

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR MARINE PARKS AND
RESERVES**

MARINE PARKS AND RESERVES TANZANIA



**ANNUAL PHYSICAL PROGRESS REPORT
FOR JULY - JUNE 2024/2025**

JULY 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the implementation status of activities across Tanzania's Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MPRU) for the financial year July 2024–June 2025, covering Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP), Mnazi Bay–Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park (MBREMP), Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park cluster (TACMP/TMRS/MMR), and Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves System (DMRS). Activities were guided by the MPRU Strategic Plan, General Management Plans, and the Marine Parks and Reserves Act (1994), focusing on biodiversity conservation, community engagement, monitoring, administration, and ecotourism development.

Key Achievements:

- **Biodiversity Protection & Enforcement:** A total of **1,056 patrols** were conducted across MPAs, resulting in **844 offenders** identified for illegal activities—primarily illegal fishing. Enforcement and community collaboration contributed to improved compliance in several areas.
- **Resource Use Regulation:** Implementation of permit systems resulted in issuance of **240 local user permits** and **146 non-resident fishing permits**, alongside management of **51,967 tourists**, supporting both conservation and revenue tracking.
- **Revenue & Financial Performance:** Total tourism revenue reached approximately **TZS 2.48 billion**, reflecting growth from the previous year. While revenue collection remained strong (notably MIMP and DMRS), **all MPAs experienced funding shortfalls**, receiving between **38% and 78%** of approved budgets but demonstrating **high expenditure efficiency (>99% of disbursed funds)**.
- **Community Engagement & Livelihoods:**
 - **1,726 stakeholders** reached through awareness programs.
 - **2,750 mangrove seedlings** planted for ecosystem restoration.
 - **35 VICOBA groups** and **67 community management groups (CMGs)** established in MIMP.
 - **Seaweed value chain strengthened**, with **170 farmers trained** and **90,420 kg of dried seaweed produced**.
- **Capacity Building:** A total of **44 staff and community members** trained in areas including marine conservation, GIS, governance, and anti-corruption.
- **Ecotourism Development:** Increased visitation across all MPAs supported infrastructure improvements, promotional events, and new tourism assets (e.g., glass-bottom boat in DMRS).
- **Environmental Monitoring:**
 - **Coral reef assessments** showed highest hard coral cover in DMRS (50.5%), with moderate bleaching but no mortality. TACMP and MIMP indicated hard coral cover of 31.3% and 26.1%, respectively. The coral healthy status after breaching events, MBREMP recorded 65% healthy corals while DMRS healthy corals was the highest standing at 79.9%.

DMRS also recorded the highest fully bleached 17.2% status compared to 5% recorded at MBREMP.

- **Macro algae cover:** The macro algae cover of 31.5% was recorded at TACMP. The macro algae cover of 18.5% and 13.9% were recorded at DMRS and MIMP, respectively.
- **Mangroves** of both MPAs were generally in good condition with low disturbance.

Key Challenges:

- Financial constraints limiting full implementation of planned activities.
- Inadequate infrastructure and equipment, especially for patrols and monitoring.
- Persistent illegal fishing and enforcement gaps.
- Weak boundary demarcation and spatial planning.
- Limited technical and human capacity.
- Manual data systems affecting efficiency and decision-making.
- Community conflicts and limited awareness in some areas.

Strategic Recommendations:

- Enhance financing through increased government allocation, donor support, and improved revenue systems.
- Strengthen enforcement using community-based approaches and modern surveillance technologies.
- Invest in infrastructure and equipment, particularly for monitoring and tourism.
- Digitize data systems to improve monitoring and reporting.
- Expand capacity building for staff and local governance structures.
- Promote community participation and alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on resources.
- Improve spatial planning and boundary demarcation to enhance compliance.

Conclusion: Despite financial and operational challenges, MPRU demonstrated strong progress in conservation enforcement, community engagement, and revenue generation. Continued investment in capacity, technology, and stakeholder collaboration will be critical to sustaining marine ecosystem health and maximizing socio-economic benefits from Tanzania's MPAs.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report outlines the status of activity implementation in the Marine Parks and Reserves for the financial year spanning from July 2024 to June 2025. It encompasses both the planned activities carried out by the field centres (i.e., the individual Marine Protected Areas or MPAs) and the backlog activities executed at the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit Head Office (MPRU - HQ). The report presents achievements made and challenges faced during the reviewed period, as well as key recommendations and future directions. The implementing MPAs are shown in table 1 below, and include Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP), Mnazi Bay–Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park (MBREMP), the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park (TACMP) together with the Tanga Marine Reserve System (TMRS) and Maziwe Marine Reserve (MMR), and the Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves System (DMRS).

Table 1. A list of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under MPRU, their respective sizes and year of gazettelement.

S/N	Name	Size (KM ²)	Year
1	Mafia Island Marine Park	822	1995
2	Mnazi Bay - Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park	650	2000
3	Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park	552	2009
	3 Mafia Marine Reserves	21	
4	Shungimbili island	4.2	2007
5	Nyororo island	13	2007
6	Mbarakuni island	3.8	2007
	7 Dar-es-Salaam Marine Reserve system	42.7	
7	Fungu Yasini island	9.43	1975
8	Mbudya island	11.7	1975
9	Bongoyo island	7.53	1975
10	Pangavini island	1.72	1975
11	Makatube island	4.38	2007
12	Sinda island	6.4	2007
13	Kendwa island	1.5	2007
	4 Tanga Marine Reserves	56.2	
14	Kwale island	12.1	2010
15	Mwewe island	0.4	2010
16	Ulenge island	3.2	2010
17	Kirui island	36	2010
18	1 Maziwe	4.5	1975

1.2 Focus Area

A wide range of conservation, community engagement, administrative, and monitoring activities were implemented. The activities were guided by MPRU's Strategic Plan, and the respective MPAs General Management Plans (GMPs), approved annual budgets for FY 2024/2025, and other applicable management frameworks and legislation under the Marine Parks and Reserves Act 1994.

Across all sites, the reporting period focused on:

- Implementation of both planned and backlog activities;
- Administrative and operational management;
- Protection and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Community awareness and stakeholder involvement;
- Monitoring of ecological and socio-economic conditions; and
- Promotion of eco-tourism in areas with tourism potential.

2. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**Strategic Objective A. Health Services Improved and HIV/AIDS Infections Reduced****Strategic Objective B. Effective implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategy enhanced and sustained**

During the reporting period, MPRU embraced and promoted the various principles of moral and ethical conducts for staff across its MPAs and the Headquarter. Of the initiatives made during the reporting period include:

- i. Anti-Corruption training – administered by the PCCB
- ii. Human Rights in Conservation training – administered by the GIZ-MPRU Pwani Yetu Project

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**Strategic Objective C: Institutional Capability for Service Provision Strengthened****3.1. Financial Resources Distributions**

Each of the individual MPAs operated using funds disbursed from within MPRU, primarily through the Conservation and Development Trust Fund (CDTF), supplemented by internal revenue collections and other approved funding sources. **Table 2** below summarizes approved budgets, disbursements, expenditures, revenue performance, and financial execution ratios to provide a comprehensive view of funding flows and park-level financial efficiency.

Table 2. Summary of Financial Performance for the individual MPAs

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL TABLE				
CATEGORY	MIMP	MBREMP	DMRS	TACMP / TMRS / MMR
Approved Budget	418,000,000	230,000,000	575,131,000	290,000,000
Funds Received	310,885,767	178,390,857.92	223,108,229	247,597,351
Expenditure	306,408,790	176,848,605.11	222,293,979	247,569,351

Unspent Balance	4,476,976	–	814,320	–
Revenue Collected	1,440,426,539.37	32,140,997.62	999,846,074.38	–
Revenue Target	1,672,000,000	34,892,895	1,256,144,228.84	–
Variance	-231,573,460.59	-2,751,897.38	-256,298,154.46	–
Additional Notes	55 million transfers to District Council	Strong execution	High revenue performance	High spending relative to funds available

3.2. Detailed Financial Performance

Below is detailed description on the financial flow summary indicated in table 2 above.

3.2.1 Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP)

During the reporting period, MIMP received TZS 310.89 million, representing 74% of the approved annual budget of TZS 418 million, indicating a budget deficit of 26% (TZS 107.14 million). Of the funds received, TZS 290.80 million was from own source retention and TZS 20.08 million from Other Charges.

MIMP recorded strong revenue performance, generating TZS 1.44 billion, an increase of 3.9% (TZS 54.10 million) compared to the previous year. However, the revenue collected remained 13.85% (TZS 231.57 million) below the annual target of TZS 1.672 billion.

Total expenditures amounted to TZS 306.41 million, leaving an unspent balance of TZS 4.48 million. Procurement of goods and services accounted for TZS 103.43 million, equivalent to 34% of total expenditure. Additionally, TZS 55 million was transferred to the Mafia District Council as revenue share. No contractors were engaged during the financial year, as all spending related to recurrent operations.

3.2.2. Mnazi Bay–Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park (MBREMP)

MBREMP received TZS 178.39 million, equivalent to 77.56% of the approved annual budget of TZS 230 million, indicating moderate underfunding. Internal revenue collection amounted to TZS 32.14 million, reaching 92.1% of the target (TZS 34.89 million). Expenditures totalled TZS 176.85 million, representing 99.14% of funds disbursed and 76.89% of the approved budget. This indicates a strong expenditure execution rate relative to funds received, despite overall budget constraints.

3.2.3. Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves System (DMRS)

DMRS received TZS 223.11 million from CDTF, representing 38.79% of its approved annual budget of TZS 575.13 million. The approved budget comprised TZS 289.10 million under development and TZS 286.03 million under OC and own source combined. The site recorded robust revenue collection of TZS 999.85 million, achieving 80% of the projected target (TZS 1.256 billion) and reflecting a shortfall of TZS 256.30 million. Expenditures amounted to TZS 222.29 million, equivalent to 99.63% of funds received,

leaving a balance of TZS 814,320. DMRS demonstrated high absorption of available funds but experienced significant underfunding relative to its approved budget.

3.2.4. Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park Cluster (TACMP/TMRS/MMR)

The Tanga marine cluster received TZS 168.63 million, representing 58% of its approved annual budget of TZS 290 million. An additional figure shows TZS 247.60 million available for activity implementation. Total expenditure reached TZS 247.57 million, equivalent to 56% of the estimated TZS 440 million requirement. This indicates substantial implementation using both current-year and backlog funds, though still below full funding needs.

3.3. Capacity Building and Stakeholders Workshops

To strengthen institutional and community capacity for effective marine conservation, biosafety management, and adaptive governance, a series of targeted trainings were conducted across local, national, and international platforms. These trainings aimed to enhance technical, regulatory, operational, and strategic competencies among staff and community representatives. Capacity-building program covered critical thematic areas such as marine safety, ocean governance, adaptive management, human rights in conservation, GIS and digital mapping, marine economic development, and anti-corruption measures. A total of **44 staff and community members** were trained through these initiatives.

Table 3. Combined Training Summary Across All MPAs (DMRS, MIMP, MBREMP, TACMP)

S/N	Type of Training / Course	Location	Number of Participants	Associated MPA(s)
1	EFR & Rescue Dive	Mafia	2	MIMP
2	Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	UN – New York	1	MBREMP
3	Adaptive Management – SWAM	Zanzibar & Mafia	6	DMRS, TACMP
4	Human Rights in Conservation Strategies	Mafia	5	MIMP, TACMP
5	Open Water & Advanced Dive	Mafia	2	MIMP
6	GIS	—	1	DMRS
7	Digital Mapping, Drone & GPS	Mafia	5	MIMP, MBREMP
8	Marine Economic Development and Management for Developing Countries	China	1	MBREMP

9	Anti-Corruption Training by PCCB	Mafia	16	All MPAs (DMRS, MIMP, MBREMP, TACMP)
10	Management Harmonization Protocols	Morogoro	5	DMRS, TACMP
11	Leadership training	Tanga	4	DMRS, MIMP, MBREMP, TACMP
12	Open Water & Advanced Scuba Diving	Mafia Island		
13	SwAM Adaptive Management Workshop	Morogoro (Cate Hotel)		DMRS, MIMP, MBREMP, TACMP
14	Ecological data collection and monitoring (coral reef and seagrass)	Dar es Salaam	10	DMRS

In addition, during the period under review, MPRU staff participated in a series of stakeholders meeting and technical workshops. Such gatherings include:

- i. World Environment Day Environmental Exhibition: Dodoma , 1–5 June 2025
- ii. Genetic Tools for Conservation: Dar es Salaam, 26–30 May 2025
- iii. Coral Reef Rescue Strategy Design Workshop: Dar es Salaam, 28–30 May 2025
- iv. RUMAKI Seascape FY25 Reflection Meeting: Dar es Salaam, 26 May 2025
- v. MCS Expert Workshop (MTC Guidelines): Dar es Salaam, 15–16 May 2025
- vi. Fisheries & Aquaculture Blue Economy Action Plan Finalization: Morogoro, 12–14 May 2025
- vii. EACOP Oil Spill Contingency Planning: Dar es Salaam, 13–14 March 2025
- viii. TASFAM Project Negotiation Documents Review: Dodoma, 3–6 March 2025
- ix. WIOMPAN Strengthening Workshop: Dar es Salaam, 20–21 Feb 2025
- x. TASFAM Process Framework Finalization: Morogoro, 21–24 Dec 2024
- xi. Tanzania MPA Network Adaptive Management: Zanzibar, 23–27 Nov 2024
- xii. IORA Stakeholder Meeting: Dar es Salaam, 22–23 Oct 2024
- xiii. OACPS 8th Ministerial Meeting: Dar es Salaam, 9–11 Sept 2024
- xiv. Blue Food Forum: Dar es Salaam, 12–13 Sept 2024
- xv. SADC IUU Fishing Workshop : Dar es Salaam, 15–16 Aug 2024
- xvi. World Bank Mission for TASFAM: MBREMP & DAR, 26–30 Aug 2024
- xvii. Blue Economy & Climate Adaptation Dialogue: Dodoma, 24 July 2024
- xviii. MPA Investment Study Tour (ZIPA & MCD-ZNZ): Zanzibar

4.0. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES / ACHIEVEMENT

A. Strategic Objective D: Marine Ecosystems, Processes and Associated Biodiversity Management Improved.

Each of the implemented activities is aligned with a specific objective it is designed to inform.

4.1 Management Objective 1: Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Processes

The objective of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem processes within Tanzania's MPAs is to maintain healthy, resilient, and connected marine ecosystems that sustain ecological functions, species diversity, and essential ecosystem services over time. The MPA network protects representative habitats and key species to support natural processes such as reproduction, migration, nutrient cycling, and food-web dynamics, while enhancing resilience to climate change and other human pressures. Key activities implemented during the reporting period include surveillance and law enforcement patrols, as well as access control through licensing and permit systems to regulate resource use.

4.1.1 Achievement 1: Conducting Surveillance and Law Enforcement Patrols

Across the four MPA systems - Mafia Island (MIMP & MIMR), Tanga (TACMP, TMRS & Maziwe), Dar es Salaam (DMRS), and Mnazi Bay–Ruvuma Estuary (MBREMP) - **a combined 1,056 patrols were conducted** during the reporting period to ***strengthen protection of marine resources, curb illegal activities, and enhance compliance with fisheries and conservation regulations***. The patrol efforts (i.e. the number of patrols conducted) in the Mafia Seascape (MIMP & MIMR) was 328 patrols, (TACMP, TMRS & Maziwe combined) 470 patrols, (DMRS) 140 patrols, and MBREMP 118 patrols. The patrols included sea and land-based surveillance, tourism compliance checks, community engagement, and targeted operations against illegal fishing and resource extraction.

Enforcement operations conducted across all MPAs recorded a **total of 844 culprits** involved in various prohibited activities, ***including illegal fishing with beach seines, gillnets, longlines, monofilament nets, and the use of compressed-air equipment (Saratoga)***. Other notable violations included ***illegal collection of sea cucumbers and seaweed, unauthorized vessel entry, spear fishing, and illegal mangrove harvesting***.

Table 4. Combined Enforcement Summary Table (All MPAs).

MPA Name	# Patrols	# Culprits Encountered	Penalty (TShs)	Cases Filed (Case No.)
MIMP & MIMR (Mafia)	328 (142 MIMP + 186 MIMR)	566 total (42 arrested + 14 fined + 467 warned/removed + 53 boats + 30 canoes)	Not reported (MIMP: fines issued but amounts not	None

			provided; MIMR: no fines)	
MBREMP	118	32 individuals + 5 suspects (sea cucumber + Saratoga cases) = 37 total	Fines applied (amount not reported)	None reported
TACMP, TMRS & Maziwe	470 (75 TACMP + 57 TMRS + 338 Maziwe)	148 total (62 fishers + 26 vessels + additional fishing gear-associated culprits)	29,545,000	None reported
DMRS (Dar es Salaam)	140	93 total (28 Pangavini + 20 + 12 + 1 + 10 seaweed harvesters fleeing + others observed)	1,950,000	None

Details of the specific MPA can be accessed in their respective progress reports.

Key Observations Across MPAs

- Illegal fishing - particularly beach seines, gillnets, longlines, and monofilament nets remains the most frequent violation.
- Strategic community collaboration and increased patrol presence significantly reduced illegal activity in several MPAs.
- Whale-related emergencies in **MBREMP** highlight the value of timely reporting and coordinated response teams.
- Tourism-compliance patrols in **DMRS** addressed persistent unauthorized entry.
- Gear confiscation and awareness efforts remain essential in breaking repeat-offense patterns.

4.1.2 Achievement 2: Control of MPA Access and Fisheries Resources Through Licensing.

All the MPAs operate a functional permit system to control access and regulate the use of fisheries and other natural resources. The system includes three main categories: **Local Resident User Certificates (LRUC)** for resource use such as fishing, regulated mangrove, and dead coral harvesting; non-resident fishing permits for fishing and fish trading; and entry permits for tourism visitations.

During the reporting period, **a total of 240 LRUCs/permits** were issued in the Marine parks (including 218 for MBREMP and 22 for MIMP), and 146 **non-resident fishing permits** for MIMP. **Tourism visitation** totalled **51,967 visitors** across all MPAs, with MBREMP recording 1,232 visitors, MIMP 6,861, TACMP, TMRS, and Maziwe Marine Reserve combined 1,069, and DMRS 42,805 visitors. These permit systems are crucial for monitoring resource use, identifying illegal activities, and managing both resource extraction and tourism. Table 5 indicate the distribution of non-residents fishing permits and local resident's user certificates by MPA - issued during the period under review.

Table 5. The distribution of non-residents fishing permits and local resident's user certificates by MPA - issued during the period under review.

MPA	Local Resident User Permits	Non-Resident fishing Permits	Resource Use (Mangrove/Coral)	Tourism Visitors
MBREMP	218	–	20,976 mangrove poles	1,232
MIMP	22	146	1 dead coral permit	6,861
TACMP, TMRS, Maziwe	–	–	–	1,069
DMRS	–	–	Fully protected, no take	42,805
Total	240	146	20,976 mangrove, 1 coral reef	51,967

B. Strategic Objective G: Institutional relationship and stakeholders' awareness on MPAs Participatory Management Enhanced.

4.2 Management Objective 2: Promotion of Community Participation in Management, Benefit Sharing, and Access to Resources.

4.2.1 Achievement 1: Primary Processing of MPAs' User Permits and Certificates

MPA communities, through the Village Liaison Committees (VLCs), participated in processing the MPA local residents' user certificates (LRUC)/permits and non-resident fisher permits by screening applications to verify residency and/or compliance of the applicants. A total of 240 **LRUCs** and 146 **non-resident fishing permits** were issued during the period under review (Table 5 above).

4.2.2 Achievement 2. Community Participation in Fish Catch and Benthic Cover Surveys

In all marine parks, local communities continued their involvement in collection of data on fishing activities – which provides for an estimation of the fish catch against fishing efforts.

4.2.3 Achievement 3: Collaborative Review of MIMP General Management Plan

No review process took place during the reporting period

4.2.4 Achievement 4: Beach Monitoring for Solid Waste Management

Local communities, along with other stakeholders including staff members from MPA-based hotels, resorts, dive centres, and MPA staff, participated in keeping the beaches clean by regularly collecting solid waste, particularly plastic wastes. A total of **1,076.7 kg of beach trash** was collected across all the MPAs under review.

In the same reporting period, DMRs facilitated the Honorary Rangers (HRs) to participate in conservation activities (including beach cleaning, nature trails clearance, legal fishing

advocacy etc.) in Mbudya, Sinda and Bongoyo islands. Six **(6)** HRs working at island reserves of Mbudya, Bongoyo and Sinda were facilitated with monthly transport allowance to enable them to reach at the islands daily.

4.2.5 Achievement.5: Community Participation in Ecosystem Restoration

Activities

A total of **2,750 mangrove seedlings** collectively were planted in efforts to restore/rehabilitate damaged mangrove ecosystem. This amount was contributed for by MBREMP (**2,500 mangrove seedlings nursery**) planted in collaboration with VLCs, local communities, and the Indian Ocean conservation alliance (IOCA) at Msimbati and Ruvula villages – the initiative financially facilitated by Morel and Prom (M&P) a gas Company operating in vicinity of MBREMP. On the other hand, Local communities in MIMP contributed by planting **250 mangrove seedlings** during the World Ocean Day 2025 commemoration - mainly of *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Ceriops tagal* species.

4.2.6 Achievement.6: Participation in Mlola Forest Conservation Project Launch

During the reporting period, local communities and other MIMP stakeholders participated in the launching event of a 2-year project (2024-2026) focused on conservation of Mlola forest. The project is a joint initiative between MIMP, Sea sense and the Friends of Success (FOS). The launching event brought together stakeholders, community representatives, and conservation partners to outline the objectives, expected outcomes, and implementation strategy.

4.3 Management Objective 3: To Promote Community Education and Information Sharing

To ensure that communities and other stakeholders are well-informed and supportive of the conservation and management initiatives of marine protected areas, a range of outreach, education, and awareness programs were conducted during the period under review, reaching a wide variety of audiences. Approximately **1,726 community**-based stakeholders were engaged in environmental education and awareness activities during the reporting period. These included:

4.3.1 Achievement 1: Environmental Education and Awareness for Local Communities, Schools, and Higher Learning Institutions.

During the period under review, MBREMP, DMRS, and MIMP were able to facilitate several community awareness meetings, seminars, and training. Such include:

- i. MBREMP's joint meeting with **community leadership** of Tangazo, Mnaida, Kilambo, and Magomeni (Tangazo Ward) in preparation for VLC election - aimed to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of VLC members, VLC election process, ensuring inclusivity, and promoting good governance practices to support sustainable management of marine and coastal resources. Further, MBREMP participated in the election process of, and organised training for **8 new VLCs** from Msimbati and Madimba wards.

- ii. MBREMP'S weekly EE sessions to **80 environmental club members** from Msimbati **Primary and Secondary Schools** on coastal and marine resources, marine conservation, various ecological systems and their socio-economic and ecological importance.
- iii. In DMRs, a total of **595 people** (including **287 females** and **298 males** pupils/students), and **10 teachers** participated in environmental awareness campaigns organized by DMRS. Collectively, **10 awareness campaigns** were conducted **for 10 schools** (4 secondary and 6 primary schools) within Kinondoni and Kigamboni Municipalities. Primary schools included Ununio, Mtakuja Beach, Mtongani, Mbweni, Maweni and Mjimwema primary schools while secondary schools included Mtakuja Beach, Kibugumo, Somangira and Kidete secondary schools.
- iv. In MIMP, a total of **719 people from different community groups were involved in training / and awareness program** during the reporting period. These include 34 Community Based Trainer (CBT) trained in AIGAs, and on how to engage, work, and manage challenges associated with CMGs in their respective villages. provide education against sexual violence which has been the slogan of the Honorable DC to be at every public meeting then the issue of sexual violence must be educated in society. Others are 591 involved in awareness program of **protection and sustainable use** of marine biophysical resources.
- v. Lastly, **194 pupils/students** from Utende and Micheni primary schools, Micheni secondary schools as well as from VETA received conservation training and pledged to serve as ambassadors in the protection of marine and coastal resources. Participants were also exposed to awareness of **sexual violence**, and encouraged to observed **human rights** in their day-to-day engagement with each other.

In general, key topics discussed during these education, awareness, and capacity-building activities include the concept of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), importance of community engagement in conservation activities, sustainable utilization of marine resources, MPA's biophysical resources and their socio-economic and ecological significance.

4.3.2 Achievement 2: Training on Conservation management, Ecological Data Collection and Seagrass monitoring.

During the reporting period, **38 community members** received **conservation management** trainings including:

- Ecological monitoring, data collection and sea grass restoration carried out at Bongoyo island as a field site. **11 community members** participated in the training, which aimed to build capacity to staff and community members for effective monitoring of marine resource within DMRS.
- DMRS' **27 Honorary rangers** including (16 from Mbudya, 9 Sinda Island and 2 Bongoyo) received training on marine ecosystem, MPA co-management and capacity improvement for field operations, assessing quality of the services delivered to visitors.

C. Strategic Objective E: Socio-Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Promoted.

4.4 Management Objective 4: Development of Under-utilized Resources and Emerging Activities Sustainably.

Actions aimed at achieving this objective include promoting alternative income-generating activities (AIGAs) and providing capacity-building opportunities for various income-generating initiatives. Essentially, AIGAs initiatives are meant to broaden the income base of local communities hence reduce their overdependence on its natural resources.

4.4.1 Achievement.1: Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGAs) Promoted

In MIMP, AIGA promotion included exposing communities to livelihood opportunities such as seaweed farming, tour guiding, boat rentals, beekeeping, pearl oyster farming, and fish smoking. MIMP is working together with MDC, hoteliers and NGOs to promote and train seaweed farmers on the best seaweed farming and seaweed value-addition practices. However, a decline in the price of seaweed has affected seaweed farming in Mafia.

4.4.2 Achievement 2. Seaweed Value Addition Training Conducted

170 community members from the Village Community Banks (VICOPA) groups and seaweed farming groups from MIMP received practical training on value addition for seaweed products. The training was co-supported by MPRU, JICA (30 trainees) and by the WWF Blue Action Fund Project (82 trainees). Soaps, oils, beverages, and other cosmetics were among diverse seaweed products trained upon. This aimed at exposing communities to the diverse seaweed products, and to enhancing products quality, marketability, and overall, the economic viability across the value chain.

4.4.3 Achievement 3: Best Practices for Seaweed Farming and Management Training Conducted

170 community members/seaweed farmers from Chemchem, Kiegeani, Kungwi, Miburani, and Mlongo villages in MIMP were successfully trained on best practices for seaweed farming and farm management. The training aimed to **enhance seaweed productivity while minimizing both the pre-harvest and post-harvest losses**, thereby maximizing income and improving the economic viability of the entire value chain. As a result of the training, 90,420 kg of dried seaweed was recorded, including 61,420 kg in November and 29,000 kg in December 2024.

4.4.4 Achievement 4: Oceanographic Sensors for Seaweed Monitoring Installed

During the period under review, MIMP in collaboration Mwani Mariculture installed sensors at Jibondo Ward (Juani and Jibondo villages) to for identification of oceanographic challenges affecting seaweed productivity.

4.4.5 Achievement 5: Performance of Seaweed Value Addition Initiative Monitored

A total of **25 seaweed business groups** were **monitored** to assess the implementation of seaweed value addition initiatives. This is part of the efforts to economically empower communities within the MPAs. In addition, MIMP and its partners continued to look for suitable and sustainable markets for seaweed products. The monitoring process provided insights into the challenges faced and offered recommendations for improving product quality.

4.4.6 Achievement 6: Youth and Community Training in Entrepreneurship Skills Conducted

A total of **106 MIMP-based youths** successfully received training in entrepreneurship skills - administered jointly by MIMP management and the Thanda Hotel Ltd stakeholder.

In addition, **34 Community Based Trainer (CBT)** for AIGAs received training on how to engage and work with the CMGs, and problem/challenge management in their respective villages. This strategy is expected to reduce harvesting pressure on the MPAs biophysical resources.

4.4.7 Achievement 7: New Village Community Banks (VICOBA) and CMGs Established

35 VICOBA groups were established in 16 villages within MIMP as a result of joint initiative of MIMP and WWF-BAF in promoting and empowering local communities economically. The villages include Baleni, Bwejuu, Chemchem, Chole, Jibondo, Juani, Kiegeani, Kibada, Kifinge, Kipandeni, Kungwi, Marimbani, Miburani, Mikomani, Mlongo and Vuleni.

In addition, **67 CMG groups** with **2,010 members** were formed, and were able to accumulate capital of over 100 million Tanzanian shillings.

D. Objective 5: Promote Rational Development of Appropriate Ecotourism

4.5 Management Objective 5: Promote tourism and facilitate development of its infrastructures.

4.5.1 Achievement 1: Nine Tourism Promotion Events Conducted/Attended.

During the reporting period, **coastal tourism awareness** was conducted in **9 trade fair and festival events** including Saba Saba, Nane Nane and Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE). In the process, **300** promotional materials including banners, brochures, fliers, statue, live biodiversity and soft documentaries were used to demonstrate the profile of MPRU and its MPAs. In addition, promotional materials are available at visitor's entry points. These initiatives have opened DMRS to the eyes of local and foreign communities.

4.5.2 Achievement 2: Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Enhanced

During the review period, **DMRS, Tanga**, and **MIMP** successfully repaired and maintained various ecotourism infrastructure, equipment, and destinations across their respective locations. The activities undertaken included:

- i. Cleaning and clearing **nature trails** on Mbudya, Bongoyo, and Sinda Islands within the DMRS, as well as Toten Island in TACMP.
- ii. Installation of **seven sign and notice boards** at Bongoyo Island.
- iii. Establishment of a **checkpoint at DYC**, serving as a visitor attendance and revenue collection station.
- iv. Construction of **five visitor resting areas** (Banda shades), equipped with 37 plastic chairs, 15 beach beds with mattresses, five wooden tables, two changing rooms, and one wooden storage facility.

- v. Installation of **three concrete notice boards** in the southern reserves of DMRS (Sinda, Kendwa, and Makatube islands), featuring clearly defined codes of conduct for appropriate and sustainable ecotourism.
- vi. **1 gazebo, 2 plastic chairs and 1 table** were installed at Villah Dahl Beach Resort – the main entry point to Sinda, Makatube and Kendwa Island Marine Reserves.
- vii. Glass bottomed **boat** (MV DODOJI II) was successfully **launched** ready for tourism operations in DMRS.

4.5.3 Achievement 3: Tourism Filming and Promotional Documentary Developed

During the review period, the **Safari Channel** of Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) TV visited Tanga to conduct **recreational filming** in TACMP and Tanga Marine Reserves. The filming was part of a **documentary focused** on the conservation initiatives of Tanga MPAs, and of the tourism potential, destinations, and products offered by these MPAs. This project served as both a conservation awareness and tourism promotion initiatives, aiming to garner public support for marine conservation while creating a platform for generating tourism-related revenue to support management of the MPAs.

4.5.4 Achievement 4: Responsible Tourism Awareness for Boat Operators Conducted

12 passenger boat operators from DMRS received awareness knowledge during the reporting period through five **(5) site visits** and two **(2) awareness meetings**. Overall, the engagement agenda centred around promoting sustainable ecotourism, including adherence with tourism codes of conduct and visitors' safety protocols, boat's carrying capacity, and implement effective time management practices to enhance customer care and satisfaction.

4.5.5 Achievement 5: Tourist Visitation and Revenue Collections Improved

During the review period, a total of **51,967 tourists visited the MPAs**, generating approximately **TZS 2,484,723,045.97 (around 2.485 billion)** in revenue from entry and user fees. All MPAs experienced a consistent rise in both visitation numbers and revenue compared to the previous fiscal year 2023/2024 (Table 6).

Table 6. Trend in tourism visitation and revenue collection among MPAs between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

MPA Name	July-June 2023/2024		July-June 2024/2025	
	# Visitors	Revenue (VAT inclusive)	# Visitors	Revenue (VAT inclusive)
MIMP & MIMR	6817	1,386,324,938.74	6861	1,440,202,049.37
TACMP, TMRS & MAZIWE	772	15,932,980.00	1,069	26,600,445

DMRS	41,463	970,830,555.17	42,805	999,846,074
MBREMP	1,179	16,719,773.24	1,232	18,074,477.60
TOTAL	50,231	2,389,808,247.15	51,967	2,484,723,045.97

Note: 216 of the visitors to MIMP and MIMR collectively were granted official exemption from paying user fee for various reasons.

E. Objective 6: Facilitation of Research and Monitoring of Resources Use and Condition

4.6 Management Objective 6: Conduct environmental monitoring in MPAs for evidence management.

MPRU conducts timely environmental monitoring within its MPAs to gather evidence that environmental management targets are being achieved. This monitoring also enhances understanding of human impacts on these ecosystems. Typically, assessments focus on **coral cover, seagrass, mangroves, fish catch, and plastic pollution.**

4.6.1 Achievement 1: Assessment of Benthic Cover Status Completed

Benthic cover assessment was conducted on quarterly basis based on strategic adaptive management approach using permanent point intercept transect (PIT). The results of ecologically key benthic substrates including hard coral (HC), macro algae (MA), coralline algae (CA), dead coral (DC), and rubbles (RB) are shown in table 7 below. Generally, the highest average percent cover of hard coral 50.5% was recorded at DMRS, followed by TACMP 31.3%, and MIMP 26.1%.

The highest macro algae cover 31.5% was recorded at TACMP, and was more or less equal to its associated hard coral cover. This ratio is not desirable for a site and macro algae may grow to outcompete corals for space – reducing their overall coral cover. At DMRS macro-algae cover was 18.5%, while the lowest cover 13.9% was recorded at MIMP. Coralline algae which constitute suitable substrate for coral settlement and growth was generally low in all MPAs, which is not a good sign for enhancing coral recovery and cover increase.

MBREMP did not present cover datasets, instead, presented assessment results in terms of coral health based on bleaching status. In this case, MBREMP recorded 65% healthy corals, while DMRS healthy corals was the highest standing at 79.9%. DMRS also recorded the highest fully bleached 17.2% status compared to 5% recorded at MBREMP. However, in both cases, no bleaching related mortality was recorded in this assessment.

Table 7a. Coral cover (%) recorded across MPAs including their bleaching related health status.

SITE	HC %	MA %	CA %	DC %	RB %
TACMP	31.3	31.5	1.1	1.9	6.2
MIMP	26.3	13.9	13.2	18	16.1

DMRS	50.5	18.5	0.0	4.3	11.9
MBREMP					

Table 7b. Coral health status for DMRS and MBREMP.

Average hard coral cover (%) by MPA		Level of coral bleaching				Monitored sites
MPA Name	HC (%)	Healthy (%)	Partly bleached (%)	100 % bleached	Bleaching mortality (%)	
MIMP	26.3					Chawe, Msumbiji, Kitutia, Mange, Jiwe dogo, Mwamba Saidi, Kome
DMRS	50.5	79.9	2.9	17.2		Mbudya, Bongoyo, Sinda, Makatube.
MBREMP		65	30	5		Rasmo, Membelwa inner, Matenga, Kieti
TACMP	31.3					Shenguwe, Taa, Makome Kwale, Maziwe

4.6.2 Achievement 2. Mangrove Assessment Completed

A rapid mangrove assessment conducted across the mangrove MPAs revealed minimal disturbance, with the rate of cutting and mortality remaining low. All categories densities were measured per 100m², but further converted to density per m² (Table 7a and 7b). TACMP exhibited the highest density of 1.6 adult trees per m², while MIMP recorded the highest density of 37.4 seedlings per m², though it showed the lowest density for saplings (0.6) per m². Overall, the mangrove status was found to be in good condition, with minimal damage.

Table 7a. Mangrove density (average number of stems per m²) and distribution by age class recorded in MPAs during 2024/2025.

MPA Name	Average cover (density per m ²)				
	Adult	Sapling	Seedling	Cut tree	Dead tree

MIMP	1.1	0.6	37.4	0.1	0.2
TACMP	1.6	1.73	6.7		
MBREMP					

By site, Kiegeani and Utende sites recorded the relatively highest densities of adult trees indicating 5.7 and 3.5 density per m² respectively compared to sites in TACMP. On the other hand, in TACMP, the highest density 3.1 was recorded at Kirui whereas the rest of the sites recorded between 1.0 and 1.6 density per m².

Table 7a. Density of adult mangrove trees (average per m²) per site 2024/2025

Sites	Density per m ² 2024-2025	MPA
Geza	1.6	TACMP
Kirui	3.1	
Mafuriko	1.3	
Kiegeani	5.7	MIMP
Utende	3.5	

4.6.3 Achievement 3. Fish Catch Assessment Completed

Table 9. Fish catch assessment and fishing returns information summaries

MPA Name	Catch (kg) (Fin fish)	Catch (kg) Octopus/S hell fish)	Fishing gear frequency	Catch value (TShs)
MIMP				
MBREMP				600,970,594
TACMP				
Total				

4.6.4 Achievement 4: Monitoring of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species (ETPs).

Objective 7: Conservation and Protection of Historic and Cultural Heritage Sites

4.7 Conservation of Historic sites in MPAs.

4.7.1 Achievement 7 Conservation of Historic Ruins at Kua in MIMP and Toten Island in TACMP.

MIMP in collaboration with the National Museum of Tanzania (Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism), and the Kua ruins Conservation group based on Juani village continued collaboration. During the period under review, they were able to rehabilitate the ruins and maintain nature trails sustainability for visitors' easy access.

5.0. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the achievements outlined above, the implementation of activities during the period under review faced various challenges, including operational and management difficulties. The list below indicates combined challenges and recommendations that are common across MPAs, but also those that are specific to the individual MPAs. The challenges and proposed recommendations are as follows:

5.1. Cross-Cutting (Common) Challenges Across All MPAs

Across DMRS, MBREMP, MIMP, and TACMP, several recurring constraints affect effective marine protected area (MPA) management, as follows:

5.1.1. Financial and Resource Limitations

- Inadequate and unreliable funding for patrols, monitoring, infrastructure, and conservation activities.
- High operational and maintenance costs (fuel, equipment repair, aging assets).
- Limited financial resources relative to the size and complexity of managed areas.

5.1.2. Infrastructure and Equipment Gaps

- Insufficient tourism infrastructure (e.g., sanitation facilities, access structures, visitor amenities).
- Shortage or outdated monitoring, patrol, and surveillance equipment (boats, diving gear, GPS, drones, cameras).
- Weak revenue collection infrastructure and systems.

5.1.3. Weak Enforcement and Illegal Resource Use

- Persistent illegal fishing practices driven by increasing fishing pressure and demand.
- Limited surveillance capacity and high costs of monitoring dispersed and remote areas.
- Encroachment into protected zones due to weak enforcement presence.

5.1.4. Boundary and Spatial Management Issues

- Poor or absent demarcation of MPA boundaries and user zones leading to conflicts and non-compliance.

5.1.5. Institutional and Human Capacity Constraints

- Shortage of skilled staff and limited technical capacity in key areas (tourism, monitoring, enforcement).
- Inadequate training for local governance structures (e.g., VLCs, BMUs).

5.1.6. Data and Technology Limitations

- Reliance on manual data collection systems, limiting efficiency, accuracy, and timely decision-making.
- Weak ecological and fisheries monitoring systems.

5.1.7. Community Engagement Challenges

- Limited stakeholder participation and awareness in conservation efforts.
- Conflicts between park management and local communities over resource use.

5.2. Cross-Cutting Recommendations and Way Forward

5.2.1. Strengthen Financing and Resource Mobilization

- Increase government funding and leverage donor/partner support.
- Improve and diversify revenue collection systems, including expanding collection points and promoting tourism.

5.2.2. Improve Infrastructure and Equipment

- Invest in tourism facilities, patrol assets, and monitoring equipment.
- Upgrade and maintain existing infrastructure and introduce modern technologies (e.g., drones, e-systems).

5.2.3. Enhance Enforcement and Surveillance

- Strengthen patrol systems through community participation (BMUs, honorary rangers).
- Deploy advanced surveillance technologies to improve coverage and efficiency.

5.2.4. Strengthen Spatial Planning and Boundary Management

- Demarcate MPA boundaries and user zones using buoys and beacons.
- Improve zoning systems to reduce conflicts and enhance compliance.

5.2.5. Build Institutional and Human Capacity

- Recruit and retain skilled staff.
- Expand capacity-building programs for staff, VLCs, and community stakeholders.

5.2.6. Modernize Data and Monitoring Systems

- Transition to digital systems (e.g., eCAS, mobile data collection tools).
- Strengthen ecological and fisheries monitoring to support evidence-based management.

5.2.7. Enhance Community Engagement and Awareness

- Promote environmental education and awareness campaigns.
- Strengthen co-management approaches and conflict resolution mechanisms.

5.2.8. Promote Sustainable Tourism Development

- Develop eco-tourism infrastructure and marketing strategies to increase revenue and conservation incentives.

5.3 MPA-Specific Challenges and Recommendations

DMRS

- High monitoring and enforcement costs due to multiple access points.
- Outdated or absent General Management Plans (GMPs).
- Strong urban-driven fishing pressure from Dar es Salaam.

Recommendation: Update and harmonize GMPs for **DMRS**, and Strengthen eco-tourism marketing and development.

MBREMP

- Acute shortage of specialized monitoring equipment (e.g., underwater survey tools).
- Limited tourism infrastructure and visitor facilities.

Recommendation: Procure specialized monitoring and tourism equipment (e.g., diving gear, glass-bottom boats).

MIMP

- Presence of illegal fishing camps (e.g., Nyororo) driving environmental degradation.
- Challenges in revenue collection in remote/island entry points.
- Aging infrastructure and limited accessibility to some attractions.

Recommendation: Remove illegal camps of **Nyororo** marine reserve, and strengthen enforcement in hotspot areas, and expand revenue collection points and improve booking systems both in MIMP and MIMR.

TACMP

- Absence of formal regulatory framework (TACMP regulations).
- Lack of safe patrol boat stations.
- Continued use of manual fisheries data systems.

Recommendation: For TACMP, Fast-tracking adoption of TACMP regulations, establish patrol outposts and safe boat stations, and implementing electronic fish catch assessment systems (eCAS) are strongly recommended.