



G20 Coral Research
& Development
Accelerator
Platform

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MSC SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE CORAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (CORDAP) PROJECT:

Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area: Restoring the balance.

Background to the project: The coral reefs around Mnemba Island in northern Unguja, Tanzania, provide numerous critical ecosystem services to local communities, specifically artisanal fishing and community-based eco-tourism. However, decades of overuse, has resulted in significant degradation of the coral systems, evidenced by extremely poor coral cover, limited fish diversity and the absence of predators. The Zanzibar Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries has recognised the importance of the greater Mnemba system and are actively supporting the management of the Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area (MIMCA). However, they have limited internal capacity and resources to do this.

Scope of the MSc component: The awarded student will form part of the Oceans Without Borders team responsible for upscaling coral reef restoration efforts around Mnemba island. This will involve the establishment of a series of artificial reefs and reef structures at different depths and the subsequent monitoring thereof. The student will undertake a scientific investigation into the success of coral restoration on these structures and measure metrics such as coral growth and survival. The student will be expected to work in a team conducting quantitative SCUBA diving surveys of these artificial reefs and deliver the findings in a formal thesis.

Applications are invited from suitable Tanzanian citizens for an **MSc** scholarship. The duration of the MSc training will be 24 months fulltime and will be offered by thesis. Tuition will be

covered by the project along with all fieldwork expenses and a monthly stipend will be provided.

Qualifications and experience: Applicants for MSc Scholarship need to have a B.Sc Honours degree in Biological Science or equivalent with a good background in Marine Science or Fisheries. Preference will be given to those applicants already working with Marine science institutions. The successful applicant will have strong written and verbal communication skills in English and be highly motivated to develop a scientific career. The student should be physically fit, a confident swimmer and have a diving qualification or be willing to obtain one. Teamwork and project management skills are also a preference. Applicants should be less than 45 years of age at the time of application.

Mode of Application: Send a one-page application letter motivating why you are the preferred candidate, attaching copies of relevant certificates, academic transcripts and a brief curriculum vitae with the names of three academic referees. Applicants who are employed will also need a letter of support from their employers. **Deadline of Application is 13 January 2025.** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview by zoom, two weeks after the deadline.

Importance of the research

The research is expected to generate information relevant to policy development and coral reef restoration and management. Peer-reviewed articles and scientific publications are expected from the MSc project. The student will be expected to develop at least one scientific paper.

Applications should be sent to:

Dr Camilla Floros- camilla.floros@wildimpact.earth

Dr Narriman Jiddawi- n_jiddawi@yahoo.com and

Dr Sean Porter- sporter@ori.org.za

THE LEAD ORGANIZATION: Wild Impact 164 Katherine Street, Sandown, Johannesburg, South Africa

Wild Impact has been supporting the restoration of the Mnemba Island coral system and overall MIMCA management for 3 years, anchored and enabled through a dedicated team of 4 Community and Conservation Rangers, responsible for:

- The establishment and management of a coral nursery (established in 2021) which underpins a reef restoration and reef health monitoring project.
- The establishment and development of artificial reefs to provide additional fish refugia and the provision of alternative snorkeling sites for community-based ecotourism operators.
- Supporting fisher and community-based tourism stakeholder engagement and scholar focused environmental education activities aimed at nurturing their support for improved marine conservation efforts. The coral farm, reef restoration, artificial reef, stakeholder engagement and environmental education interventions are all young and will take time to have impact. However, the recent agreements around the new limited use zonation, reef restoration successes, and the colonization of marine life on the artificial reefs demonstrate the significant potential of this multi-faceted approach.

Problem to be solved and why is this important?

The coral reefs of Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area (MIMCA) in northern Unguja, Tanzania contribute over \$5 million annually to the local economy. However, high resource-use (eco-tourism and fishing), exacerbated by climate change has degraded the coral cover to less than 10% and reduced fish populations significantly, resulting in compromised reef ecosystems. Urgent and innovative interventions are needed to address the decline in coral health so that the ecosystem services that sustain the local fishers and ecotourism are not jeopardized.

This project will support the:

- Expansion of the coral nursery, thereby enabling the propagation of additional colonies for planting across the natural and artificial reef systems
- Establishment of additional artificial reef systems.
- Expansion of existing coral health monitoring activities.

We look forward to your application!

University where the Student will need to register
Name of institution: The State University of Zanzibar
Type of institution: Public University
Accredited by: Registered and approved by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU)
Proposing unit: Department of Natural Sciences under the School of Social and Natural Sciences. /Tropical Research Centre for Oceanography, Environment and Natural Resources (TROCEN)
Website: http://www.suza.ac.tz/