**GRANT FACT SHEET**

**Strengthening Marine Protected Area Management in Rufiji, Mafia, Kilwa Districts, Tanzania**

The Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa (RUMAKI) Seascape stretches for 365 km along the coast of the West Indian Ocean, south of Tanzania’s largest city of Dar es Salaam. It is situated in one of the most dynamic rural economic development zones of Tanzania, including the catchment area of the Rufiji river.

The seascape consists of three habitat types: The Mafia Island coastal reef, one of the most climate resilient coral reefs in the Indian Ocean, the Rufiji Delta mangrove forest, which ranks among the largest mangrove forests of East Africa, and the shallow nutrient rich waters of the Mafia Channel which connect the above named habitats and feature extended sea grass meadows.

The project aims at improving the management of the existing protected areas and buffer zones and creating a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve which integrates all the different areas and provides a framework for conservation, spatial planning and sustainable social development.

The rich biodiversity and natural resources of the Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape are essential for the livelihoods of 48 coastal communities targeted by the project. The project will help fishers and mangroves users to organise themselves and manage their natural resources, support improved law enforcement, and improve market access of fishers. The marine park will be equipped for co surveillance with local communities. Community led mangrove restoration will be conducted. Saving groups and support of local entrepreneurs will increase and stabilize livelihoods and decrease the dependence on natural resource use.

**Project duration**
August 2019 – July 2024

**Country/ies**
Tanzania

**Lead organisation**
WWF Germany

**Partners**
WWF Tanzania, Wetlands International East Africa

**Total project costs**
€ 4,159,593

**Blue Action Fund grant**
€ 3,057,571 (74%)

**Match funding**
€ 1,102,022 (26%)

A new UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve at the Tanzanian coast will support conservation of one of the most climate resilient coral reefs and some of the largest mangrove forests in East Africa.

**Photo:** Uwe Johannsen/WWF
KEY TARGETS

Newly created MPAs: 5,355 km²
Effectively managed MPAs: 5,161 km²
Number of beneficiaries: 42,200

ACTIVITIES & AREAS OF WORK

MPA GOVERNANCE
- New UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve
- Creating protected areas
- Management plans adaptive to climate change
- Long-term funding for MPA
- Gender empowerment

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
- Creating sustainable employment opportunities
- Reduction of post-harvest loss in fisheries
- Economic empowerment of women

HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION
- Protection of mangroves
- Restoration of mangroves
- Protection of coral reefs
- Protection of seagrass beds

SPECIES CONSERVATION/SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- Fisheries control and enforcement
- Data collection on fisheries
- Co-management of fisheries
- Conservation measures for turtles
- Monitoring of whalesharks

Published by Blue Action Fund, April 2023