettre ouverte pour exprimer nos préoccupations urgentes concernant la mise en œuvre du projet intégré Base Toliara, dont la toxicité menace les moyens de subsistance et les droits humains fondamentaux des communautés affectées et des générations futures dans les districts de Toliara II à Madagascar et risque d'aggraver les impacts de la crise climatique dans le pays. »

Les signataires de la lettre ont rappelé qu'en avril 2024, la société australienne Base Resources et le producteur américain d'uranium et de minéraux critiques Energy Fuels Resources Inc. ont conclu un accord contraignant permettant à ce dernier d'acquérir 100 % des actions émises par Base Resources par le biais d'un plan d'arrangement.

« Cette transaction permettra de créer un leader mondial dans le secteur des minerais critiques, axé sur la production d'éléments de terres rares (ETR), d'uranium et de sables minéraux lourds (SML : ilménite, rutile et zircon) ainsi qu'une plateforme pour le financement et le développement du projet intégré Base Toliara, dont la production future de concentré de monazite sera traitée à l'usine de White Mesa d'Energy Fuels, située dans l'Utah aux États-Unis d'Amérique (USA) », la lettre cite au passage.

La source insiste que le projet est basé sur la production combinée de SML et de concentré de monazite et que ceci aura très probablement de graves impacts sur les droits humains fondamentaux, étant donnée la grande vulnérabilité de la population locale à tout impact négatif du projet sur son accès à l'eau, à la terre et aux ressources forestières dont les communautés dépendent de manière critique pour leur survie et à toute forme de pollution de leur environnement naturel.

En particulier, les risques liés à la radioactivité émanant du site d'extraction d'ilménite, de zircon et de rutile situé à Ranobe figurent parmi les principales raisons invoquées par les communautés locales qui s'opposent depuis de nombreuses années au projet d'exploitation de SML Base Toliara.

Depuis 2014, des études scientifiques ont démontré le danger de la radioactivité pour la population locale et l'environnement causé par l'exploitation de SML à Ranobe. Une étude réalisée en 2014 a indiqué que les niveaux d'émission d'uranium et de thorium à Ranobe sont si élevés que des mesures sérieuses de radioprotection devront être prises pour éviter que les travailleurs en contact direct avec les minerais, comme les mineurs, et la population environnante ne courent le risque de cancer ou de pathologies congénitales.

Selon les résultats des recherches, ce danger est dû au fait que l'ilménite de Ranobe contient du thorium 232, dont l'activité radioactive (10 600-10700 Becquerel/kg), une fois à l'air libre, est supérieure à la norme de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) de 10 000 Becquerel/kg tolérée par le corps humain.

Le professeur Stephan Narison, directeur de recherche émérite au Centre national de recherche scientifique (CNRS) à Montpelier, en France, détaille toutes ces informations dans une vidéo diffusée en boucle sur la toile. Ce scientifique malgache reconnu comme un expert mondial de la haute énergie soutient les groupes contestataires du projet minier de Base Toliara.

Selon lui, il est certain que cette radioactivité affectera la population, les espèces endémiques et l'environnement naturel de Ranobe et de ses environs. L'étude de préfaisabilité publiée le 21 mars 2019 par la société Base Resources elle-même affirme que le zircon contenu dans le gisement de SML de Ranobe contient de l'uranium et du thorium dont la radioactivité empêchera l'exportation de ses produits vers les Etats-Unis et le Japon.

La toxicité et la dangerosité du projet intégré Base Toliara ont été confirmées par l'étude de préfaisabilité de l'exploitation de la monazite publiée par Base Resources en décembre 2023,

qui souligne que l'extraction et la concentration de la monazite augmenteraient de façon exponentielle les risques déjà élevés pour la santé et la vie des travailleurs et des résidents locaux.

La lettre ouverte du 30 septembre dit que l'étude de préfaisabilité du projet souligne que les risques de radioactivité pour les travailleurs et la communauté devraient être correctement gérés. D'après la source, la monazite du projet de Toliara sera classée comme marchandise dangereuse de classe 7, en raison des niveaux de matières radioactives qu'elle contient et nécessitera une manutention et une distribution spécialisées ainsi qu'un navire dédié (le partage avec d'autres cargaisons à bord d'un navire n'est pas autorisé).

« L'aire protégée de Ranobe (avec une forte concentration de forêt de baobabs, Ndlr), à 20 km du site d'extraction, sera détruite par la radioactivité. Il est opportun de se rappeler que la radioactivité partie de Tchernobyl en Russie a atteint toute l'Europe et a abîmé la Forêt-Noire en Allemagne, entre autres », a affirmé Pr Narison.

« Le site [touristique de] Mangily, les villages touristiques, les zones habitées aux alentours et la peuplade des Mikea le seront également. Le groupe humain appelé Mikea dans le Sud-Ouest malgache représente un patrimoine mondial important semblable aux Aborigènes en Australie et aux Peaux Rouges en Amérique », a-t-il ajouté.

Les autorités de Madagascar et des Etats-Unis ont été demandées de ne pas accorder de permis d'exploitation au projet intégré d'exploitation de SML et de monazite. Ceci, non seulement en raison des risques inacceptables liés aux impacts sanitaires et environnementaux attendus, mais aussi en raison des preuves significatives que, par le passé, de tels projets miniers soutenus par des fonds publics américains ont porté atteinte aux droits humains fondamentaux, détruit des habitats uniques et fortement pollué l'environnement local.

Selon les défenseurs des droits humains, Energy Fuels Resources Inc. fait face à de vives protestations de la part de la tribu Ute Mountain Ute, qui vit dans la bande de White Mesa, à côté de son usine d'uranium de White Mesa dans l'Utah, contre les effets délétères de ses activités. En même temps, l'entreprise est prête à faire des ravages dans les communautés touchées par son projet minier dans le district de Toliara II à Madagascar, qui ont la malchance de vivre sur des terres renfermant des ressources minières précieuses.

Dans le monde, la Chine à elle seule détient 70 % des gisements des minéraux critiques. Les autres pays, dont Madagascar, se partagent les 30 % restants. « L'extraction d'ilménite en Chine et en Amérique a été arrêtée à cause de ses effets sur la santé des employés et la communauté et sur l'environnement », a rappelé Pr Narison.

Partant, les constructeurs automobiles nord-américains et européens diversifient leurs sources d'approvisionnement en produits à base d'ETR afin de soutenir la croissance de leurs objectifs de production de véhicules électriques et hybrides. « Voilà pourquoi les sociétés extractives se

tournent vers les pays africains qui disposent d'importantes réserves car elles savent qu'ils ont tant besoin d'argent », a-t-il dit.

D'après sa remarque, les sociétés extractives ne respectent pas souvent les clauses des cahiers des charges qu'il considère comme une promesse vaine. « Il est difficile pour elles de se débarrasser des eaux contaminées issues du procédé d'extraction et, plus souvent aussi, la sécurité des produits radioactifs n'est pas maîtrisée. Certes, des contrôles sont menés. Mais les rapports sont, des fois, baisés et non transparents pour cause de corruption », a-t-il dénoncé.

Les polémiques sur l'extraction d'ilménite dans le Sud malgache par la compagnie minière QIT Madagascar Minerals Sa (QMM) – détenue à 80 % par le groupe minier multinational anglo-australien Rio Tinto et à 20 % par le gouvernement de Madagascar – sont aussi loin de se taire. L'activité minière est suspectée de causer des maux aux villageois « qui intentent une action en justice contre le géant minier Rio Tinto au motif que la pollution provenant d'une mine voisine leur aurait fait ingérer des niveaux dangereux d'uranium et de plomb ». Les opposants au projet Base Toliara craignent ainsi la reproduction de l'expérience de la QMM.

L'intention d'exploiter le gisement des sables minéralisés dans le sud-ouest malgache date de plusieurs années. La première société créée à cette fin s'appelle Toliara Sands, alors une émanation de la firme australienne Base Resources. Le permis environnemental 55-15/MEEMF/ONE/DG/PE qui lui a été délivré le 23 juin 2015 l'a réconfortée dans sa position.

En mai 2024, Toliara Sands a changé de main en devenant Base Toliara, avec un intérêt à 100 % américain et dont l'ambition est de « développer un projet de sables minéralisés de classe mondiale à Madagascar » sur le gisement de Ranobe. Mais la société a rencontré une opposition farouche de la part des communautés affectées.

En 2019, des faits aux rivages de la rébellion populaire ont poussé l'Etat à suspendre le projet par une décision prise en conseil des ministres le 6 novembre de la même année. Le 27 novembre 2025, les autorités sont revenues sur leur décision en levant la suspension. Selon la recommandation de l'Etat, le minier dispose de 14 mois, à compter du 27 novembre 2025, pour réviser son étude d'impact environnemental, une étape cruciale avant le démarrage effectif de l'exploitation.

Entre-temps, Madagascar a mis à jour son Code minier et la loi sur les grands investissements miniers (LGIM), promulguée en 2002, sous l'impulsion des bailleurs dont la Banque mondiale. Ces initiatives ont un rapport avec le projet Base Toliara, selon un numéro du journal parisien Africa Intelligence publié en mars.

Pour ses partisans, le projet ouvre la vanne à un flot d'opportunités pour sa région d'implantation et le pays. Ses promoteurs ambitionnent de faire de lui un modèle mondial de développement minier durable et responsable.

Celui-ci, selon eux, présente les attributs de la vision d'industrialisation du gouvernement malgache tout en plaçant stratégiquement le pays au cœur de la chaine de valeur mondiale des minéraux critiques. « Base Toliara, c'est un partenariat gagnant-gagnant entre Madagascar et le groupe Energy Fuels », clament-ils dans une insertion publicitaire.

Un argumentaire truffé de données chiffrées alléchantes dans le contexte de morosité économique est exposé pour justifier l'opportunité du projet minier. Celui-ci rapporterait, jusqu'à la fin de sa vie, près de 5 milliards de dollars, avec 180 millions de dollars par an en pleine phase d'expansion.

Dans un communiqué du 28 mars, Volamiranty Donna Mara, ministre de la Communication et de la Culture et non moins porte-parole du gouvernement, a fait savoir l'attribution de 80 millions de dollars à des projets nationaux et régionaux dont la moitié ira à la région Atsimo Andrefana avec une augmentation annuelle de 2 %.

Les communes rurales directement affectées par l'activité extractive à savoir Tsianisiha, Ankilimalinike, Belalanda et Maromiandra plus la commune urbaine de Toliara bénéficieront également de 4 millions de dollars par an en faveur des investissements sociaux. Plusieurs initiatives au profit de la communauté seront exécutées outre la construction de nouvelles infrastructures nécessaires à la bonne marche du projet (jetée en mer, route, hangars de stockage, etc.).

Selon Ramahefarivo, le projet minier de Base Toliara est une aubaine pour la région Atsimo Andrefana, l'une des plus pauvres à Madagascar où le taux de chômage atteint 83 %. Pour donner un coup de pouce à l'économie locale, la compagnie se vante de créer 4 600 emplois dont 2 200 directs. « Pour moi, garder la richesse du sous-sol sans rien faire alors que la population est aux prises avec la grande pauvreté est un génocide. Nous dormons sur une richesse », a-t-il clamé.

La venue d'expatriés insufflera aussi une dynamique nouvelle au profit des sous-traitants et de la paysannerie locale. La chaîne de valeurs ainsi stimulée ferait circuler 63 millions de dollars dans la ville de Toliara. « Nous, les cadres de la société, avons tous mené des carrières internationales. Il est temps maintenant pour nous de créer des opportunités pour notre terre d'origine », a lâché le natif de Toliara.

D'après lui, les technologies de pointe sont maîtrisées pour optimiser la rentabilité du projet et réduire les éventuels dégâts et déséquilibres subséquents. Des mesures particulières seront prises pour prévenir les risques écologiques et surtout sanitaires, qui donnent la chair de poule aux défenseurs de la nature et des droits humains en raison du rayonnement radioactif.

« La radioactivité des éléments présents sur le gisement ne présente aucun danger pour les humains, selon les données fournies par l'Institut national des sciences et techniques nucléaires ou INSTN (rattaché à l'université d'Antananarivo et représentant de l'AIEA à Madagascar, ndlr).

De plus, les sites d'extraction se trouvent loin des villages », a affirmé Dr Olivier Rakotomalala, ministre des Mines et des Ressources stratégiques, dans un communiqué du 6 avril.

Pr Narison, pour sa part, consteste la validité scientifique des données de l'INSTN auxquelles se réfère le ministre. D'après lui, l'étude réalisée par l'institut a brûlé des étapes exigées par la recherche scientifique et le gouvernement ne devrait pas se servir du résultat ainsi obtenu pour défendre le projet Base Toliara.

Selon cette dernière, des mesures particulières sont également édictées pour que l'activité extractive ne perturbe pas trop les activités vivrières comme la pêche traditionnelle et les habitudes de la population riveraine du projet. Aucune délocalisation ou expropriation n'est en vue. « Le permis octroyé par l'Etat porte sur des périmètres couvrant 7 500 hectares. Mais nous n'en toucherons que 4 000 hectares. L'extraction avancera au rythme de 1 à 2 hectares par an », a affirmé le patron de la société.

Un parc solaire d'une capacité de 15 mégawatts est produit l'électricité nécessaire. Des camions électriques remplaceront vers 2040 ceux en circulation en vertu de l'économie décarbonisée stipulée par l'Accord de Paris et de la gestion des pollutions de l'air et de la nuisance sonore des moteurs.

Les opposants au projet ne se privent d'aucune occasion pour en rejeter le bienfondé. « Le leader américain Donald Trump n'a pas appliqué la nouvelle règle de tarifs douaniers aux produits miniers. Il sait qu'il en va de l'intérêt des Etats-Unis. Cela devrait faire réfléchir nos dirigeants et les partisans de ce projet à risque », a dit Pr Narison.

Le scientifique est affirmatif en disant qu'il y aura plus de dommages que de bénéfices et que les gens ne s'opposent pas à ce projet pour rien. « La santé des générations futures et les richesses naturelles sur le site, comme les baobabs, des arbres millénaires, ne peuvent pas être achetées. Si les dirigeants aiment vraiment leur patrie, ils font bien de trouver d'autres options que de s'en tenir à ce projet à risque d'ilménite qui exposera le pays au danger », a-t-il ajouté.

Le secteur minier devrait contribuer à 14 % du produit intérieur brut de Madagascar. Mais il n'est pas bénéfique à la population et à la nation, selon des analystes. « Le projet Base Toliara illustre les contradictions d'un modèle de développement encore largement fondé sur l'extractivisme, où l'exploitation des ressources naturelles au profit du Nord prime sur la transformation et la valorisation locale dans le Sud », ont écrit Marc Boulnois et Tahina Rakotoarison, des chercheurs à l'université d'Antananarivo.

Des alternatives ont été en effet avancées après la suspension du projet minier en 2019. Un grand colloque auquel ont participé un large éventail d'acteurs a eu lieu en 2020. Des idées pragmatiques en ont découlé. Les participants ont alors exigé l'amélioration de la pêche en exigeant à l'Etat la révision de l'Accord de pêche avec l'Union européenne au profit de l'économie malgache.

Ils ont aussi demandé l'augmentation de l'accès à l'eau et des productions agricoles dans toute l'île, surtout dans le Sud à la merci des sécheresses récurrentes et de l'insécurité alimentaire. « C'est ce qui est prioritaire pour les Malgaches et non l'ilménite », a dit à Mongabay Elia Rabevahiny, un natif d'Ankilimalinike, l'une des communes affectées par le projet Base Toliara. Il est aussi président du parti nationaliste Otrikafo.

Les autres opposants au projet à l'instar du vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko, député de Madagascar élu à Toliara I, et lui n'entendent jamais baisser pavillon. Ce sera pour eux une dilapidation de la richesse nationale au profit d'un petit nombre de personnes et au grand dam de millions d'autres.

Dans une interview, le député élu à Sainte-Marie et non moins ancien secrétaire général du ministère des Mines et des Ressources stratégiques, Herilaza Imbiki, a affirmé que Base Toliara n'est plus au stade de recherche mais à l'exploitation selon le permis en sa possession. « Nous ne pouvons pas nous passer des investissements étrangers pour l'essor de notre économie. Le projet Base Toliara sera avantageux à plusieurs égards. Sa région d'implantation en tirera profit », estime le parlementaire.

L'exécution du projet améliorera des conditions socioéconomiques au pays, à son avis. « J'exhorte toutes les parties prenantes au dialogue. Nous avons besoin de nous écouter les uns les autres. Se camper sur sa position n'est jamais une solution. Nous sommes tous des Malgaches même si les idées divergent », a-t-il dit à Mongabay.

Citations

NATION

Pauline Ongaji (Kenya); The seaweed farming revolution in East Africa and lessons from Asia ; The Nation ; coming soon.

A Kiswahili version will be published in Akilimali (the agriculture pullout of Taifa Leo - Kenya's only Kiswahili newspaper)

Under the blazing sun of Zanzibar, deep within Peja Beach, Pili Halili and her fellow women farmers sit waist-deep in the ocean, carefully tending to the seaweed plantation a few hundred meters from the shore.

Pili is one of ten women working for Mwani Zanzibar Ltd, a company dedicated to the production, processing, and export of seaweed. This daily routine has become a vital part of their lives, providing them with a source of livelihood for many years.

Pili began her seaweed farming journey in 2005 as an individual, but due to the challenges faced in the industry, she abandoned the practice and explored other business opportunities.

"I decided to venture into small-scale business because, individually, seaweed farming wasn't profitable. The price was as low as Tsh 700 per kilogram (equivalent to just above Sh30)," she explains.

However, her love for seaweed farming resurfaced a few years later when she returned to the practice, this time under this collective farming initiative.

And throughout, she says, she has had no regrets because the benefits are substantial. "Seaweed farming provides an essential source of income for us, enabling us to educate our children and support our households," she adds.

Geographically, Zanzibar's seaweed production is divided between its islands. "Unguja contributes about 25 percent of the production, while Pemba accounts for the remaining 75 percent,"explains Flower Msuya, Researcher at Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster Initiative.

According to Msuya, seaweed farming remains a vital economic activity in Zanzibar, primarily involving the cultivation of Eucheuma spinosum. "The industry predominantly employs women, with estimates suggesting that between 15,000 and 20,000 individuals are engaged in seaweed farming across the region,"she adds.

But despite its potential, seaweed farming in the Island is not without its challenges. Pius James, Manager at Mwani Zanzibar Co Ltd, elaborates on the complex and labour-intensive process.

"Once you plant seaweed, you have to come here daily to take care of the plantation. You must do weeding during low tide times. If you delay, the seaweed becomes heavy due to the water, and it's more likely to be washed away during strong tides," he explains.

According to James, farmers also face difficulty with the logistics of farming, as planting is done during low tide, and tools such as sticks and ropes must be sourced at a cost.

Over in Kenya, seaweed farming faces a different set of challenges. Norah Magangi, a lab analyst at the Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI), explains the unique difficulties faced by farmers in Kwale County, where seaweed farming is growing slowly but steadily.

"There are no policies to protect and support the farmers," Norah laments. "Buyers set their own prices, often without considering the farmers' wellbeing. This leaves the farmers at a disadvantage, and many are losing motivation."

Kenyan seaweed farmers also, she says, face difficulty expanding their farms due to a lack of boats and anchors, which are necessary for farming in deeper, more favourable waters.

"To farm in deeper waters, we would need boats and anchors, which require significant capital investment," Magangi adds. The challenges are compounded by a lack of market structures, where brokers benefit the most from the transaction, while farmers receive little.

However, according to Magangi, despite these obstacles, some farmers are adding value to their seaweed, making products such as cosmetics, which could open new markets and improve their earnings.

Looking beyond East Africa, Asia has been at the forefront of seaweed farming innovation. Countries like Japan, China, and the Philippines have long capitalised on the vast potential of seaweed farming.

“Japan, for example, is known for its nori seaweed, a key ingredient in sushi, and has mastered the art of seaweed cultivation,”explains Mirko Dunner, who works at the UN Trade and development in Geneva, specialising in international seaweed and seaweed products.

According to Dunner, what has given Asian countries an upperhand is that they have significantly advanced seaweed farming techniques, integrating modern technology and research to increase production and mitigate the effects of climate change.

For instance, Dunner says, despite the potential risks posed by climate change, these countries continue to innovate, using technology to optimise farming techniques and improve yield quality.

And so, as East African countries like Kenya and Zanzibar continue to grapple with challenges in seaweed farming, experts argue that there are key lessons to be learned from their Asian counterparts.

“For instance, Asian countries have invested heavily in research and technology to improve seaweed farming techniques. East Africa can benefit from adopting new technologies that increase yield, reduce labor intensity, and mitigate environmental challenges, such as rising sea temperatures,” explains Msuya.

According to Dunner, while East African farmers continue to grapple with the lack of structured markets, in contrast, Asian countries have established well-organised networks for the sale and export of seaweed products.

“By developing better market access and value-added products, East African farmers can increase their earnings,” adds Magangi.

Msuya also argues that strong government policies and infrastructure support are critical to the success of seaweed farming.

"East African governments can play a crucial role in facilitating growth through policies that protect farmers from exploitation and improve access to resources," she adds.

And as seaweed farming is particularly vulnerable to climate change, Magangi says, adapting to climate change by diversifying species and improving infrastructure could help farmers in the region mitigate the risks posed by rising sea temperatures.

ENDS

The East African
UNDERSTANDING THE REGION

Pauline Ongaji (Kenya); East Africa's blue economy under threat as temperatures surge ; The East African, coming soon*.

This story has been submitted to the East African and I am hoping that it will be published in the next one or two weeks. The Kiswahili version will be published next week in Shina la Afya (Taifa Leo's pullout for health and climate change).

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As our plane landed at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport on the tropical island of Zanzibar, we were immediately greeted by the familiar beauty of its palm-fringed shores.

What made the experience even more captivating was the sight of the vibrant, historic Stone Town, a true gem that has earned Zanzibar its reputation as a beloved tourist destination.

Yet, alongside this beauty, there was a noticeable shift – a sweltering, almost oppressive heat that seemed to embrace us at every corner. The air was heavy with humidity, and even the shade under the trees offered little relief from the intense heat. At our hotel, the air conditioning ran nonstop, and in the workshop hall where we spent nearly a week learning about climate change and the ocean, three air conditioners were required to keep the space bearable.

Zanzibar, like much of East Africa, has been grappling with rising temperatures. While the island has always boasted a warm tropical climate, in recent years, temperatures have been climbing at an alarming rate.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2021 reports show a rise in extreme heat events across Zanzibar and the wider East African region. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), East Africa has experienced a gradual increase in temperatures over the past century, a trend that has accelerated in recent decades.

Also, coastal waters around Zanzibar have seen a rise of nearly 7°C since 1990, with sea temperatures climbing from an average of 31°C in 1990 to a stifling 38°C by 2020. Air temperatures, too, have been consistently above long-term averages, with heatwaves becoming an increasingly frequent threat.

This escalation in temperature is not isolated to Zanzibar alone. Neighbouring countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are experiencing similar temperature surges, as coastal cities and inland areas alike are subjected to the wrath of extreme heat.

As Dr. Joyce Kimutai, a climate scientist and a climate attribution researcher at the Kenya Meteorological service and Imperial College in London, United Kingdom, explains, this trend points to an urgent climate crisis unfolding in East Africa.

"Increasing temperatures are driving more frequent and intense tropical cyclones," Dr. Kimutai explains, "These storms are becoming stronger, often reaching Category 4 and 5, and are wreaking havoc across the East African coastline and islands. The combination of high winds, storm surges, and heavy rainfall puts both human life and infrastructure at great risk."

One of the most profound impacts of rising temperatures is being felt in the region's critical blue economy sector. Ghaamid Abdulbasat, a climate and biodiversity expert with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), highlights the devastating effects on marine life.

“Rising sea temperatures are causing coral reefs to bleach, fish stocks are declining, and coastal communities are struggling to adapt,” Abdulbasat explains.

For instance, Pius James, a manager at Mwani seaweed company in Paje area of the island, says that over the past few years, they have seen rising sea temperatures, which have significantly impacted seaweed production.

“We've experienced the emergence of diseases such as bacterial and fungal infections that are affecting the productivity of our crops," he adds.

In Kenya, the effects of rising ocean temperatures are being felt in the seagrass beds. A 2018 study on Kenya's seagrass coverage titled "The thinning green line?, found an average annual loss of 0.85 percent between 1986 and 2016, with the rate accelerating from 0.29 percent per year (1986–2000) to 1.59 percent per year (2000–2016). The Watamu-Malindi region was hit hardest, losing 77 percent of its seagrass over 30 years, with the loss rate increasing from 0.73 percent per year (1986–2000) to 4.64 percent per year (2000–2016).

“Seagrasses play a crucial role in carbon sequestration, reducing coastal erosion, and maintaining biodiversity. But due to climate change and as ocean temperatures continue rising, we are seeing a dramatic decline in these ecosystems, which not only disrupts the food chains but also weakens our coastlines against storm surges and high waves,” explains Kevin Lunzalu, a marine ecologist and a marine project officer at the East African Wildlife Society.

Experts warn that, beyond the ocean, the economic impact of rising temperatures could pose a serious threat to the region's tourism industry.

"As temperatures rise, tourists may begin to choose cooler destinations, and with tourism being a major part of the region's economy, the changing climate could directly affect this sector," explains Abdulbasat. But amid these growing challenges, regional and local governments are taking action to mitigate the effects of climate change. In Zanzibar for instance, the government is prioritising climate resilience through the enhancement of infrastructure and resource management. “We are focusing on green spaces, water conservation, and improved public transport systems. Additionally, we are collaborating with international organisations to support climate adaptation, including coastal protection and reforestation projects,” explains Ilyass Rajab Nassor, Head of the Management Division at the Zanzibar Commission for Tourism.

Further across East Africa, experts are calling for stronger investments in climate adaptation strategies, particularly in the most vulnerable coastal zones.

“This includes improving coastal zone management, building flood protection infrastructure, upgrading early warning systems, and fostering cross-border cooperation in climate monitoring and disaster response,” explains Abdulbasat.

Moreover, Kimutai advocates for more inclusive approaches that involve local communities in climate solutions. “Developing early warning systems and integrating climate information into local development plans will be key in ensuring that communities are prepared for the increasing frequency of extreme weather events,” she explains. But overall, experts unanimously agree on the urgent need for stronger policies to cut carbon emissions. A recent study by World Weather Attribution focusing on East Africa, focusing on East Africa, reveals that the region’s recent extreme temperatures would have been nearly impossible without human-induced climate change. "In other words, in a world without global warming, these heatwaves simply wouldn’t have happened," adds Dr. Kimutai.

Quotidien national d'information et d'analyse
La Vérité
"Toute verité est bonne à dire"

Rivonala Razafison (Madagascar); Economie bleue et économie circulaire : deux journalistes d'Antananarivo à Zanzibar ; La Vérité, 10 mars 2025.

Economie bleue et économie circulaire

Deux journalistes d'Antananarivo au Zanzibar

Seules huit Régions de Madagascar ne sont pas directement liées à la mer. Sur les zones littorales, les activités de pêche et de tourisme en particulier assurent les moyens de subsistance des habitants comme c'est le cas d'environ 600 millions d'individus dans le monde. Les océans et les mers représentent d'immenses opportunités. Mais ces milieux naturels sont aussi sujets à de multiples menaces et risques.

Des journalistes venus des pays riverains de l'océan Indien, dont Madagascar, et de l'Afrique de l'Est et australe suivront un atelier sur l'économie bleue et l'économie circulaire à Zanzibar qui se déroulera du 10 au 14 mars à Stone Town, au Zanzibar.

Il s'agit d'une initiative de l'association Africa21 soutenue, entre autres, par la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (UNCTAD), de la Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) et de l'ambassade suisse en Tanzanie. L'atelier aussi est organisé en prélude à la Troisième conférence des Nations unies sur les océans qui se tiendra du 9 au 13 juin à Nice, en France.

A l'occasion du rendez-vous zanzibarite de cette semaine, les défis et les problèmes auxquels sont confrontées les zones littorales des pays insulaires et riverains de l'océan Indien en termes de développement et de changement climatique seront décortiqués en premier.

Il en sera de même de la diversité, de la richesse et de la fragilité des écosystèmes marins dans l'océan Indien. A la base, l'économie bleue et l'économie circulaire sont inter-reliées entre elles et peuvent se soutenir durablement au profit des habitants et du développement.

Des études de cas et visites sur le terrain aideront les journalistes à mieux cerner les problèmes qui existent dans leur pays respectif. Deux journalistes venus d'Antananarivo sont parmi les bénéficiaires de la formation.

M.R.

Najjat Omar (Tanzania); Africa 21 hosts circular economy workshop for journalists from five African countries in Zanzibar; The Chanzo, March 10, 2025.

To watch the video : https://x.com/thechanzo/status/1899111461433065931?s=48

Karina Zarazafy (Madagascar); Zanzibar : Les journalistes au cœur de l'économie bleue et circulaire ; Bleen Media, 10 mars 2025.

Pour accéder à l'article : https://www.bleenmada.com/zanzibar-les-journalistes-au-coeur-de-leconomie-bleue-et-circulaire/

Rompre avec le récit d'une Afrique victime et en faire une source de solutions durables. Tel est le rôle fièrement endossé par les journalistes africains participant à l'atelier sur l'économie bleue et circulaire organisé par Africa 21 à Zanzibar du 10 au 14 mars.

Une quinzaine de journalistes scientifiques et environnementaux des pays de l'océan indien occidental (OIO) sont actuellement réunis à Zanzibar pour approfondir leurs connaissances sur l'économie circulaire et l'économie bleue. Le but étant de les outiller pour mieux analyser, rapporter et sensibiliser le public sur les enjeux de ces deux domaines de l'économie.

Former pour informer

« Passer de l'image de l'Afrique victime à celle de l'Afrique comme source de solutions ». C'est en ces mots que Barkha Mossaë, Regenerative Blue Economy Manager au sein de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN), a déterminé l'objectif de cet atelier de Zanzibar, à destination des journalistes. Initié par l'association Africa 21 et soutenu par des acteurs tels que la Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), l'Ambassade de la Suisse en Tanzanie, le programme SMEP ou Sustainable manufacturing and environmental pollution, ou encore la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (UNCTAD), cet atelier de 5 jours fera intervenir de nombreux experts. Ce, afin de sensibiliser les journalistes et communicateurs aux défis et opportunités de l'économie circulaire et bleue à Zanzibar et dans l'océan Indien. Ce programme s'inscrit dans une dynamique de transition vers un modèle plus durable, en mettant en avant les aspects environnementaux, socio-

économiques et de gouvernance. « Toutes nos activités de 2025 seront consacrées à sensibiliser et à aider les journalistes à développer une expertise de base ainsi qu'à accéder à des experts afin de mieux couvrir les enjeux de l'économie circulaire et de l'économie bleue » a soutenu Julien Chambolle, Secrétaire général d'Africa 21, durant son discours.

Un levier économique

Les pays et îles de l'Océan indien occidental dépendent en effet de ce grand espace maritime qui les unit. A titre d'exemple, en Zanzibar, pays hôte de cet atelier, l'économie dépend en grande partie du tourisme et de la pêche. Selon Captain Hamad Bakar, Secrétaire permanent du ministère zanzibarien de l'économie bleue et de la pêche, « le tourisme et la pêche constituent la colonne vertébrale d'un développement socio-économique qui assure la subsistance d'environ 2/3 de la population ». Toujours d'après ses explications, la part de la pêche dans le Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB) du Zanzibar « est de 4 à 8% » tandis que celle du tourismeest « à plus de 29% ». Il a également souligné le fait que « 99% du commerce international de Zanzibar se fait par voie maritime ». Illustrant ainsi la place prépondérante occupée par ces domaines dans la vie du pays et de sa population.

Réinventer le récit

« Nous devons absolument changer le système et les journalistes ont un important rôle à jouer dans ce processus » a insisté Barkha Mossaë lors de son intervention. Cet atelier de Zanzibar entend en effet aider les journalistes à comprendre les enjeux du changement climatique et du développement durable dans les pays de la région, tout en leur permettant d'explorer les principes de l'économie bleue et circulaire ainsi que leurs applications concrètes. Les activités durant la semaine iront ainsi de la cartographie de la gouvernance internationale et des processus de négociation en la matière, à des visites de terrain afin d'observer les initiatives locales. Cet événement fournit en effet un programme approfondi afin d'appuyer les journalistes africains dans ce processus de « changement de système » souligné par la Regenerative Blue Economy Manager de l'UICN.

« En fin de compte, tout se résume à la narration et au récit que nous faisons de nous-mêmes et de notre situation dans le monde » a-t-elle soulevé. Selon cette experte de l'UICN, les médias auraient tendance à dépeindre l'Afrique et les pays du Sud en général, comme des victimes. Ainsi, incomberait-il aux journalistes africains de « rompre cette tendance » et de parler du

continent comme « une région hautement investissable, qui produit réellement de la richesse et des solutions ». Notamment car ces récits et narrations ont un énorme impact sur « la capacité de la région à accéder aux divers mécanismes de financement climatique », les pays y étant jugés « à risque ».

Quotidien national d'information et d'analyse
La Vérité
"Toute verité est bonne à dire"

Rivonala Razafison (Madagascar); Sud-Ouest de l'Océan Indien, habitat de 85% de la biodiversité marine mondiale ; La Vérité, 11 mars 2025*.

Sud-Ouest de l'océan Indien

Habitat de 85% de la biodiversité marine mondiale

Le bassin du Sud-Ouest de l'océan Indien (SWIO), auquel appartient Madagascar, est riche en biodiversité marine. « Il recèle à lui seul 85% de la biodiversité marine mondiale. Beaucoup d'articles scientifiques le confirment », a dit hier Mahfoudh Haji, directeur général de l'Alliance pour le changement climatique au Zanzibar, lors de la première journée d'un atelier régional consacré à l'économie bleue et à l'économie circulaire qui se tient dans la capitale zanzibarite du 10 au 14 mars à l'intention des journalistes.

La Grande île, avec sa zone économique exclusive d'environ 1,4 million de kilomètres carrés, occupe une place de choix dans ce contexte. Avec les îles sœurs et les pays riverains de l'océan Indien, elle représente un espace plus que favorable à la promotion de l'économie bleue et de l'économie circulaire.

La première décrit l'utilisation durable et la conservation des ressources aquatiques dans les environnements marins et d'eaux douces tandis que la seconde se définit comme un modèle de production et de consommation qui consiste à partager, réutiliser, réparer, rénover et recycler les produits existants le plus longtemps possible afin qu'ils conservent leur valeur. Tant d'autres définitions existent en tout cas.

Pour aider les pays de la SWIO à mieux tirer profit des opportunités, des initiatives d'envergure se mettent en place. L'une des plus grandes se nomme la Grande muraille bleue de l'Afrique au profit de la planète, de la nature et des peuples. Les Comores, le Kenya, la Tanzanie, le Mozambique et Madagascar y sont associés sur la base du partenariat bleu.

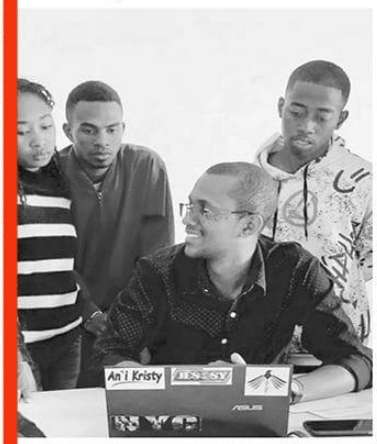
Le Digital Earth for Africa ou DE for Africa vient en appui même s'il s'agit d'une initiative qui n'a aucun lien direct à l'autre. Il exploite les technologies modernes pour le suivi d'érosion côtière en particulier, un phénomène qui touche les pays riverains des océans dans le contexte actuel de changement climatique et d'élévation du niveau de la mer. Madagascar est touché de plein fouet à voir la problématique de la ville de Morondava, entre autres.

C'est pour permettre aux populations des pays visés de se mettre au diapason que des journalistes, dont deux d'Antananarivo, suivent une formation de cinq jours à Stone Town, au Zanzibar, sur l'initiative de l'association Africa21. Celle-ci est soutenue, entre autres, par la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (UNCTAD), de la Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) et de l'Ambassade suisse en Tanzanie.

M.R.

ACTU-BRÈVES

▶ Précieux G. Rajaofera, un pont interculturel entre Madagascar et l'Université du Sussex.



Brillant boursier malagasy du prestigieux programme Chevening, Précieux G. Rajaofera, a franchi une nouvelle étape remarquable en devenant le premier ambassadeur interculturel malagasy de l'Université du Sussex. Dans ce rôle novateur, il collabore étroitement avec l'Université du Sussex pour transformer le campus en un véritable carrefour mondial de l'interculturalité. Sa vision est celle d'un lieu où la diversité est non seulement reconnue comme une valeur, mais aussi activement célébrée et vécue au quotidien. Un pilier de son action est la série « *Réflexion interculturelle* », un espace dynamique où les étudiants internationaux peuvent tisser des liens culturels solides et approfondir leur sentiment d'appartenance au sein de la communauté universitaire. Ces rencontres favorisent l'échange et le dialogue, renforçant l'esprit d'ouverture et de compréhension mutuelle. À travers son engagement et leadership, Précieux G. démontre un impact qui dépasse les frontières de Madagascar. Il est un véritable modèle d'ouverture et d'engagement global, contribuant à construire un avenir plus inclusif et connecté.

▶ 5e sommet de la COI, d'Antananarivo : Le logo officiel dévoilé cette semaine.

Les préparatifs du 5ème Sommet de la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI), accueilli par Antananarivo le 24 avril 2025, s'intensifient. Hier, la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Rafaravavitafika Rasata, a convoqué les chefs de commission pour un point d'étape au ministère à Anosy. Chaque responsable a présenté l'avancement des travaux, soulignant les progrès accomplis et les difficultés persistantes. Un jalon important sera franchi ce vendredi 14 mars avec la présentation du logo officiel du sommet et du site web dédié par le comité d'organisation. Ceci marque une étape cruciale dans la préparation de cet événement diplomatique majeur qui rassemblera les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement des pays membres de la COI. L'annonce du logo et du site internet symbolise l'entrée dans une phase concrète de l'organisation, permettant une meilleure visibilité et communication plus efficace auprès du public et des délégations attendues.

▶ Exploitation sexuelle des jeunes filles : des actions ciblées à mettre en place conjointement.

Face à l'exploitation sexuelle des jeunes filles à Madagascar, une situation qualifiée d'alarmante par la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Rasata Rafaravavitafika, une collaboration renforcée entre le Gouvernement malagasy et l'UNICEF s'impose. La ministre a exprimé le besoin urgent de mettre en place des actions ciblées pour prévenir ce fléau, sensibiliser les populations et protéger les victimes. Ce partenariat vise à développer des programmes concrets, en accord avec les priorités gouvernementales, pour lutter efficacement contre ce crime. L'UNICEF, représenté par Christine Jaulmes, a réaffirmé son engagement indéfectible à soutenir Madagascar dans ce combat crucial. La rencontre entre la ministre et la représentante de l'UNICEF a également permis de souligner l'excellente collaboration existante entre les deux parties. Madame Jaulmes a remercié le ministère pour son soutien logistique et assistance dans l'organisation de plusieurs missions importantes menées ces derniers mois, notamment celles relatives à la lutte contre la poliomyélite en collaboration avec le Centre de contrôle et de prévention des maladies, la visite du Conseil d'administration de l'UNICEF et la venue du sous-secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans le cadre de l'initiative « *Nutrition for Growth* » sur la Grande île.

MWANANCHI

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Six environmental challenges in Zanzibar, stakeholders propose actions to be taken ; Mwananchi, March 11, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.mwananchi.co.tz/mw/zanzibar/changamoto-sita-za-kimazingira-zanzibar-wadau-wapendekeza-hatua-za-kuchukua-4959076

Zanzibar. Zanzibar inakabiliwa na changamoto za kimazingira, ikiwa ni pamoja na kuongezeka kwa kina cha bahari, uvamizi wa maji ya chumvi, mmomonyoko wa fukwe, na hali mbaya ya hewa.

Ofisa Uratibu wa Wizara ya Uchumi wa Buluu, Omar Mohamed, ameeleza changamoto hizo Machi 10, 2025 wakati wa warsha kuhusu uchumi rejelezi (Circular Economy) na Uchumi wa Buluu iliyoandaliwa na Afrika 21 kwa kutanisha waandishi wa habari, wataalamu wa uchumi relejezi na uchumi wa buluu kutoka Afrika, hususan mataifa ya pwani na visiwa vya Bahari ya Hindi.

Katibu Mkuu wa Wizara ya Uchumi wa Buluu na Uvuvi, Hamad Bakar Hamad akizungumza na waandishi wa habari

Omar Mohamed amebainisha kuwa uharibifu wa miamba ya matumbawe unatishia sekta za uvuvi na utalii, huku uvamizi wa maji ya chumvi na mabadiliko yasiyotabirika ya mvua yakihatarisha kilimo na vyanzo vya maji safi.

“Tunahitaji kuchukua hatua sasa ili kulinda maisha na usalama wa chakula,” amesema akiongeza miongoni mwa madhara ni jamii za pwani zikilazimiaka kuhama kwa lazima kutokana na kupungua kwa ardhi.

Amesema asilimia 23 hadi 54 ya watu wanakabiliwa na tatizo hili. Aidha, kupungua kwa idadi ya samaki kumeathiri ustawi wa wavuvi, hivyo kuhatarisha riziki na usalama wa chakula.

Akifafanua zaidi, amesema, “tafiti na shuhuda za wavuvi zinaonyesha kupungua kwa mazalia ya samaki, hali inayolazimisha Serikali kuchukua hatua madhubuti za kuimarisha sekta ya uvuvi.”

Umuhimu wa uhifadhi wa mazingira

Katibu Mkuu wa Wizara ya Uchumi wa Buluu na Uvuvi, Hamad Bakar Hamad, amesisitiza kuwa uchumi wa Zanzibar unategemea sana bahari, huku sekta za uvuvi na utalii zikiwa nguzo kuu za maendeleo ya kijamii na kiuchumi.

"Sekta hizi zinategemewa na takriban theluthi mbili ya wakazi wa Zanzibar, huku uvuvi ukichangia kati ya asilimia nne hadi 8 ya Pato la Taifa (GDP) na utalii ukichangia zaidi ya asilimia 29," amesema Hamad.

Tasnia nyingine muhimu ni pamoja na ufugaji wa baharini, kilimo cha mwani, na uvunaji wa holothuria (sea cucumbers), ambavyo vina mchango mkubwa katika uchumi wa Zanzibar.

Mwaka 2024, uzalishaji wa mwani ulifikia takriban tani 18,000, huku asilimia 99 ya biashara za kimataifa zikitegemea rasilimali za bahari.

Licha ya mchango huu wa kiuchumi, Hamad amekiri kuwa Zanzibar inakabiliwa na changamoto za uendelevu, akihimiza mabadiliko ya mbinu za matumizi ya rasilimali ili kuhakikisha manufaa ya muda mrefu kwa mazingira na jamii.

Hatua zinazochukuliwa

Katibu Mkuu Hamad amesema Serikali inawahamasisha wanawake wanaojihusisha na kilimo cha mwani pamoja na wavuvi kuhamia maeneo ya kina kirefu cha bahari ili kulinda akiba ya samaki na kuongeza mavuno.

"Ili kuwezesha mabadiliko haya, Serikali imewapatia wavuvi na wakulima wa mwani zaidi ya boti 1,000 kwa riba ya asilimia 0," amesema.

Aidha, amebainisha wanafanya jitihada kutafuta masoko bora na kuanzisha viwanda vya usindikaji ili kuimarisha mnyororo wa thamani wa bidhaa zinazozalishwa.

"Mkakati wetu unahakikisha kuwa wanawake hawaachwi nyuma katika shughuli zao za kiuchumi, bali wanapewa nyenzo na fursa za kustawi katika Uchumi wa Buluu. Wizara yetu imejizatiti kuwasaidia wanawake kuendelea kushiriki kikamilifu katika sekta hii," amefafanua.

Amesisitiza kuwa dhamira ya Serikali katika uhifadhi wa mazingira na uwezeshaji wa kiuchumi inalenga kuhakikisha kuwa rasilimali za bahari za Zanzibar zinaendelea kunufaisha jamii huku zikihifadhiwa kwa vizazi vijavyo.

Ili kukabiliana na changamoto hizi, Omar Mohamed amependekeza kupanua uchumi wa buluu kupitia kilimo cha mwani na bioteknolojia ya baharini, kuhamasisha matumizi ya nishati mbadala, na kutekeleza miradi ya kulinda fukwe.

Pia amesisitiza umuhimu wa utalii endelevu na kuwawezesha vijana kwa ujuzi wa uhifadhi wa mazingira na mbinu za kukabiliana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Programme launched to support sustainable fishing in Zanzibar ; The Guardian, March 12, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/programme-launched-to-support-sustainable-fishing-in-zanzibar-2025-03-11-170018

Zanzibar's Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries has launched a comprehensive program aimed at sensitizing artisanal fishermen on sustainable fishing following the rise in overfishing, illegal and unsustainable fishing practices.

The program targets at ensuring that both the community and the government benefits from sustainable marine resources.

Eng. Omar Mohamed, the Blue Economy Ministry Coordination Officer, told journalists yesterday during a workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean region. The workshop was funded by the Geneva-based think tank, Africa 21. The workshop brought together journalists from Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Zanzibar, along with participants from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Swiss Embassy, and other experts.

Mohamed cited unsustainable fishing practices that cause overfishing as drag nets, seine nets and other illegal fishing practices.

"We are now taking serious measures to educate fishermen on the importance of following guidelines because overfishing and illegal fishing practices are rampant in Zanzibar. People from other regions are coming to engage in fishing activities here," he said.

He asserted that local fishermen have expressed concerns about the scarcity of fish, citing that climate change and ongoing overfishing are limiting their catches. They are now seeking government support to access deeper waters for fishing.

"As the water warms and becomes more acidic, it impacts species of all sizes," he added.

Zanzibar, as an island nation, is heavily dependent on marine resources, fisheries, tourism, and agriculture.

However, the island is now facing the negative impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, which cause coastal soil erosion and land loss, an increase in cyclones and extreme weather events, and coral reef degradation, which affects both fisheries and tourism.

Furthermore, Zanzibar is grappling with marine pollution, chemical contamination, and plastic waste, all of which pose a significant threat to its marine resources.

Hamad Hamad, Principal Secretary at the ministry of blue economy and fisheries added that fisheries and tourism are the backbone of Zanzibar's socio economic development, supporting the livelihoods of around two- thirds of the population.

Fisheries contribute 4.8 percent of GDP, while tourism accounts for over 29 percent and more than 95 percent of Zanzibar"s fisheries are near shore, directly employing 60,000 people with an additional 100,000 individuals working in the value chain, 17 percent of whom are women.

The aquaculture sector, dominated by seaweed farming, provides employment for 15,559 people.

He says, 80 percent of whom are women.

Other aquaculture activities such as Mud crab farming, sea cucumber and finfish (milkfish) also play vital roles.

In 2024, seaweed production alone reached approximately 19,000 tons.

Additionally, 99 percent of Zanzibar"s international trade is seaborne.

He also suggests that it is time to adopt new, sustainable methods of utilizing our oceans - methods that prioritize resilience and sustainability for both the environment and our communities.

Meanwhile, Swiss Embassy Representative Consuelo Natalie said the workshop will help the media to produce high quality public interest content and gain valuable insights into sustainable economic models and enhance their ability to report on these crucial issues.

"The Third UN Ocean Conference will be a key platform for Zanzibar to showcase its ocean protection and sustainability efforts. Journalism plays a vital role in shaping public opinion and advancing sustainable development," she said

Najjat Omar (Tanzania); Plastic Waste Management Must Be Improved So That It Does Not Enter the Sea in Large Amounts ; The Chanzo, March 13, 2025.

To watch the video : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bn6GsMR_Fk8

Ghaamid Abdulbasat ,Afisa Mahusiano Bahari kutoka IUCN ESARO Akizungumza na The Chanzo juu ya uzalishaji wa chupa za plastiki na athari zake.

Tanzania inakadiriwa kuwa tani takribani 29,000 za taka za plastiki zinazoingia baharini kila mwaka.

Taka hizo za plastiki zimekuwa zikiingia baharini kutokana na udhaifu wa mfumo wa usimamizi wa taka uliopo nchini.

"Ni kweli ni kwamba sisi tunahitaji hizo bidhaa kwa maana ya kutumia kilichopo ndani ya plastiki, lakini plastiki yenyewe hatuihitaji. Sasa je, wanatakiwa watuoneshe kwamba baada ya matumizi ya hizo plastiki tuzipeleke wapi, tuzifanye nini? Na wao wana mchango gani katika kuhakikisha kwamba mnyororo huu wa thamani wa ongezeko la plastiki ambao unasababishwa na wao wenyewe tunahakikisha kwamba unakuwa na uthibiti ili pia usiathiri mazingira na afya za watu."

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Youth urged to tap opportunities in the blue economy value chain ; The Guardian, March 13, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/youth-urged-to-tap-opportunities-in-the-blue-economy-value-chain-2025-03-12-192016

"In a circular economy, youth can utilize market or household waste to create compost fertilizers for farming," Pima explained.

YOUTH are encouraged to tap opportunities in the blue economy to protect marine resources, preserve ecosystems, create jobs for their peers, reduce local and oceanic waste, and decrease reliance on foreign packaging materials.

Sarah Pima, from the Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUDEFO), shared this observation during a workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean Region.

According to Pima, there are numerous opportunities in the circular and blue economy that youth in the Indian Ocean Region can take advantage of.

These opportunities include creating products from plastic and market waste to conserve marine resources, protect the environment, and reduce plastic waste in oceans, rivers, and lakes.

The workshop was funded by the Geneva-based think tank, Africa 21, and brought together journalists from Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Zanzibar.

Additionally, participants included representatives from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Swiss Embassy, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries in Zanzibar, ICUN, and other experts.

"In a circular economy, youth can utilize market or household waste to create compost fertilizers for farming," Pima explained.

"They can also use black soldier flies to produce animal feed, recycle plastic bottles to create pavements, wood products, and various types of containers.

Moreover, they can develop projects to educate schools and communities about the circular and blue economy, helping students and parents understand these concepts and the opportunities they provides," she says

In a blue economy youth can use seaweed, sea cucumber, mad crabs, sea grass and other to establish various projects to conserve marine resources and earn cash to improve their livelihoods.

Pima made these comments while addressing journalists on socio-economic issues, including the creation of new jobs, new training opportunities, and changes in the workforce landscape.

She noted that although Tanzania is currently promoting the blue and circular economy and has various policies related to blue economy, tourism, and energy, there is still a significant gap.

"We still lack a specific policy and strategy focused on the circular economy," Pima said.

A clear policy and strategy for the circular economy are needed to drive increased competitiveness, stimulate innovation, boost economic growth, and create more jobs.

Additionally, Pima emphasized the need for specialized machinery for waste processing and product development. "We do not have the necessary equipment to mix waste and produce viable products," she noted. She also speaks about the importance of educating communities about the opportunities in the blue and circular economies to reduce waste generation, protect the environment, and create jobs.

"In the blue economy, youth can engage in seaweed farming and produce various products, and they can travel to other countries to learn how similar activities are managed.

Pima also addressed challenges facing the employment sector, such as the lack of training programs and the mismatch between current skills and future job requirements.

Currently, HUDEFO has trained 126 schools in Lindi, Mtwara, and Iringa on micro-forests, an initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability through reforestation efforts.

Milliam Murigi (Kenya); Experts call for more research on marine life in Indian Ocean; People Daily Tanzania, March 13, 2025.

Experts call for more research on marine life in Indian Ocean

Marine science in Africa gets a drop in the ocean with regards to budgetary allocation, leaving the vast ocean potential untapped

by Milliam Murigi
@milliyours

Biodiversity experts have urged governments that benefit from the Indian Ocean to increase investment in research to help uncover the 'true extent' of marine life in the resource.

Zanzibar Climate Change Alliance Executive Director Mahfoudh Haji said the ocean is a treasure trove of ecological biodiversity. It supports a vast range of biodiversity, including iconic species like sea turtles, dugongs, and whale sharks.

However, despite its rich marine life, a significant number of species within this ecosystem remain unidentified, posing a major challenge to conservation efforts.

"A glaring example of this knowledge gap is seen in marine algae. So far, researchers have identified only 10 species of algae in the Indian Ocean ecosystem. However, it is estimated that there could be up to 250 species in the ecosystem, highlighting the urgent need for further research and exploration," he noted.

Capacity shortfalls

Lack of resources and advanced technology is one of the key reasons many species in the ecosystem remain unidentified, he stated. Conducting biodiversity mapping, monitoring, and evaluation requires substantial financial investment and sophisticated technological tools resources, which most African countries currently lack.

Limited expertise is also another major contributor to this challenge. According to him, Africa has very few biodiversity experts specialising in marine ecosystems, which makes it difficult to conduct extensive research and species identification. This shortage also means that much of the region's marine biodiversity remains unexplored and undocumented.

"Lack of political will is another major challenge. Biodiversity conservation is not a priority for many governments, as more attention and resources are directed toward other sectors. Without strong policy support and investment, efforts to study and protect marine ecosystems remain limited," Mahfoudh observed, revealing that without sufficient data, conservation work becomes incredibly difficult as conservationists lack a clear understanding of the full capacity and potential of this ecosystem.

Without comprehensive research and documentation, it is impossible to determine what species exist, their ecological roles, and how best to protect them.

This knowledge gap also affects sustainable fishing practices, tourism, and climate adaptation strategies that rely on a well-documented marine ecosystem. This is because without accurate data on marine biodiversity, policymakers and conservationists struggle to implement effective regulations to prevent overfishing, protect all the species, and promote responsible tourism.

"There is need for increased investment in marine research, capacity building and technological advancements. Strengthening collaborations between governments, research institutions and conservation organisations could also accelerate efforts to uncover the hidden species of the Indian Ocean and develop informed conservation strategies," he said.

Little investment

This is however not an Indian ocean problem only. Scientists estimate that 91 per cent of ocean species are yet to be classified globally but the global scientific community continues to amass as much knowledge as possible about ocean life.

According to Dr Arthur Tuda, Executive Director of Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), marine science in Africa receives only "a drop in the ocean of national budgets". But new interest in the "blue economy" holds promise.

"As little as 0.1 per cent of national budgets on the continent go to better understanding our oceans and marine life.

Experts have urged governments to help uncover the extent of marine life in the treasure trove of ecological biodiversity that is the Indian Ocean. PHOTO

And much of that is for the administration costs of organisations involved in marine research, not the research work itself. According to him, overlooking the ocean's potential poses significant risks, especially amid challenges like overfishing and climate change.

He emphasised that robust marine research is crucial for sustainable development and should be a top priority for policymakers.

He revealed that, there is also a troubling disconnect between science and policy, with politicians and the public often failing to understand the significance of scientific assessments, such as fish stock evaluations.

For example, last year some political figures in Kenya criticised the government for spending Shs. 6 billion on fish stock assessments, trivialising the effort as merely "counting fish".

THE CITIZEN

Rosemary Mirondo (Tanzania); Zanzibar's marine economy under threat from climate change ; The Citizen, March 13, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/zanzibar/zanzibar-s-marine-economy-under-threat-from-climate-change-4962588

What you need to know:

- **Other key industries include marine farming, seaweed cultivation, and the harvesting of sea cucumbers, all of which are crucial to Zanzibar's economy.**

Zanzibar. Zanzibar's marine-dependent economy is facing increasing risks due to climate change, with rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, beach erosion, and extreme weather events disrupting key sectors such as fishing, tourism and agriculture.

The Coordination Officer at the Ministry of Blue Economy, Omar Mohamed, has warned that up to 54 percent of the population is affected, calling for urgent action to safeguard livelihoods and food security.

Speaking at a Circular Economy workshop, he outlined the government's response, which includes support for deep-sea fishing, expansion of seaweed farming, and environmental conservation initiatives.

"Coral reef destruction is crippling tourism and fisheries, while saltwater intrusion and erratic rainfall are jeopardising freshwater sources and agricultural productivity," he stated.

Also read: Rising ocean temperatures challenge women seaweed farmers in Zanzibar

Mr Mohamed noted that these environmental challenges have led to forced displacement of coastal communities due to land loss.

He highlighted a decline in fish stocks, which has significantly impacted the livelihoods of fishermen, putting both income and food security at risk.

"Research and fishermen's testimonies indicate a decline in fish breeding grounds, necessitating decisive government action to strengthen the fishing sector," he said.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Hamad Bakar Hamad, said that Zanzibar's economy heavily depends on the ocean, with fishing and tourism being vital pillars of social and economic development.

"These sectors support nearly two-thirds of Zanzibar's population, with fishing contributing between 4 per cent and 8 percent of GDP, while tourism accounts for over 29 per cent," Mr Hamad said.

Other key industries include marine farming, seaweed cultivation, and the harvesting of sea cucumbers, all of which are crucial to Zanzibar's economy.

In 2024, seaweed production reached approximately 18,000 tonnes, with 99 per cent of international trade relying on marine resources.

Despite this economic contribution, Mr Hamad acknowledged the sustainability challenges facing Zanzibar, urging a shift in resource utilisation methods to ensure long-term benefits for both the environment and communities.

He further stated that the government is encouraging women involved in seaweed farming and fishermen to venture into deeper waters to protect fish stocks and boost yields.

"To support this transition, the government has provided over 1,000 boats to fishermen and seaweed farmers at a 0 per cent interest rate," he said.

Additionally, he outlined efforts to secure better markets and establish processing industries to enhance the value chain of marine products.

"Our strategy ensures that women are not left behind in economic activities but are instead provided with tools and opportunities to thrive in the Blue Economy. Our ministry is committed to helping women actively participate in this sector," he elaborated.

To tackle these challenges, Mr Mohamed proposed expanding the Blue Economy through seaweed farming and marine biotechnology, promoting the use of renewable energy, and implementing coastal protection projects.

He also emphasised the importance of sustainable tourism and equipping youth with environmental conservation skills to combat climate change effectively.

The government remains committed to balancing economic development with environmental conservation to ensure that Zanzibar's marine resources continue to benefit communities while being preserved for future generations.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania) ; Zanzibar seeking global investors for development of blue economy ; The Guardian, March 14, 2025.

ZANZIBAR SEEKING GLOBAL INVESTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BLUE ECONOMY

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ZANZIBAR Island is actively seeking investors from across the globe to invest in various sectors of its blue economy, including fishing processing facilities, fish feed processing plants for aquaculture industries, deep-sea fishing projects, and advanced seaweed technology.

The aim is to harness the island's maritime resources, create employment opportunities for residents, raise Zanzibar's profile in the fishing sector, and produce animal feed, among other benefits.

Makame Shaah, Fisheries Coordinator officer at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, shared this information during a Blue and Circular Economy workshop for African Journalists from the Indian Ocean region.

The workshop, funded by the Geneva-based think tank, Africa 21 Network specialized in sustainable development and climate change. brought together journalists from Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Zanzibar.

Shaah emphasized the need for investment, highlighting Zanzibar's rich marine biodiversity. "We have a variety of fish species, there are also many large fish species," he explained.

He went on to discuss sustainable fisheries development in Tanzania, noting that with Zanzibar's abundant fish resources, fishermen with large boats are now venturing into its waters.

"We encourage them to come and invest in Zanzibar, obtain the necessary permits, so both they and the local community can benefit," he added.

Currently, Zanzibar has two fish processing facilities, located on Unguja and Pemba Islands. Construction is underway at both sites.

According to Shaah, the fisheries sector contributes 4.8 percent to Zanzibar's GDP. Most people in Zanzibar are artisanal fishermen, with 63,000 individuals directly employed in the sector. Of these, 14 percent are women, and an additional 100,000 people work in the value chain.

Zanzibar is also seeking technologically advanced countries to assist in acquiring satellite technology, drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), marine sonar, acoustic technology for deep-sea areas, and artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analysis tools.

These technologies will be used for surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and conservation efforts in protected marine areas and marine conservation sites.

The introduction of such advanced technologies will help ensure sustainable management of Zanzibar's marine and coastal resources, benefiting both local communities and the government.

THE CITIZEN

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Food Waste in Tanzania: A growing threat to climate, public health ; The Citizen, March 14, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/food-waste-in-tanzania-a-growing-threat-to-climate-public-health-4965118

Garbage trucks carry waste to Pugu dumpsite. Studies show most of this waste is unsorted, contributing to environmental hazards as it generates methane triggering greenhouse gas emissions potentially polluting the environment. PHOTO|COURTERSY

What you need to know:

- **In Tanzania, solid waste generation ranges from 14.4 million to 20.7 million tonnes annually, according to the Vice President's Office responsible for the environment.**

Dar es Salaam. "Food waste sent to final disposal sites decomposes, releasing methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases (GHGs)," according to a climate change resilience expert with the Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Project (DURP), Dr Rebecca Parrish.

She adds that waste burning and the transportation of waste within the city also contribute to emissions, with fossil fuel consumption from waste vehicles playing a significant role.

Dr Parrish's remarks underline the risks posed by waste generation and management in Tanzanian municipalities with studies revealing that food waste is a major source of GHG emissions.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food waste accounts for around 8 percent of global human-made GHG emissions, with approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of food wasted each year, resulting in 3.3 billion tonnes of GHGs.

In Tanzania, solid waste generation ranges from 14.4 million to 20.7 million tonnes annually, according to the Vice President's Office responsible for the environment.

This equates to 241 kilogramme to 347 kilos per person annually. The same source reports that 63.4 percent of solid waste is organic, including food and fruit waste.

Other waste includes plastics (12 percent), paper (6.1 percent), glass (4.2 percent), and metals (1.5 percent).

Urban areas produce more waste than rural ones, with much of it ending up in landfills.

The DURP's 2024 report, funded by the UK government, shows that Dar es Salaam with over five million population, generates around 5,300 tonnes of mixed solid waste daily.

Investigations reveal that many residents lack adequate knowledge of organic waste management, often mixing it with other waste or leaving it for municipal collection.

A resident of Mbezi, Ms Elizabeth Mlowe, reveals that she collects her waste in bags, which are then picked up either by municipal trucks or individuals for a small fee.

"In Mbezi-Maduka Tisa, we might not see a municipal truck for a month. Since organic waste decomposes quickly, we give it to an elderly man who charges between Sh500 and 2,000 per sack," she says.

A resident of Vingunguti in Ilala District, Ms Mariam Hassan, says waste is collected by municipal trucks that visit the area once a week.

Ms Hassan who is also a food vendor says municipalities need more resources and support to enhance food waste management in line with national climate goals.

A DURP 2024 report highlights waste management issues in Dar es Salaam's three largest fruit and vegetable markets: Ilala Boma, Buguruni, and Mabibo, which generate 55 tonnes of organic waste daily.

Each market uses different waste collection systems, whereas in in Mabibo, a private company manages waste, while in Buguruni, municipal staff handle the collection.

The waste is then transported to the Mabwepande Compost Plant, while those from Ilala and Mabibo markets are taken to the Pugu dumpsite.

Furahisha Kambi, secretary of the Buguruni market traders, points out that there is no designated waste storage area.

"Most of the time, waste is only taken to the truck when it arrives she says.

At the Tazara-Veterinary market in Ilala, waste is dumped in an open area without sorting.

A trader, Mr Kashinde Rajabu, explains that young men are hired to gather the waste before municipal trucks transport it to dumpsites.

The Vice President's Office estimates that 70 percent of solid waste is recyclable, but only five to 10 percent is processed.

Recycling efforts mainly target plastics, paper, metal, glass, and electronic waste.

Municipal councils collect only 45 to 50 percent of the total waste, leaving the rest in the environment, where it poses public health and ecological risks.

Environmental engineer at the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Mr Boniface Kyaruzi, notes that food waste emits methane, contributing to climate change.

Mr Kyaruzi advocates for waste minimization, "In Mabwepande, we have a composting facility that could process up to 50 tonnes of organic waste per day," he says, suggesting that food scraps could be repurposed as animal feed to cut GHG emissions.

Ilala Municipal Council Principal Environmental Health Officer, Mr Geophrey Zenda, agrees that food waste from homes, markets, and restaurants can be repurposed for animal feed, even on a small scale.

"At home, you can set up a bucket for food scraps, drill holes at the bottom, and let insects breed. This helps manage organic waste effectively," he explains.

Parrish highlights that DURP, in collaboration with local and international partners, is researching ways to improve waste management and reduce climate risks.

"By enhancing waste collection, segregation, and recycling, as well as promoting composting, the city can become cleaner and healthier while also cutting GHG emissions," she says.

DURP has explored IT-driven waste collection solutions, increased investment opportunities, strengthened waste policies, and integrated small recyclers into major projects.

"Food waste solutions include diverting organic waste from manufacturers to processing facilities, improving market infrastructure, and promoting community composting," Parrish says, stressing the importance of inclusivity.

She also mentions initiatives like Africraft, which repurposes waste into art and household products.

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Climate change challenges Zanzibar's blue economy: Experts call for urgent action ; Habitat media, March 16, 2025.

To access the article : https://habitatmedia.co.tz/climate-change-challenges-zanzibars-blue-economy-experts-call-for-urgent-action/

Zanzibar. Zanzibar is facing significant environmental challenges driven by climate change, including rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion into land, coastal erosion, and unpredictable weather patterns. The Coordination Officer of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Omar Mohamed, highlighted these challenges on March 10, 2025, during a workshop on the Circular Economy and Blue Economy. The event, hosted by Africa 21, brought together journalists, experts in the circular and blue economies, and representatives from African coastal and Indian Ocean island nations. Mohamed pointed out that coral reef destruction threatens the fishing and tourism sectors, while saltwater intrusion and unpredictable rainfall are jeopardizing agriculture and freshwater sources. "We need to take action now to protect livelihoods and food security," he said, adding that one of the impacts is coastal communities being forced to relocate due to land

loss. He mentioned that between 23 percent and 54 percent of the population is affected by this issue. Additionally, the decline in fish populations is negatively impacting the livelihood of fishermen, thus threatening food security. “Research and testimonies from fishermen show a reduction in fish breeding grounds, which forces the government to take decisive action to strengthen the fishing sector,” he explained.

The importance of environmental conservation

Hamad Bakar Hamad, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, emphasized that Zanzibar’s economy heavily relies on the sea, with the fishing and tourism sectors being key pillars of social and economic development. “These sectors support nearly two-thirds of Zanzibar’s population, with fishing contributing between 4 percent and 8 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and tourism contributing over 29 percent,” said Hamad.

Other vital industries include sea farming, seaweed cultivation, and the harvesting of holothuria (sea cucumbers), all of which play a significant role in Zanzibar’s economy. In 2024, seaweed production reached approximately 18,000 tons, with 99 percent of international trade depending on marine resources. Despite these economic contributions, Captain Hamad acknowledged that Zanzibar faces sustainability challenges and urged a shift in resource management practices to ensure long-term benefits for both the environment and the community.

Seaweeds farmers in Paje – Zanzibar

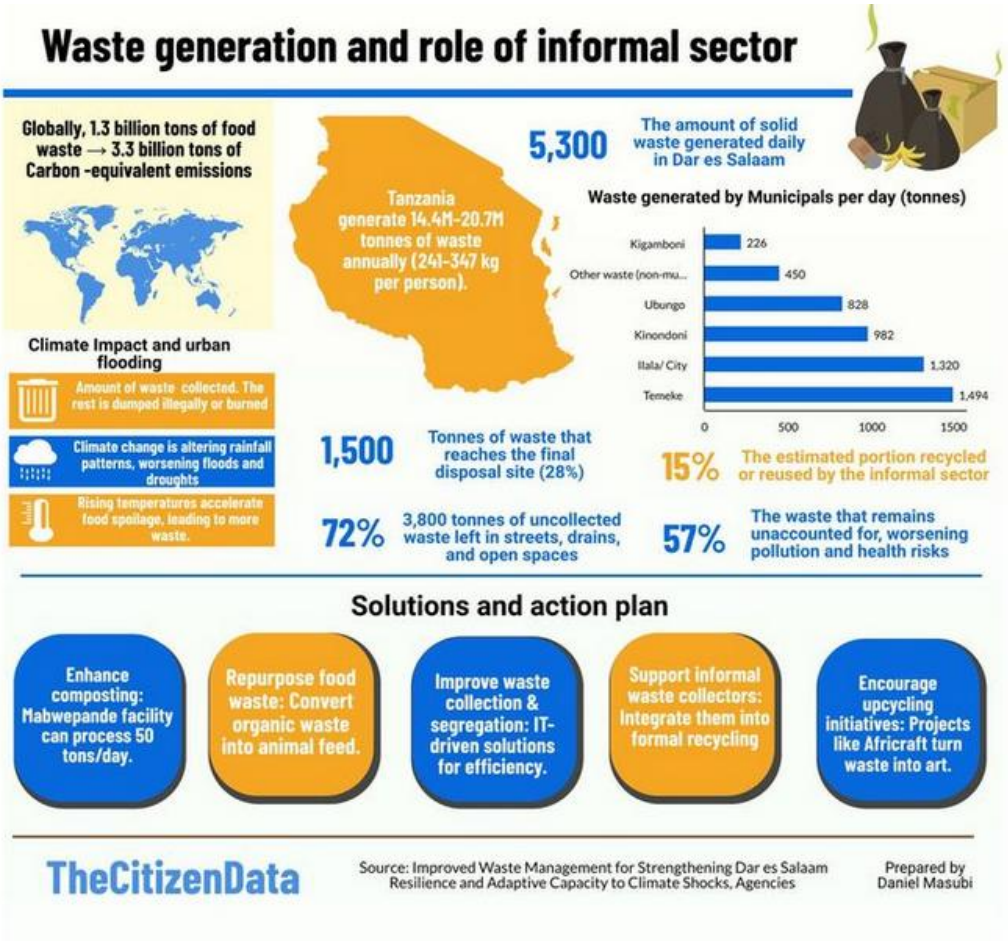
Actions being taken

Captain Hamad stated that the government is encouraging women involved in seaweed farming and fishing to move to deeper sea areas to protect fish stocks and boost production. “To facilitate this transition, the government has provided more than 1,000 boats to fishermen and seaweed farmers with 0 percent interest,” he added. He further explained that efforts are underway to find better markets and establish processing industries to strengthen the value chain of the products produced. “Our strategy ensures that women are not left behind in their economic activities, but are instead provided with tools and opportunities to thrive in the Blue Economy. Our Ministry is committed to supporting women’s continued active participation in this sector,” he elaborated. He emphasized that the government’s commitment to environmental conservation and economic empowerment aims to ensure that Zanzibar’s marine resources continue to benefit the community while being preserved for future generations. To address these challenges, Omar Mohamed proposed expanding the blue economy through seaweed farming and marine biotechnology, promoting the use of renewable energy, and implementing coastal protection projects. He also stressed the importance of sustainable tourism and empowering youth with skills in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation techniques.

THE CITIZEN

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Waste Management Crisis in Dar es Salaam: Informal collectors fill broken collection system gaps ; The Citizen, March 16, 2025.

To access to the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/waste-management-crisis-in-dar-es-salaam-informal-collectors-fill-broken-collection-system-gaps-4966010



What you need to know:

- **Plastic waste pickers, who also operate in other areas, are seen collecting both organic and plastic waste, including food waste from households, restaurants, and food markets.**

Dar es Salaam. The municipal waste collection system in Dar es Salaam, which relies on garbage trucks or contracted service providers, does not effectively reach or serve the entire city.

The Dar es Salaam Master Plan shows that the city, with a population of over five million, generates 5,300 tonnes of mixed solid waste daily.

However, a report titled Improved Waste Management for Strengthening Dar es Salaam's Resilience and Adaptive Capacity to Climate Shocks, cited in the Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Programme (DURP), states that only about 1,500 tonnes of waste are disposed of daily.

This leaves approximately 3,800 tons, or 72 percent of the total waste generated, uncollected.

"This uncollected waste includes quantities separated, recycled, and reused by the informal sector, which accounts for around 15 percent of the total waste. This leaves 57 percent of waste unaccounted for," according to the DURP report.

An investigation by The Citizen reveals that many urban areas in Dar es Salaam—especially densely populated neighborhoods with inadequate road infrastructure—face significant waste collection challenges.

Vingunguti, Manzese, and Msasani are among the most affected areas.

"Garbage trucks don't reach our area. Even when they do, they only stop by the roadside a few times a week. We produce food waste daily, and it can't wait for a weekly collection," says a resident of Vingunguti, Ms Mariam Kasim.

In these areas, waste collection is often handled by informal waste collectors.

Plastic waste pickers, who also operate in other areas, are seen collecting both organic and plastic waste, including food waste from households, restaurants, and food markets.

"We reach areas where garbage trucks do not," says the 23-member waste pickers group, Pendezesha Vingunguti Chairman, Mr Manyango Msula.

This group collects over one tonne of organic and non-organic waste daily from more than 100 households, food stalls, and vendors.

They sell plastic waste, while organic waste is processed into animal feed, with a small portion used to produce fertiliser.

However, waste separation remains a significant challenge. "People don't separate waste at the source. They mix it, and sorting it later becomes a tedious task," explains Mr Msula.

The waste pickers also face technical and operational challenges. “We lack sufficient equipment for producing the larvae used as animal feed. The larvae don’t reproduce during hot weather as they do in cooler conditions,” adds Mr Msula.

The Jitegemee Maarifa Group based in Chanika Chairperson, Ms Bandita Ambrose, reports that their group collects waste from individuals and food vendors.

“We process the waste into larvae (animal feed) and fertiliser. The larvae start emerging within 14 days,” she says.

Tufashanwe Group leader, Ms Tabu Ally, says they collect waste from market stalls, food vendors, and some households.

“We collect over one tonne of waste daily and process it into animal feed and fertiliser for sale,” says Ms Ally, whose group consists entirely of women and is located in Majohe, Ilala District.

Challenges

Ms Ally highlights the poor road infrastructure as a major challenge: “We use a battery-powered tricycle (tuk-tuk) to transport the waste, but it gets damaged on sandy roads. It’s even worse when it rains.”

Mr Msula adds that their group includes individuals from diverse backgrounds, including former drug addicts who are still struggling to reintegrate into society.

“Some are not yet fit enough, so we must support each other in the waste collection,” he explains.

Other challenges include a lack of public awareness and limited capital for investment in better waste management practices.

“I once had a client who wanted to buy one tonne of larvae per day, but we can only produce less than five kilograms. If we had more space, we could do so much more,” says Ms Ambrose.

Challenges and opportunities

The Human Dignity and Environment Foundation (HUDEFO) director, Sarah Pima, says informal waste pickers face financial, technological, and technical limitations.

"They lack funding, proper equipment, and recognition by key institutions, yet they contribute significantly to waste management," she explains.

Ms Pima advocates for the formal recognition of these groups, highlighting their essential role in environmental cleanliness and the waste management value chain.

"Without them, even large recyclers wouldn't function as they rely on materials collected by informal workers," she adds.

She also recommends that informal waste collectors be considered for municipal loans and provided with essential resources like machinery and electricity.

"For instance, composting facilities should have heating systems to accelerate decomposition. Grinding machines would also speed up processes like cutting decomposed banana stems," Pima explains.

A partner at Full Cycle Resource Consulting and a textile waste and recycling consultant with the UNCTAD SMEP Program, Ms Jennifer Wang, highlights the lack of formal recognition of informal waste collectors in national systems and policies.

"This exclusion affects them greatly. They need access to raw materials, government support, education, funding, and better infrastructure," she says.

Ilala Municipal Council Waste Management and Sanitation Principal Environmental Health Officer, Mr Geophrey Zenda, concurs that infrastructure and resources are major challenges.

He adds that public awareness is also critical: "Recycling must be economically viable. If people separate their waste at the source, it becomes easier to create valuable products like fertiliser and animal feed," he explains.

Mr Zenda also notes that many still view waste collection as a job for the desperate, despite its potential to employ many.

"The biggest challenge is people's perception of the work," he concludes.

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Experts stress the need for better waste disposal to mitigate climate risks in Dar es Salaam ; Habitat Media, March 16, 2025.

To access the article : https://habitatmedia.co.tz/experts-stress-the-need-for-better-waste-disposal-to-mitigate-climate-risks-in-dar-es-salaam/

Dar es Salaam. “Food waste that is sent to final disposal sites, decomposes, releasing methane—one of the most potent greenhouse gases (GHGs),” says Dr Rebecca Parrish, a climate change resilience expert with Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Project (DURP).

She added that other sources of emissions include waste burning, while waste transportation within and around the city also contributes due to the fossil fuels burned by waste vehicles.

Rebecca Parrish’s statement highlights the dangers posed by waste generation and how it is managed in our municipalities.

Further, studies show that food waste is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food waste is responsible for approximately 8 percent of all human-made GHG emissions globally.

FAO estimates that approximately 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted globally each year, resulting in nearly 3.3 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

In Tanzania, solid waste generation ranges between 14.4 million and 20.7 million tonnes per year, according to the Vice President's Office responsible for the environment. This translates to an average of 241 kg to 347 kg per person annually.

Regarding waste composition, statistics from the Vice President's Office indicate that 63.4 percent of solid waste consists of organic materials, including food and fruit waste. Plastic waste accounts for 12 percent, paper for 6.1 percent, glass for 4.2 percent, and metals for 1.5 percent.

Urban areas contribute more to waste generation than rural areas, with a significant portion of waste being dumped in landfills.

Specifically, the Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Project (DURP) 2024, funded by the UK government, reports that Dar es Salaam, with a population of over five million, generates approximately 5,300 tons of mixed solid waste daily from various sources.

Challenges in managing organic waste in Dar es Salaam

Investigations in various areas have revealed that many residents and waste producers lack adequate knowledge on how to manage organic waste. As a result, they often mix it with other types of waste or leave it to be collected by municipal trucks and taken to dumpsites.

Elizabeth Mlowe, a resident of Mbezi in Dar es Salaam, says she collects her waste in bags, which are then picked up by municipal trucks or individuals who collect waste for a small fee.

"In this area (Mbezi-Maduka Tisa), you might not see a municipal truck for an entire month. Since organic waste decomposes quickly, you can't keep it for long. There's an elderly man who passes by, and we give him the waste. He charges between Sh500 and 2,000 per sack," she said.

Mariam Hassan, a food vendor in Vingunguti, Ilala, says the waste they generate is collected by municipal trucks, which only pass through their streets once a week.

Municipalities in the city need resources, capacity and support to improve food waste management to address the national climate related goals.

Waste management in markets

A report by the Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Programme (DURP) completed in early 2024 highlights waste management issues in the city's three largest fruit and vegetable markets Ilala Boma, Buguruni, and Mabibo which collectively generate 55 tons of organic waste daily.

These markets follow three different waste collection and transportation systems. In Mabibo, a private company handles waste collection. "In Buguruni, municipal staff are deployed for waste collection, but a significant portion of the waste is transported to the Mabwepande Compost Plant using a skip container," the report notes. According to the report and further investigations, waste generated in Ilala and Mabibo markets is transported to the Pugu dumpsite.

Furahisha Kambi, secretary of the Buguruni market traders, pointed out another challenge: "There is no designated waste storage area. Most of the time, waste is only taken to the truck when the collection vehicle arrives."

At the Tazara-Veterinary market in Ilala, waste is dumped in an open area without separation. Kashinde Rajabu, a trader at the market, said they pay young men to collect the waste and put it at the collection point. Municipal trucks then pick up the waste and transport it to dumpsites.

Drainage blockage by waste in Dar es Salaam

Waste that can be recycled

According to the Vice President's Office, while 70 percent of the solid waste produced can be recycled, only 5 to 10 percent is currently being processed. Most recycling efforts focus on plastics, paper, scrap metal, aluminum, glass, and electronic waste.

Furthermore, municipal councils only manage to collect between 45 and 50 percent of the total waste, leaving more than half of it in the environment, where it poses serious risks to public health and ecosystems.

Climate change and waste

Boniface Kyaruzi, an environmental engineer at the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), explains that food waste releases methane, one of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Rebecca Parrish, a climate change resilience expert, adds that improper waste disposal leads to clogged drainage systems, increasing the risk of urban flooding, especially in cities like Dar es Salaam.

"Climate change worsens this by altering rainfall patterns, making heavy storms and droughts more frequent. Droughts harden the soil, reduce vegetation, and degrade land, further increasing flood risks when the rains return," she explains.

Additionally, rising temperatures and extreme weather conditions contribute to food spoilage, increasing food waste. Flooding also disrupts sanitation systems, while climate change alters disease patterns, increasing health risks associated with poor waste management.

Proposed solutions

Kyaruzi suggests waste minimization as a key solution.

"In Mabwepande, we have a composting facility that, if fully utilized, could process up to 50 tons of organic waste per day," he says, adding that food leftovers could also be repurposed as animal feed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Geophrey Zenda, Principal Environmental Health Officer for Waste Management and Sanitation at Ilala Municipal Council, agrees that food waste from households, markets, and restaurants can be repurposed for animal feed, even at a small scale.

“At home, you can set up a bucket with food scraps, drill holes at the bottom, and allow insects to breed. This helps manage organic waste effectively,” he explains.

Rebecca Parrish notes that DURP provided solutions, in collaboration with local and international partners, and has conducted research to improve waste management and mitigate climate risks.

“By enhancing waste collection, segregation, and recycling while promoting composting, the city can become cleaner and healthier while also cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Improved waste management will help prevent urban flooding and other climate shocks,” she says.

She adds that DURP has explored various solutions, including IT-driven innovations for waste collection, increasing investment opportunities, strengthening waste policies, and integrating small recyclers into major projects.

“Specific food waste solutions include diverting organic waste from manufacturers to processing facilities, improving market waste infrastructure, and encouraging community composting,” she says.

Parrish also emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that informal waste workers, women, and people with disabilities benefit from waste management solutions.

“Community initiatives like Africraft, which repurpose waste into art and household products, are also growing,” she concludes.

Kasisi Kosta (Tanzania) ; Week-end News briefing; Azam TV, March 16, 2025.

To watch the report : https://www.youtube.com/live/keT-_GZEeAo

Reportage on the potential of algae culture in Zanzibar during the Azam TV journal.

The report can be seen from the 17th minute to the 22nd minute of the journal.

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Waste crisis: how the informal sector fills the collection gap ; Habitat Media, March 16, 2025.

To access the article : https://habitatmedia.co.tz/waste-crisis-how-the-informal-sector-fills-the-collection-gap/

Dar es Salaam. Municipal waste collection system, which relies on municipal garbage trucks or contracted service providers, does not reach all areas.

For instance, the Dar es Salaam City Master Plan indicates that the city, with a population of over five million, generates 5,300 tons of mixed solid waste per day from all sources.

A report “Improved Waste Management for Strengthening Dar es Salaam Resilience and Adaptive Capacity to Climate Shocks” cited in the Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Programme (DURP) found that the final disposal site receives an average of 1,500 tons per day, leaving approximately 3,800 tons uncollected daily—equivalent to 72 percent of the total waste generated.

“This uncollected waste includes quantities separated, recycled, and reused by the informal sector. We estimate this as 15 percent of the total waste generated, thus leaving 57 percent as unaccounted-for waste,” states the DURP report.

An investigation by this publication has found that many urban areas in Dar es Salaam, particularly densely populated neighborhoods with inadequate road infrastructure, face significant waste collection challenges. Examples of such areas include Vingunguti, Manzese, and Msasani.

“Garbage trucks do not reach our area. Even when they do, they stop at the roadside, and that happens only a few times a week. We produce food waste daily, and it cannot wait for weekly collection,” says Mariam Kasim, a resident of Vingunguti – Butiama. Waste collection in these areas is carried out through different means, including some informal actors. There are plastic waste pickers who also operate in other areas, but here waste pickers collect both organic waste and plastic waste.

Some plastic waste including used bottles, organic waste including remains of food from households, restaurants and food market waste. “We reach areas where garbage trucks do not,” says Manyango Msula, chairman of a 23-member waste pickers called “Pendezesha Vingunguti.” This group collects both organic and non-organic waste and processes it for resale or recycling.

Msula says they reach over 100 households, food stalls, and vendors daily, collecting more than one ton of organic and non-organic waste. “We sell plastic waste, while organic waste is processed into animal feed, and a small portion is used to produce fertilizer,” he explains.

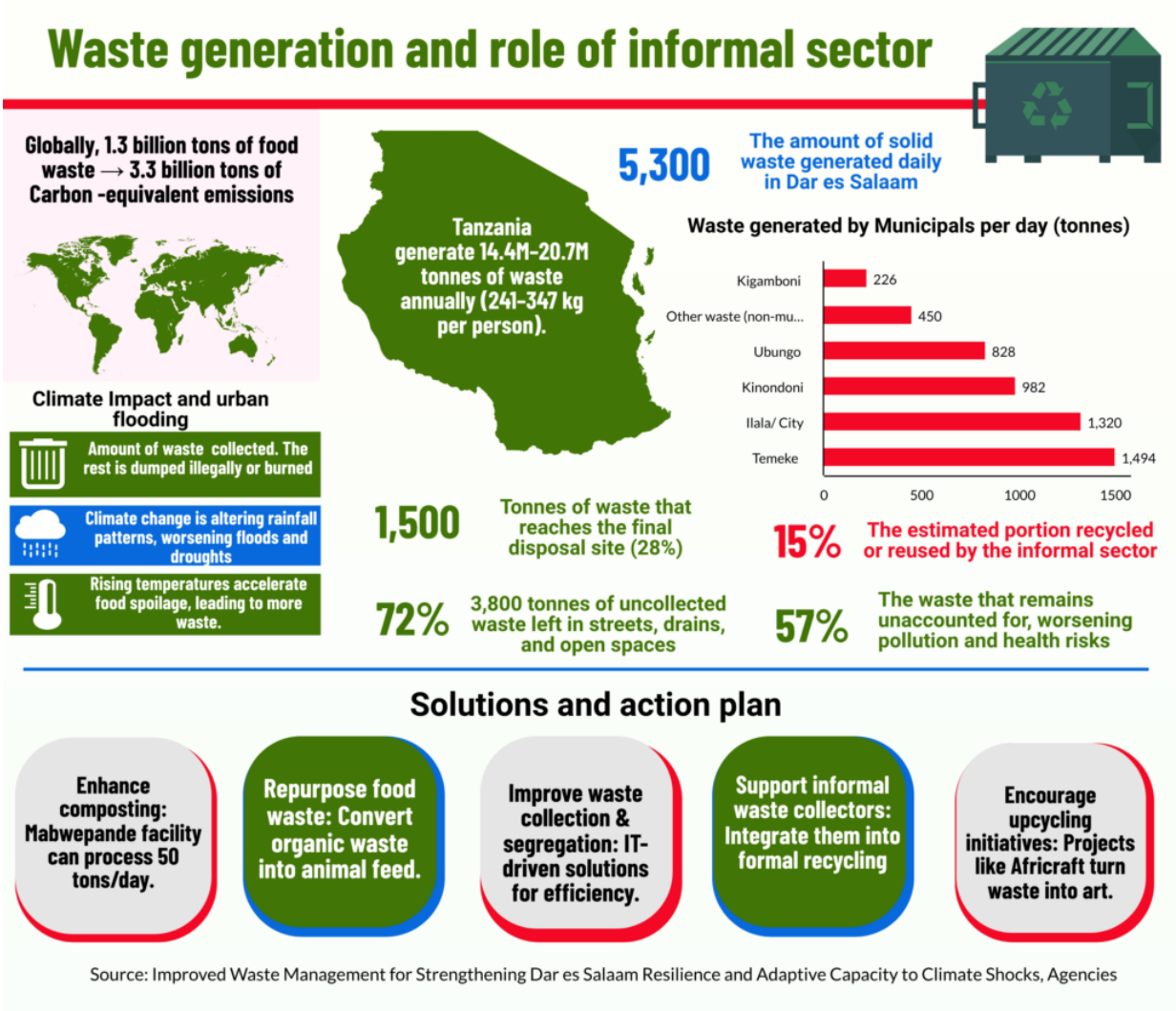
Highlighting a major challenge, Msula points out that people do not separate waste at the source. “People lack awareness. They mix up waste, and sorting it later is a tedious task,” he elaborates.

“Additionally, we lack sufficient equipment for producing the larvae used as animal feed. During hot weather, the larvae do not reproduce as abundantly as they do in cooler conditions,” he explained how they utilizes organic waste.

Bandita Ambrose, chairman of the Jitegemee Maarifa Group based in Chanika, says they collect waste from individuals who provide them with special bags, as well as from food vendors and other sources. “…We produce larvae (animal feed) and fertilizer. In our setup, the larvae start emerging within 14 days,” she says.

Another group, Tufashanwe, based in Majohe Ilala, is also involved in waste collection. “We collect waste from market stalls, chips vendors, food vendors, and some households,” says Tabu

Ally, the head of the 14-member group, which consists entirely of women. Tabu states that they collect over one ton of waste daily and process it into animal feed and fertilizer for sale.



Challenges

Tabu Ally highlighted that the main challenge is poor road infrastructure. “We use a battery-powered tricycle (tuk-tuk) to transport the waste, but it gets damaged when we drive on sandy roads. When it rains, it becomes even more difficult,” she explained.

Manyango Msula pointed out that their group consists of people from diverse backgrounds, including former drug addicts who are still struggling to fully reintegrate into normal life. “Some of them are not yet fit enough, so we have to support and push each other to collect the waste,” he said.

He also mentioned that the lack of public awareness leads to waste being mixed and hence reduces the quality of material and making the sorting process more labor-intensive.

Another major challenge is limited capital, which restricts investment in better waste management practices. “I once had a client who wanted to buy one ton of larvae per day, but we can only produce less than five kilograms. If we had a larger space, we could do so much more,” said Bandita Ambrose.

Experts highlight challenges and opportunities

Sarah Pima, the Director of the Human Dignity and Environment Foundation (HUDEFO), pointed out that financial, technological, and technical limitations are key challenges. “They (informal waste pickers) lack funding and machinery, yet they contribute significantly, but they are not recognized by key institutions,” she said.

She further explained that authorities and policies do not formally recognize waste pickers, which is why efforts are being made to advocate for their recognition. “These small groups consist of people trying to earn a living. They are job seekers,” she elaborated.

On the opportunities side, Sarah emphasized that informal waste collectors play a crucial role in environmental cleanliness and contribute significantly to the waste management value chain.

“Sometimes, without them, even large recyclers wouldn’t function because they rely on materials collected by these workers,” she said.

She noted that while informal waste collectors are starting to gain some recognition, especially those in organized groups, they should be considered for municipal loans and provided with essential resources like machinery and electricity.

“For instance, composting facilities should have heating systems to accelerate decomposition. Also, having grinding machines would ease the process—for example, instead of manually cutting decomposed banana stems, a machine would speed up the process. In some places like Mabwepande (a large composting plant located in Kinondoni -Dar es Salaam), there are sieving machines that work in minutes, while here, we take long hours,” she explained.

Jennifer Wang, a Partner at Full Cycle Resource Consulting and a Textile Waste and Recycling Consultant with the UNCTAD SMEP Program, pointed out that research in developing countries,

including Tanzania, shows that one of the biggest challenges in waste management is the lack of formal recognition of informal waste collectors in national systems and policies.

“This exclusion affects them greatly. There should be separation facilities to make it easier for them to access raw materials (waste), government support, education, funding opportunities, and information development,” she said.

She added that if these measures were implemented, it would ensure the safety of waste collectors while also addressing environmental and health challenges.

Principal Environmental Health Officer for Waste Management and Sanitation at Ilala Municipal Council, Geophrey Zenda pointed out that infrastructure and resources remain a major challenge, as many urban areas lack adequate waste collection systems, recycling facilities, and transportation networks.

However, he notes the challenges of infrastructure and public awareness.

“Recycling must be economically viable. If people separate their waste at the source, it becomes much easier to create valuable products like fertilizers and animal feed,” he explains.

Zenda also stresses the importance of waste separation at the source, as mixed waste complicates processing. “The biggest challenge is people’s perception. Many still view waste collection as a job for the desperate, while in reality, it can provide employment for many,” he concludes.

Kasisi Kosta (Tanzania) ; Workshop in Zanzibar on blue and circular economy ; UFM Radio, March 17, 2025.

To listen the report :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gRDKpZvWTbTQechRf6Q4ggo6ZH3s54yk/view?usp=drive_link

Huwaida Nassor (Tanzania); Training on protecting the ocean to promote the blue economy ; Assalam FM, March 17, 2025.

To listen the report :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lb8emZnMSzjcDtkwW0c4GP5yspzuQgFx/view

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries in Zanzibar, Captain Hamad Bakari Hamad, has said that there is a need to educate the public on protecting marine resources in order to prevent potential disasters.

Speaking to journalists during a workshop on the blue and circular economy organized by Africa 21, which brought together journalists, circular economy experts, and blue economy specialists from Africa—particularly from coastal countries and Indian Ocean islands—he highlighted the urgency of the matter.

He stated that there are many similar disasters affecting various countries, including rising ocean temperatures, increased sea levels, environmental destruction caused by human activities, and natural phenomena. These, he said, are impacting the public, the marine environment, and national development.He further emphasized that journalists have a major role to play in educating the public on taking precautionary measures to protect themselves from these threats so that African countries can move forward.

Additionally, he explained that the ocean is an important source of life and economic strength for Zanzibar, and therefore, efforts to protect it must be increased for the benefit of future generations.

INSERT… CAPTAIN HAMAD

Some of the journalists who participated in the workshop pledged to use the knowledge they gained to educate the public on the importance of protecting the ocean in order to address climate change caused by environmental destruction.

INSERT… JOURNALISTS ON TRAINING

Quotidien national d'information et d'analyse
La Vérité
"Toute verité est bonne à dire"

Rivonala Razafison (Madagascar); Economie circulaire : nos vêtements font souffrir le climat ; La Vérité, 17 mars 2025.

Economie circulaire

Nos vêtements font souffrir le climat

Les catastrophes comme les incendies, les sécheresses, les cyclones, les inondations, les maladies émergentes... s'intensifient davantage aujourd'hui sous l'effet du changement climatique. Cette amplification est en partie due aux modes et aux habillements auxquels nous tenons à des degrés différents.

Riches ou pauvres, à Madagascar ou aux Etats-Unis ou en Europe ou en Moyen-Orient ou en Asie, etc., quelles que soient la religion pratiquée, la couleur de la peau, le niveau d'instruction, les responsabilités, les engagements politiques, les statuts sociaux..., les humains contribuent au réchauffement climatique de par les vêtements qu'ils portent ou se servent jusque dans la tombe.

Ensemble, le Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme (SMEP), la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (UNCTAD) et le gouvernement britannique, représenté par l'UK International Development, ont récemment mené une étude sur la commercialisation des vêtements de seconde main en Ouganda et en Tanzanie.

Selon la recherche, l'industrie mondiale des vêtements représente chaque année une économie de 1 700 milliards de dollars et emploie plus de 300 millions de personnes dans le monde. Elle joue ainsi un rôle crucial dans l'industrialisation, le commerce, le développement et la création de valeurs sociales.

Au niveau mondial, la production des fibres a connu un accroissement de 7 % en une seule année, passant de 116 millions de tonnes en 2022 à 124 millions de tonnes en 2024. La production de vêtements à elle toute seule domine plus de 60 % de ces volumes.

Environ 80 milliards de nouveaux accessoires vestimentaires et d'habillement sont produits chaque année, faisant ainsi de l'industrie des vêtements un des grands pollueurs de l'environnement en émettant 2 à 8 % des gaz à effet de serre, responsables du réchauffement planétaire.

Voilà pourquoi les vêtements et tous ces tissus présents dans la vie humaine doivent être utilisés à bon escient pour ne pas trop abimer le système climatique déjà en décadence au détriment des écosystèmes, des économies, de la santé, de l'éducation et même de la sécurité mondiale.

Du 10 au 14 mars dernier, des journalistes venus des pays riverains de l'océan Indien, dont Madagascar, et de l'Afrique de l'Est et australe ont suivi un atelier sur l'économie bleue et l'économie circulaire qui s'est tenu à Stone Town, au Zanzibar. L'initiative a été portée par l'association Africa 21 et ses partenaires (cf. La Vérité du 10 mars, p. 2).

A cette occasion, Jennifer Wang, consultante en gestion de recyclage des déchets textiles auprès de l'UNCTAD, a parlé du commerce des vêtements de seconde main en Ouganda et en Tanzanie sur la base de la recherche évoquée plus haut.

En réalité, tout un système complexe se met à l'œuvre derrière ce commerce florissant dans les pays pauvres comme Madagascar où les friperies, leur appellation courante, inondent les marchés locaux.

Au fond, la réduction des produits susceptibles de nuire à l'environnement, et par ricochet au climat, leur réutilisation et leur recyclage sont les maîtres mots de l'économie circulaire. Une matière à réflexion alors.

M.R.

BLEEN MEDIA

Karina Zarazafy (Madagascar) ; Pollution plastique : recycler ne suffira pas ; Bleen Media, 18 mars 2025.

Pour accéder à l'article : https://www.bleenmada.com/pollution-plastique-recycler-ne-suffira-pas/

Le 18 mars marque la célébration de la Journée mondiale du recyclage. Cette année, la célébration met l'accent sur la reconnaissance des « Recycling Heroes » ou héros du recyclage. Une initiative qui vise à honorer les individus, lieux, entreprises et activités qui ont joué un rôle exemplaire dans la promotion du recyclage à travers le monde.

D'après le Global Recycling Foundation, « le recyclage est un élément essentiel de la lutte contre le changement climatique et favorise la durabilité mondiale ». Ce qui, toujours d'après cette

organisation, devrait permettre d'économiser « plus d'un milliard de tonnes d'émissions de CO2 d'ici 2030 ».

Le recyclage constitue en effet une étape importante dans la lutte pour la durabilité de la planète. Et cette journée du 18 mars a été instaurée par le Bureau of International Recycling ou BIR en 2018 à des fins de sensibilisation à l'importance du recyclage, tant sur le plan environnemental qu'économique, ainsi qu'à l'encouragement à l'adoption de pratiques durables.

Héros

Ainsi, pour cette année, le programme RecyclingHeroes 2025 récompensera-t-il vingt lauréats dans le monde. « Nous voulons reconnaître les héros du recyclage pour leurs contributions exceptionnelles. Les candidatures sont les bienvenues de la part des particuliers, des communautés et des entreprises qui ont eu un impact significatif sur le recyclage au cours de l'année écoulée et dont les efforts contribueront à un avenir plus vert pour notre planète. » a déclaré Ranjit Baxi, président fondateur de la Global Recycling Foundation à cette occasion.

Il convient néanmoins d'admettre que le recyclage n'est pas une fin en soi et que l'un des plus grands problèmes auquel il faudrait s'attaquer serait la pollution plastique. « Nous savons tous que le recyclage n'est pas la solution… la solution consiste à fermer le robinet du plastique en stoppant la production de plastiques à usage unique inutiles … », soutient l'équipe de Flipflopi, un mouvement d'économie circulaire d'Afrique de l'Est, réputé pour avoir construit « le premier boutre à voile en plastique 100% recyclé au monde ».

Pollution des océans et des terres

Le marché du plastique au niveau mondial représente pourtant 1 200 milliards de dollar chaque année. Des chiffres avancés par Henrique Pacini, Programme Lead au sein de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement ou UNCTAD, lors d'un atelier sur l'économie circulaire et l'économie bleue qui s'est tenu à Zanzibar, du 10 au 14 mars dernier. Les études et recherches menées par cette équipe de l'UNCTAD sur la pollution et le commerce mondial du plastique conforte le rôle prépondérant de cette matière dans la pollution des océans et des terres.

La production et la consommation de plastique ne cessent en effet de croître. Madagascar n'est pas en reste. D'après les données de la Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI) et de la Banque mondiale dans un document relatif au projet SWIOFish2 de 2021, les emballages plastiques à eux seuls constituent « 0,6% des importations totales du pays avec une valeur estimée à 24 millions USD et un prix moyen de 2,7 USD/kg ».

Une catastrophe écologique et économique

Toujours d'après l'étude de la COI et de la Banque mondiale, à Madagascar, « environ 152 298 tonnes de déchets plastiques sont générées chaque année en milieu urbain » et « 130 358 tonnes en milieu rural ». De plus, avec « 208 701 tonnes annuel de déchets plastiques mal gérées » le pays comptabilise d'importants rejets dans l'océan via les rivières et les vents. « Environ 1,67% des déchets plastiques mal gérés » soit « 3 478 tonnes par an » contribueraient directement à la pollution marine plastique (MPP). Et cette pollution a un coût. En effet, à l'échelle mondiale, la pollution plastique entraîne « une perte de plus de 2 milliards USD/an », et Madagascar, en tant qu'économie insulaire, est particulièrement vulnérable. Pour la Grande île, ces pertes portent principalement sur le tourisme, la santé publique et les services écosystémiques.

Le monde fait face à une crise inédite due à la pollution plastique. Cette matière, autrefois considérée comme une « bénédiction », entraîne aujourd'hui la planète à sa perte. Aucun pays n'en est épargné. Cependant, les États insulaires tels que Madagascar en sont doublement affectés. Et le fait que les différents États n'arrivent pas à s'accorder sur l'adoption d'un traité mondial juridiquement contraignant contre la pollution plastique, n'arrangent pas les choses.

Problème planétaire

Ce problème ne saurait en effet « être résolu au niveau local sans être abordé au niveau régional et international ». Et les divergences, notamment en ce qui concerne la limitation de la production de plastique, persistent. La deuxième partie de la cinquième session du Comité intergouvernemental de négociation (INC-5-2), prévue se tenir du 5 au 14 août 2025 à Genève-Suisse, devrait ainsi trancher sur la question.

Entre temps, tant à Madagascar que dans le monde, les initiatives visant à améliorer la situation se multiplient. Ce, aussi bien dans le domaine du recyclage que dans les recherches de matières

alternatives au plastique. Car, comme le souligne le mouvement Flipflopi, « pour s'attaquer à ce problème planétaire, il faut une prise de conscience et un engagement au niveau local ».

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Coastal communities urged to invest in aquaculture to protect marine resources, combat illegal fishing ; The Guardian, March 19, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/coastal-communities-urged-to-invest-in-aquaculture-to-protect-marine-resources-combat-illegal-fishing-2025-03-18-170938

To date, over 300 fishermen from 10 fishing groups have received loans ranging from 10 million to 60 million Tanzanian shillings. These funds have allowed some to diversify into seaweed farming, providing a steady income beyond traditional fishing.

Governments and coastal communities in the Indian Ocean region are being encouraged to invest heavily in aquaculture as an alternative source of income for fishermen. This shift is essential for combating illegal fishing practices that deplete fish stocks, damage coral reefs and seagrass, and reduce the pressure on fishermen to venture further into the sea.

Ilyass Nassoro, Head of the Management Division at the Zanzibar Commission for Tourism, shared this insight during a workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean region. The event was organized by the Africa 21 Network, with support from UNCTAD, the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme (SMEP), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania.

"As experts in marine conservation, we must take serious measures to educate fishermen on the importance of protecting coral reefs, sea grass, and other marine species," Nassoro emphasized. "Continued fishing and anchoring on coral reefs cause extensive damage to vital nursery habitats for many marine species."

Nassoro also highlighted the importance of coral reefs as a key attraction for global tourists visiting Zanzibar for diving tours. If fishermen continue damaging these reefs, it could reduce the number of tourists eager to view marine life.

Ernest Kamata, the fisheries officer for Kigamboni Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam, stressed the urgency of protecting marine resources. "If we fail to safeguard our oceans, the sea will be left barren, serving only maritime transport," he warned. "Additionally, the communities that rely on fish for protein will face serious health and food security challenges."

Kamata called on countries in the Indian Ocean region to ensure sustainable fishing practices. He emphasized that fishing should be viewed as a renewable resource, benefiting both local communities and governments.

He also urged regional countries, including Tanzania, to implement effective marine resource management practices and invest in aquaculture activities to reduce dependency on overfished waters. "Depletion of marine species will lead to increased poverty among coastal communities, with business owners and fishermen facing financial hardships," Kamata said. "The collapse of the fish trade will also reduce the government’s foreign currency earnings."

To reduce reliance on sea-based fishing, researchers are being encouraged to identify and establish designated areas for cage fish farming. In Tanzania, the government has enacted the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2003, with amendments in 2020, to regulate fishing activities. Under this law, fishermen must hold valid licenses, and fishing vessels are subject to inspections to ensure the use of legally approved equipment.

Kigamboni Municipal Council has also taken proactive steps by setting aside 10% of its revenue to provide interest-free loans to fishermen. These loans enable fishermen to acquire modern boats for deep-sea fishing and to explore alternative sustainable projects that reduce pressure on traditional sea-based fishing.

To date, over 300 fishermen from 10 fishing groups have received loans ranging from 10 million to 60 million Tanzanian shillings. These funds have allowed some to diversify into seaweed farming, providing a steady income beyond traditional fishing.

One group, consisting of 100 farmers, operates a seaweed farming project at Puna Centre in Pemba Mnazi Ward. Despite challenges posed by climate change—such as intense heat and poor harvests—the group remains committed to this alternative livelihood. Other groups are diversifying further by applying for permission to farm crabs and sea cucumbers, with applications already sent to the Ministry of Fisheries.

The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to reduce illegal fishing and alleviate the pressure on marine resources, ensuring the long-term sustainability of fish stocks. Through continued education and advocacy, coastal communities are being encouraged to embrace sustainable livelihoods and move away from over-reliance on fishing.

Illegal fishing practices, such as dynamite fishing, beach seine fishing, and spear fishing, have been identified as major threats to marine ecosystems. To combat this, regular sea patrols and educational programs are in place. In 2024 alone, 30 fishermen were arrested for fishing without valid licenses, and two were apprehended for using dynamite in their fishing activities.

Lastly, coastal communities are being urged to plant mangrove trees as part of eco-tourism efforts. Mangroves play a crucial role in protecting coastal areas from strong winds, coastal erosion, and tsunamis, while also minimizing the loss of life and property.

Halili Letea (Tanzania) ; Opportunities and challenges for Tech-Driven waste management solutions in Dar es Salaam ; Habitat Media, March 20, 2025.

To access the article : https://habitatmedia.co.tz/opportunities-and-challenges-for-tech-driven-waste-management-solutions-in-dar-es-salaam/

Dar es Salaam. In the bustling streets of Dar es Salaam, technology-driven solutions are emerging to tackle the city's growing waste crisis.

From digital platforms to smart bins, innovators are working to revolutionize waste management. However, with limited funding, weak policies, and resistance to change, can these solutions truly transform waste management, or will challenges hold them back?

This article explores some of the tech-driven solutions while also considering the role of informal waste collectors and their use in low-income areas or among low-income groups.

Digital platforms enhancing waste collection

In Kinondoni, I met Frank Ahadi, the founder of Afia Solutions, a waste management platform that streamlines waste collection by recording, tracking, and analyzing real-time data on waste collection and recycling operations.

“At Afia Solutions, we connect waste collection contractors licensed by the municipal council with waste producers, including households, restaurants, and marketplaces,” said Frank.

Sorted and packaged waste is ready for processing through various stages. The Dar es Salaam-based Afia Solutions platform oversees the entire segregation process and facilitates links between waste processors and producers.

He explained that the platform records the amount of waste collected and allows waste producers to notify collectors when they have waste ready for pickup.

Additionally, Frank said, “We have developed a special system called the Waste Campaign, where we send SMS notifications to waste generators, reminding them to prepare their waste for collection, including sorting it for easier disposal.”

Afia Solutions also links waste collectors to recycling companies, including those processing plastic waste and organic waste into animal feed or fertilizer. The platform collects all data related to waste collection, helping improve decision-making in the future.

Another innovator, Jospeter John also in Dar es Salaam, has developed a platform called TakaBilaStress, which connects waste generators with collectors or recyclers.

“If you have waste, you simply upload a photo to the platform, which identifies the type of waste and alerts interested recyclers before they come to collect it,” explained Jospeter.

The platform also collects data on the amount of waste generated and recycled, helping authorities and businesses make informed decisions.

However, not all waste processors follow the traditional collection model. Some groups directly recycle waste rather than sending it to landfills, extracting or diverting valuable materials from going to waste.

A shirt from waste by the platform “Harnessing Food Waste Fibres using Digital Waste Banks,” by Antidius Kawamala from ROOTGIS, an organization based in Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam.

Community-based waste management initiatives

The Kimara Women's Cooperative, supported by Nipe Fagio, an environmental sustainability NGO based in Bonyokwa, operates under a zero waste principle. They collect waste sorted into plastics, fruit waste, and organic household waste, ensuring each category is processed efficiently.

According to Rehema Tamimu, the cooperative's chairperson, waste is either recycled, reused, or composted to create valuable resources.

Organic waste is turned into fertilizer using machines, which the women sell for at least Sh10,000 per kilogram. Additionally, fruit waste is fed to black soldier flies, whose larvae serve as animal feed for poultry and fish farmers, fetching Sh5,000 per kilogram.

While some tasks, such as waste sorting, are done manually, the cooperative uses technology to increase efficiency, particularly in producing insect-based feed and organic fertilizer. The cooperative also benefits from market linkages facilitated by Nipe Fagio and the Dar es Salaam City Council, ensuring a steady demand for their products.

Beyond waste processing, the initiative generates income through household waste collection services, charging between Sh2,000 and Sh5,000 per month.

Those who engage in similar activities include Buyuni Compost, the Jitegemee Maarifa Group based in Chanika, and Tufashanwe, which is based in Majohe—both located in Ilala Municipality.

Informal waste pickers in Bonyokwa – Kimara Dar es Salaam.

Challenges facing waste management innovations

Despite the progress made, several challenges hinder the full potential of tech-driven waste management solutions.

One major issue is the lack of recognition for independent waste collectors by municipal councils.

Frank Ahadi pointed out another challenge: “Public awareness is still low. Even after educating people about sorting waste, many still fail to separate their waste, reducing its value.”

Additionally, he noted that despite being a small company, they must compete for municipal waste collection tenders, which often require extensive experience and proof of previous work, making it difficult for startups to secure contracts.

Jospeter John echoed these concerns, adding that financial constraints limit their ability to run public awareness campaigns and expand their services.

Rehema Tamimu highlighted the social stigma surrounding waste collection. “People look down on us because of the clothes we wear, not realizing that waste collection is a respectable job,” she said.

Informal waste pickers in Kurasini (wearing yellow T-shirts) showcase sorted waste ready for handover to a major collector, as recently observed by this outlet

Opportunities

Frank Ahadi sees a major opportunity in organic waste recycling, which is often overlooked compared to plastic, paper, and glass recycling.

“There’s a lot of competition in solid waste recycling, but organic waste is the most produced waste type, and the market is still untapped. That is an opportunity” he noted.

He also mentioned that some municipal contractors have recognized the value of their technology and are interested in adopting it.

“We secured an agreement with one contractor who was willing to use our platform. Although they didn’t win the tender, we still work with them, and more contractors are showing interest,” he explained.

Geophrey Zenda, the Principal Environmental Health Officer for Waste Management and Sanitation at Ilala Municipal Council says tech-driven solutions in waste management improve resource recovery by reducing reliance on new raw materials and conserving natural resources.

Further noted that, “They also create job opportunities within the sector, contributing to economic growth. Better waste management leads to environmental benefits such as reduced pollution and lower greenhouse gas emissions”.

Also, “scaling up these solutions further drives innovation and technological advancements, enhancing efficiency and sustainability in waste management”.

Municipal car collecting waste in Vingunguti

Institutional efforts

Sarah Pima, Director of the Human Dignity and Environment Organization (HUDEFO), emphasized that legal recognition for informal waste collectors remains a challenge.

“Small groups and individuals who collect waste as a livelihood are not officially recognized. That’s why we are advocating for their inclusion in policies,” she explained.

However, she acknowledged some progress, as more waste collectors are being formally identified and supported. She urged municipal authorities to provide loans, machines, electricity, and training to improve waste management efforts.

To address these challenges, HUDEFO has established the Dar es Salaam Waste Pickers Network (MTAWADA) to organize and support informal waste collectors.

“This network helps waste pickers gain recognition and makes it easier for them to receive assistance from local authorities,” Sarah said.

Municipal efforts to recognize waste collectors

Geophrey Zenda, stressed the need to scale up waste management technology solutions through supportive policies, public-private partnerships, and community education.

He cited an example of how the municipality previously penalized informal waste collectors but has now integrated them into the system.

Waste pickers

“In the past, unregistered waste collectors were fined and arrested. Now, we have engaged with them and recognized their role, especially in areas like Vingunguti, where formal contractors were reluctant to operate due to financial constraints and difficult terrain,” said Zenda.

The council has provided these collectors with training in health, leadership, and business management, enabling them to form registered groups and secure municipal waste collection tenders in areas like Butiama and Miembeni.

Additionally, some groups have adopted biodegradation technology for organic waste and advanced sorting for recyclable materials. All previously unregistered waste collector groups are now officially recognized by the Dar es Salaam City Council.

Knowing that as part of the project Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience project (DURP) organized a hackathon in February this year and working with a selection of innovators, so they can establish and expand. They see this as an important pathway to invest for improved waste management in future.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Blue economy: Zanzibar's seaweed farmers demand fair prices ; The Guardian, March 24 2025.

To access the article : https://ippmedia.co.tz/the-guardian/features/read/blue-economy-zanzibars-seaweed-farmers-demand-fair-prices-2025-03-23-232851

Pili Pandu (left), a seaweed farmer holds a stick, ready to plant seaweed in the shallow waters of the ocean, right is Mwanaid Feruzi, her fellow farmer from Jambiani village.

CREATING a conducive business environment for seaweed farmers can drive significant progress in youth employment, empower women, and enable Tanzania to fully benefit from the blue economy.

Seaweed cultivation in Zanzibar has emerged as a vital economic activity, particularly for women, providing employment, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to Tanzania's growing blue economy.

Zanzibar is one of the world's leading seaweed producers. The archipelago exports around thousand tonnes of seaweed annually to international markets, including Japan, the USA,

Denmark, China, and Spain. The industry directly employs approximately 30,000 farmers, with 80 percent being women.

Seaweed farming is an environmentally friendly practice that requires no fertilizers or pesticides. It contributes to marine conservation while serving as a raw material for various industries, including cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and food production.

Women engaged in seaweed farming in Unguja Island, Zanzibar, are calling on the government to set an indicative price for Spinosum seaweed, raising it from 700/- to 3,000/- per kilogram. They believe this adjustment will enable them to better support their families, improve their livelihoods, and secure better housing.

Safia Makame, a 60-year-old seaweed farmer from Bweleo village, emphasized the need for government intervention. Despite their hard work and investment, the prices they receive remain extremely low.

Farmers are also requesting that the price of the Cottonii seaweed species be increased from 1,000/- to 2,000/- per kilogram.

“If the government supports this initiative, higher prices will attract more youth and women to seaweed farming, ultimately benefiting coastal communities and unlocking the full potential of the blue economy,” Makame stated.

Challenges pushing farmers away

Due to persistently low prices and the growing impact of climate change, some women have abandoned seaweed farming and turned to casual labour, vegetable farming, or small businesses to make ends meet.

“We produce a large quantity of seaweed, but there is no market, and prices remain low,” Makame explained, insisting the need for the government to provide boats, swimming training and drying facilities for better production.

Dr Flower Msuya, founder of the Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster Initiative (ZaSCI), highlighted that rising ocean temperatures and extreme sunlight have led to the rotting of nearly 70% of seaweed. Many farmers are now struggling to adapt to changing weather conditions.

With 80 villages cultivating seaweed in Unguja Island, the sector holds immense economic potential. Seaweed products are exported to markets in France, the USA, Denmark, China, Spain, and Chile.

However, climate change is forcing farmers to seek deeper waters for cultivation—a major challenge, as most women cannot swim or afford boats to reach these areas.

To help seaweed farmers sustain their livelihoods, Dr Msuya urged the government to provide modern fiber boats, swimming training, and improved drying facilities, such as large solar dryers.

Additionally, she emphasized the need for better access to affordable packaging materials, which remain scarce and expensive.

A recent study conducted in Zanzibar revealed that women seaweed farmers face increasing seawater temperatures (31–38°C), high postharvest losses, ice-ice disease, and epiphyte pests—factors that severely impact seaweed growth. Some farmers have resorted to storing seaweed seeds in deeper waters, waiting for the hot season to pass, while others struggle to access new seeds.

The challenges extend beyond climate change. Competition for marine resources is creating conflicts between seaweed farmers, the fishing industry, and the tourism sector.

Fishermen often invade seaweed farms, damaging crops and cutting ropes. Additionally, pollution and theft—especially of valuable sea cucumbers—pose further threats.

To address these issues, Dr Msuya recommended implementing marine spatial planning to designate specific areas for seaweed farming, tourism, and fishing.

Seaweed farming in Tanzania employs 30,000 farmers, 80 percent of whom are women. Despite their contributions, the current price of 700/- per kilogram is too low to transform their lives.

Pius Mwakalebela, manager at Mwani Zanzibar Co. Ltd, pointed out that in Europe, seaweed fetches up to 150 euros per kilogram. He warned that without government intervention, women will remain trapped in poverty despite years of hard work.

Zanzibar ranks third globally in seaweed exports shipping 75,000 tonnes annually to international markets. However, many men have abandoned the sector due to low prices, leaving women to bear the brunt of the industry's challenges.

Beyond its economic benefits, seaweed farming is an environmentally friendly practice that requires no fertilizers or pesticides. It can be used to produce food, fertilizers, and cosmetics. Seaweed is also rich in essential minerals, offering health benefits such as wrinkle reduction, weight loss, and thyroid support.

To fully realize the potential of seaweed farming, Mwani Zanzibar Co. Ltd has launched a value-addition project, producing seven types of soaps, scrubs, and seaweed butter for domestic and international markets.

For these women, fair pricing, government support, and better access to resources are critical steps toward a sustainable and prosperous blue economy.

THE CITIZEN

Rosemary Mirondo (Tanzania) ; 'Multi-trophic aquaculture key to sustainable seaweed farming' ; The Citizen, March 25, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/zanzibar/-multi-trophic-aquaculture-key-to-sustainable-seaweed-farming--4978156

What you need to know:

- **This approach integrates seaweed cultivation with other aquaculture species, such as sea cucumbers and milkfish, to enhance productivity and resilience. Speaking to journalists in Zanzibar, a researcher at the Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster Initiative, Flower Msuya, said seaweed farmers also face challenges of theft and high mortality rates of aquaculture species during heavy rains.**

Zanzibar. The adoption of Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) has been proposed as a sustainable solution to improve seaweed farming in Tanzania.

This approach integrates seaweed cultivation with other aquaculture species, such as sea cucumbers and milkfish, to enhance productivity and resilience.

Speaking to journalists in Zanzibar, a researcher at the Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster Initiative, Flower Msuya, said seaweed farmers also face challenges of theft and high mortality rates of aquaculture species during heavy rains.

"The growing problem of land shortages and the theft of sea cucumbers further strain the seaweed farming community.

These combined challenges have made it clear that supporting farmers with better technologies, infrastructure, and access to markets is crucial for the future of seaweed farming in Tanzania," she said. Seaweed farming has become a vital source of income for thousands of farmers, particularly in coastal areas.

The sector employs more than 30,000 farmers, over 80 per cent of whom are women.

Tanzania currently produces over 30,000 tonnes of dried seaweed annually, with projections for growth in 2024.

Despite its economic significance, the industry is grappling with numerous challenges, many of which are linked to climate change.

One of the most pressing concerns is the rising seawater temperature, which has surged to between 31 and 38°C in recent years, putting immense pressure on the seaweed ecosystem.

"This temperature spike has led to the prevalence of diseases and pests, such as ice-ice disease and epiphytes, which damage seaweed crops," Msuya said.

Consequently, many farmers are experiencing declining production levels, particularly with the high-value red seaweed species, Cottonii, which struggles to thrive in warmer conditions.

Some farmers have even been forced to abandon cultivation altogether. Additionally, the prolonged hot season, lasting up to three months, disrupts farming activities, leading to seasonal production halts.

A major constraint is the shortage of seed supply, which worsens after poor seasons, leaving many farmers without the necessary seedlings to restart cultivation.

To address this issue, experts have suggested the development of nurseries and tissue culture techniques to ensure a stable and reliable supply of seaweed seedlings.

Traditional off-bottom farming methods are becoming less effective, prompting a shift towards deeper farming techniques, where seaweed is cultivated at depths of 2–6 metres during low tides.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Tanzania Urged to Develop Climate-Resilient Seaweed Species ; The Guardian, March 25, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/tanzania-urged-to-develop-climate-resilient-seaweed-species-2025-03-24-150256

Seaweed is a versatile resource with applications in human and animal nutrition, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has urged Tanzania to develop climate-resilient seaweed species, establish cultivation zones away from pollution sources, and enforce strict regulations on industrial discharges. This initiative aims to help farmers mitigate climate change effects, improve their livelihoods, and enhance food security.

Mirko Dunner, Project Coordinator at UNCTAD, made these remarks at a recent workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean region. The workshop, held in Zanzibar, was organized by the Africa 21 Network with support from the Zanzibar government, UNCTAD, the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution

Programme (SMEP), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania.

“We need to support farmers because climate change has already impacted seaweed growth in Zanzibar. The species they cultivate are increasingly affected by diseases and pests, leading to significant losses,” Dunner noted.

Tanzania has researchers capable of collaborating with international experts to develop climate-resilient seaweed species. However, the industry faces challenges, including inadequate regulatory frameworks, safety concerns, limited processing capabilities, price volatility, and restricted market access. Additionally, issues such as toxic algae and pollutant accumulation in contaminated areas pose threats to production.

To address these challenges, Dunner recommends that Tanzania and other stakeholders develop seaweed-specific policies, invest in local processing facilities, educate consumers on edible algae, implement sustainable harvesting protocols, monitor harmful algal blooms, and diversify products and markets.

“Seaweed is an abundant and underutilized resource that can be used for various products, generating income and improving livelihoods,” he added.

Seaweed is a versatile resource with applications in human and animal nutrition, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics. It can also replace plastics, produce biofertilizers, contribute to environmental conservation, and generate biofuels, particularly from microalgae. The industry's market value has more than tripled since the early 2000s, with estimates suggesting it could reach USD 120.5 billion. Dunner encourages people to consume seaweed-based foods like salads and soups to combat nutritional deficiencies. Rich in proteins, vitamins, and fiber, seaweed serves as a valuable dietary supplement and is also used as livestock and aquatic feed. Beyond economic benefits, seaweed farming promotes job creation, sustainable coastal economies, and alternative livelihoods, reducing dependence on tourism and fisheries. It also fosters gender inclusion, with women actively engaged in cultivation and processing, thereby enhancing economic independence. Additionally, seaweed farming contributes to environmental sustainability by absorbing CO2, restoring marine ecosystems, and reducing plastic pollution. Expanding seaweed farming beyond Asia, which currently accounts for 98 percent of global production, could unlock new value chains and boost trade for

developing nations. Pili Pandu, a seaweed farmer at Mwani Zanzibar Company Ltd., advocates for greater recognition of seaweed's value, similar to fish and other marine resources.

"Many women in other villages still struggle to get fair prices for their seaweed. They lack modern boats to access deeper waters, and climate change continues to impact their farming activities," she said. With strategic investment and policy development, Tanzania has the potential to transform its seaweed industry, ensuring sustainable livelihoods while contributing to global markets and environmental conservation.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Campaign inaugurated to protect endangered sea turtles in Zanzibar ; The Guardian, March 24, 2025.

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

The Menai Bay Conservation Area (MBCA) on Unguja Island, Zanzibar, has introduced a new awareness campaign aimed at educating coastal fishermen, local communities, and the general public about the importance of conserving endangered sea turtles.

The initiative also seeks to highlight the potential for utilizing sea turtles in tourism activities, benefiting both local communities and marine ecosystems.

Thani Said, the MBCA manager, shared the news with journalists from Seychelles, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania mainland, and Zanzibar during a recent visit to the area. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the conservation efforts, assess the impact of climate change, and tackle restoration challenges in the marine protected area. "We have come up with this campaign to help people understand that these species need to be preserved because they are at risk of extinction," said Said.

Currently, sea turtles are protected under Zanzibar law, with severe penalties for those found catching or possessing turtles or their parts. Offenders face fines of up to 1 million Tanzanian shillings.

The campaign also focuses on educating those involved in aquarium-based sea turtle conservation projects. Sea turtles play a vital role in maintaining healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs, supporting commercially valuable species like shrimp, lobster, and tuna.

In addition to education efforts, MBCA staff conduct patrols to monitor sea turtle nesting areas, marking locations and ensuring the safety of the turtles as they lay their eggs and return to the ocean.

"These species are being conserved because they have been heavily hunted and are at risk of extinction," Said explained.

The journalists, who were accompanied by Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD, Julien Chambolle, Secretary General of the Africa21 Network, Jennifer Wang, Textile Waste and Recycling Management Consultant at UNCTAD, and others, were briefed on the Zanzibar government's support for aquarium-based sea turtle conservation projects aimed at boosting local tourism.

"These efforts raise awareness about the need for turtle conservation and help local communities generate income through tourism," Said added.

Collaboration with local communities, particularly the Shehia Fisheries Committees (SFC), is key to the success of these efforts. The committees engage fishermen in conservation practices and help protect marine species like dolphins and sea turtles. In addition, the committees are involved in restoring coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove areas while patrolling against illegal fishing.

"We work in partnership with these committees to ensure safe fishing practices, restore damaged coral reefs, and protect marine resources," Said noted.

The funds generated from tourists visiting the marine conservation areas are shared, with 30 percent allocated to the fishermen's communities. This money supports alternative income-generating projects, reducing reliance on fishing. Twenty-five percent of the funds go to the treasury, which supports further conservation activities, including restoration, patrolling, education programs, and staff salaries.

"Each person entering the conservation area is required to pay USD 3, and all the funds collected are allocated to the treasury," Said explained.

To date, 27 Shehia Fisheries Committees have been established, and some have already begun income-generating projects, such as cafes and classrooms, reducing their dependency on fishing.

Zanzibar is home to five marine conservation areas, including Menai Bay, Mnemba Island, Tumbatu Island, Changuu-Bawe Island, and Pemba Channel, all of which are legally protected under the Fishing Act. These areas attract tourists for activities like snorkeling, diving, and swimming.

"When the community becomes involved in conservation efforts and benefits from them, it becomes easier to protect and preserve marine life," Said concluded.

MBCA also offers ocean literacy education to boat operators, teaching them how to handle boats responsibly, avoid damaging coral reefs, and protect vital seagrass beds. More than 60 boat operators have received training in marine conservation.

In addition to conservation education, MBCA staff have successfully apprehended fishermen using illegal fishing methods, including dema fish traps and monofilament fishing nets, which harm fish populations. To date, 15 such cases have been reported.

Despite these efforts, MBCA faces challenges due to limited resources. Currently, they only have two boats for patrols and surveillance, which are insufficient for combating illegal fishing and protecting marine resources. Additional support from stakeholders is needed to strengthen these efforts.

Pauline Ongaji(Kenya) ; Journalists training on environmental stewardship and reporting on the impacts of climate change ; March 24th, 2025.

To access the article : https://taifaleo.nation.co.ke/makala/mafunzo-ya-wanahabari-kuhusu-utunzaji-mazingira-na-kuangazia-athari-za-mabadiliko-ya-tabianchi/

Kikao cha wanahabari wakati wa mafunzo kuhusu uchumi samawati na mabadiliko ya tabianchi kilichoandaliwa na shirika la Africa 21katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar mnamo Machi 11, 2025. PICHA|PAULINE ONGAJI

UFUO wa Bahari Hindi kwenye eneo la Afrika Mashariki ni mojawapo ya sehemu maridadi na zilizo na rasilimali nyingi duniani.

Eneo hili linalojumuisha mataifa kama vile Kenya, Tanzania, Msumbiji, Somalia na visiwa vya Ushelisheli na Mauritius, aidha, huhimili mamilioni ya watu.

Kwa mfano uchumi samawati (blue economy) wa eneo hili hutoa rasilimali za samaki kwa mamilioni ya watu, huku takwimu za shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la chakula na kilimo (FAO) zikionyesha kwamba mwaka wa 2020 zaidi ya tani milioni mbili za samaki zilipatikana hapa.

Nchini Kenya, takwimu zinaonyesha kwamba uzalishaji wa samaki hufikia takriban tani 130,000 kila mwaka na kuhimili maisha ya watu takriban 800,000, ilhali sekta ya baharini nchini Tanzania inachangia asilimia 6 ya jumla ya kipato cha GDP ya taifa hilo, huku zaidi ya asilimia 30 ya watu wakijihusisha na uvuvi wa samaki.

Kando na hayo, mazingira ya baharini yanayojumuisha matumbawe, mikoko na mimea ya baharini ni viumbehai vilivyo katika hatari ya kutoweka na ambavyo ni muhimu sana.

Kulingana na Shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la Mazingira (UNEP), matumbawe nchini Kenya, Tanzania, na Msumbiji huhimili zaidi ya spishi 1,200 na aina nyingi za wanyama wanaopatikana baharini.

“Mikoko ambayo imechukua takriban hekta 12,000 katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki, hulinda mifumo ya pwani kutokana na mmomonyoko na pia husaidia kufyonza gesi ya dioksidi ya kaboni kutoka hewani,” aeleza Mahfoudh Haji, mwenyekiti wa muungano wa vyama vinavyoangazia mabadiliko ya tabianchi katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar (ZACCA).

Kando na hayo, Bi Sarah Pima, Mkurugenzi wa HUDEFO, shirika la kimazingira nchini Tanzania, anasema kwamba sekta ya utalii katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki hutegemea mifumo hii ya ikolojia.

Bi Sarah Pima, Mkurugenzi wa HUDEFO, shirika la kimazingira nchini Tanzania, akitoa mafunzo ya uchumi samawati na uchumi endelevu kwa wanahabari kutoka eneo la Afrika Mashariki. PICHA|PAULINE ONGAJI

Takwimu za baraza la usafiri na utalii duniani (WTTC) za mwaka wa 2019 zilionyesha kwamba utalii ulichangia asilimia 8.5 ya jumla ya pato la eneo hili (GDP).

Lakini licha ya rasilimali hizi, maeneo haya yamo hatarini.

“Kwa mfano, mabadiliko ya tabianchi tayari yanasababisha uharibifu mkuu ikiwa ni pamoja na ongezeko la vina vya usawa wa bahari, kuongezeka kwa viwango vya asidi baharini na uchubukaji wa matumbawe,” asema Ghaamid Abdulbasat, msimamizi wa mawasiliano kuhusu masuala ya baharini, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa: The great blue wall initiative.

Aidha, kulingana na wataalamu uchafuzi wa mazingira hasa yanayotokana na matumizi ya plastiki au uharibifu wa mazingira, vile vile uharibifu wa rasilimali za baharini kama vile uvuaji samaki kupindukia unaendelea kuathiri ubora wa maisha ya viumbe baharini.

“Mojawapo ya sababu ambazo zimechangia pakubwa uharibifu huu ni ukosefu wa uelewa miongoni mwa wakazi na wenyeji wa maeneo haya. Sio wengi wanaoelewa umuhimu wa kuhifadhi mazingira na jinsi matendo ya binadamu yanavyoendelea kusababababisha uharibifu huu,” aeleza Bi Pima.

Na ndiposa wataalamu wanasisitiza umuhimu wa wanahabari kama vyombo vya kupitisha habari, na hivyo, umuhimu wa kuwapa mafunzo maalum kuhusu masuala haya.

Kulingana na ripoti ya Jopo la mataifa tofauti kuhusu mabadiliko ya tabianchi (IPCC), vyombo vya habari vina jukumu kuu kuhamasisha umma kuhusiana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi.

Julien Chambolle, Katibu wa Africa 21, shirika linalohusika na masuala ya maendeleo endelevu, diplomasia na masuala ya Afrika, anasema kwamba mafunzo haya yanawapa wanahabari uwezo wa kuandika na kuchapisha habari kuhusu masuala haya hasa ikizingatiwa kuwa wana uwezo wa kushinikiza maamuzi ya sera, kushawishi maamuzi ya umma na kuwapa wanajamii uwezo wa kubadilisha mienendo yao.

“Ndiposa ni muhimu kuwapa wanahabari hasa wa Afrika uwezo na nguvu za kuweza kutoa taarifa bora kuhusiana na masuala muhimu kama vile uchafuzi wa mazingira na umuhimu wa kulinda bioanuwai ya viumbe, ikiwa ni pamoja na wanyama wanaoishi majini ambao maisha yao yametishiwa.”

Bw Henrique Pacini kutoka shirika la UNCTAD akitoa mafunzo kuhusu masuala ya plastiki katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki kwa wanahabari kutoka nchi za Afrika Mashariki zilizo na ufuo kwenye Bahari ya Hindi. PICHA|PAULINE ONGAJI

Mbinu hii imeonekana kuzaa matunda katika maeneo mengine ulimwenguni.

Utafiti uliochapsiwa kwenye jarida la Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences linaonyesha jinsi kutoa mafunzo ya mabadiliko ya tabinachi na uchumi samawati kumeimarisha ufahamu wa umma kuhusiana na masuala haya.

“Lakini mafunzo haya ni ghali mno hasa ikizingatiwa kuwa mashirika mengi ya habari sio tu Barani Afrika, bali duniani, yanaendelea kukumbwa na ugumu wa kiuchumi,” aeleza Bi Consuello Natale, Mkuu wa uongozi katika Ubalozi wa Uswizi katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar.

Ndiposa Bi Natale anasisitiza umuhimu wa wafadhili kuingilia kati na kufadhili miradi ya kutoa mafunzo kwa wanahabari.

Aidha, kulingana na Bw Arthur Tuda, Mkurugenzi mtendaji wa muungano wa wanasayansi wa baharini katika kanda ya Magharibi mwa Bahari ya Hindi (WIOMSA), wafadhili pia wanapaswa kuwekeza katika miradi ya kuwawezesha wanahabari kuwa wataalamu katika sehemu mbalimbali za utangazaji.

“Kutokana na upungufu wa rasilimali, sio rahisi kwa wanahabari kumakinika katika sehemu fulani ya uanahabari na wao wenyewe kuwa wataalamu na sauti ya kuaminika, kwani kufanya hivyo kunahitaji fedha,” aongeza Bw Tuda.

Kulinagan na Kapteni Hamad, Katibu Mkuu katika Wizara ya Uchumi Samawati na masuala ya uvuvi katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar, wanahabari wa Afrika Mashariki wakipewa ufahamu ufaao kuhusu bahari, uchumi samawati na mabadiliko ya tabianchi, wanaweza kuwasiliana na jamii kuhusu mbinu za uhifadhi wa rasilimali zinazopatikana katika eneo hili.

THE CITIZEN

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Tech-driven waste solutions transform Dar es Salaam despite challenges ; The Citizen, March 25, 2025.

To access to the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tech-driven-waste-solutions-transform-dar-es-salaam-despite-challenges-4973754

Informal waste pickers in Kurasini (wearing yellow T-shirts) showcase sorted waste ready for handover to a major collector, as recently observed by The Citizen. PHOTO | HALILI LETEA

What you need to know:

- **The platform also gathers data on waste generation and recycling, helping authorities and businesses make informed decisions.**

Dar es Salaam. In the bustling streets of Dar es Salaam, technology-driven solutions are emerging to address the city's growing waste crisis.

From digital platforms to smart bins innovators are striving to revolutionise waste management.

Yet, with limited funding, weak policies, and resistance to change, can these solutions drive real transformation, or will persistent challenges hinder progress?"

A founder of Afia Solutions located in Kinondoni Area, Dar es Salaam, Mr Frank Ahadi, said it provides a waste management platform that records, tracks, and analyses real-time data on waste collection and recycling operations.

"At Afia Solutions, we connect municipal-licensed waste contractors with waste producers, including households, restaurants, and marketplaces," said Mr Ahadi.

He said the platform records the volume of waste collected and allows waste producers to notify collectors when wastes are ready for pickup.

"We have developed a system called the Waste Campaign, where we send SMS notifications to waste generators, reminding them to prepare their waste for collection, including sorting for easier disposal," he said.

Furthermore, he said Afia Solutions also links waste collectors with recycling companies, including those processing plastic waste and converting organic waste into animal feed or fertiliser.

The platform collects data related to waste collection, aiding future decision-making.

Another Dar es Salaam innovator, Mr Jospeter John, said he has developed TakaBilaStress platform that connects waste generators with collectors and recyclers.

"If you have waste, you simply upload a photo to the platform, which identifies the type of waste and alerts interested recyclers before they collect it," explained John.

The platform also gathers data on waste generation and recycling, helping authorities and businesses make informed decisions.

However, not all waste processors follow the traditional collection model. Some groups directly recycle waste, extracting valuable materials rather than sending them to landfills.

Community-based waste management initiatives

Kimara Women's Cooperative, supported by Nipe Fagio, an environmental sustainability NGO based in Bonyokwa, operates under a zero-waste principle.

They collect sorted waste—plastics, fruit waste, and organic household waste—ensuring efficient processing.

The cooperative's chairperson, Ms Rehema Tamimu said waste is either recycled, reused, or composted to create valuable resources.

"Organic waste is turned into fertiliser using machines, which the women sell for at least Sh10,000 per kilogram," she said.

Additionally, Ms Tamimu said fruit waste is fed to black soldier flies, whose larvae serve as animal feed for poultry and fish farmers, fetching Sh5,000 per kilogram.

According to her, while waste sorting is done manually, the cooperative uses technology to enhance efficiency, particularly in producing insect-based feed and organic fertiliser.

The cooperative also benefits from market linkages facilitated by Nipe Fagio and the Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC), ensuring a steady demand for their products.

Beyond waste processing, the initiative generates income through household waste collection services, charging between Sh2,000 and Sh5,000 per month.

Similar initiatives include Buyuni Compost, Jitegemee Maarifa Group in Chanika, and Tufashanwe in Majohe—both in Ilala Municipality.

Sorted and packaged waste is ready for processing through various stages. The Dar es Salaam-based Afia Solutions platform oversees the entire segregation process and facilitates links between waste processors and producers. PHOTO | HALILI LETEA

Challenges facing waste management innovations

Despite progress, tech-driven waste management solutions face significant challenges, chief among them being the lack of recognition for independent waste collectors by municipal councils.

"Public awareness is still low. Even after educating people about sorting waste, many still fail to separate their waste, reducing its value," said Mr Ahadi.

He also noted that, despite being a small company, they must compete for municipal waste collection tenders that require extensive experience and proof of past work, making it difficult for startups to secure contracts.

Mr John echoed these concerns, saying financial constraints limit their ability to run public awareness campaigns and expand their services.

But, Ms Tamimu was concerned with the social stigma surrounding waste collection, "People look down on us because of the clothes we wear, not realising that waste collection is a respectable job."

Opportunities in waste management

Mr Ahadi said there was a major opportunity in recycling organic waste, which is often overlooked compared to plastic, paper, and glass recycling.

"There's a lot of competition in recycling solid waste, but organic waste is the most produced type, and the market is still untapped. That is an opportunity," he noted.

Recognising this potential, some municipal contractors have shown interest in adopting their technology.

"We secured an agreement with one contractor willing to use our platform. Although they didn't win the tender, we still work with them, as more contractors are showing interest," added Mr Ahadi.

Dar es Salaam City Council's principal environmental health officer for waste management and sanitation, Mr Geophrey Zenda, highlighted the broader benefits of tech-driven solutions in waste management.

"They improve resource recovery by reducing reliance on new raw materials and conserving natural resources," he said.

He further emphasised that these innovations generate employment within the sector, drive economic growth, and offer environmental benefits, including reduced pollution and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"Scaling up these solutions further drives innovation and technological advancements, enhancing efficiency and sustainability in waste management," he added.

The Dar es Salaam Urban Resilience Project (DURP) organised a hackathon in February this year to support such innovations.

By working with selected innovators, the initiative aims to help them establish and expand their solutions.

This approach is seen as a critical investment for improving waste management in the future.

Institutional efforts to support waste collectors

The Human Dignity and Environment Organisation (HUDEFO) director, Ms Sarah Pima, stressed that legal recognition for informal waste collectors is of critical importance."

"Small groups and individuals who collect waste as a livelihood are not officially recognised. That's why we are advocating for their inclusion in policies," she said.

However, she acknowledged some progress, as more waste collectors are being formally identified and supported.

She urged municipal authorities to provide loans, machines, electricity, and training to improve waste management efforts.

To address these challenges, HUDEFO has established the Dar es Salaam Waste Pickers Network (Mtawada) to organise and support informal waste collectors.

“This network helps waste pickers gain recognition and makes it easier for them to receive assistance from local authorities,” said Ms Pima.

Mr Zenda stressed the need to scale up waste management technology solutions through supportive policies, public-private partnerships, and community education.

He cited how the municipality previously penalised informal waste collectors but has now integrated them into the system.

“In the past, unregistered waste collectors were fined and arrested. Now, we have engaged with them and recognised their role, especially in areas like Vingunguti, where formal contractors were reluctant to operate due to financial constraints and difficult topography,” said Mr Zenda.

He said the council has trained collectors in health, leadership, and business management, equipping them to form registered groups and secure municipal waste collection tenders in areas such as Butiama and Miembeni. Additionally, he said some groups have adopted biodegradation technology for organic waste and advanced sorting for recyclable materials.

The Dar es Salaam City Council now officially recognises all previously unregistered waste collector groups.

Rosemary Onchari (Kenya); Africa : Tech for trash in Zanzibar as UN plastic pollution treaty nears final stage ; Capital FM, March 27, 2025*.

To access the article : https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2025/03/tech-for-trash-in-zanzibar-as-un-plastic-pollution-treaty-nears-final-stage/

Zanzibar, like many other islands, faces challenges such as rapid urbanization growth of 768 people per square kilometer, a booming tourism industry and growing threats of climate change.

KISII, Kenya, Mar 27- In the ongoing effort to promote waste management using innovation and technology in Zanzibar island, students from State University Zanzibar have come up with innovative solutions to transform waste into valuable resources using technology to promote circular economy and environmental sustainability.

Zanzibar, like many other islands, faces challenges such as rapid urbanization growth of 768 people per square kilometer, a booming tourism industry and growing threats of climate change

such as the raising of sea water levels posing significant environmental and social-economic challenges to communities and ocean life.

Innovation of Waste X Lab to manage waste

Students from state university of Zanzibar under the Waste X lab initiative on the blue innovation have come up with solutions to address environmental challenges such as waste management and marine population for a circular economy.

While presenting at the Africa 21's Zanzibar circular economy workshop for journalists Dr.Abubakar Bakari- a lecturer at the State University of Zanzibar said they are supporting waste management groups to come up with solutions of transforming waste into solutions.

"We are supporting solid waste management groups to come up with innovative solutions using technologies such as Artificial Intelligence(AI) to help the communities and the government in creating green jobs," he stated.

Since the project was initiated, at least 40 groups of solid waste management operators have benefited from the waste X lab project and providing employment to 1070 young people in this island of which 59 per cent are young women.

Through the use of AI tools such as AI, SUZA will help in addressing climate change which has made traditional fishing challenging with increasing sea water levels, with AI tools in place ,it will predict water levels and tides and guide fishermen to move to sustainable fishing zones.

The use of AI tools will also encourage fishermen to practice eco-friendly fishing and this will prevent over-fishing in critical habitats and also locating fish faster, improving yield and sustainability.

Can the world agree on final plastic pollution talks?

Henrique Pacini- UNCTAD Economist affairs officer says adoption of the International Negotiating Committee(ICN-5) a UN global treaty to end plastic pollution for a plastic free future.

African countries are calling for strong binding rules with Kenya leading in the negotiations after banning use-plastic bags in 2017.

“Marine biodiversity is being endangered with an alarming plastic waste accumulation, which has become a major environmental and economic challenge for marine ecosystem and tourism industry,” Henrique stated.

According to UNEP, ocean plastic could outweigh fish by 2050 while plastic pollution is projected to triple by 2060.

Women lead in circular economy and blue economy

Sarah Pima, director at Human Dignity and Environmental Organization (HUDEFO) circular economy in Tanzania helps in waste reduction through sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and improving livelihood and ocean health.

“Resource efficiency and recycling extends the life cycle of materials and turns waste into valuable products due to limited land for waste , dependence on imported goods and climate change,” said Pima.

She said the island has a number of women groups recycling plastic waste into reusable bags ,building materials and eco-friendly products, not forgetting remanufacturing of organic waste products into compost fertilizer for agricultural use.

“With 70 per cent of Women getting into environmental conservation and economical sustainability, embracing circular economy, they have been able to reduce waste and pollution from the ocean, prevent deforestation by getting into aquaculture and agroecology,”she added.

Hundreds of Women have ventured into seaweed farming for social economic empowerment and transforming their lives and those who depend on them. Many have taken a step of value addition to seaweed processing it into cosmetics and food products.

A trillion dollar opportunity in the blue economy

According to the UNTCAD report which was produced as part of the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution(SMEP) programme, worldwide trade in plastic substitutes and their products was worth$388 in 2020.

Mirko Dunner, a project coordinator at the UNTCAD says the seaweed market is expanding exponentially due to value addition and innovation in the seaweed industry.

“We have about 25,000 seaweed farmers on this island and 80 per cent of these farmers are women, this is an indication that women are part of the economic inclusion conversation while providing income,” Mirko stated.

He further says, with the global demand, seaweed is now exported for the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals ,food and cosmetics and biofertilizers supporting national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange.

The island has embraced local processing of seaweed through value addition and they are making products such as soap, cosmetics, fertilizer and animal feed, while boosting the economy sector.

Milliam Murigi (Kenya); Adapt to survive : tourism sector must respond to trends; People Daily, March 27, 2025.

Main Feature

Get set... go

by Milliam Murigi @millymur1

Adapt to survive: Tourism sector must respond to trends

The reality of climate change is no longer a distant threat it is happening now, and the tourism industry must evolve to survive

For decades, tourism has been a key driver of economic growth, providing millions of jobs and supporting local economies worldwide. However, climate change is emerging as one of the biggest threats to the sector, altering landscapes, endangering wildlife, and making once-thriving destinations less attractive or even inaccessible.

In Africa, prolonged droughts are threatening iconic safari destinations, while coastal erosion and rising sea levels put world-famous beaches at risk. However, the tourism industry is not standing still in the face of these challenges. It is actively adapting through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable solutions.

"The reality of climate change is no longer a distant threat it is happening now, and the tourism industry must evolve to survive. We are witnessing rising sea levels, unpredictable weather patterns, and coastal erosion, but we can adapt to this challenges, so as to protect our destinations and ensure tourism remains a thriving sector," says Dr Abubakar Diwani, from the State University of Zanzibar.

In Zanzibar, says Dr Diwani, the tourism industry is already adapting to climate change and shifting tourism preferences. Authorities are mapping flood-prone areas to improve tourism planning, as rising sea levels and coastal flooding are already threatening beachfront tourism.

Apart from that, they have started to put more attention to sustainable tourism because tourists are increasingly demanding eco-friendly and responsible travel options. Travellers now prefer destinations, hotels, and tour operators that prioritise sustainability, conservation, and carbon footprint reduction. This shift has led to the rise of green certifications, eco-lodges, renewable energy use in hotels, and community-based tourism initiatives that promote responsible travel while ensuring local communities benefit from tourism revenue.

"Because of all these changes we have realised that sustainable tourism is not just an option, but a necessity for the tourism industry. More than ever, there is a need to integrate sustainability into every aspect of tourism from reducing carbon emissions and conserving fragile ecosystems to promoting ethical wildlife tourism and empowering local communities," says Dr Diwani.

According to him, destinations that fail to adapt risk losing both their natural attractions and their economic viability, as travellers are increasingly choosing experiences that align with sustainability principles. Travellers are also asking for cultural and community based experiences and authentic interactions as well as tech-enabled travel.

Seasonal travel shifts

Things are not different in Kenya. According to Bobby Kamani, Managing Director Diani Reef Beach Resort, climate change is not only affecting the natural beauty that draws visitors, but also the local communities that depend on tourism. It is because of these changes that the hospitality industry is observing shifts in seasonal travel patterns as travellers respond to changing weather conditions.

Kamani says, prolonged rainy seasons and extreme temperatures have been influencing bookings, while concerns about marine biodiversity loss have been impacting activities such as snorkelling and diving. They have also witnessed evolving traveller preferences. For example most travellers particularly from Europe and North America, are increasingly prioritising sustainability. Many guests inquire about the eco-friendly practices of a facility before booking, and some even choose hotels based on their sustainability credentials. Luxury travellers, in particular, are looking for experiences that offer exclusivity while also being environmentally responsible.

"In response to these challenges, we have taken several steps to integrate sustainable tourism into our operations. One of the steps is having eco-friendly infrastructure, investing in solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and implementing water

> We are witnessing rising sea levels, unpredictable weather patterns, and coastal erosion, but we can adapt to this challenges, so as to protect our destination
> —Dr Diwani

conservation measures, including rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment for reuse in landscaping," says Kamani.

Sourcing local produce

Apart from that, they have also started using sustainable building materials to reduce environmental impact, eliminated single-use plastics by offering refillable glass water bottles and biodegradable alternatives, as well as partnering with local recycling initiatives to minimize waste and encourage circular economy practices. They have also started to work closely with local conservation organisations to protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems, such as supporting coral restoration projects and turtle conservation.

Additionally, they are promoting cultural tourism that benefits local artisans and communities, ensuring that tourism revenue contributes to sustainable livelihoods. To ensure that they have sustainable guest experiences they are now offering low-impact excursions, such as guided nature walks, responsible wildlife interactions, and marine conservation tours.

"We have also been encouraging guests to participate in eco-conscious activities such as beach clean-ups and tree-planting programmes. Additionally, we promote responsible travel practices, including carbon offset programmes for flights, to help reduce the environmental impact of tourism," says Kamani.

Sourcing produce and seafood from local farmers and fishers to reduce carbon emissions associated with long-distance transportation is another way they are promoting sustainability. By prioritising locally sourced ingredients, they not only support the local economy, but also ensure fresher, high-quality meals for their guests. This initiative helps reduce the resort's overall carbon footprint while fostering stronger community relationships and encouraging responsible consumption practices within the hospitality industry.

Long-term necessity

According to him, if the tourism industry in Kenya and globally want to stay ahead of these changing trends, they must continue to innovate and adopt responsible practices. Stakeholders including tourism authorities, project developers, and private operators must adapt to shifting visitor preferences or risk becoming obsolete. Sustainability is not just as an expectation, but as a necessity for the long-term survival of the tourism industry and the natural beauty that makes Kenya a world-class destination.

MAIN: Beach in Diani. Beach narrowing and loss threatens tourism at the coast. COURTESY

A local engaged in Mangrove trees conservation. COURTESY

THE CITIZEN

Rosemary Mirondo (Tanzania); Seaweed farmers grapple with climate change, plastic pollution ; The Citizen, March 27, 2025*.

To access the article : https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/magazines/seaweed-farmers-grapple-with-climate-change-plastic-pollution-4980950

Zanzibari seaweed farmer Bi Kombo Rashidi Ali examines lines at the Tumbe seaweed pilot site in Pemba, Zanzibar. PHOTO | COURTESY

What you need to know: Recognising the vast potential of its maritime resources, Zanzibar has set a forward-looking goal to transform into a prominent blue economy center by 2050; however, this vision is accompanied by numerous challenges, necessitating a dedicated focus on sustainable resource management and the strengthening of coastal resilience against environmental vulnerabilities.

Dar es Salaam. Women seaweed farmers in Kikungwi, Unguja, Zanzibar, are struggling with the growing challenges of climate change and plastic pollution, which are severely affecting their livelihoods.

One of the farmers, Ms Bahati Issa Suleiman, described the difficulties they face.

"The once-thriving seaweed industry is struggling due to polluted waters and changing weather patterns," she said. "We continue harvesting out of habit, but it no longer brings the profits it used to."

Despite the hardships, Ms Suleiman and other women farmers persist in their work, though their rewards are minimal, especially as they lack access to boats, which would enable them to farm in deeper waters where conditions are more favourable.

Previously, seaweed fetched Sh2,000 per kilogramme, but prices have now dropped to between Sh500 and Sh800. The increase in plastic waste, such as bags and bottles, has polluted the sea, disrupting seaweed growth.

Another farmer, Ms Fatuma Ali, said she faces personal struggles as well. With reduced income, she is often forced to choose between feeding her children and purchasing essential tools for her work.

"After working all day under the sun, I am left with almost nothing," she said. The low wages and environmental degradation have made her future uncertain, with her dreams of a better life slipping further away each day.

Meanwhile, a coordination officer at the Ministry of Blue Economy in Zanzibar, Mr Omar Saleh Mohamed, explained the island's ongoing struggles with climate change and resource depletion.

"Zanzibar is grappling with the combined effects of rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events," he said.

He emphasised that these challenges are having a profound impact on local industries such as tourism and fisheries. The island's coral reefs, once teeming with marine life and vital to the local economy, are deteriorating, leading to significant losses. "The effects on fisheries and tourism have been devastating," Mr Mohamed said. "Saltwater intrusion and flooding have also led to the loss of land and livelihoods."

Despite these setbacks, he said the government is focusing on a transformative vision for the future. “We aim to make Zanzibar a leading hub for the Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean by 2050,” he said.

The Blue Economy Policy and strategy are key components of the island’s plans to enhance sectors such as fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy while also strengthening coastal resilience and promoting sustainable tourism. “These are challenging times,” Mr Mohamed acknowledged, “but the potential for growth in sustainable industries is immense, and we are committed to finding solutions.” Parallel to the efforts, Mr Mirko Dunner of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) emphasised the growing potential of the seaweed industry. “Seaweed is an ocean of opportunities,” he said, highlighting its environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Mr Dunner highlighted seaweed farming’s ability to provide multiple benefits, including carbon capture, marine ecosystem restoration, and the reduction of plastic pollution. “The diversification of coastal economies, especially through women’s participation, is one of the most exciting aspects,” he added. However, significant challenges remain. The effects of climate change, including rising sea temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns, are putting pressure on seaweed farming.

A researcher at the Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster Initiative, Dr Flower Msuya, said seawater temperatures have risen from 31°C to 38°C, causing pest infestations and diseases. Despite the difficulties, Dr Msuya and other experts are exploring Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), which combines seaweed farming with other species such as sea cucumbers. Nevertheless, she pointed out that "access to boats, swimming skills, and land shortages continue to challenge many farmers, especially women." In Zanzibar, seaweed farming supports over 30,000 people, 80 percent of whom are women. Despite the ongoing challenges, the industry remains a vital source of livelihood for many coastal communities. The Principal Secretary of Zanzibar's Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Captain Hamad Bakar Hamad, said there is a need to improve infrastructure and market access as seaweed farming plays a crucial role in Zanzibar's economy, supporting fisheries and tourism, which sustain two-thirds of the population.

Zanzibar's efforts are part of a broader regional push for environmental sustainability.

Plastic pollution has become a major concern, with East African countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda implementing bans on single-use plastics.

Tanzanian legislator Mr Ali Machano said the East African Community's Single-Use Plastics Bill aims to unify efforts across the region to address this pressing issue. "It is a collaborative approach," said Mr Machano. "We must manage plastic waste, develop sustainable alternatives, and ensure our actions protect the environment." To tackle plastic pollution, new policy frameworks are being developed, such as the Blue Economy Policy and Strategy, which focus on sustainable practices in fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy.

"Our goal is to create a resilient, sustainable blue economy. By responsibly managing marine resources, we can protect our ecosystem and ensure that people's livelihoods are secure," he said.

As regional and global efforts converge to combat climate change, resource depletion, and pollution, the interconnectedness of the ocean's ecosystems has become increasingly apparent.

The hope is that initiatives such as the Great Blue Wall, sustainable seaweed farming, and regional plastic bans will help to safeguard the future of the Blue Economy in Zanzibar and beyond, while promoting a healthier, more resilient planet for future generations.

According to the Environmental Management Act, local government authorities (LGAs) are mandated to collect, transport, and dispose of waste in designated areas.

Among the waste, five percent is plastic, including bottles, which are collected for plastic recovery. This has significantly reduced leakage into dump sites, with almost 100 percent of waste being recovered.

Media reports indicate that the Director General of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dr Immaculate Semesi, has pointed out key challenges, including a shortage of qualified environmental consultants and the ongoing problem of plastic pollution. She stressed that granting NEMC full regulatory authority would improve the enforcement of environmental laws.

"We need full regulatory powers to oversee environmental conservation effectively," she said. "This would allow us to control plastic bag usage, manage industrial and mining chemicals, and address pollution in major lakes such as Victoria and Tanganyika."

Meanwhile, Digital Communications and Campaign Coordinator for The Flipflopi Project, Ms Maliehaa Sumar, highlighted the global impact of plastic pollution.

"Plastics from as far as China and Indonesia wash up on our remote archipelago," she said.

She also pointed out the health risks posed by plastics, including cancer and neurodevelopmental issues. Despite these challenges, initiatives such as household waste collection schemes are making a difference, with 100 per cent of households in Siyu Village now participating in the programme.

Huwaida Nassor (Tanzania); How Rising Sea Levels Are Affecting Farmlands and the Measures Being Taken; Assalam FM, March 29, 2025*.

To listen the report :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PxgL2wxoH6XddZMz6Ynqhj8rOSKuzPwa/view

Insert… Ambient sound of the ocean

Narrator: The ocean is a natural treasure that creates a unique connection between land and sky. It is a source of life, joy, and countless employment opportunities. However, despite this uniqueness, the beginning of the 21st century has seen a notable rise in sea levels.

Since the year 2000, the sea level has risen by an average of 3.2 millimeters annually, and this trend continues to increase each day. This rise is said to be affecting various human activities—especially those taking place near coastal areas.

Agriculture is one of the sectors most impacted by these environmental changes.

Insert… Sound of a farm affected by saltwater intrusion

Narrator: This is a special feature focusing on how rising sea levels are affecting farmlands, and the steps being taken to improve the lives of farmers, especially women.

Sting…

Rising sea levels are not only an environmental issue but also directly linked to economic and social challenges. Although the world continues to witness increased climate change, its direct effects on farmers—especially women—show just how powerful these changes are in reversing development progress.

According to data from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), by the year 2023, approximately 1.72 million women around the world rely on agriculture as their main source of income. The same data shows that about 43%—equivalent to 4 out of every 10 women—are affected by sea level rise in their farmlands.

Insert… Climate change expert

That is the head of agricultural experts in Zanzibar, who we will hear from again. Zanzibar, like many parts of the world, is facing major challenges due to climate change—especially in coastal regions, where rising sea levels are severely impacting crucial sectors like agriculture and tourism.

A 2022 study conducted by the Office of the First Vice President and the Zanzibar Climate Change Implementation Committee revealed that 148 areas have been affected by sea intrusion, 125 of them in Pemba and 23 in Unguja, with Uzi Island being one of the most impacted areas.

This situation has placed women in Uzi Ng'ambwa in very difficult economic positions, as they struggle to meet basic family needs such as food, clothing, and education.

Insert… Field report from a farm area

Narrator:

For nearly three years now, some farmers in Uzi Ng'ambwa Island have lost their crops due to climate change, specifically because of sea water flooding their farms.

This is Zainab Makame Juma, one of the affected farmers, who shares the hardships she faces due to a lack of income for her family.

Insert… Farmer Zainab

I also spoke to another farmer whose land has been affected by the same issue.

Insert… Farmer Riziki

Malik Mbaraka Makame, another farmer in Uzi Ng'ambwa, says the problem is partly due to environmental destruction caused by some residents in the area.

Insert… Farmer Malik

Now, I head out to speak with the local leader, or sheha, of Uzi to learn what actions are being taken to combat the effects of rising sea levels on farmland. I've decided to walk there, as it's not far from where the farmers live.

Insert… Uzi Sheha

In response to these climate change effects, Community Forests Pemba (CFP), through the Zanzibar Women Leadership in Adaptation project (ZANZ-ADAPT), has helped farmers—especially women—by introducing climate-smart farming methods. These include improved farming techniques, seeds, and seedlings to support sustainable livelihoods. Uzi Ng'ambwa is one of the areas that has benefited from this initiative.

Insert… Shaaban from CFP

In addition to CFP, the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) Zanzibar is also actively involved in the same project. Here's what they had to say.

Insert… Nairat from TAMWA

Narrator: Listener, a reminder that this is a special feature highlighting how rising sea levels are affecting farmlands and what is being done to improve the lives of farmers, especially women. Now let's hear from some of the local residents—what do they think should be done to fight climate change and its impact on agriculture?

Insert… Vox pop (community voices)

According to Zanzibar's 2001 Agricultural Policy, several key areas of agriculture were considered, including climate change challenges such as rising sea levels, which affect crop production. So, to what extent is this policy being implemented? Salum Rehani, Head of Agricultural Experts in Zanzibar, explains.

Insert… Head of Agricultural Experts, Zanzibar

But this feature doesn't end there. I also visited the Office of the First Vice President—specifically the Department of Environment—to understand their strategies for addressing climate change impacts like sea level rise that are affecting agricultural lands, including in Uzi.

Mariam Omar Mdungi is an environmental officer and gender and climate change liaison. Here is what she had to say.

Insert… Office of the First Vice President

With those insights from the environment officer and gender liaison officer from the Office of the First Vice President, we wrap up today's special feature on how rising sea levels are affecting agricultural lands, and the measures being taken to improve the lives of farmers, especially women.

My name is Huwaida Nassor.

THE END

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Expert calls for more education on marine ecology to curb overfishing ; The Guardian, March 31 2025.

To access the article : https://ippmedia.co.tz/the-guardian/business/read/expert-calls-for-more-education-on-marine-ecology-to-curb-overfishing-2025-03-30-160619

Expert calls for more education on marine ecology to curb overfishing

MARINE biology expert Prof. Yunus Mgaya has called for fisheries extension officers, fishmongers, traders, and consumers to be educated on the importance of marine ecology to protect the Indian Ocean, safeguard marine resources, and control overfishing.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Prof. Mgaya, a researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam, highlighted the need to raise awareness about the critical roles of coral reefs and seagrass, which are increasingly damaged by unsustainable fishing practices. These ecosystems are vital for marine biodiversity, and their degradation threatens the long-term sustainability of marine resources.

Prof. Mgaya suggested using community radio as an effective tool to educate fish consumers and local communities on marine ecology. He also called for the establishment of Beach Management Units (BMUs) to promote sustainable fishing practices among fisherfolk.

"There is an urgent need to educate the public because our oceans and fish are at risk. Weak law enforcement allows destructive practices such as dynamite fishing and beach seines, which damage marine habitats and deplete fish populations," Mgaya said.

He warned that unsustainable practices, such as uprooting seagrass and destroying coral reefs, disrupt the natural balance and threaten critical areas that provide shelter and food for fish. Species like red snapper, tuna, and jackfish are at risk of extinction due to these practices.

Despite the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2003 and regulations from 2015, enforcement remains weak, allowing harmful methods to persist. Prof. Mgaya emphasized that teaching the importance of preserving seagrass and coral reefs would help fisherfolk understand the long-term benefits for their well-being and future generations.

While Tanzania produces skilled professionals in marine science, fisheries, and aquaculture, the number of trained personnel in the sector remains limited. Mgaya's research has identified areas such as Mbuya Island, Tanga, Mafia, and Bagamoyo as hotspots for unsustainable fishing practices. He called for increased government investment in law enforcement, modern navigation equipment, patrol vessels, and a well-equipped coast guard to protect marine resources.

Mgaya also stressed the need for law enforcement to understand the socio-economic drivers of resource exploitation and suggested alternative livelihoods, such as aquaculture and beekeeping, to reduce pressure on marine resources.

He warned that dynamite fishing not only kills fish but also destroys coral reefs, leading to long-term damage and economic loss. If these practices continue, he said, fishermen would face dwindling catches and increased poverty.

A World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report reveals that overfished stocks have tripled globally in the past 50 years, and one-third of the world's assessed fisheries are now beyond their biological limits. Overfishing is often accompanied by bycatch, which causes the unnecessary loss of fish, sea turtles, and cetaceans.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a major global threat, with IUU fishing accounting for up to 30% of the catch for high-value species. Experts estimate that IUU fishing generates up to $36.4 billion annually, often moving through opaque supply chains due to a lack of traceability systems.

Overfishing disrupts entire ecosystems, affecting fish sizes, reproduction rates, and maturity. This imbalance erodes the food web and endangers species like sea turtles and corals, further threatening marine biodiversity.

Carolyne Tomno (Kenya); Ocean of opportunities: Breaking the Barriers in African Ocean Conservation ; Kass Media, March 31, 2025*.

To access the article : https://kassdigital.co.ke/climate-change/ocean-of-opportunities-breaking-the-barriers-in-african-ocean-conservation/

Along the breath-taking turquoise shores of the Indian Ocean, where the waves kiss the sandy beaches, marine conservationist Mohdar Mohammed discovered an unexpected treasure in seaweed. Once dismissed as marine debris, this oceanic resource is now at the heart of an agricultural revolution in Kenya, aligning with the global movement toward sustainable blue economies and marine biodiversity conservation.

For years, beach clean-ups resulted in piles of discarded seaweed, which were often burned, contributing to environmental degradation. According to Mohammed, he saw potential where others saw waste. His journey of discovery took him across the world, from the bustling innovation hubs of Singapore and China to the rich agricultural traditions of Ireland. What he learned was transformative, “For centuries, coastal communities have used seaweed as a natural plant booster, long before synthetic fertilizers took centre stage”. Reveals Mohammed.

Mohammed founded Morganics Seaweed Organic Fertilizer, one of Kenya's first companies dedicated to harnessing marine resources sustainably. His Production process emphasizes environmental responsibility, ensuring that all seaweed used is ethically collected from the shore rather than harvested from the ocean, preserving marine biodiversity. "I work closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service, to ensure that this initiative supports ocean conservation while creating economic opportunities for local communities.

From sea weed to Fertilizer

The transformation of seaweed into fertilizer follows a sustainable and low-impact process. After being carefully cleaned to remove excess salt, sand, and debris, the seaweed is chopped, weighed, and placed in water-filled containers in a controlled environment. Through natural decomposition or fermentation, it breaks down into a nutrient-rich liquid or slurry.

The result is a highly effective organic foliar and soil fertilizer enriched with essential minerals that promote stronger, healthier crops which is a crucial step in enhancing food security while combating soil degradation in a climate-stressed world.

Climate Resilience

With a current production capacity of 10,000 liters per month, Morganics Seaweed Organic Fertilizer is gaining popularity among flower farmers and organic growers seeking sustainable solutions. “Unlike conventional organic fertilizers, seaweed-based fertilizers offer a unique spectrum of nutrients that enhance plant resilience and growth,” Mohammed explains. As global demand for sustainable agricultural inputs grows, his work is fostering climate resilience and reducing reliance on chemical-based farming.

Socio-Economic Impact

Beyond business, Mohammed is deeply committed to fostering social impact. He envisions empowering local coastal communities, particularly women and youth groups, to engage in seaweed collection and processing.

By creating jobs and promoting sustainable resource management, his initiative embodies the conference’s vision of a thriving blue economy that benefits both people and the planet.

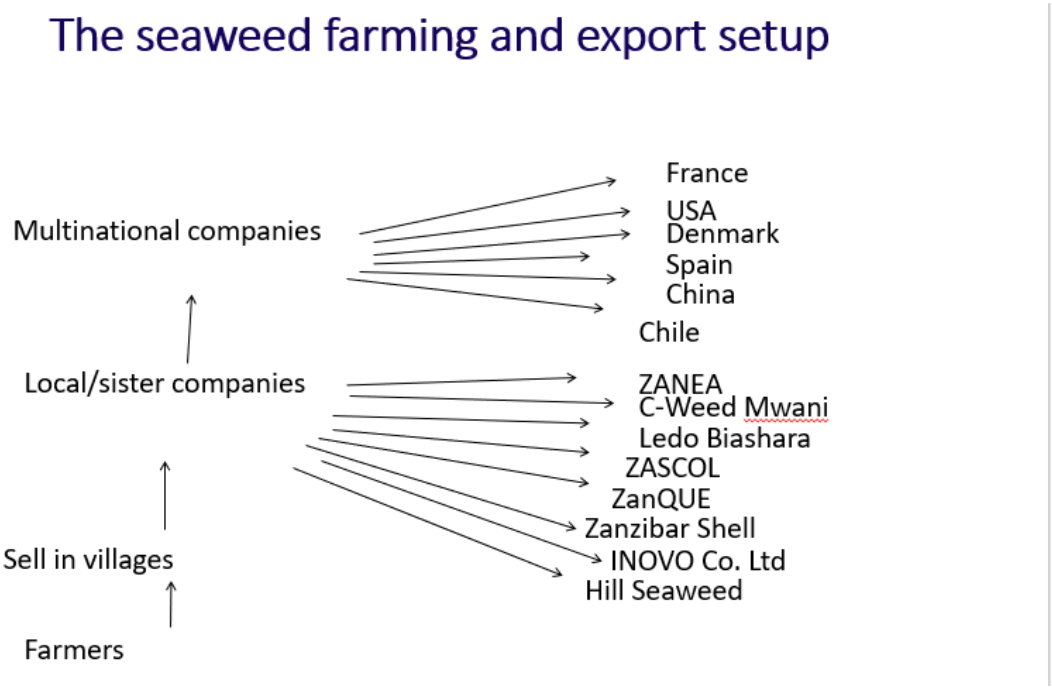
Mohdar Mohammed is not just manufacturing fertilizer; he is pioneering a sustainable agricultural future for Kenya and beyond.

As he leads the way in seaweed-based organic farming, he hopes to inspire a new generation of eco-conscious entrepreneurs who recognize the value of marine resources without compromising the health of oceans.

To watch the interview : https://youtu.be/ZR9fqfPOiFY

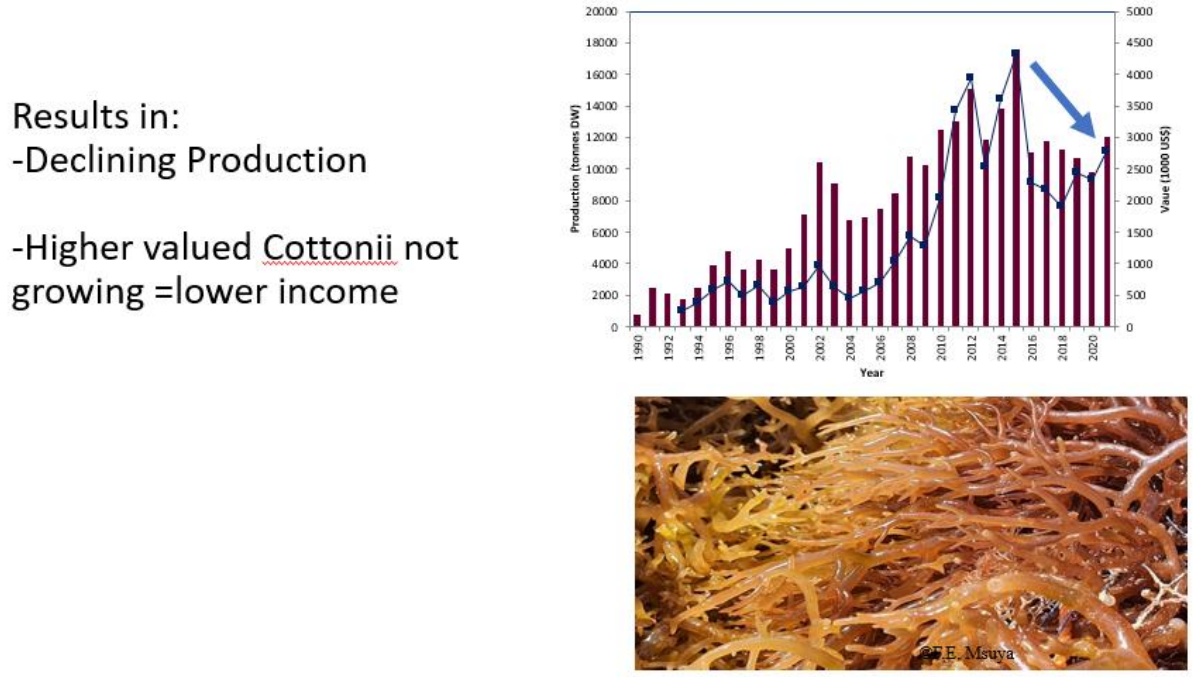
Sea Weed cultivation in Tanzania

In Tanzania, Sea weed cultivation employs 30,000 farmers, 80 percent of whom are women. This is according to Flower Msuya, a researcher at the Zanzibar Sea weed cluster initiative who was Speaking during the workshop for the blue and Circular economy for Journalists held in Zanzibar.



Challenges of Climate Change

Msuya adds that challenges associated with climate change and rising temperatures and environmental shifts is forcing seaweed to grow in deeper Ocean waters, making traditional farming methods ineffective."



It is becoming difficult for the women to farm sea weed, Some of the farmers have already given up while some go for several months without harvesting anything". Says Msuya. The biggest

hurdle facing the women is that most of them cannot swim or dive. But there is hope in women like Nancy Iraba, a marine biologist and the co-founder of Aqua Farms Organization, who is at the forefront of transforming ocean accessibility in Tanzania.

Breaking barriers and providing solutions

Nancy Iraba is changing the tide. As Tanzania's first female dive master, capable of diving up to 40 meters, she has broken significant barriers in marine conservation and exploration. While her certification as a dive master was a personal achievement, it has become a movement to reshape opportunities for Tanzanians, especially women, in ocean-based industries. "None of us had experienced life below water until I was selected to be part of the NEWF program in 2017"says Nancy.

With the Understanding that diving and swimming skills are essential for women seaweed farmers to access deeper waters, Nancy has initiated training programs through her organization. She established has established ,Tanzania Dive Labs, where she has trained and certified 40 scuba divers, including a growing number of women. And today, the program boasts of six dive masters and two instructors, with a mission to train Tanzania's first female diving instructor. By equipping local communities with essential diving skills, Nancy is empowering the women to safely cultivate high-quality seaweed in deeper waters, increasing their yield and income. According to Nancy, Ocean exploration programs are already attracting youth to take

up sea weed farming. “Being able to swim and dive in the ocean it will lead to the production better quality sea weed and better pay”. Adds Nancy

She is also working in collaboration with fishermen who have been trained and certified as a dive masters and have in turn became marine conservationists. The Fishermen are equipped with an underwater camera which, monitors coral farms and the marine environment, providing crucial data to support sustainable seaweed farming.

Nancy’s impact extends beyond diving and seaweed farming. She launched the Africa Re-Focus Project, advocating for the intersection of ocean accessibility and the blue economy. She has also introduced ocean exploration initiatives to inspire young people to consider careers in marine industries. Her work has not only improved the livelihoods of seaweed farmers but also paved the way for a new generation of Tanzanian ocean stewards.

Importance of local communities in conservation and Blue economy

From Cameroon, Aristide Takaoukam Kamla, is a marine biologist whose career journey is as unique as the marine creatures he works to protect. He grew up in a rural community where water was considered a domain of evil spirits rather than a life-giving force. Aristide’s path to marine biology seemed improbable.

Myths and cultural barriers

His mother feared for his safety when he expressed an interest in swimming, a practice she believed would invite harm. Water, for his community, was useful only for drinking. Yet, despite these fears and cultural barriers, Aristide has found his calling in the vast oceans that lie beyond his childhood world.

Aristides journey into marine conservation began unexpectedly. During his master's studies in Marine biology, he encountered the African Manatee, an endangered species that had long been under threat. And to understand the Manatee and how to protect it, Aristide Had to work with the local fishermen, who had spent their lives navigating and understanding the waters that Aristide had never swum in.

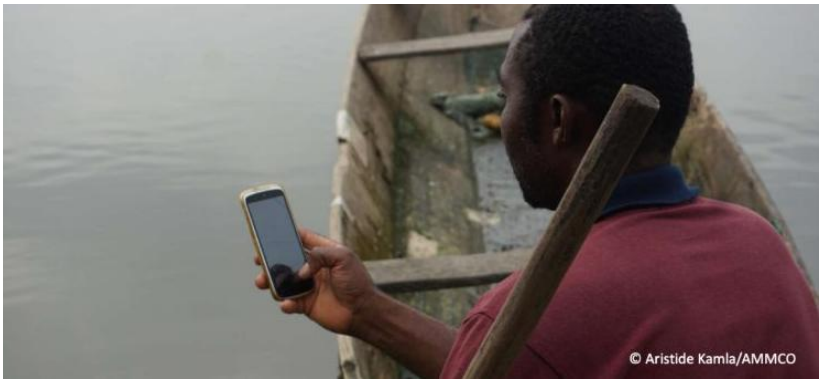
Technology and Innovation

Despite his inability to swim, Aristide learned that the fishermen were not just a source of local knowledge"they were the key to understanding the delicate marine ecosystems "says Aristide . Working with these fishermen, he found a powerful way to combine indigenous knowledge with scientific research.

He has co-created the Siren App, a mobile tool that allows fishermen to document marine life sightings by capturing images and GPS coordinates. This app has become a game-changer for marine conservation.

The data collected, includes more than 30,000 documented marine wildlife observations, has contributed to the creation of the first-ever shark and Ray catalogue of Cameroon.

Citizen Science



The APP also helped uncover the surprising reappearance of the Marbula Ray, a species thought to be extinct for over 40 years, found again in the Gulf of Guinea through the efforts of the

fishermen. The impact of this citizen science initiative has been profound. “Fishermen, once seen as mere bystanders, have now become key players in ocean conservation” adds Aristide. Their images of endangered species are now used to promote better conservation policies at national and international levels. Despite his lack of swimming skills, he made the bold decision to travel to South Africa and learn to dive. This led to the first scientific dive in Cameroon, opening up new opportunities for marine research. In his home country, Aristide founded a diving lab that has already trained eight new divers, creating a crucial team of local experts capable of monitoring the oceans’ depths.

Solutions to challenges and Barriers in Marine conservation

In January 2025 ,”Around Africa Expedition”, a pioneering four-month expedition spearheaded by Ocean in collaboration with OceanQues was launched . The expedition, aboard the state-of-the-art research and media vessel, OceanXplorer, is set to push the boundaries of ocean exploration and scientific research along Africa’s coastline.

Exploring Africa’s Oceans

The OceanX and Ocean Quest “Around Africa Expedition” is embarking on a journey to explore the vast, understudied oceans surrounding the African continent. Through cutting-edge research, the expedition will shed light on critical ocean ecosystems, contributing to the understanding of biodiversity, and conservation opportunities essential for sustainable development and local livelihoods.

By leveraging innovative methodologies and technologies, the Expedition aims to provide invaluable insights and guide data-driven decisions to support conservation policy, sustainable resource management, local capacity building and training, and marine protected area planning. “Fostering innovation and creating a lasting knowledge base ensures that this expedition drives meaningful impact,” explained Vincent Pieribone, co-CEO and Chief Science Officer of OceanX. “This collaboration underscores our collective determination to explore, understand, and conserve the marine environment through a bold move pioneering four-month expedition spearheaded by OceanX in collaboration with OceanQuest. The expedition, aboard the state-of-the-art research and media vessel, OceanXplorer, is set to push the boundaries of ocean exploration and scientific research along Africa’s coastline.

An Expedition of Global Importance

The expedition is traversing destinations such as Gran Canaria, Canary Islands; Mindelo, Cape Verde; Moroni, Comoros; Walters Shoal, Madagascar; Walvis Bay, Namibia; Agulhas Plateau and Cape Town, South Africa;

Fostering international collaboration

Dr. Martin Visbeck, CEO, OceanQuest, says working with several African and international science networks is connecting regional expertise to ensure that the knowledge and benefits generated by this expedition create lasting impacts, both for the people who depend on these waters and for the global community committed to sustainable deep ocean stewardship.”

NEWF Expands Ocean Access in Africa

And in a ground-breaking effort to reshape Africa’s marine narrative, the Nature, Environment & Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) initiative has launched the continent’s largest ocean access program for African scientists, conservationists, and storytellers.

Despite 38 out of 54 African nations boasting a coastline, the ocean remains an underutilized storytelling medium for the continent's rich biodiversity and conservation efforts. NEWF is changing that by cultivating a pan-African community of divers who are redefining what it means to be an African marine scientist and storyteller. Hundreds of marine biologists including those at master's and PHD levels cannot swim, let alone dive, making it impossible for them to access and study underwater marine life .The inability by marine experts to swim meant they cannot get access to go and see what is beneath the surface of the ocean.This is is according to the founders of NEWF Pragna and Noel Kok

Through intensive training, NEWF Fellows have honed specialized skills such as advanced underwater cinematography, photography, and deep-sea exploration via free-diving and rebreathing techniques. The initiative is not just unlocking the ocean's mysteries but also fueling local economies by empowering the next generation of marine experts and visual storytellers.This effort is a game-changer for African ocean conservation, giving the continent's voices the tools to share its underwater wonders with the world

Deep-sea exploration may reveal new seaweed species with valuable commercial applications, such as pharmaceuticals, biofuels, and food production.The mission will increase understanding of ocean circulation, ecosystem health, and marine biodiversity to help address ocean challenges like climate change, sustainable resource management and conservation.

BLEEN MEDIA

Karina Zarazafy (Madagascar); Épuisement des ressources marines : faire de la crise une opportunité ; Bleen Media, 31 mars 2025*.

Pour accéder à l'article : https://www.bleenmada.com/epuisement-des-ressources-marines-faire-de-la-crise-une-opportunit/

À Madagascar, l'épuisement des ressources marines met en péril le secteur de la pêche, essentiel pour 1,5 million d'habitants. Face à cette crise, avec d'autres initiatives, l'algoculture se présente comme une alternative durable. La corruption, la pêche illicite et le non-respect des lois viennent cependant freiner les efforts de conservation et de développement de l'économie bleue.

Sur la côte Sud-est de la Grande île, à 10h15 du matin, sur les plages de Manakarabe, les

pêcheurs débarquent après un début de journée en mer. Elias et Stéphane, deux jeunes pêcheurs déchargent leurs captures, d'une quantité assez mince.

« Le poisson se fait rare … Aujourd'hui, nous sommes obligés d'aller jusque dans les 10 km au large pour pouvoir en trouver. Auparavant, à seulement 2 km du littoral, on pouvait en pêcher plus d'une trentaine de kilos », souffle Elias. Il est issu d'une longue lignée de pêcheurs dans la ville de Manakara. Cette situation témoigne de l'épuisement des ressources de la mer.

Raréfaction des ressources

Son constat est rejoint par Stéphane qui exerce en tant que pêcheur depuis 2017. « Il y a énormément de changements que je ne maîtrise pas mais qui impactent lourdement sur nos activités. Des fois, nous sommes obligés d'aller jusqu'à Vangaindrano – à plus d'une centaine de kilomètres de Manakara – pour trouver du poisson », se plaint-il. Et pourtant, ces cas des pêcheurs de Manakara ne sont pas isolés.

Plus haut, sur la côte Nord-est, dans l'ex-province de Toamasina, les pêcheurs font face à la même situation. Et, comme le souligne Michaël Manesimana, expert en changement climatique et Président du conseil d'administration de l'Organisation Non Gouvernementale (ONG) Tany Ifandovana qui œuvre dans cette partie de l'île: « La raréfaction des ressources marines est une situation à laquelle font face actuellement toutes les communautés côtières malgaches. »

Algoculture

A Madagascar, le changement climatique exerce une pression croissante sur la biodiversité et les écosystèmes marins. Ce qui affecte énormément le secteur pêche dont dépend près de 1,5 million d'habitants vivant le long du littoral et qui représente environ 7% du Produit intérieur brut (PIB) national et contribue à 6,6% aux exportations de la Grande île. Cependant, « il s'agit d'un processus qui est en marche et qu'on ne peut malheureusement pas arrêter… notre unique alternative est l'adaptation », soutient Michaël Manesimana.

Karina Zarazafy / La culture d'algues est une alternative de choix aux effets du changement climatique

Lors d'une visite à Ambanja, dans le nord de Madagascar, le ministre de la Pêche et de l'Économie bleue, Dr. Mahatante Tsimanaoraty Paubert s'est rendu au chevet d'algoculteurs, au sein de la société Riaka. La culture d'algues constitue une des filières que l'État malgache, à travers ce ministère, appuie fortement. Notamment car il s'agit d'une activité qui, combinée à la pêche, « permet à de nombreuses communautés de pêcheurs de bien vivre. »

« Aujourd'hui, nous produisons aux alentours de 3 000 tonnes d'algues sèches, mais notre objectif est d'atteindre les 30 000 tonnes à l'horizon 2030 », soutient le ministre. En soulignant le fait que cette filière va parfaitement de pair avec la pêche. « Ici, les pêcheurs peuvent parfaitement gagner jusqu'à 2 000 000 ariary en un mois grâce à cette activité » a-t-il déclaré. Tout en appuyant qu'« il s'agit d'un métier à part entière qui permet aux communautés de bien gagner leur vie. » D'après les explications de Michaël Manesimana, « l'algoculture constitue une alternative efficace face au réchauffement des océans. Elles s'adaptent très bien aux eaux chaudes. »

Cette filière pourrait constituer un bon levier de croissance. D'autant plus que le pays ambitionne de « pouvoir transformer ces produits au niveau local », comme le soutient le ministre de la Pêche et de l'Économie bleue. Les algues contiennent du carraghénane qui fait

partie des matières premières à partir desquelles on produit les matières gélatineuses utilisées dans l'industrie pharmaceutique ou encore dans l'agroalimentaire. L'algoculture est un levier qui pourrait permettre de faire face au changement majeur.

José Belalahy / Stéphane, jeune pêcheur de Manakara, rentre légèrement déçu par sa prise du jour

S'adapter

« Dans le changement climatique, on devrait apprendre à transformer la crise planétaire en opportunité. Dans l'adaptation, il y a plusieurs techniques qu'on pourrait mettre en œuvre », défend le PCA de l'ONG Tany Ifandovana. A titre d'exemple, cet expert en changement climatique a mentionné les opportunités de transformations des produits halieutiques en produits finis. Ce qui leur procurerait plus de valeur ajoutée.

Il suggère également l'identification des différents points de pêche. « Comme les pêcheurs sont aujourd'hui amenés à aller plus loin pour trouver du poisson, l'on pourrait travailler à identifier tous les points de pêche de chaque zone, et ainsi les aider à ne plus tourner en rond pendant des heures avec leurs pagaies. L'on pourrait également recourir à l'utilisation des dispositifs de concentration de poissons (DCP) », suggère-t-il. A travers sa stratégie nationale de l'économie bleue pour la décennie 2023-2033, Madagascar avance plusieurs points relatifs à l'adaptation aux effets du changement climatique.

Actuellement, le ministère malgache de la pêche et de l'économie bleue (MPEB) enchaîne les activités de capacitation des communautés côtières. Équiper les pêcheurs du Menabe en kits de sécurité, distribuer des alevins aux jeunes et mères de famille ayant bénéficié de formation en pisciculture à Toliara, mise en place de système d'alerte précoce dans les différentes zones côtières, soutien à la filière de culture d'algues … Toutes ces activités s'inscrivent dans le cadre de cette stratégie malgache d'adaptation. Néanmoins, de nombreux défis persistent.

Fitahia Fanomezantsoa / Des pêcheurs d'Irodo, Corridor Marin des 7 Baies, Antsiranana

Défaut d'application des lois

« Actuellement, la température de la mer à Madagascar est au maximum de 30,2°C (à Mahajanga) et la température minimale est de 24,8°C (à Taolagnaro) » informe le site seatemperature.info. L'on assiste à un réchauffement des mers et océans, ce qui rend vulnérable la biodiversité et les écosystèmes marins. Certes, cette situation est due en partie au changement climatique, mais, comme l'a évoqué Michaël Manesimana, la pression anthropique y est également pour beaucoup. « Nous faisons face à une élévation du niveau des mers et à un réchauffement des océans. Ce qui est à l'origine des phénomènes comme le blanchissement des récifs coralliens, habitats essentiels pour de nombreuses espèces marines. Toutefois, la surexploitation des ressources joue également un grand rôle dans cette crise », glisse-t-il.

Fitahia Fanomezantsoa / Village de pêcheurs face à une hausse du niveau de la mer observée à Antsiranana

Le PCA de Tany Ifandovana n'a d'ailleurs pas hésité à pointer du doigt le fait que Madagascar a du mal à faire respecter ses lois. « A Toamasina et dans de nombreuses villes côtières, les communautés usent encore des coraux dans la construction de fosses septiques ; et les quincailleries en commercialisent au vu et su de tous », dénonce-t-il. Avant de rajouter : « de même en ce qui concerne les palétuviers qui, dans beaucoup de localités, notamment sur la côte Ouest, sont encore utilisés dans la construction ». Un autre exemple de cette défaillance

dans l'application des lois est la persistance des pratiques de dragage artisanal que l'on peut même observer en plein Toamasina.

D'un autre côté, il y a aussi la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INN) qui fait perdre annuellement à l'État malgache entre 12 et 16 millions de dollars. Et toutes ces pratiques sont exacerbées par la corruption, avec, selon le Fonds mondial pour la nature ou WWF Madagascar dans son rapport annuel 2024, « des réseaux de criminalité s'étendant en Asie, en Europe et aux États-Unis ».

Tous ces faits démontrent que la conservation marine ainsi que le développement de l'économie bleue à Madagascar sont encore loin de l'exemplarité et se heurtent à de nombreux défis tant sur le plan technique, institutionnel que financier. D'après Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, directrice de WWF Madagascar, « au rythme où les écosystèmes terrestres et marins de Madagascar se dégradent, l'enjeu reste de taille pour la conservation ».

Et à Michaël Manesimana de noter que la conservation et la restauration sont des activités qui « exigent de l'expertise, de l'expérience et beaucoup de logistiques ». Tant les communautés que les autorités locales, régionales et nationales devraient ainsi être mieux équipées pour pouvoir mener à bien cette entreprise de développement de l'économie bleue dans le pays.

THE CITIZEN

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Is Tazama oil spill to blame for the mangrove dieback in Kijichi? The Citizen, March 31, 2025*.

To access the article: https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/is-tazama-oil-spill-to-blame-for-the-mangrove-dieback-in-dar--4985334

THE CITIZEN
Monday, March 31, 2025

ENVIRONMENT Tazama acknowledges the spill but denies responsibility for the mangrove die-off, claiming they cleaned up the oil

Is Tazama oil spill to blame for the mangrove dieback in Kijichi?

NEMC admits delayed response, promising an assessment to determine the extent of damage and potential legal action

By The Citizen Reporter
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Dar es Salaam. In an unusual environmental occurrence, mangroves have dried up in Kijichi, a coastal area along the Indian Ocean.

The area is just a few metres from Mwalimu Nyerere Kigamboni bridge, near the confluence of the Mzinga River and some adjacent regions along its banks.

The extent of the affected area remains unidentified, but investigations have revealed that many mangrove-rich areas along the river have suffered significant damage.

It is not only the mangroves that have dried up—some areas now appear barren, devoid of vegetation, aquatic creatures such as crabs, and birds, indicating environmental degradation.

Mangrove trees, which thrive in the meeting point of salt and fresh water, play a crucial role in preserving marine life breeding grounds, preventing coastal erosion, and mitigating the impact of ocean waves.

According to environmental expert Julius Enock Moshi, who also serves as an officer at the Vice President's Office for Union and Environment, the loss of mangroves disrupts fish and aquatic breeding habitats, exacerbates coastal erosion, increases the risk of flooding, and allows larger ocean waves to reach inhabited areas, posing a danger to local communities.

Beyond these benefits, a 2020 study by the United Nations University (UNU) and the Institute for Environment and Human Security found that mangrove forests are more efficient at absorbing carbon dioxide than any other type of forest, mitigating climate change effects.

Recognising their importance, the government is developing a national mangrove management strategy, set to be launched in July this year.

What happened in Kijichi?

Local residents attribute the drying of the mangroves to an oil spill that resulted from the rupture of the Tanzania-Zambia Oil Pipeline (Tazama) in early 2024.

Tazama authorities acknowledge the oil spill but deny responsibility for the mangrove die-off, arguing that they removed the spilt oil and that no scientific studies have linked the drying of mangroves to the spill.

Visual evidence: A Kijichi resident highlights the extent of mangrove die-off, believed to be caused by a recent oil spill. PHOTO | COURTESY

Eyewitness accounts from the community Kijichi, located in the Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, sits at the convergence of the Mzinga River and an Indian Ocean channel.

Nearly a year after the oil spill incident, Ms Shakira Mohamed, a leader (mjumbe) of the Benki Club-Bukorani in the Dampo area, recalls the event vividly.

"The oil reached here," she says, pointing to an area where the mangroves have dried, an estimated 50 metres from the river.

Ms Mohamed added that during the incident, people flocked to the area, using sponges to collect oil, which they later squeezed into containers.

"Some even rinsed themselves with clean water because the oil caused itching.

She strongly believes that the spill is responsible for the mangrove die-off". "Fish died, birds disappeared, and even the crabs you see now were nowhere to be found," she explained.

Ezeda Mwamnyani, another local resident, stated that the pipeline rupture occurred in Mbagala Kinguji (approximately three kilometres from the ocean) in April last year, leading to oil flowing into the Mzinga River.

Tazama later confirmed that the pipeline rupture occurred in Mbagala but did not specify the exact location.

"Mangroves began drying a few months after the oil spill.

The spill was so extensive that people collected oil in large containers," Mwamnyani added.

> **No one reported health issues, but the mangrove drying started about a month after the oil disappeared**
>
> AMINA SALUM | LOCAL LEADER

Despite the environmental damage, residents claim they were not much affected, aside from water shortage and the strong odour of oil during the incident, which lasted for about four days.

Mr Adam Myamba, a farmer near the river, said that before the oil spill, mangrove trees rarely dried up.

"You might see one dry up, but it would take a long time before you see another. Now, it's different," he said.

While he acknowledged uncertainty over the cause, he suspects the oil spill played a role. "The drying started soon after the spill—why didn't it happen before?" he questioned.

The impact extended beyond vegetation; residents who relied on Mzinga River water faced significant difficulties.

"Oil floats on water, making it impossible to use the river's water," Mr Myamba said.

Ms Amina Salum, another local leader, confirmed that the oil spill occurred in April last year. She lamented that no government official was seen investigating the incident, except for local leaders who warned residents against collecting the oil due to safety risks.

"No one reported health issues, but the mangrove drying started about a month after the oil disappeared," she noted.

She also stated that she never witnessed any official cleanup efforts, aside from residents collecting oil in their own containers until it was depleted.

Tazama distances itself from the mangrove die-off. Mr Hija Masoud, Tazama's health and environmental officer, emphasised that legal provisions require the company to conduct cleanup operations under the supervision of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) whenever a spill occurs.

"We are responsible for cleanup, and we did it to ensure all spilt oil was removed. I cannot confirm whether the mangrove drying is linked to the spill," Mr Masoud stated.

He insisted that multiple factors could contribute to the mangrove die-off and that further investigation was necessary. NEMC's delayed response, TFS's completed investigation Mr Clarance Nkwera, a marine geology expert and research officer at NEMC, admitted that the council learnt about the incident late, which delayed the identification of responsible parties.

"We only recently received information about this environmental damage. We will conduct an assessment to determine the extent of the damage, question locals, and decide whether legal action is necessary," Mr Nkwera stated.

He explained that in cases of environmental destruction, NEMC assesses the damage, determines responsibility, and issues penalties based on the severity of the harm caused.

"The fine is determined by evaluating the ecological damage and estimating its financial cost.

The responsible party must also restore the affected area, including replanting and maintaining mangroves until they mature," Mr Nkwera added.

Meanwhile, Selewin Regie, the Forest Conservation Officer for Temeke and Kigamboni under the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), confirmed that an initial investigation had already been completed.

"Our role is to conduct preliminary investigations and forward the findings to regional and national authorities.

Other stakeholders are now handling the issue, and we will be informed of the final resolution," Regie stated.

Further environmental concerns Mr Moshi reiterated mangroves' vital role in coastal and marine ecosystems.

"Mangroves protect breeding grounds for fish, prevent coastal erosion, and reduce the impact of ocean waves," he emphasised.

He warned that the drying of mangroves could hinder their natural regeneration, making it crucial to identify the cause and take action to prevent further damage.

"The factors causing this destruction may continue to affect other mangrove areas, so swift intervention is needed," Mr Moshi said.

Tazama's history of pipeline ruptures

This is not the first time Tazama has experienced pipeline ruptures. On May 17, 2023, Lusakatimes.com reported that Zambia lost over one million litres of fuel due to a pipeline rupture in Tanzania's Mbeya region.

"The pipeline burst at Kilometre 839 near Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Iyunga, Mbeya, spilling approximately one million litres of low-sulphur gasoil (LSG)," the report stated.

The rupture occurred on May 15, 2023, when a contractor working for the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) accidentally damaged the pipeline during road construction.

Notably, the Tazama pipeline is jointly owned by the governments of Zambia (67 percent) and Tanzania (33 percent).

Milliam Njeri (Kenya); the ocean's green cold: seaweed farming ; People Daily, Tuesday 1 April, 2025*.

To access the article :

https://epaper.peopledaily.digital/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=7b7d476b-6f18-4467-91ff-6f321fdb2d35&pnum=17

Main Read ▶ Let's talk about it . by Milliam Murigi . @millymur1

Seaweed farming empowering women, fights climate change

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fatuma Mohammed, 52 years old, ventured into seaweed farming in 2012. Thanks to training from the Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI). According to her she cannot regret this move because unlike before where she used to rely on bursaries for her two children to go to school, today she is able to pay their school fees with ease courtesy of seaweed.

"Seaweed farming has been a lifeline for me. I plant my seaweed and after 45 days, I earn between Sh30,000 and Sh40,000. With this income, I can now comfortably pay school fees for my children, something I struggled to do initially," she says.

Steady income

Pili Halili from Zanzibar is another woman whose life has changed because of seaweed farming. For years, Pili struggled to make ends meet, relying on small businesses such as selling *mandazi*. But when she discovered seaweed farming, everything changed. Today, she cultivates seaweed along the shores of Zanzibar, earning a steady income that allows her to support her family.

Halili was first introduced to seaweed farming in 2002 when she relocated to Zanzibar from Dar es Salaam. However, she didn't stay in the business for long due to the low earnings. At the time, she was making around TSh50,000 (US$ 20) per harvest, an amount that was barely enough to support her family's basic needs. Frustrated by the meager income, she was forced to look for alternative ways to make a living.

"Things changed when I was employed by Mwani Zanzibar Limited, where we add value to seaweed to create different products. Today, I earn about TSh600,000 (US$ 250).What I can say is that seaweed has given me financial independence," says Halili.

Pili Halili displays some of her seaweed. PD/ MILLIAM MURIGI

Value addition

According to Pius James, manager at Mwani Zanzibar, the decision to start adding value to seaweed came after recognising that women were not earning enough by selling it in its raw form. By processing seaweed into value-added products such as soaps, cosmetics, and health supplements, the company created better market opportunities, enabling women to earn higher and more sustainable incomes.

According to him, although some men were initially involved in seaweed farming, they eventually abandoned it due to the low earnings. Many shifted to other income-generating activities such as fishing and tourism, leaving women to dominate the industry. However, with the introduction of value addition women are now able to earn more from their efforts. This transformation is not only increasing their incomes but also creating new job opportunities in the seaweed value chain.

"Zanzibar produces more than 30,000 tonnes of seaweed annually, but most of it is exported to Mexico for pharmaceutical use. This was another reason for introducing local value addition to ensure that farmers benefit more from the sector by creating higher-value products and increasing their earnings," says James.

Beyond the economic benefits, seaweed farming according to James is also playing a crucial role in environmental conservation.

> Seaweed farming has been a lifeline for me. I plant my seaweed and after 45 days, I earn between Sh 30,000-40,000 .
> FATUMA

Environmental benefits

It helps mitigate climate change by absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, acting as a natural carbon sink. Additionally, seaweed improves water quality by removing excess nutrients from the ocean, reducing pollution and preventing harmful algal blooms.

Its presence along coastlines also helps prevent coastal erosion by stabilizing shorelines and reducing wave energy, making it a sustainable solution for protecting marine ecosystems while supporting local livelihoods.

"Seaweed farming is a key component of the blue economy, as it focuses on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved liveli-

Seaweed farm in Zanzibar. The marine algae has immense potential to address the 21st century challanges. PD/MILLIAM MURIGI

hoods, and environmental health," adds James.

Not all rosy

However, despite these numerous benefits, researcher Hower Msuya warns that seaweed farming is under threat due to climate change and the emergence of pests and diseases. Rising sea temperatures, now reaching between 32 to 38 degrees Celsius, are becoming too high for the commonly farmed seaweed species, leading to reduced yields and increased vulnerability to environmental stressors.

Msuya says the changing environmental conditions have forced farmers to abandon the Cottoni variety, which previously offered higher returns at Sh65 (US$0.50) per kilogramme. As a result, many farmers have switched to growing Spinosum, a more resilient but less profitable variety that sells for only Sh33 (US$0.25) per kilogramme, which is half the price of Cottoni.

"Cottoni is susceptible to the changes and it is no longer growing in areas it used to grow. This is why farmers have dropped this variety," she says.

Due to these challenges, farmers have started moving their seaweed farms to deeper waters, where conditions are more stable. However, this intervention presents its own set of difficulties, particularly the need for boats to navigate the deeper waters.

Women, who dominate the seaweed farming sector do not own boats, making it harder for them to access these new farming areas and sustain their production," reveals Msuya.

"Another challange that is facing seaweed farming is conflict between resource users that is the seaweed farmers, fishermen, and tourists," she adds.

Sustainability push

But why is demand of this algae growing? Mirko Dunner from UNCTAD says that demand for seaweed is growing rapidly due to its wide range of applications in both food and non-food industries. Seaweed is a nutrient-rich superfood, packed with essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making it valuable for human consumption and animal nutrition.

Beyond food, seaweed is increasingly being used in pharmaceuticals, where its bioactive compounds contribute to medicine and skincare products.

Additionally, the global push for sustainable alternatives has boosted seaweed's appeal in industries such as biodegradable packaging, where it serves as an eco-friendly substitute for plastic. It is also being explored as a key ingredient in biofuels, biofertilisers, and even textile production, where its fibres offer an innovative and sustainable approach to fabric manufacturing.

"Seaweed is an abundant and underexploited resource, offering immense opportunities for blue economy growth and coastal development. By investing in seaweed farming, value addition, and innovative applications, coastal communities can create sustainable livelihoods while contributing to climate resilience and marine ecosystem restoration," says Dunner

According to him, already people have started to utilise the algae to make biodegradable fishing nets.

The nets are engineered to match the performance of conventional fishing nets, but if lost or dumped, these nets will disintegrate into biomass without leaving behind any toxins or microplastics.

How is the future of this farming like? Msuya says that the future looks bright and with the right support, seaweed farming can continue to be a game-changer for women in coastal communities.

Governments and organisations must work together to provide training, funding, and infrastructure to help these women thrive in this growing industry.

A seaweed farmer harvesting produce. PD/MILLIAM MURIGI

Pius James, Mwani Zanzibar Ltd manager talking to visitors who had visited their seaweed farm. PD/HENERIQUE PACINI/ SMEP PROGRAMME

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Zanzibar installs artificial coral reef to enhance conservation ; The Guardian, April 3, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/zanzibar-installs-artificial-coral-reef-to-enhance-conservation-2025-04-03-151718

Zanzibar has begun installing artificial coral reefs using stones in degraded ocean areas to attract fish.

Zanzibar has begun installing artificial coral reefs using stones in degraded ocean areas to attract fish, boost tourism, and enhance the diving experience for visitors. These reefs also provide vital shelter, food, and breeding grounds for marine species.

Ilyass Nassoro, Head of the Management Division at the Zanzibar Commission for Tourism, shared this development during a recent workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean region.

"To start with, artificial coral reefs have been installed at the Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area (MIMCA) after identifying that natural coral reefs in traditional fishing zones were being destroyed," Nassoro stated.

The damage resulted from fishermen dropping anchors on reefs, unsustainable fishing practices, and tourist snorkeling activities.

"We aim to restore these reefs because Zanzibar heavily relies on tourism. It has become a top honeymoon destination globally after extensive international promotion," he added.

The initiative also seeks to ensure Zanzibar residents benefit from the blue economy, particularly through tourism and fishing. Given that these sectors support nearly two-thirds of the population, artificial reefs are a crucial investment in socio-economic development.

The workshop was organized by the Africa 21 Network, with support from the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, UNCTAD, the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme (SMEP), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania.

Climate change has significantly impacted Zanzibar's tourism sector. Coral reefs, once a major attraction for divers, have been severely damaged. Other islands face beach erosion, while saltwater intrusion has rendered low-lying farmland unproductive.

To mitigate these effects, the government has introduced mangrove planting initiatives to curb coastal erosion and storm damage. Additionally, authorities are guiding fishermen and farmers on adapting to climate change to sustain their livelihoods.

Furthermore, dykes have been constructed in Tumba West, Pemba Island, to minimize saltwater intrusion on farms.

Thani Said, Manager of the Menai Bay Conservation Area (MBCA), highlighted that Zanzibar attracts eco-tourists for diving, snorkeling, and marine exploration, thanks to its coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves. However, these ecosystems have suffered due to drag nets, poorly placed boat anchors, and rising ocean temperatures, leading to coral bleaching and fish migration.

"We chose Mnemba Island for artificial reef installation because it's a prime snorkeling site where tourists can see diverse fish species, dolphins, sea turtle nests, and other marine life," he explained.

In Unguja Island, coral reef degradation is exacerbated by limited patrol staff and equipment. The MBCA currently operates with 15 marine rangers and four fiber boats, which are insufficient to curb illegal fishing and protect marine ecosystems.

"To effectively patrol the Menai Bay area, we need at least 10 fiber boats and 50–100 marine rangers, with three per boat," Said emphasized.

Zanzibar has four marine conservation areas—MIMCA, MBCA, Tumbatu Marine Conservation Area (TUMCA), and Changuu-Bawe Marine Conservation Area (CHAMCA). Each faces resource shortages that hinder effective patrols.

"For comprehensive protection, we need 200 marine rangers and at least 10 fiber boats per conservation area, each with a three-ranger crew," he noted.

Strengthening marine patrols will help combat unsustainable fishing, prevent illegal practices, and protect coral reefs, seagrass beds, and marine biodiversity. Ensuring a well-preserved marine ecosystem will also enhance tourism and coastal community livelihoods.

Hamad Hamad, Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, emphasized that tourism and fisheries are the backbone of Zanzibar’s economy, supporting two-thirds of the population. Tourism contributes over 29 percent to GDP, while fisheries account for 4.8 percent. More than 95 percent of Zanzibar’s fishing activity occurs nearshore, employing 60,000 people directly and 100,000 in related industries—17 percent of whom are women.

With increasing threats to marine ecosystems, Zanzibar’s artificial coral reef initiative represents a proactive approach to ecological preservation and economic sustainability.

By investing in conservation, the island secures its future as a premier marine tourism destination while ensuring long-term benefits for local communities.

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Drying toes on the toe, is the oil from the tazam pipe caused ? Mwananchi, April 3, 2025.

To watch the video : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QebLxNl14Kw

Dar es Salaam. Katika hali isiyo ya kawaida mikoko iliyopo Kijichi, eneo ambalo Mto Mzinga unaingia Bahari ya Hindi, wilayani Temeke jijini Dar es Salaam imekauka. Ingawa ukubwa wa eneo lililoathiriwa haujatambulika, uchunguzi umebaini maeneo mengi pembezoni mwa mto huo yenye uoto wa mikoko yameathirika. Siyo mikoko pekee iliyokauka, katika baadhi ya maeneo huwezi kuona uoto, viumbe wa majini kama vile kaa, vyura na ndege, hivyo kuashiria athari za kimazingira. Mtaalamu wa Mazingira kutoka Ofisi ya Makamu wa Rais,Muungano na Mazingira, Julius Moshi anaeleza kuwa Mikoko ambayo huota kwenye makutano ya maji-chumvi na maji-baridi, husaidia kulinda mazalia ya viumbe wa majini, kuzuia mmomonyoko wa fukwe ya bahari na kupunguza ukubwa wa mawimbi. Kwa mujibu wa Moshi anasema kukauka kwa miti hiyo kunaathiri mazalia ya samaki na viumbe wengine, kuchochea mmomonyoko wa fukwe, mafuriko na kuruhusu mawimbi ya bahari yapige kwa ukubwa unaoweza kuhatarisha maisha ya wananchi. Licha ya faida hizo, Utafiti wa Chuo Kikuu cha Umoja wa Mataifa (UNU) na Taasisi ya Mazingira na Usalama wa Binadamu wa mwaka 2020, unaonyesha misitu ya mikoko ina ufanisi zaidi katika kuondoa hewa ukaa, hivyo kupunguza athari za mabadiliko ya tabianchi. Kwa sababu ya umuhimu wa misitu hiyo, Serikali inaandaa mkakati wa kitaifa wa usimamizi wa mikoko unaotarajiwa kuzinduliwa Julai, 2025. Wakati wananchi eneo la Kijichi waliozungumza na Mwananchi wanasema kumwagika kwa mafuta baada ya kupasuka Bomba la Mafuta la Tanzania na Zambia (Tazama) mwaka 2024 ni sababu ya mikoko kukauka, Tazama imekanusha kuhusu mafuta hayo kuwa chanzo kukauka kwa mikoko eneo hilo. Hata hivyo, Tazama inakiri mafuta kumwagika, lakini inasema haihusiki na kukauka mikoko kwani mafuta yaliyomwagika yaliondolewa. Pia inaeleza hakuna tafiti inayoonyesha kama kukauka kwa miti hiyo chanzo chake ni mafuta.

MWANANCHI

Halili Letea (Tanzania); Secret mangroves drying up, disappearing in Kijichi Dar ; Mwananchi, April 4, 2025.

16 HABARI MWANANCHI MWANANCHI.CO.TZ IJUMAA, APRILI 4, 2025

MAZINGIRA

Mwandishi Wetu, Mwananchi
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Mjumbe eneo la Dampo, , lililopo Benki Club-Bukorani, Shakira Mohamed akionyesha mion-goni mwa eneo lililoathirika kwa mikako kukauka katika eneo hilo ambalo ni makutano ya Mto Mzinga na mkondo wa Bahari ya Hindi, Kijichi wilayani Temeke, Dar es Salaam. Na Mpigapicha

Siri mikoko kukauka, kutoweka Kijichi Dar

Dar es Salaam. Katika hali isiyo ya kawaida, mikoko iliyopo Kijichi, eneo ambalo Mto Mzinga unaingia Bahari ya Hindi, wilayani Temeke imekauka.

Ingawa ukubwa wa eneo lililoathiriwa haujatambulika, uchunguzi umebaini maeneo mengi pembezoni mwa mto huo yenye uoto wa mikoko yameathirika.

Si mikoko pekee iliyokauka, katika baadhi ya maeneo huwezi kuona uoto, viumbe wa majini kama vile kaa, vyura na ndege, hivyo kuashiria athari za kimazingira.

Mikoko ambayo huota kwenye makutano ya maji-chumvi na maji-baridi, husaidia kulinda mazalia ya viumbe wa majini, kuzuia mmomonyoko wa fukwe ya bahari na kupunguza ukubwa wa mawimbi, kama inavyoelezwa na mtaalamu wa mazingira, Julius Moshi.

Kwa mujibu wa Moshi, ambaye ni ofisa kutoka Ofisi ya Makamu wa Rais, Muungano na Mazingira, kukauka kwa miti hiyo kunaathiri mazalia ya samaki na viumbe wengine, kuchochea mmomonyoko wa fukwe, mafuriko na kuruhusu mawimbi ya bahari yapige kwa ukubwa unaoweza kuhatarisha maisha ya wananchi.

Ukiachana na faida hizo, Utafiti wa Chuo Kikuu cha Umoja wa Mataifa (UNU) na Taasisi ya Mazingira na Usalama wa Binadamu wa mwaka 2020, unaonyesha misitu ya mikoko ina ufanisi zaidi katika kuondoa hewa ukaa, hivyo kupunguza athari za mabadiliko ya tabianchi.

Kwa sababu ya umuhimu wa misitu hiyo, Serikali inaandaa mkakati wa kitaifa wa usimamizi wa mikoko unaotarajiwa kuzinduliwa Julai, 2025.

Nini kimetokea

Wakati wananchi eneo la Kijichi waliozungumza na *Mwananchi* wanasema kumwagika kwa mafuta baada ya kupasuka Bomba la Mafuta la Tanzania na Zambia (Tazama) mwaka 2024 ni sababu ya mikoko kukauka, Tazama wanakana hilo.

Kwa upande wake, Tazama inakiri mafuta kumwagika, lakini inasema haihusiki na kukauka kwa mikoko kwani yaliyomwagika yalishaondolewa. Pia inaeleza hakuna utafiti unaonyesha kama kukauka kwa miti hiyo chanzo chake ni mafuta.

Ikiwa ni takribani mwaka mmoja tangu kuibuka taharuki eneo la Kijichi, mkoani Dar es Salaam, Shakira Mohamed, mjumbe katika eneo la Dampo, lililopo Benki Club- Bukorani anasema:

"Mafuta yalifika huku (akionyesha eneo ambalo mikoko imekauka makadirio ya mita 50 kutoka kwenye mto)"

Shakira anasema katika kipindi hicho, vijana wenye madumu walikwenda kuchota mafuta.

"Walikuwa wanachota na sponji, wanakamua. Wakija huku (nchi kavu) unawamwagia maji masafi na wanaoga kwa kuwa walikuwa wakiwashwa," anasema.

Shakira anasema anaamini baada ya mafuta kumwagika ndipo mikoko imekauka.

"Walikufa samaki, ndege hata hawa kaa unaowaona sasa hawakuwepo," anasema.

Mkazi mwingine wa eneo hilo, Ezeda Mwamnyani, anasema bomba lilipasuka Mbagala Kingugi (takribani kilomita tatu mpaka baharini) Aprili, 2024 na kuanza kumwaga mafuta kwenye Mto Mzinga.

Kwa mujibu wa Tazama, bomba lilipasuka Mbagala ila hawakueleza eneo husika.

"Mikoko ilianza kukauka miezi kadhaa baada ya mafuta kumwagika, yalikuwa mengi kiasi kwamba watu walikuwa wanachota na kujaza madumu," anasema Mwamnyani.

Ezeda anasema wananchi hawakuathirika zaidi ya harufu mbaya ya mafuta iliyokuwepo wakati huo. Anasema ilichukua takribani siku nne hadi mafuta kupungua.

Mkulima pembezoni mwa mkondo wa Mto Mzinga, Adam Myamba anasema kabla ya mafuta kusambaa ilikuwa nadra kuona mkoko ukikauka.

"Unaweza kuuona mmoja umekauka hadi uone mwingine itakuchukua muda. Lakini hata sisi hatuna uhakika kwamba mafuta ndiyo yameikausha au vinginevyo.

"Tunasema mafuta kwa sababu ilianza kukauka muda mchache baada ya mafuta kusambaa, kwa nini haikukauka kabla," anasema.

Anasema wakati mafuta yakiwa yamesambaa hata wananchi waliotumia maji ya Mto Mzinga walipata tabu.

"Mafuta yalikuwa mengi na huwa yanakaa juu maji chini, usingeweza kutumia maji, maana yalikuwa na mafuta mengi," anasema.

Mjumbe wa Mtaa wa Benki Club-Bukorani, Amina Salum anasema mafuta yalianza kusambaa Aprili, 2024.

Anasema viongozi wa serikali ya mtaa walijitokeza na kuwaonya wananchi wasiende kuyachota.

"Walionywa kwa sababu ni hatari kwa usalama wao, lakini bado watu walikwenda kuchukua mafuta," anasema.

Anasema hapakuwa na madhara yaliyoshuhudiwa kwa binadamu zaidi ya kukauka kwa mikoko kulikoanza mwezi mmoja baada ya mafuta kwisha.

Anasema hakuwahi kuona mafuta yakiondolewa zaidi ya wananchi kuchota na madumu yakapungua na baadaye kwisha.

2024
Kipindi kinachotajwa ambapo mafuta yalianza kusambaa kuanzia mwezi Aprili ya mwaka huo.

> "Mikoko ilianza kukauka miezi kadhaa baada ya mafuta kumwagika, yalikuwa mengi kiasi kwamba watu walikuwa wanachota na kujaza madumu."
> Mkazi wa Kijichi, Ezeda Mwamnyani

Tazama yajitenga

Akizungumzia hilo, Ofisa Afya na Mazingira wa Tazama, Hija Masoud alisema sheria inawataka linapopasuka bomba wafanye usafi kuhakikisha mafuta yote yanaondolewa.

Kwa mujibu wa Masoud, usafi wanalazimika kuufanya chini ya usimamizi wa Mamlaka ya Hifadhi na Usimamizi wa Mazingira (NEMC) na ndivyo ilivyofanyika.

"Sisi tunatakiwa kufanya usafi na tumefanya kuhakikisha mafuta yote yaliyomwagika yanaondolewa. Sijajua hasa kama kukauka kwa mikoko hiyo kuna uhusiano na mafuta hayo au vinginevyo," alisema.

Alisema kuna sababu zaidi ya mafuta kwa mikoko kukauka na kwamba, hajajua kama hali hiyo imechochewa na kupasuka kwa bomba hilo mwaka 2024.

Akizungumzia kilichotokea Kijichi, Ofisa Tafiti na Mtaalamu wa Jiolojia ya Bahari wa NEMC, Clarance Nkwera alisema tukio hilo limetokea muda mrefu na baraza limechelewa kupata taarifa.

Hatua ya baraza kuchelewa kupata taarifa, anasema imesababisha mhusika asijulikane haraka.

"Ninavyokwambia hivi juzi (Machi 28, 2025) ndiyo nimepata taarifa ya uharibifu huo, tutakwenda kufanya ukaguzi kuona kiwango cha athari na tutawahoji wananchi wa eneo husika kujua mhusika na tutaona kama ni kwenda mahakamani au vinginevyo," alisema.

Alisema kwa kawaida wakichelewa kupata taarifa, huwa wanaingia kazini kufanya tathmini ya uharibifu kwa kujionea na kuuliza wananchi kujua kama ni mafuta yametoka kwa nani.

Anasema katika kesi kama ya Kijichi, mara nyingi wanaishia kufanya tathmini ya kina kujua nini sababu, kiwango cha uharibifu, kisha wanaandika ripoti na kupendekeza cha kufanyika kwa uharibifu uliofanyika.

Nkwera anasema kwa taratibu za baraza hilo unapotokea uharibifu wa namna hiyo, atatafutwa aliyehusika na kupigwa penati itakayotokana na kiwango alichoharibu.

Kabla ya adhabu, anasema NEMC inapima kitaalamu kuangalia kiwango cha uharibifu uliofanyika na kutathmini huduma za kiikolojia zilizoharibiwa ni sawa na gharama kiasi gani kwa fedha.

"Gharama itakayopatikana baada ya kupima na kutathmini, ndiyo atakayotozwa mtu au kampuni iliyohusika na uharibifu husika," anasema.

Namna nyingine, anasema baraza linamsimamia aliyehusika na uharibifu, kuhakikisha anaondoa mafuta yote, kisha atalazimika kurekebisha tatizo alilosababisha, ikiwemo kupanda mikoko na kuisimamia hadi ikue kwa gharama zake.

Mhifadhi Misitu, Temeke na Kigamboni wa Wakala wa Huduma za Misitu Tanzania (TFS), Selewin Regie anasema tayari jambo hilo limeshafanyiwa kazi kwa hatua za awali.

Anasema utaratibu wao wa kazi unahusisha kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha taarifa ngazi ya kanda na baadaye Taifa, kazi ambayo imeshafanyika.

"Kwa hiyo kwetu limeshavuka tumelishughulikia kwa kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha taarifa kwa ngazi nyingine na wadau wengine kwa sababu wengi wanahusika. Wadau hao nao wanalishughulikia na likifika mwisho nasi tutajulishwa," anasema.

Katika hatua ya sasa, anasema hakuna yeyote anayeweza kutoa taarifa kwa kuwa jambo bado linaendelea kushughulikiwa na mamlaka za juu.

Athari zaidi

Mtaalamu wa Mazingira, Julius Moshi anasema mikoko ni kiungo muhimu na msaada katika maeneo ya bahari na vyanzo vingine vya maji.

Anasema hatua ya mikoko kukauka inahatarisha uhai wake kwamba itashindwa kuota mingine katika eneo hilo, hivyo ni muhimu chanzo kiangaliwe kuepuka madhara zaidi.

Anatahadharisha athari hizo zisije kuwapo eneo lingine la mikoko hivyo ikaendelea kukauka.

Siyo mara ya kwanza

Si mara ya kwanza kwa bomba hilo kupasuka. Mei 17, 2023 mtandao wa Lusakatimes.com ulitiripoti Zambia kupoteza zaidi ya tani milioni moja za mafuta kutokana na kupasuka kwa bomba la Tazama mkoani Mbeya.

"Kupasuka kwa bomba la mafuta kulipotokea kilomita 839 karibu na Chuo Kikuu cha Sayansi na Teknolojia cha Mbeya (MUST) huko Iyunga, Mbeya, kulisababisha kumwagika kwa takriban lita milioni moja za dizeli yenye kiwango cha chini cha salfa (LSG)" ilisema ripoti hiyo.

Tukio hilo lilitokea Mei 15, 2023, baada ya mkandarasi aliyekuwa akifanya kazi kwa niaba ya Tarura -(Wakala wa Barabara za Vijijini na Mijini) kuharibu bomba hilo kwa bahati mbaya wakati wa shughuli za ujenzi wa barabara.

Bomba la Tazama linamilikiwa kwa ushirikiano wa Serikali za Zambia (asilimia 67) na Tanzania (asilimia 33).

Nipashe
HABARI NA JAMII

Rahma Suleiman (Tanzania); Climate change 'drives away' fish ; Nipache, April 4, 2025.

Mabadiliko hali ya hewa 'yafukuza' samaki

Na Rahma Suleiman,
ZANZIBAR

WAZIRI wa Uchumi wa Bluu na Uvuvi, Shabani Ali Othman amesema athari za mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa na kuongezeka kwa shughuli za kibinadamu kwenye mazingira ya bahari, kumepunguza mchango wa uvuvi wa baharini katika uzalishaji wa samaki.

Aliyasema hayo jana katika Bandari ya Malindi Zanzibar wakati wa hafla ya uzinduzi wa meli ya utafiti wa samaki na mazao ya baharini.

Alisema miongoni mwa vipaumbele vya juu vya ajenda ya uchumi wa bluu ni maendeleo ya sekta ya uvuvi na ufugaji wa samaki.

Alisema hivi sasa sekta hiyo inasaidia takriban watu 100,000 katika mnyororo wake wa thamani na wanawake wanachukua karibu asilimia 17.

Shabani alisema mchango wa sekta hiyo katika pato la taifa la Zanzibar umekuwa kati ya asilimia nne hadi nane ambapo uvuvi bado ni chanzo muhimu cha mapato na usalama wa chakula kwa Wazanzibari wengi na una jukumu kuu katika maendeleo ya kijamii na kiuchumi ya visiwa hivyo.

Aidha, alisema Zanzibar imeweka malengo ya wazi ikiwa ni pamoja na kuongeza uzalishaji wa samaki na kukuza matumizi ya uwajibikaji wa rasilimali za baharini.

"Tunasalia kujitolea kuhakikisha kuwa sekta ya uvuvi siyo tu inachangia kwa maana katika pato la taifa lakini pia inaboresha maisha katika jamii zetu za Pwani, kulingana na matarajio ya lengo la maendeleo endelevu 14," alisema.

Alisema utafiti wa mazao ya baharini unaoendelea kwa kutumia meli hiyo unaoanzia Kusini mwa Afrika kupitia Zanzibar hadi Mombasa Kenya.

Alisema utafiti huo unahusisha wanasayansi tisa wa Tanzania, wakiwemo watatu kutoka Zanzibar, unaonyesha dhamira kubwa ya kikanda katika usimamizi wa uvuvi unaozingatia sayansi, mfumo wa ikolojia ni kielelezo cha ushirikiano, kujitolea, na uvumbuzi.

Naibu Katibu Mkuu Wizara ya Uvuvi na Mifugo Tanzania, Dk. Edwin Mhede alisema ujio wa meli hiyo utasaidia kujifunza uwepo wa viumbe mbalimbali baharini, wingi wa samaki na sayansi ya samaki.

Alisema kati ya mwaka 1982 hadi 1983 Tanzania ilikuwa na kiwango cha wingi wa viumbe vya baharini tani 10,0000 hadi tani 175,000 na mwaka 2018 kiwango kilipungua hadi tani 32,123.

Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Taasisi ya Utafiti wa uvuvi Tanzania (TAFIRI) Dk. Ismail Aaron Kimirei, alisema utafiti huo utasaidia kupima sakafu ya bahari ikoje, ina rasilimali zipi zitafaa kuendeleza uchumi wa bluu na kuelekea uchumi huru na endelevu kwa nchi.

Alisema utafiti huo utafanyika kwa siku 19 kwa kukusanya taarifa za wingi wa samaki, aina mpya za samaki waliopatikana kwa sababu katika utafiti wa mwaka 2023 waligundua aina 20 za samaki ambao hawakuwahi kuonekana ukanda wa Tanzania.

Naye Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Taasisi ya utafiti wa uvuvi Zanzibar (ZAFIRI) Dk. Zakaria Ali Khamis, alisema ujio wa meli hiyo ni historia kwa Zanzibar kwasababu ni mara ya kwanza kufika Zanzibar kufanya utafiti na itasaidia kujua wingi wa samaki na rasilimali za bahari.

Mwakilishi Msaidizi wa Shirika la Chakula na Kilimo Duniani (FAO), Charle Tulahi, alisema wanatekeleza miradi ya kuhakikisha ukanda wa pwani unafanya shughuli za uvuvi kwa kuhifadhi mazingira na wananchi kuwa na kipato cha uhakika na kuwafikia.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania); Urgent call to safeguard ocean's marine resources; The Guardian Newspaper, April 8, 2025*.

TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION:

Urgent call to safeguard ocean's marine resources

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

WHEN it comes to the ocean, not everyone fully understands its significance to human life, marine biodiversity, and the global environment. Yet, the ocean plays a vital role in our survival. It supports food systems, regulates the climate, and sustains marine resources that millions rely on. That is why protecting it from pollution, especially from plastic waste, is an urgent priority.

To address this issue, marine ecologists are being urged to develop targeted educational programs for school pupils, local government leaders, business stakeholders, policy makers, communities, and artisanal fishers. These programs should focus on the dangers of plastic pollution and its harmful effects on human health, fish stocks, and other marine life.

These educational efforts should not only raise awareness but also foster behavior change and empower individuals to prevent plastic waste from entering the ocean.

Eng. Omar Mohamed, the Blue Economy Ministry Coordination Officer, made these remarks during a recent workshop on the blue and circular economy for African journalists from the Indian Ocean region. The event, funded by Geneva-based Africa 21, emphasized the urgency of curbing marine pollution.

He stressed that countries such as Zanzibar, mainland Tanzania, and others across the globe must stop dumping plastic waste into the sea. "We don't know whether plastic bottles and other plastic waste entering the ocean are toxic," he said. "We also don't know if the fish consuming nano-particles from broken-down plastics pose a threat to human health."

This uncertainty, he argued, underscores the need for further scientific research to determine the risks. If people understand the dangers, they may be less likely to dispose of plastic waste inappropriately.

Eng. Mohamed added that if immediate action is not taken, the Indian Ocean could become overwhelmed by plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and other debris that threaten marine life.

Proper waste management is essential to prevent plastic from entering waterways. Communities must be educated on managing plastic waste responsibly and keeping it away from oceans, rivers, and lakes to protect ecosystems and livelihoods.

Eng. Mohamed believes that understanding the role of the ocean, and the impact of plastic on marine resources and human health, will motivate people to adopt better practices. Schools, community meetings, radio, and TV programs should all be used to reach wider audiences and promote awareness.

Zanzibar currently faces significant marine pollution. Plastic waste is routinely discarded into the sea, and hotel operators discharge untreated wastewater due to the lack of centralized sewage systems. This water may contain harmful pathogens that threaten both marine life and public health, especially since some residents use seawater for drinking and recreation.

Eng. Mohamed proposed the establishment of central sewage systems. Treated wastewater could then be used for agriculture or discharged safely, only after experts deem it safe.

Dr. Lydia Gaspare, a lecturer in Fisheries and Ecology at the University of Dar es Salaam, highlighted that plastic pollution is one of Tanzania's greatest marine challenges. The issue is driven by rapid population growth, an expanding tourism industry, lifestyle changes, and insufficient waste management strategies.

Tanzania's urban areas are expected to generate 26 million tons of solid waste annually by 2030. Mismanaged waste contributes to environmental degradation, health issues, and climate change. According to Dr. Gaspare, only 5 percent of this waste is regularly collected, while much of the rest is burned, dumped, or buried–some of it ending up in rivers and the ocean.

Plastic pollution blocks storm drains, causes flooding, and affects food security. Microplastics have been found in marine sediments, surface waters, and aquatic species in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. These particles affect fish digestion and growth, threatening marine food chains and long-term food security.

In March 2022, Dr. Gaspare and her team conducted a marine litter survey at 13 Tanzanian beaches. Eleven sites were in mainland Tanzania and two in Zanzibar. Most sites had litter densities ranging from 1.04 to 3.9 items per square meter–classified as extremely polluted. Others ranged from 0.27 to 0.9 items per square meter and were moderately polluted.

Plastic comprised 65.9 percent of all marine litter observed. However, limited data exists on the overall prevalence and sources of plastic in Tanzania's coastal environment. Dr. Gaspare emphasized the need for more research and quantitative data to understand trends and design effective interventions.

She recommended comprehensive research into the accumulation and movement of plastic waste in various ecosystems–including beaches, mangroves, coral reefs, rivers, and inland areas. Understanding the socio-economic and political drivers of pollution is also vital.

She stressed the importance of household waste sorting, public education on health risks, and developing policies and regulations to reduce plastic waste effectively.

Henry Kazula, a sustainability consultant and climate action strategist at Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED), called for stronger efforts by civil society, NGOs, and government ministries to combat plastic pollution. These groups should advocate for responsible consumption and integrate waste management education into school curricula.

He called for government investment in waste management infrastructure and recycling technology to reduce plastic waste, which endangers marine biodiversity and contaminates water bodies.

International cooperation is also essential. Partnerships with global organizations, governments, and businesses can help establish standards for reducing and managing plastic waste.

The government should allocate dedicated areas where recycling businesses can access plastic waste to produce eco-friendly packaging. This approach reduces plastic leakage into the environment and promotes a circular economy.

According to a 2021 report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), at least 14 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year. Plastic makes up 80% of marine debris, found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. It pollutes shorelines across continents–especially near tourist hubs and urban centers.

Most plastic in the ocean originates from land–urban runoff, littering, inadequate waste disposal, industrial discharge, and illegal dumping. The fishing industry and marine transport also contribute significantly.

Many countries lack the infrastructure to manage plastic effectively. As a result, plastic waste leaks into rivers and oceans. Global trade of plastic waste may also cause ecological harm when destination countries lack proper waste management systems.

With over 300 million tons of plastic produced annually–half of it for single-use products–urgent action is required. Without proper disposal, this plastic continues to harm the environment and biodiversity.

There is an urgent need to develop and strengthen legally binding agreements to combat marine plastic pollution.

Pauline Ongaji (Kenya); Climate impacts on marine economic issues ; Taifa Leo, April 11, 2025.

Athari za tabianchi kwa masuala ya uchumi wa baharini

Matumbawe ambayo yanaathiriwa na halijoto kupanda kutokana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi.

Ongezeko la halijoto linaendelea kushuhudiwa katika mataifa mengi, Kenya ikiwemo kutokana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi. Hali hii kulingana na wataalam imeathiri pia uchumi wa baharini huku juhudi zikifanywa kulinda mazingira na viumbe vya baharini

Mabadiliko pia yameathiri kiasi ya samaki wanaopatikana baharini.

NA PAULINE ONGAJI
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Vijimea vya algae vinayoathiri mazingira na viumbe kama samaki baharini.

UNAPOKARIBIA kutua kwenye uwanja wa ndege wa kimataifa wa Abeid Amani Karume katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar, hauna budi ila kufurahia mandhari murwa ya umaridadi wa miti ya minazi inayoonekana kwa umbali.

Kisha baadaye, unapopata fursa ya kutembelea vijinjia katikati ya mji mkongwe wa Stone Town, basi bila shaka unaelewa kwa nini kisiwa hiki ni kivutio cha watalii wa mbali na karibu.

Lakini kando na vivutio hivi, kinginе unachokumbana nacho hapa ni joto kali. Kama sehemu zingine katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki, kisiwa cha Zanzibar kimekuwa kikikabiliwa na ongezeko la halijoto.

Japo kisiwa hiki tokea jadi kimekuwa kikikumbwa na joto, katika miaka ya hivi majuzi, viwango vya halijoto vimekuwa vikiendelea kuongezeka. Kulingana na Shirika la utabiri wa hali ya Anga ulimwenguni (WMO), eneo la Afrika Mashariki limekuwa likishuhudia ongezeko la viwango vya halijoto katika kipindi cha karne moja iliyopita, na hali hii imekuwa ikiongezeka katika kipindi cha miongo kadhaa iliyopita.

Kwa mujibu wa shirika hili, halijoto ya maji ya bahari kwenye ufuo wa kisiwa cha Zanzibar, pia imekuwa ikiongezeka kwa takriban nyuzi 7°C tangu mwaka wa 1990, huku halijoto baharini ikiongezeka kutoka wastani wa nyuzi digrii 31°C mwaka wa 1990, hadi nyuzi digrii 38°C ikufikia mwaka wa 2020.

Lakini janga hili halijashuhudiwa tu kwenye kisiwa hiki pekee. Hata katika mataifa jirani kama vile Kenya, Tanzania, na Uganda, tatizo la ongezeko la hali-

Uchafu wa plastiki katika fuo za bahari unaoathiri mazingira yake.

joto, linaendelea kuwa sugu.

Kulingana na Dkt Joyce Kimutai, mwanasayansi wa tabianchi na mtafiti wa masuala ya tabianchi katika Shirika la utabiri wa hali ya anga nchini (KMS), na chuo cha Imperial College jijini London, nchini Uingereza, hali hii inaashiria hatari katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki.

"Ongezeko la viwango vya halijoto linaendelea kuchochea vimbunga," Dkt Kimutai aeleza, "Vimbunga hivi vinaendelea kuwa na nguvu na mara nyingi kusababisha maafa katika pwani yote ya Afrika Mashariki na visiwani. Michanganyiko wa upepo mkali, vimbunga na mvua kali vinaendelea kusababisha maafa na kuharibu miundomsingi katika eneo hili," aongeza.

Athari kuu ya ongezeko la viwango hivi vya halijoto inaendelea kushuhudiwa katika sekta ya uchumi wa bahari katika eneo hili.

Bw Ghaamid Abdulbasat, mtaalam wa masuala ya tabianchi na viumbehai katika Muungano wa kimataifa wa kuhifadhi viumbe (IUCN), katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki na Kusini, anaangazia athari za hali hii katika mazingira ya baharini.

"Viwango vya halijoto ambavyo vimeendelea kuongezeka vimekuwa vikisababisha uchubukaji wa matumbawe, upungufu wa idadi ya samaki, huku jamii zinazotishi katika maeneo ya pwani zikiendelea kuhangaika," aeleza Bw Abdulbasat.

Kwa mfano, Bw Pius James, Msimamizi katika kampuni ya Mwani, inayohusika na kilimo cha mwani (sea moss) na utengenezaji wa bidhaa zinazotokana na zao hili katika ufuo wa Paje, kisiwani Zanzibar, aeleza kwamba kutokana na ongezeko hili, wamekuwa wakishuhudia upungufu wa mazao.

"Hii ni kwa sababu joto jingi majini huchochea magonjwa kama vile ya bakteria na ukuvu, na hivyo kuathiri mimea yetu," aongeza.

Pia humu nchini Kenya, athari hizi zinashuhudiwa, huku mimea kama vile nyasi za baharini zikiendelea kuathiriika pakubwa. Tathmini za utafiti wa uliofanywa mwaka wa 2018, zilionyesha kwamba kati ya asilimia mbili na saba ya nyasi za baharini ulimwenguni kote, zimekuwa zikitoweka duniani kila mwaka, kutoka mwaka wa 1986 hadi mwaka wa 2016, huku Kenya ikipoteza asilimia 1.69 ya mimea huu kila mwaka.

"Nyasi za baharini ni muhimu sana katika uhifadhi wa mazingira baharini kwani huchangia pakubwa katika kufyonza gesi ya kaboni hewani, lupungu-

> **Nyasi za baharini ni muhimu sana katika uhifadhi wa mazingira baharini kwani huchangia pakubwa katika kufyonza gesi ya kaboni hewani, kupunguza mmomonyoko wa ufuo na kudumisha viumbehai.**
>
> -Bw Ghaamid Abdulbasat, mtaalam wa masuala ya tabianchi na viumbehai (IUCN)

za mmomonyoko wa ufuo na kudumisha viumbehai," aserna.

Anaongeza, "Lakini kutokana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi, kando na mazingira ya baharini kuharibika, pia pwani zetu zinaendelea kuwa katika hatari kubwa ya kukumbwa na vimbunga."

Athari za kuchumi zinazotokana na hali hii pia zimeendelea kushuhudiwa, huku wataalam wakihoji kuwa sekta ya utalii ni mojawapo yazile ambazo huenda zikaathirika.

"Halijoto inapoendelea kuongezeka, huenda watalii wakaonelea haja ya kutembelea maeneo yenye baridi kidogo, na sekta ya utalii inayochangia sehemu kubwa ya kipato cha mataifa ya eneo hili, huenda ikaathirika moja kwa moja kutokana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi," aeleza Bw Abdulbasat.

Ili kukabiliana na changamoto hizi, kuna baadhi ya hatua ambazo baadhi ya serikali za eneo hili zimekuwa zikichukua. Kwa mfano, katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar, serikali imekuwa ikiimarisha mfumo misingi ili kukabiliana na athari za mabadiliko ya tabianchi.

"Tumekuwa tukishughulikia miradi ya uhifadhi wa maji na uimarishaji wa mifumo ya usafiri. Aidha, tunashirikiana na mashirika ya kimataifa kuimarisha miradi ya kuwezesha kustahimili athari zinazotokana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi, kulinda fuo na upanzi wa miti," aeleza Bw Ilyass Rajab Nassor, Mkuu wa kitengo cha usimamizi katika Tume ya utalii katika kisiwa cha Zanzibar.

Lakini haya yakijiri, wataalam wanatoa wito kwa serikali za mataifa ya Afrika Mashariki kuwekeza zaidi katika mifumo ya kustahimili athari za mabadiliko ya tabianchi, hasa katika maeneo ya pwani.

"Ili kuangazia changamoto zinazotokana na ongezeko la viwango vya halijoto, mataifa ya Afrika Mashariki yanapaswa kuwekeza mifumo thabiti, kama vile kuimarisha usimamizi wa maeneo ya pwani, kuimarisha miundo misingi ya kuhakikisha utoshelevu wa chakula, kuweka mifumo thabiti ya kutoa onyo ya mapema ya majanga haya, na kuimarisha ushirikiano," aeleza Bw Abdulbasat. Aidha, Dkt Kimutai anahimiza umuhimu wa kushirikisha jamii husika katika masuala haya

The EastAfrican

Pauline Ongaji (Kenya); East African coastline chokes with plastics despite bid to tackle crisis ; The East African, April 12, 2025.

PAULINE ONGAJI
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As the second part of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, scheduled for August 5-14, in Geneva, Switzerland, approaches, coastal ecosystems in East Africa remain increasingly threatened by the growing menace of plastic pollution.

For instance, Kenya generates about 200,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually, while Tanzania produces around 150,000 tonnes. A significant portion of this waste ends up in landfills, is incinerated, or, more concerningly, litters the environment.

In Kenya, studies show that a large portion of this waste leaks into the ocean, with rivers such as the Nairobi and Athi being major conduits for plastic pollution. According to Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (Nema), land-based activities account for about 80 percent of all marine litter found in the country's ocean, rivers, and beaches, and the flow of litter from these sources into the marine environment, with the Indian ocean bearing the biggest brunt.

A 2021 report published in the *European Journal of Sustainable Development Research* found alarming concentrations of microplastics along Kenya's coastline, much higher than in other parts of the world, with the problem compounded by the prevalence of single-use plastics—bags, bottles, straws, and packaging materials—which are some of the leading contributors to beach and ocean pollution

According to Kevin Lunzalu, a marine ecologist and the current marine project officer at the East African Wild Life Society, the plastic waste that enters the ocean through river systems is particularly damaging, as these rivers serve as conduits, carrying waste from urban areas directly into the Indian Ocean.

As a result, Amos Wemanya, an environmental scientist, says, the functionality, quality of ecosystem services, and resilience of the ocean is being hugely impacted.

"When plastics enter aquatic or marine ecosystems, they don't degrade like the biodegradable waste such as that from vegetables. Instead, due to exposure to environmental factors, mainly the sun's radiation and ocean waves, they are broken down from larger plastics that have fragmented over time, into smaller pieces known as micro plastics. This takes thousands of years to break down, making their impact on marine ecosystems everlasting," he adds.

Lunzalu explains plastic pollution's threat to marine life. "The oceans are home to a diverse range of species, including endangered marine turtles, fish, and whales. These creatures often mistake plastic debris for food, leading to ingestion that can result in injury, illness, or death. Ingested plastics can block the digestive systems of marine animals, causing malnutrition, starvation, and death. Additionally, plastics can entangle marine animals, restricting their movement, leading to suffocation or drowning."

Lamu Island Beach infiltrated by solid waste materials ranging from plastic bottles, fishing nets and parts of old ragged boats on, March 26,2025. Kalume Kazungu

On the other hand, he adds, coral reefs, which host numerous fish species and serve as the backbone of coastal ecosystems, are vulnerable to the degradation caused by plastic pollution. "The waste damages the delicate coral structures, affecting the marine organisms that rely on them for habitat and food. Similarly, mangrove ecosystems, which play a crucial role in coastal protection and provide nursery grounds for many marine species, are being tainted, further threatening the integrity of coastal environments."

Beyond the environmental toll, plastic pollution in Kenya and East Africa more broadly has profound economic consequences.

Particularly vulnerable

According to Ilyass Rajab Nassor, head of management Division Organization, Zanzibar Commission for Tourism, tourism, a significant source of income for the region is particularly vulnerable to the presence of plastic waste.

"Beaches littered with plastics and oceanfront areas damaged by pollution discourage tourists, resulting in lost revenue for local businesses. Similarly, the fishing industry, which relies on healthy marine ecosystems, is under threat as plastics compromise fish populations and damage fishing gear," explains Nassor.

'When plastics enter aquatic or marine ecosystems, they don't degrade like the biodegradable waste..... Amos Wemanya an environmental scientist.

On the other hand, recycling rates for plastic in East Africa are generally low. Kenya's Nema reports that only 27 percent of plastic waste in Kenya is collected, and a mere eight percent is recycled, while in Tanzania, just around five-10 percent of plastic waste is reused.

While there are some efforts to improve this, including the promotion of recycling businesses, lack of widespread infrastructure for collection and sorting remains a major challenge.

"East Africa faces challenges in scaling up recycling efforts due to limited infrastructure, lack of awareness, and inadequate waste management systems. This lack of a robust recycling infrastructure and waste management system is a problem across the region and exacerbates the plastic pollution problem," explains Henrique Pacini- UNCTAD Economist affairs officer .

Clifford Owino, director of Chemolex Company Ltd, which recycles plastics into valuable secondary products such as fencing poles, roofing tiles, and furniture boards, attributes the challenge to the high costs of setting up recycling facilities.

"A proper infrastructure for a recycling plant requires around Ksh20 million in capital, a substantial amount of money that few can afford," he adds.

According to Owino, also most municipal waste is collected as mixed/comingled waste, which leads to contamination of recyclable products.

"This presents the challenge of recovery for collectors as more often than not, the easier to recover items will be collected first, secondly, recyclers use more energy and water to decontaminate the materials before recycling can begin."

But despite these challenges, the region continues to experience a growing awareness of the need for better waste management practices, and countries like Kenya have made significant strides in addressing plastic pollution, particularly through its progressive legal and regulatory efforts.

Carolyne Tomno (Kenya); East African Community Moves Towards Harmonized Plastic Legislation ; Kass International, April 14, 2025.

To access the article : https://kassdigital.co.ke/environment/east-african-community-moves-toward-harmonized-plastic-legislation-to-tackle-pollution-and-promote-sustainable-development/

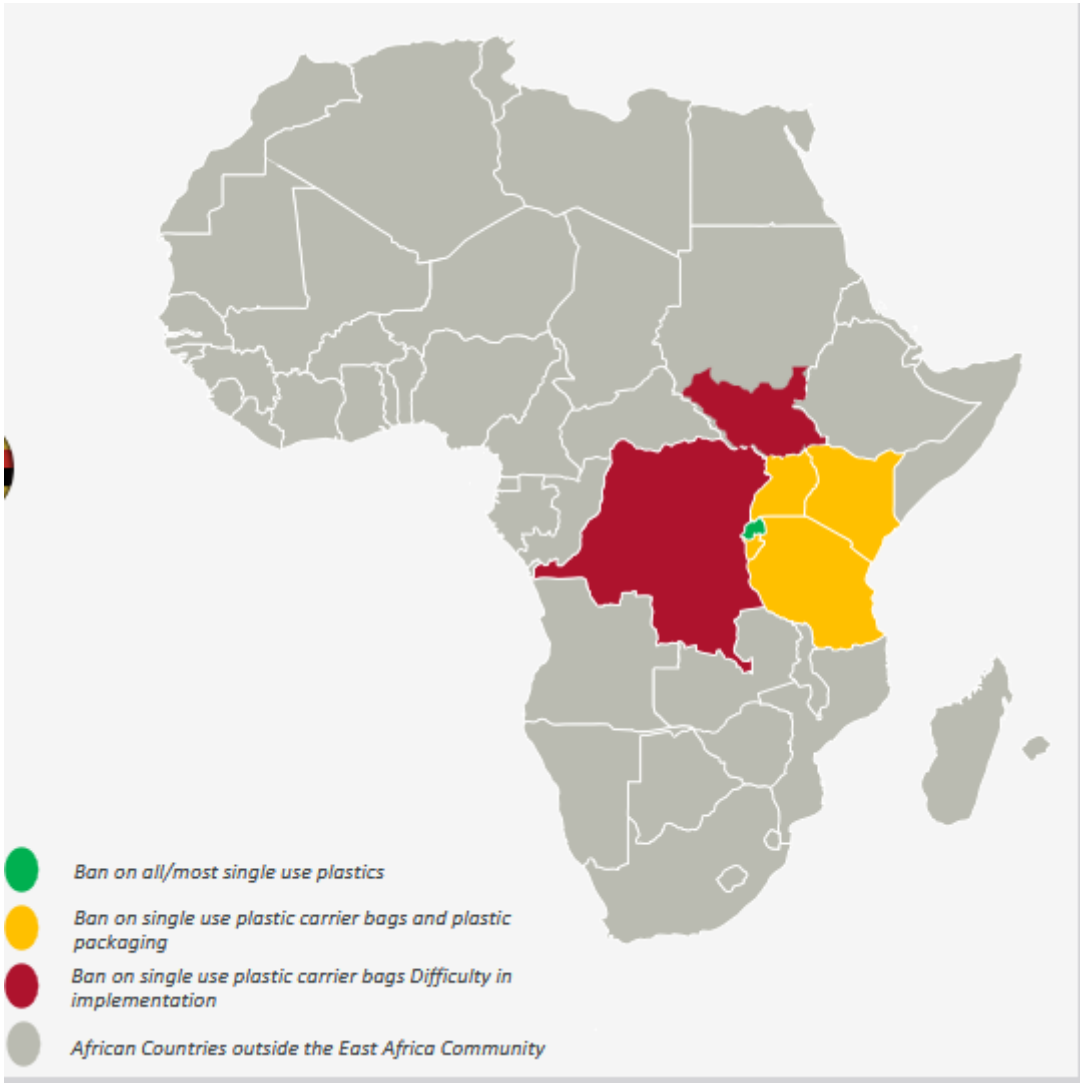
The East African Community (EAC) is taking a significant step toward combating plastic pollution and fostering a sustainable regional economy with the introduction of a harmonized Draft Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Bill.

While giving an overview on the proposed legislation during a workshop for Journalists in Zanzibar ,Carlotta Dal Lago the head of Business Development ALN said the proposed legislation

seeks to eliminate regulatory fragmentation across Partner States and offer a fair, inclusive roadmap for communities and businesses transitioning away from harmful plastics.

Plastic pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental issues in East Africa, with single-use plastics choking rivers, harming wildlife, and burdening waste systems across borders. While some countries in the region have implemented individual bans or policies, inconsistent enforcement and cross-border trade have limited their effectiveness.

She added that establishing a comprehensive, region-wide legal framework to phase out single-use plastics, strengthen enforcement mechanisms, and ensure no one is left behind in the transition.“This Bill is about more than banning plastic—it’s about creating a just and inclusive transition that uplifts communities and builds sustainable alternatives,” said Carlotta Dal Lago, an environmental policy expert involved in the drafting process. “We are ensuring that environmental protection goes hand in hand with economic opportunity.”



Proposed Bill

Some of the Key Provisions of the Draft Bill Include, a Harmonized Ban on Harmful SUPs: Partner States will adopt consistent standards and enforcement to prevent transboundary pollution, support for Affected Communities: Including income-generating programs, job training, and social support tailored to vulnerable populations, workforce Development in the Circular Economy with emphasis on recycling, waste management, and green innovation, Incentives for Plastic Alternatives.

It also includes encouraging local production of affordable, eco-friendly products. Labor welfare and Integration: Formalizing and protecting waste sector workers, including those in informal or cooperative settings. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Requiring manufacturers to contribute fees used to improve waste infrastructure and support local livelihoods.

The Bill further outlines strong enforcement tools, such as compliance notices, completion certificates, and penalties for violations. Environmental authorities across the EAC will be empowered to take action, while individuals and corporations will retain the right to appeal decisions through judicial mechanisms.

A Regional Commitment to a Cleaner Future

The Draft SUP Bill has already undergone multiple stages of review. It was first presented to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources. Following committee feedback, it was submitted to the Council of Ministers, which has now referred the Bill to its legal committee for expert review and alignment with the EAC Treaty.

If approved by the Council and assented to by all Heads of State, the Bill will become binding across all EAC Partner States. If not, it will return to the Assembly for further refinement. The harmonized approach ensures we don't just shift the problem from one country to another," said Dal Lago. "It's a bold, collaborative solution that reflects the urgency of the plastic crisis in our region."

A Turning point for East Africa'

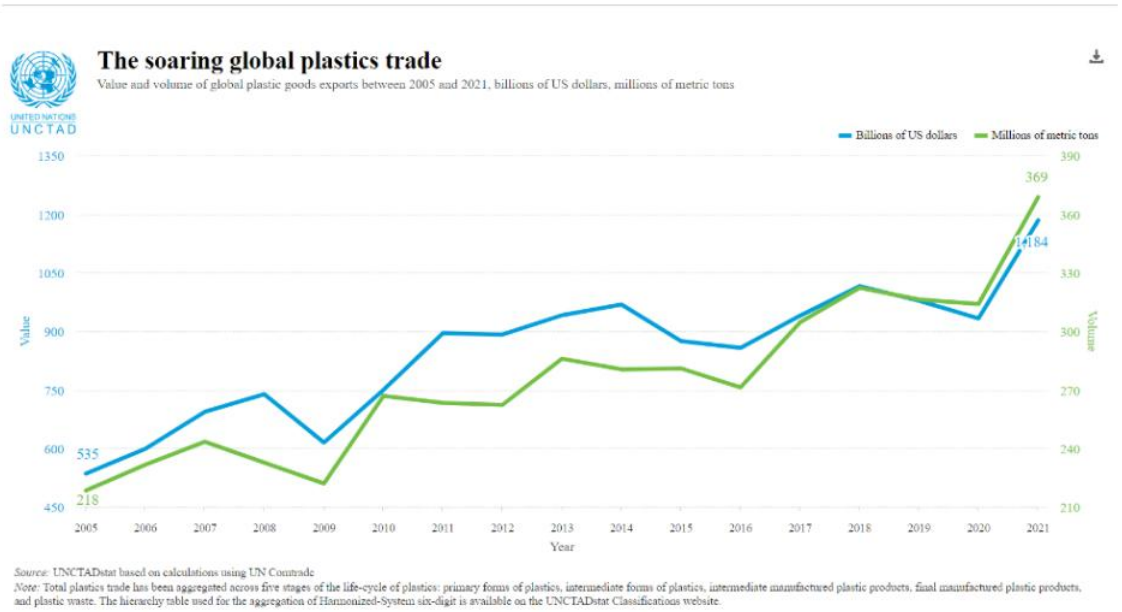
The Draft SUP Bill marks a major milestone in the region's environmental governance. It signals a move from fragmented national efforts to a coordinated regional response, where environmental sustainability is achieved alongside economic resilience.

With global attention increasingly focused on plastic waste, the EAC's initiative could serve as a model for other regional blocs, showing how environmental justice, legal harmonization, and inclusive development can go hand in hand.

Global plastics treaty

Speaking in Zanzibar during a workshop for Journalists on Circular economy, Henrique Pacini, UNCTAD SMEP Programme lead said an international legal binding agreement on plastic pollution bringing countries is needed to end plastic pollution globally.

"We need to create an international legally binding agreement to deal with the plastic problem." He noted.



In March 2022, a momentous step was taken on the global stage as the United Nations {UN} Environment Assembly embraced a groundbreaking resolution aimedat crafting a comprehensive international treaty on plastics.

Translating policy goals into impact.

Sarah Pima, the Chief Executive Director of the Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUDEFO) is already working towards the goals.

She is a prominent environmental and human rights advocate in East Africa working with women and youth in the environmental sector.

During the workshop on the circular economy for Journalists in Zanzibar she gave insights on how and has been instrumental in promoting waste management, marine conservation, and youth engagement initiatives across the region.

MONGABAY

Rivonala Razafison (Madagascar); Croisade contre les déchets plastiques à Madagascar ; Mongabay, 14 avril 2025.

Pour accéder à l'article : https://fr.mongabay.com/2025/04/croisade-contre-les-dechets-plastiques-a-madagascar/

- **De jeunes innovateurs et problem-solvers malgaches s'engagent avec détermination dans la lutte contre l'élimination des déchets plastiques.**

- **Le comportement écoresponsable et les bonnes pratiques, qu'ils suggèrent, profitent à la nature, à l'économie, à la santé et à la communauté.**
- **Les pollutions plastiques restent un enjeu majeur pour la planète, tant que le commerce mondial de plastique se chiffre, chaque année, en plusieurs centaines de milliards de dollars.**
- **Tout geste positif, aussi petit soit-il, aura sûrement des effets salvateurs dans le contexte actuel de lutte globale contre les grandes menaces.**

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar — Le monde a inventé les plastiques pour de multiples usages et c'est à lui aussi de s'en débarrasser en raison de ses inconvénients parfois trop nocifs pour la nature, la santé voire le développement. A Madagascar, comme ailleurs, la croisade contre les déchets plastiques est bien en route. En innovateurs et problem-solvers, des jeunes mettent la main à la pâte face à l'ampleur toujours croissante des menaces globales.

Plastikôo est une start-up fondée en juin 2024 par Sarobidy Nombatsitoha, un jeune résident de la banlieue nord d'Antananarivo. Son entreprise a décroche le premier prix de l'édition 2025 de l'Orange Summer Challenge, organisée par Orange Afrique et Moyen Orient (OMEA), pour avoir mis au point une technique de transformation des déchets plastiques en matériaux de construction durables, réduisant la pollution tout en favorisant le développement durable des communautés locales.

« Un jour, sur ma moto, j'ai été fâché contre les déchets amoncelés jusqu'en pleine chaussée des rues et dans les canaux d'évacuation d'eaux usées. Je me suis alors demandé si je pouvais contribuer à la résolution du problème au lieu de m'en prendre à la municipalité et à l'administration », a dit Nombatsitoha à Mongabay. Les bouteilles en plastique jetées partout particulièrement ont retenu son attention. C'était le déclic pour celui qui, depuis l'université, fait du numérique son grand dada.

La problématique de la gestion des déchets au niveau national est telle que la promotion du comportement écoresponsable s'impose. L'île produit annuellement quelque trois millions de tonnes de déchets, un peu moins le rendement annuel de la production rizicole, le riz étant l'aliment de base pour la grande majorité de la population. Environ 10 % du volume est constitué de déchets plastiques.

Plastikôo table sur des données, entre ses mains, disant que le pays produit chaque année 68 985 tonnes de déchets plastiques déversées dans la nature. Dans la ville d'Antananarivo et ses environs, leur ramassage représente un défi permanent pour la municipalité qui doit s'occuper d'une moyenne journalière de 800 tonnes de déchets, avec un pic de 1 500 tonnes durant la saison des pluies, de décembre à avril.

Des projets innovants portés par des jeunes germent dans ce contexte sous l'impulsion des urgences écologiques et des promesses de l'économie circulaire. Nombatsitoha et ses neuf associés, tous des étudiants de la capitale et âgés de 19 à 26 ans, en sont ainsi venus à l'idée de recycler les déchets de bouteilles en plastique.

Ils ont alors conçu un procédé, faisant intervenir des machines à la pointe des technologies, dont ils ont eux-mêmes inventé le prototype, pour les transformer en briques modulaires, solides et écologiques. A leurs yeux, les déchets plastiques sont nocifs pour le climat, et lutter contre eux revient à agir en faveur de celui-ci. « Le processus de leur production émet des gaz à effet de serre, car les plastiques sont à base de pétrole », rappelle Irina Asandratra Randrianarinaivo, ingénieur en génie électrique, responsable RD au sein de Plastikôo.

Transformation des déchets plastiques en briques

Pour responsabiliser les habitants afin qu'ils consentent à ne plus jeter ici et là leurs déchets plastiques, les jeunes, à travers leur innovation, arborent une idée mirifique. Les broyeurs des déchets plastiques, pour obtenir des granules nécessaires à la fabrication des briques, génèrent automatiquement des tickets avec QR code permettant aux ménages fournisseurs de faire des achats auprès des magasins partenaires.

Dans cette bataille de taille, les jeunes innovateurs visent plus haut et plus loin. Une collaboration est établie avec Ravinala Airports, un consortium gestionnaire des aéroports internationaux d'Ivato à Antananarivo et de Nosy Be, dans le Nord-Ouest. L'activité dans le viseur du partenariat s'élancera en juillet. « Pour le futur, nous avons l'ambition de cibler tout Madagascar et même l'Afrique », a dit Nombatsitoha.

Des écogoddies issus du recyclage des déchets. Image de STCV fournie par Rivonala Razafison.

Le taux de production des déchets plastiques sur le continent a justement connu un niveau alarmant pouvant tripler à l'horizon de 2060, selon une étude récemment publiée par le Centre for Science and Environment, à New Delhi, en Inde. Entre autres, l'Afrique subsaharienne, dont fait partie la Grande île, pourrait cumuler des déchets plastiques jusqu'à 116 millions de tonnes par an d'ici à là contre 18 millions de tonnes en 2019.

Chacun y va de son approche pour prendre la bête par les cornes. A Antananarivo, la Société de tri, compactage et valorisation (STCV), dirigée par la jeune entrepreneure, Gaelle Randriamanana Pless, est entrée en scène depuis janvier 2022, pour prendre part à la course de la transition écologique. D'autres types de déchets, outre les plastiques, la séduisent avec la promotion du comportement écoresponsable à la clé.

En vertu des principes de la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises, la STCV agit plutôt sur les déchets industriels, en exhortant les unités industrielles à œuvrer pour la réduction des montagnes d'ordures aggravant les pollutions dans les différents quartiers de la capitale et ses

banlieues. « Nous produisons beaucoup trop de déchets », dit à Mongabay Henintsoa Rabenimanana, responsable commerciale et marketing de la société.

Des programmes de formation, dont le contenu s'articule autour du comportement écoresponsable et des activités de bonne pratique, sont mis en œuvre à l'intention des salariés des entreprises. La mise en application des leçons apprises aide les différents acteurs à laisser circuler moins de déchets par leur tri. « C'est cela notre contribution. Nous n'avons pas le moyen d'enlever les ordures d'Antananarivo », indique Rabenimanana.

Le champ d'intervention s'élargit aussi vers les ménages. Pour embarquer ces derniers à bord, une solution numérique a été lancée en février en partenariat avec la commune urbaine d'Antananarivo et la société MBike Logistic.

L'approche est simple. Elle consiste à faire passer la commande de collecte de déchets en ligne, dans le cadre d'une initiative baptisée Recycle Now. « Nous collectons les déchets auprès des ménages demandeurs, à l'aide de bicyclettes, dans le but d'éviter les émissions », ajoute-t-elle.

Les jeunes étudiants malgaches de la start-up Plastikôo qui a remporté le premier prix international de la seconde édition de l'Orange Summer Challenge 2024. Image de Plastikôo fournie par Rivonala Razafison.

La collecte et le tri des déchets aussi sont un moyen pour la SCTV de venir en aide à des femmes de la capitale, en situation difficile. Les activités de cette société, qui emploie 25 collaborateurs, à 75 % issus des milieux défavorisés, bénéficient à 500 d'entre elles.

Celles-ci manipulent, tous les jours, des plastiques durs, des emballages alimentaires, des sachets… non souillés. Au bout du compte, ceux-ci sont redevenus des matières premières utiles à la fabrication des écogoddies (sacs, couches, sacs de transport, etc.).

Au rythme de 3 tonnes de déchets traités par jour, la société en arrive à un millier de tonnes par an. « Selon nos propres calculs, cette quantité équivaut à 1 500 tonnes de CO2 évitées par an », affirme Rabenimanana.

Le comportement écoresponsable est également inculqué aux écoliers et aux collégiens. A cette fin, l'organisation nommée MAEVA (Meilleure association pour l'environnement de la ville d'Antananarivo), créée en 2023 par la STCV elle-même, déploie ses actions auprès de 35 écoles publiques primaires et de 35 collèges publics d'enseignement général de la capitale et de ses banlieues ciblés à l'avance.

Le déploiement à travers chaque site d'intervention dure cinq mois. Les associations des parents d'élèves et, par ricochet, la communauté, en tirent profit. « Les déchets sont achetés auprès d'elles pour qu'elles puissent avoir des ressources supplémentaires au profit de l'amélioration des conditions d'apprentissage », explique l'interlocutrice.

Mobilisation collective

Les initiatives comme celles de Plastikôo et de la STCV ont l'avantage d'atterrir sur un terrain où la conscience collective est déjà disposée à en découdre avec les nuisances écologiques dues aux pollutions et aux déchets plastiques. Selon une dépêche d'Afrobarometer du 20 novembre 2024, la majorité (86 %) des répondants [à une enquête, Ndlr] affirment que les sacs en plastique sont une source majeure de pollution à Madagascar.

La sensibilisation de la population en faveur de cette lutte de longue haleine ne se heurte pas trop à des résistances. Seulement, il faut des actions continues et pragmatiques. La campagne « zéro plastique » menée à Antananarivo, le 19 mars dernier, a ainsi attiré du monde. Responsables gouvernementaux et municipaux, représentants du secteur privé, scouts,

résidents locaux et tutti quanti ont mouillé leurs chemises en enlevant des rebuts bouchant les systèmes de canalisations et les égouts dans la ville.

Des écogoddies issus du recyclage des déchets. Image de STCV fournie par Rivonala Razafison.

La production mondiale de plastique, qui relève d'une filière juteuse, a encore de beaux jours devant elle. Selon Henrique Pacini, chef du programme Commerce, environnement, changement climatique et développement durable, auprès de la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (UNCTAD), le commerce des plastiques a été, en 2021, évalué à 1 184 milliards de dollars pour 369 millions de tonnes métriques. Mais la tendance est toujours croissante.

Les déchets plastiques s'éliminent difficilement dans la nature. Leur décomposition s'étale sur plusieurs siècles selon les matières utilisées à leur fabrication. Tôt ou tard, les microplastiques finissent dans les océans où ils favorisent la multiplication de superbactéries [potentiellement mortelles, Ndlr], d'après une étude récente rapportée par Media24. D'autres résultats de recherche rapportent que les microplastiques, sont un vrai désastre écologique et sont dangereux pour les organismes vivants.

En attendant l'avènement d'un traité universel contraignant sur le plastique, les micro-gestes de la vie quotidienne impulsés par les innovations des jeunes ont tout bonnement des effets salvateurs et méritent d'être encouragés. Les actions de portée régionale et internationale, en faveur d'une gestion durable des déchets et de la préservation des écosystèmes marins, ne manquent pas non plus.

On pourrait citer le projet Expédition Plastique de l'océan Indien (ExPLOI), avec le navire Plastic Odyssey sillonnant l'océan Indien, l'Afrique de l'Est et de l'Ouest avant son retour en France, en mars 2026, et le Premier marathon international pour l'élimination des déchets plastiques, qui aura lieu du 7 au 8 juin prochain au Zanzibar, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'environnement (5 juin) et de la Journée mondiale de l'océan (8 juin). Entre temps, un salon « déchets, alternatives écologiques » se tiendra à Antananarivo, du 17 au 18 avril prochain.

Pour la jeunesse africaine en particulier, Madagascar accueillera, cette année, deux rendez-vous importants. Le plus proche sera la deuxième édition du Forum des jeunes africains sur l'économie bleue (FOJAEB) prévue à Toliara, au Sud-Ouest de l'île, du 17 au 19 avril prochain. Le 8e sommet de l'YouthConnekt Africa, prévu en octobre/novembre, se passera à Antananarivo.

Ces retrouvailles ont des points communs : entrepreneuriat bleu et vert, paix et sécurité, changement climatique, technologies et innovations, santé des jeunes, participation et engagement au regard de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine et de l'Agenda 2030 des Nations unies.

Carolyne Tomno (Kenya); The Great Blue Wall: Africa's Bold Ocean Vision for a Circular Economy ; Kass International, April 14, 2025.

To access the article : https://kassdigital.co.ke/conservation/the-great-blue-wall-africas-bold-ocean-vision-for-a-circular-economy/

The Great Blue Wall is more than a Pan-African initiative is set to become a game-changing force reshaping the future of our oceans.

By restoring vital marine ecosystems and tapping into the immense potential of Africa's blue economy, it is turning the tide on ocean degradation and driving a new wave of sustainable growth across the continent.

Barkha Mossaë,the regenerative blue economy manager at the international union for conservation of Nature{ICUN}, says the Great blue wall is an ambitious Plan and African effort to conserve marine ecosystems and transform the lives of coastal communities.

Speaking to Journalists during a workshop on circular economy in Zanzibar, she said the initiative aims to support regenerative blue economies and build climate resilience across the western Indian ocean{WIO}.

What Is the Great Blue Wall?

According to Barkha the blue wall links socio-ecologically significant “seascapes” across countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Mozambique, forming a “living blue belt” of protected and restored ocean ecosystems.

The vision of the initiative is to Protect 2 million km² of ocean, restore 2 million hectares of coastal ecosystems, and create 2 million blue jobs all by putting communities at the heart of ocean action.

“This is Africa leading the way in building a regenerative relationship with the ocean, the Great Blue Wall is about protecting nature, empowering people, and innovating for the future.” says Barkha

She however says that many businesses in the blue economy sector lacked international funding. She challenged African entrepreneurs in the blue economy, to look for local funding. “We must unlock sources of funding within the continent by looking for sustainable

sources of funding .” She said.

Addressing challenges in the Circular Economy

She added that The strength of the Great Blue Wall lies in its network of regional and global partnerships, from the African Union and United Nations, to local governments, scientists, and communities.

The initiative promotes knowledge sharing between the Afro-Pacific and Global South, linking island states with shared challenges and aspirations.

The Great Blue Wall also recognizes plastic crisis as a key barrier to marine sustainability. In Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, and Zanzibar.

plastic pollution is compounded by a lack of recycling infrastructure and industry support. Waste is often landfilled or worse, dumped leading to significant leakage into the ocean.

To tackle this, the GBW initiative is driving a comprehensive circular economy transformation, through projects like IslandPlas.

Ghaamid Abdulbasat , the Regional Ocean Communications lead at the International Union for the conservation of Nature , Eastern and Southern Africa says Changing the narrative is key in unlocking the potential in the blue economy sector in Africa.

Speaking during the workshop on circular economy for Journalists in Zanzibar Ghaamid said that the blue wall is a catalyst and accelerator to develop the marine economy in the global south.

”Great wall and the circular economy is not just about conservation,it is about turning challenges into opportunities”.Ghaamid says

Combating plastic pollution

The IslandPlas is one of the GBW’s flagship responses to the plastic problem.It aims to transition seven small island states toward zero plastic waste,through Community based plastic collection hubs are being established to buy plastics from informal waste workers, local Non - Governmental Organizations, and community groups thereby boosting incomes and improving waste flow tracking through material recovery facilities (MRFs)

Through the initiative ,one MRF per island is being set up, equipped with appropriate sorting, shredding, and compacting technologies. Reverse Logistics systems are also being designed to collect and transport waste efficiently to the MRFs ,closing the loop on plastic waste.

Innovation Incubators

The program supports entrepreneurs and start-ups developing recycled plastic products, plastic alternatives, and tracking tools that enhance the circular economy.

“IslandPlas is about more than recycling. It’s about justice, jobs, and innovation,” “It’s about giving value to waste and dignity to those who manage it.”says Ghaamid.

The Targeted Impact:14,000 tons of plastic waste collected,5600 tons of plastic recycled,9600 informal waste workers supported, with a focus on women and youth and $2 million in private capital catalyzed for circular economy innovation

Protecting and empowering

As the climate crisis intensifies and marine ecosystems face unprecedented pressure, Africa is charting a new course.

With the Great Blue Wall, the continent is proving that bold, inclusive, and science-backed action is not only possible but it's already happening.

From plastic-free islands to blue jobs for youth, the movement is building resilience

from the coastlines up.

Najjat Omar (Tanzania); Bridge construction on Uzi Island: joy for development, cry for the environment ; Times Majira, April 15, 2025.

Jumanne
15 Aprili 2025
www.timesmajira.co.tz

MAKALA

Makala ya Kitaifa

Ujenzi wa daraja Kisiwa cha Uzi furaha kwa maendeleo, kilio kwa mazingira

Na Mwandishi Wetu, Zanzibar

KISIWA cha Uzi kilichopo Mkoa wa Kusini Unguja kina jumla ya wakazi 3,075, wakiwemo wanawake 1,565 na wanaume 1,510. Kisiwa hiki kinajulikana kwa mandhari yake ya kipekee ya mikoko na njia zake mbili kuu ambazo hupitika kwa gari wakati wa maji kupwa yaani asubuhi na jioni.

Wakati wa maji kujaa, wakaazi hulazimika kutumia boti ili kuvuka kuingia na kutoka kisiwani.

Kisiwa cha Uzi kinajivunia mandhari ya kuvutia yenye mikoko minene inayopakana na bahari, ikiunda muonekano wa kipekee unaovutia macho ya wenyeji na wageni wanaotembelea kisiwa hicho.

Mikoko hiyo si tu kwamba ni rasilimali ya mazingira, bali pia ni sehemu ya utambulisho wa kijani katika kisiwa cha Uzi, ikitoa hewa safi, kutuliza mawimbi makali ya bahari, na kuwa makazi ya viumbe wa baharini.

Ukijani huu wa kupendeza unaifanya Uzi kuwa sehemu ya kipekee kisiwani Unguja mahali ambapo utulivu wa asili hukutana na maisha ya kila siku ya jamii inayojivunia mazingira hayo.

Serikali ya Mapinduzi ya Zanzibar ikiendelea kubeba ajenda ya kukarabati miundombinu visiwani hapa imeamua rasmi kujenga daraja ambapo litapunguza usumbufu wa wananchi na wageni kutumia njia mbili pale maji yanapokupwa na kujaa.

Ujenzi wa Daraja la Uzi unaounganisha njia juu katika Uzi na Unguja Ukuu Mkoa wa Kusini Unguja umeibua mjadala kuhusu athari za mazingira, hususan ukataji wa mikoko ambayo ni maliasili muhimu katika mifumo ikolojia.

Daraja hilo lenye urefu wa kilomita 2.5 limehusisha ukataji wa mikoko zaidi ya 2,000 ili kupisha njia ya barabara na daraja, hatua ambayo imeibua maswali kuhusu mustakabali wa mikoko visiwani hapa.

Novemba, 2024 wakati akizungumza wakati wa uzinduzi wa mradi huo, Waziri wa Ujenzi, Mawasiliano na Uchukuzi Zanzibar, Dkt. Khalid Salum Mohamed alisema kuwa serikali ya awamu ya nane imejidhatiti kuboresha miundombinu ya barabara kwa kiwango cha lami kote Unguja

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10 MAKALA Makala ya Kitaifa Jumanne 15 Aprili 2025 www.timesmajira.co.tz

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na Pemba.

"Lazima anapokuja mtu Zanzibar akutane na sura ile ile anayoisikia barabara nzuri, mahoteli mazuri, watu wakarimu pamoja na vyakula vizuri," alisema Dkt Khalid.

Serikali imeeleza kuwa jumla ya Shilingi Bilioni 34 zitatumika kukamilisha mradi wa barabara na daraja hilo, lengo kuu likiwa ni kuwaondolea wananchi wa Uzi adha ya usafiri na kuongeza tija ya kiuchumi kwa kurahisisha mawasiliano kati ya kisiwa hicho na maeneo mengine ya Unguja.

Mkuu wa Mkoa wa Kusini Unguja, Ayoub Mohamed Mahmoud, aliongeza kuwa ujenzi wa daraja hilo ni mwanzo wa historia mpya kwa kijiji cha Uzi.

"Kijiji cha Uzi kinakwenda kuandika historia mpya itakayobadilisha muonekano na mtazamo wa maendeleo," alisema, huku akiwasihi wananchi waendelee kutoa ushirikiano kwa wakandarasi wa mradi huo.

Pamoja na ahadi ya maendeleo, ukweli mchungu unabaki kuwa ukataji wa mikoko kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa daraja hilo ni pigo kubwa kwa mfumo wa mazingira. Mikoko ni muhimu kwa kulinda fukwe dhidi ya mmomonyoko wa ardhi, kutoa makazi kwa viumbe wa baharini, na kusaidia mzunguko wa hewa safi kwa kufyonza hewa ya ukaa.

Ripoti ya Sensa ya Misitu ya mwaka 2013 iliyofanywa na Idara ya Misitu Zanzibar ilionesha kuwa visiwani Zanzibar kulikuwa na jumla ya hekta 16,488 za mikoko.

Kati ya hizo, hekta 11,214 zipo Pemba na hekta 5,274 zipo Unguja. Hata hivyo, sensa hiyo pia ilibaini kuwa maeneo ya mikoko hupungua kwa wastani wa asilimia 4 kila mwaka. Kwa muktadha huo, kutoka mwaka 2013 hadi 2023, takribani hekta 647 za mikoko zimepotea.

Zaidi ya hapo, juhudi za upandaji wa mikoko hazifikiw na mafanikio makubwa ya kuendana na kiwango cha uharibifu. Takwimu za Idara ya Misitu zinaonesha kuwa mwaka 2018 zilipandwa hekta 55.5 tu, mwaka 2019 zilipandwa hekta 3.5, mwaka 2020 zilipandwa hekta 8, mwaka 2021 zilipandwa hekta 13.5, huku mwaka 2022 na 2023 zikiwa ni hekta 5.5 tu kila mwaka.

Salama Hussein Makame, ni mwanaharakati wa mazingira kutoka Unguja Ukuu amekiri kuwa maendeleo yamekuja na changamoto licha ya kutokujua kuwa kilio cha waakazi wa Uzi juu ya suala la daraja unaweza kuleta athari za kimazingira "Ni dhahiri kuwa kasi ya upotevu wa mikoko ni kubwa kuliko juhudi za kuirejesha. Wananchi watapata daraja ila kurudisha mikoko ni kazi kubwa".

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Kauli ya Salama ni dhahiri inaungwa mkono na Ali Khalfan mwana mazingira na mtembeza watalii katika Kisiwa cha Uzi anashukuru kwa serikali kuanza ujenzi wa daraja ila masikitoko yake ni kuona hawkushirikishwa kwenye suala la ukataji wa mikoko.

"Ni kweli kuna uharibifu wa mazingira umetokea. Mikoko mingi imekatwa. Lakini hakuna maendeleo bila changamoto. Sisi kama wanajamii na wanakikundi tuliojitolea kupanda mikoko, hatukushauriwa wala kuombwa maoni."

Ali anasema kuwa kutokana na wao kujitolea mara kadhaa kuhamasisha utunzaji wa mazingira ni matarajio yao kuona kuna suala la ushirikishwaji "Tulitarajia kujua hatua gani zitachukuliwa kurejesha mazingira.

Tumekuwa tukijitolea muda wetu kuisaidia serikali na jamii. Inasikitisha kuona juhudi hizo hazikuzingatiwa".

Licha ya changamoto hizo ila matumaini ya wananchi ni kuona kuna njia baada ya ujenzi wa daraja hilo kutakuwa na njia rahisi ya kupata huduma na ya usafiri kama ilivyo kwa Juma Ali ambaye ni dereva bodaboda anaona serikali imetimiza ahadi ya ujenzi wa daraja hilo.

"Tunafurahia kwa sababu wakati mwingine ukiwa na shughuli zako za kiuchumi unakuta maji yamejaa huwezi kuvuka. Daraja litatuharakishia mambo yetu ya kila siku."

Sheha wa Unguja Ukuu, Shamis Ibrahim Shomari anasema kuwa baadhi ya wananchi wameanza kulima kwenye maeneo ya zamani ya mikoko, hatua inayozidisha uharibifu wa mazingira."Kuanza tu ujenzi huo wananchi wameanza kulima na kuangalia fursa hali ambayo inasababisha uharibu zaidi wa mazingira".

Sheria ya Misitu Zanzibar Na. 10 ya mwaka 1996, inaeleza kuwa uharibifu wa mikoko ni kosa la kisheria, na maeneo ya mikoko yametajwa kuwa ya kimkakati kwa uhifadhi wa mazingira ya baharini.

Hata hivyo, sheria hizi mara nyingi hazitekelezwi ipasavyo, hasa pale ambapo miradi ya kitaifa ya maendeleo inahusika.

Kampeni ya CCECC ndio wajenzi wa barabara na daraja hilo ambapo wanatarajia kukamilisha ujenzi wa daraja hilo kwa muda wa miezi tisa toka Novemba 2024.

Rosemary Onchari (Kenya) ; Beyond the tide but who gains the least in Zanzibar's seaweed farming ; Capital News, April 17, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2025/04/beyond-the-tide-but-who-gains-the-least-in-zanzibars-seaweed-farming/

KISII, Kenya, Apr 17 – Taking advantage of low tiding, Pili Halili and her two fellow seaweed farmers, both dressed in long, blue dresses with hats covering their heads are busy harvesting seaweed in Paje, Zanzibar on a Thursday morning.

41-year-old Pili looks optimistic of harvesting an extra kilogram of seaweed than yesterday's harvest before the sunsets before going home to look after her family.

Pili narrates that she relocated to Paje with her sister to make a living through seaweed farming about ten years ago. Since then, she has been practicing seaweed farming which she describes as a sweet bitter source of income with much work and little payment.

Left with no choice she must work to support her family and also for her financial independence rather than sitting at home and waiting for her husband to provide for them.

"I am able to get food and afford to educate my children using the little money I get from seaweed farming," says Pili.

Who benefits the least?

As seaweed farming becomes an important activity in Zanzibar island, the benefits of the supply chain in the export of this product is not equally shared leaving many farmers exploited.

Women in seaweed farming are always excluded from decision making when determining the price of seaweed since they do not own means of production, while those who buy and export become key players in controlling seaweed.

However, seaweed farmers earn very little despite working a lot in very harsh conditions of climate change and pollution.

Access to the market

C-sea weed corporation general manager Hamil Sound said the government of Zanzibar benefits more when it comes to importation of this seaweed overseas, the biggest challenge they face as importers is that the government own larger companies which easily access to international markets.

“The government companies buy seaweed from local farmers at a very low prices and sells it higher at high price in the international market and this gives the government more bargaining power compared to us with small companies,” Hamil states.

Hamil says, lack of defined market structures in seaweed farming led to unfair pricing and exploitation of middlemen and they end up getting very little profit.

Navigating seafood supply chains is difficult for small-scale businesses because cash flow constraints is a problem since we receive the lower economic benefits due to greater market power of processors and retails.

Hamil said they are now working with value addition to seaweed and export processed products to increase income.

Zanzibar is among the top biggest export of seaweed, they export this product to United States, China and Europe and it end up in the manufacturing of products such as toothpaste, food additives cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

The golden harvest

Mirko Dunner, a project coordinator at the UNTCAD says the seaweed market is expanding exponentially due to value addition and innovation in the seaweed industry.

“We have about 25,000 seaweed farmers on this island and 80 per cent of these farmers are women, this is an indication that women are part of the economic inclusion conversation while providing income,” Mirko says.

Mirko says with global demand, seaweed is now exported for the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, food and cosmetics and biofertilizers supporting national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange.

The island has embraced local processing of seaweed through value addition and they are making products such as soap, cosmetics, fertilizer and animal feed, while boosting the economy sector.

The blue economy equation

The principal secretary of the ministry of blue economy and fisheries, captain Hamad Hamad said the communities in this island are deeply connected to the sea with economic activities such as tourism fisheries and aquaculture.

Hamad noted, tourism and fisheries are the backbone of Zanzibar's socioeconomic development, supporting the livelihoods of around two-thirds of the population. Fisheries contribute 4-8% to GDP, while tourism accounts for over 29%. More than 95% of Zanzibar's fisheries are nearshore, directly employing 60,000 people, with an additional 100,000 individuals working in the value chain, 17% of whom are women.

"The aquaculture sector, dominated by seaweed farming, provides employment for 15,559 people, 80% of whom are women. Other aquaculture activities, such as mud crab farming, sea cucumber, and finfish (milkfish), also play vital roles.

The PS says, in 2024, seaweed production alone reached approximately 19,000 tons. Additionally, 99% of Zanzibar's international trade is seaborne.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Beatrice Philemon (Tanzania) ; How zero waste is changing lives in Dar, Zanzibar ; The Guardian, April 23, 2025.

To access the article : https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/business/read/how-zero-waste-is-changing-lives-in-dar-zanzibar-2025-04-22-164117

In the heart of Bonyokwa Ward in Dar es Salaam and Chumbuni Constituency in Zanzibar, waste once seen as a burden is now a beacon of hope.

Thanks to the Zero Waste Model introduced by Nipe Fagio, local waste pickers are not just cleaning up their communities—they're building livelihoods, conserving the environment, and setting an example for cities across Africa.

Marco Dotto, Waste Community Mobilization Officer at Nipe Fagio, says the initiative—Zero Waste Model—aims to empower waste pickers by transforming household and recyclable waste into income-generating activities. The model not only boosts livelihoods but also prevents plastic from entering oceans, rivers, and lakes, thus conserving marine ecosystems and reducing harmful carbon emissions.

"To start with, 26 waste pickers from Bonyokwa have been trained on sorting waste, collecting it properly, and recording data. This helps turn trash into opportunity," Dotto explains.

The approach allows Nipe Fagio to track the volume and types of waste collected monthly, helping shape more effective waste management strategies.

With new skills, waste pickers are now confidently sorting organic, recyclable, hazardous, and residual waste in Bonyokwa. This waste is then transformed into products such as compost fertilizer, black soldier fly larvae for animal feed, and recyclables like plastic bottles, scrap metal, aluminum, and sacks—creating new income streams that were previously unavailable.

Waste collected from households is delivered to a decentralized Material Recovery Facility (MRF), where it is sorted, processed, and sold. Currently, 85 percent of waste collected in Bonyokwa is repurposed; only 15 percent goes to dumpsites.

The Zero Waste Model focuses on reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery—without burning or dumping. Its core philosophy: If it can't be reused, repaired, recycled, or composted, it shouldn't be produced at all.

"We're proud of what's been achieved in Bonyokwa and Chumbuni. These communities are now making a living from what used to be waste," says Dotto.

In both locations, the programme has dramatically reduced litter on streets and in waterways. Nipe Fagio also helped build facilities for composting, black soldier fly rearing, and plastic storage—all critical infrastructure in the battle against pollution.

In Bonyokwa, which has more than 12,000 residents across 3,000 households, 26 trained waste collectors are now helping maintain a cleaner, healthier environment while also reducing methane emissions, a key contributor to climate change.

Internationally, over 350 participants from countries including Indonesia, Nepal, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Morocco, and others have received training through Nipe Fagio's Zero Waste Academy online platform.

The organization also hosted the International Zero Waste Cities Conference in Dar es Salaam in July last year, attracting more than 150 delegates to discuss global zero waste strategies.

Despite progress, Dotto notes that certain packaging—such as roll pops, biscuit wrappers, and Sayona bottles—continue to pollute beaches and water bodies.

A Zanzibar success story

In Chumbuni, Hafidha Mbarouk, Secretary of the Zero Waste Cleanliness Group, says the model has changed the way residents live and think.

"We're grateful to Nipe Fagio. The programme has many benefits—we make compost and earn money. Every household pays 3,000/- a month for waste collection," she says.

They also collect plastic bottles, bags, and boxes for resale. In just one month, the group deposited 350,000/- in earnings from these sales.

Launched in April 2024, the initiative aims to create jobs, conserve the environment, reduce disease outbreaks, and empower women to start their own ventures—moving away from dependency on government jobs or traditional roles.

Mbarouk, a mother of five, is one of 13 waste collectors trained by Nipe Fagio. She now educates other women on how to separate waste and collect plastic for resale.

“Before this, I didn’t know anything about waste separation. Now I know, and I teach others. Our area is cleaner, and we’re protecting the ocean,” she adds.

The group produces compost fertilizer sold to farmers and tree planters, and sells other recyclables to generate income.

“Before the programme, the area was full of trash. Cholera outbreaks were common, and the smell was unbearable,” she recalls.

Today, they volunteer to clean streets, collect household waste, and educate the community on sorting four types of waste: Organic, Recyclable, Domestic Hazardous, and Residual.

The team is now looking for partners to support the purchase of compost-making and bottle-crushing machines, which would allow them to manufacture furniture for hotels—another income-generating idea born from waste.

Their compost fertilizer currently retails at 5,000/- per kilogram, attracting customers from farming and tree planting sectors.

From cleaner streets to healthier communities and thriving micro-enterprises, the Zero Waste Model has become a blueprint for turning trash into treasure—proving that with the right support and awareness, waste can power a new kind of economy.

Media production commitment table

Name	Already produced	In production	Commitment to future production	total production
Carolyne Tomno	3	0	0	3
Rosemary Onchari	2	0	1	3
Milliam Njeri Murigi	3	0	0	3
Pauline Ongaji	3	2	0	5
Karina Zarazafy	3	0	2	5
Rivonala Razafison	4	1	0	5
Rita Joubert Lawen	0	0	1	1
Beatrice Philemon	11	0	9	20
Halili Letea	11	0	0	11
Huwaida Nassor Moh'd	2	0	1	3
Kasisi Kosta	2	0	0	2
Martha Magawa	0	0	0	0
Najjat Omar	3	1	0	4
Rahma Suleiman Ali	1	0	0	1
Rosemary Mirondo	3	0	2	5
Total	51	4	16	71

Some data on the journalistic productions resulting from the workshop

Total number of contents produced : Breakdown by media type : - print media : 48 - radio : 3 - TV : 4 Geographical breakdown of content by country : - Kenya : 13 - Tanzania : 34 - Madagascar : 8 - Seychelles : 0	Distribution by sex : - Total number of journalists: 12 women / 3 men - Breakdown by gender of production : 37 productions by women / 18 productions by men