Co-management Approach

The Government of Zanzibar, Tanzania signed in 1994 a co-management agreement with Chumbe Island Coral Park Limited [CHICOP] to manage the marine sanctuary and educate the public about conservation.

CHICP is the first managed marine park in Tanzania and is considered to be the first non-public MPA in the region. Ecotourism operation started in 1998 with the intention to develop a financially sustainable model of MPA management through revenue generated from ecotourism. Since then, it has become financially self-sustaining.

Revenue Mechanisms

Revenues are generated from an ecotourism boutique hotel and day-tours. From 2010 to 2016, it generated an average annual gross revenue of US$600,000. In 2016, 230,000 tourists visited the island.

At 40% occupancy rate, it is sufficient to cover all operational expenses of CHICOP. The annual average occupancy rate from 1998-2016 has been at 60%.

Day trips to CICP costs US$90/person/day and overnight stays at $280/person/night.

Success Descriptors

The revenue generated through small-scale ecotourism covers the costs of managing the sanctuary, research projects, conservation, and free education programs for the local schools.

Some of its international recognitions are:

- Being listed in the UN Global 500 Roll of Honour 2000 in recognition of its environmental achievements.
- Proclaimed in 2012 by the UN Secretary General as a “noted example for Payment for Ecosystem Services”.

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