



MAFIA ISLAND MARINE PARK

30 YEARS OF MARINE CONSERVATION (1995–2025)

A LEGACY OF NATURE, PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIP

AT A GLANCE



822

km²
marine &
coastal area



13

villages within
the park



23,069+

people within
park boundary



5,000+

sea & land
patrols



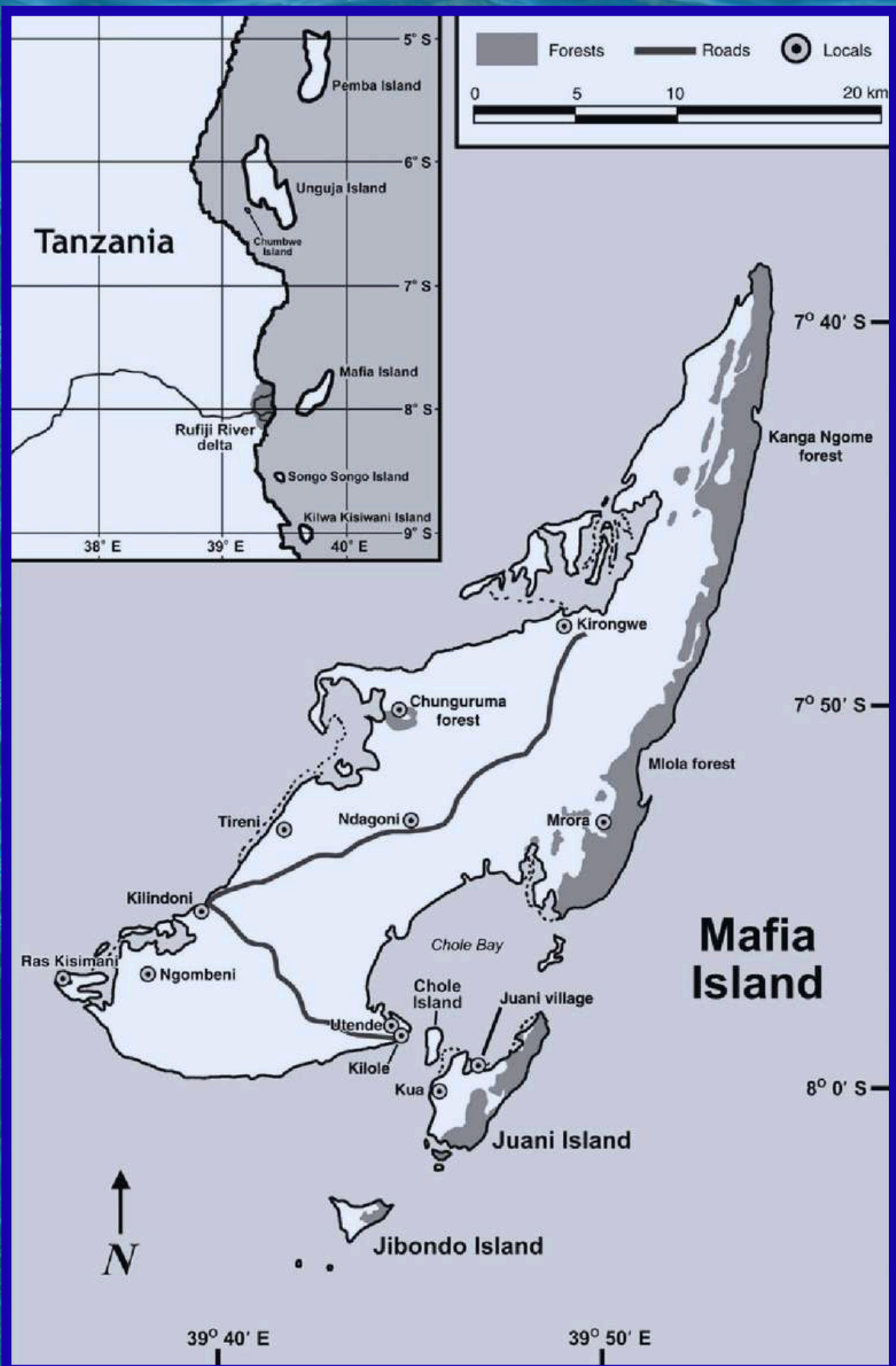
23

staff
in 2026



500+

local tourism
jobs/opportunities



CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Science-based, people centred
management across a living seascape



Protect habitats.
Sustain livelihoods.
Learn and adapt.

01 CORAL REEFS



Exceptionally high diversity; a dedicated survey recorded 273 nominal hard-coral species in 63 genera. Routine monitoring tracks coral cover and reef condition.

02 MANGROVES



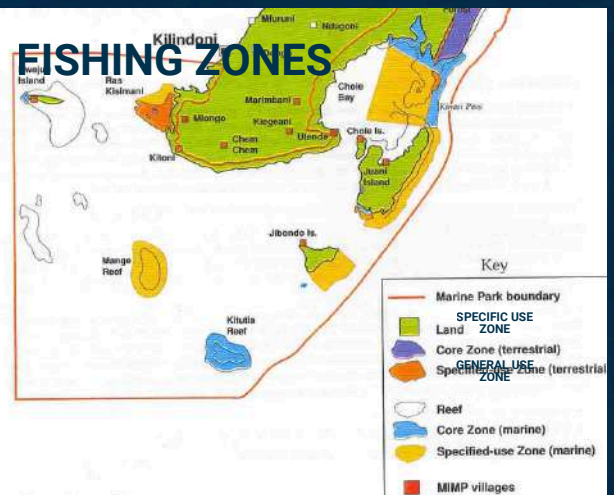
Mangrove recovery is supported through awareness and replanting, while Kinasi remains an important nursery and coastal ecosystem area.

03 SEAGRASS & COASTAL HABITATS



Seagrass beds, intertidal flats, beaches, shallow channels and coastal forest form a connected land-sea conservation mosaic.

04 FISHING ZONES



Core, specified-use and general-use zones combine protection with regulated resource use, permits, compliance and community participation.



1995
establishment



2000
zoning
framework



2006
zoning
regulations



2024
buoy
replacement



2025–2026
evidence-based
monitoring

DISCOVER MAFIA ISLAND



A living destination where conservation,
culture and the blue economy meet

Mafia's reefs, channels, beaches, mangroves
and coastal heritage support responsible
tourism, fisheries and conservation-linked
livelihoods.



WHALE SHARKS

More than 200 individuals documented through long-term
photo-ID work; later programmes reported approximately
215 in 2022 and over 250 identified or estimated in the
Mafia region in 2024.



DIVING & REEFS

A recognised diving destination
with high coral diversity and
monitored reef habitats.



HERITAGE & COMMUNITY

Historical and cultural assets,
seaweed farming, local enterprise
and community stewardship
strengthen the blue economy.



18+

accommodation
facilities



5

diving
centres



500+

local employment /
revenue opportunities



ethical whale-shark
tourism standards

Responsible tourism protects the attraction that sustains it.

30 YEARS OF IMPACT

Conservation results, community benefits and a growing blue economy



1 LAW ENFORCEMENT

1999/2000

~300

incidents
in 1999/2000



2025/26

~36

in 2025/26



More than 5,000 sea/land patrols;
GPS, SMART, GIS and drones adopted.



2 TOURISM & LOCAL ECONOMY

1999/2000

~2,000

tourists
in 1999/2000



2025/26

>7,500

in 2025/26



18* accommodation facilities, 5 diving
centres and 500+ local employment/
revenue opportunities.



3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Tzs 90,847,750

for support to 384 secondary
and university students



Tzs 1,690,576,032.69

for other community
development projects



4 CAPACITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

2000s

3

staff in
the 2000s



2026

23

staff in
2026



Boats, vehicles, outposts, VLC offices,
field equipment and more
100 trainings/workshops.



25%

hard coral cover
at all monitored sites



778.4 kg/ha

average reef-fish
biomass reported



Reported figures reflect different monitoring periods and methods; they should be read with their dates and context.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE NEXT 30 YEARS

MIMP enters its next chapter with a clear ambition: protect the ecological gains of the past three decades while strengthening resilience, community ownership, science, innovation and sustainable development.

Resilient ecosystems • Empowered communities • Responsible blue growth

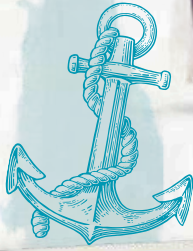


VISION FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS

Healthy and resilient marine ecosystems, empowered coastal communities, sustainable resource use, responsible tourism and strong science-based partnerships.



Mafia Island Marine Park: Through the Lens



*Protecting our oceans.
Empowering communities.
Inspiring future generations.*



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