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TANZANIA

USAID HESHIMU BAHARI (RESPECT THE OCEAN) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Tanzania's coral reefs rank among the 50 most climate-resilient reefs in the world, based on their biological and oceanographic attributes. Tanzania's vast seascapes host coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves - habitats that are home to sea cows, sea turtles, sharks and rays, and other threatened marine species. In coastal areas, food security and jobs for a growing youth population depend on sustainable artisanal fisheries, mariculture, and tourism.

The \$25 million USAID Heshimu Bahari Project (Respect the Ocean) enhances ecological and community resilience to conserve coastal marine ecosystems in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. The five-year project (2022 - 2027) is implemented by Chemonics International, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

CHALLENGE

Overfishing, poorly planned infrastructure projects, and climate change pose significant risks to Tanzania’s coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as to the communities that depend on them for food security and livelihoods. Underdeveloped governance systems and insufficient finances further challenge efforts to sustainably manage our marine resources.

GOALS

The USAID Heshimu Bahari project aims to strengthen the existing network of marine management areas by establishing fisheries replenishment zones to enhance fishery productivity, community livelihoods, and climate resilience. The project improves science-based decision making, strengthens community-led management of critical fish habitats, promotes women’s economic livelihoods, and builds the resilience of coastal communities and businesses to climate risks.

USAID also works with communities and government authorities to eliminate harmful and illegal fishing practices. These activities focus on strengthening fisheries monitoring and enforcement, including nearshore blast or dynamite fishing that destroys coral reefs, and offshore vessels that illegally target protected marine mammals, sharks, and sea turtles. These actions help to conserve and protect our oceans for future generations.

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Further information is available at www.usaid.gov/tanzania and USAID/Tanzania social media sites.

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2022 - 2027)

- **60,000 people** with improved livelihoods
- **425,000 hectares** of marine areas under improved management
- **300,000 people** more resilient to climate change
- More than **70 local institutions** with improved capacity to address climate risks
- **13 marine management plans** strengthened
- More **equitable women and youth participation** in fisheries and marine management



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