

# The Nairobi Convention Coral Reef Task Force, and Tanzania's efforts to support coral reef conservation in the western Indian Ocean

**Tim Andrew, Nairobi Convention Secretariat  
and**

**Rose Sallema, National Environment Management Council,  
United Republic of Tanzania**

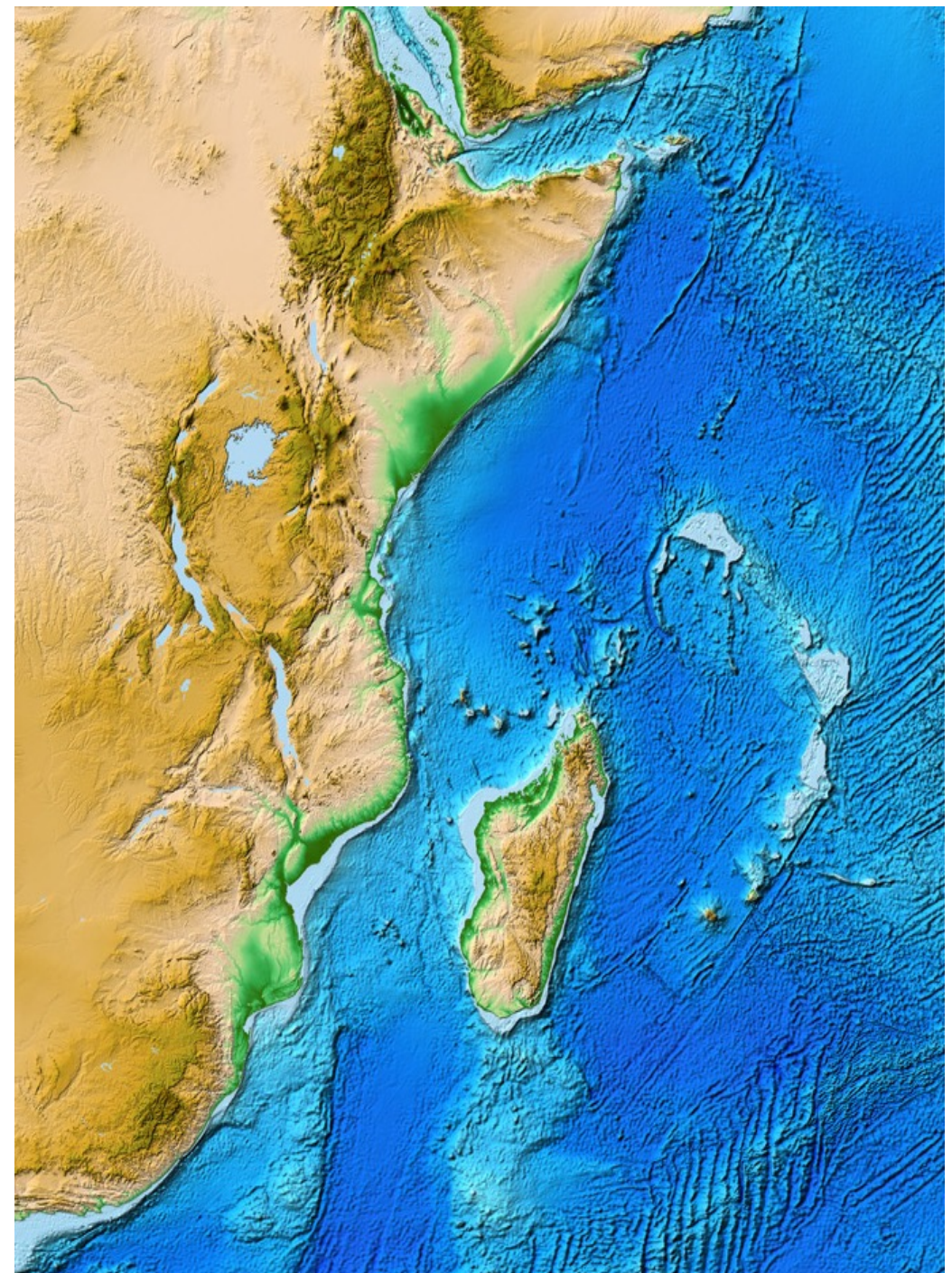
The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i



# Who are we?

- **The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean**
- **A legal framework** and platform for regional collaboration between countries and agencies.
- **Mandate:** protect, manage and develop the Western Indian Ocean at the regional level.
- **Vision:** A **partnership** between governments, civil society and the private sector, working towards a prosperous Western Indian Ocean region.





**Regional  
Seas**

## The Contracting Parties:

- Somalia
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Seychelles
- Comoros
- Madagascar
- France
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- South Africa

# Why the Western Indian Ocean Matters

5% global industrialized fish catch  
(4 million tonnes/yr)

11,257 marine species  
(13% endemism)

2,200 fish species (83%  
of known fish families)

65 million people live  
within 100 km of the  
coast



Over 40 EBSAs & approx.  
700 Seamounts identified

Estimated US\$ 22  
Billion/year from marine  
& coastal resources;  
assets estimated at US\$  
333.8 billion

Emerging Oil & Gas sector  
of global interest

# Threats to the WIO



Biodiversity and habitat loss



Illegal fishing



Overfishing



Pollution from land based sources



Climate change impacts



Inadequate governance



New opportunities



Infrastructure

# The Nairobi Convention Coral Reef Task Force - History

- 1999 - The Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) first published a coral reef status report for the WIO region; updated in 2005.
- 2001 - Decision at COP3 on CRTF and establishment in 2002: to co-ordinate work on coral reefs throughout the region.
- 2004 – Resolution at COP4 to further strengthen the coordination structure of the Coral Reef Task Force, as well as the national coral reef task forces: national bodies were constituted to coordinate coral reef activities, action plans and strategies.



# CRTF – History cont.

- 2015 - The Regional State of the Coast Report for the WIO highlighted insights into the enormous economic potential around the WIO and the importance of critical habitats such as coral reefs.
- 2017 - The partnership of the GCRMN, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC-COI), CORDIO, and IUCN Species Survival Commission's Coral Specialist Group, CRTF and the national CRTF members produced a detailed coral reef status report for the Western Indian Ocean, as an update to the publications by the GCRMN in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2008.



# CRTF – History cont.

- 2018 - Nairobi Convention COP9 continued to urge Contracting Parties to promote and support monitoring of coral reefs for signs of stress or recovery and implement appropriate management responses.
- 2021 - A Marine Protected Areas Outlook for the Western Indian Ocean was published in 2021 showing the extent of coral reefs and related ecosystems in the region and existing management plans. CORDIO and partners actively contributed to the GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World report.





# CRTF – History cont.

- 2022 - Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December, and a new phase of activities is initiated in the WIO with support from the Nairobi Convention (e.g., Comoros coral reef assessment)
- 2023 – Comoros workshop to revitalize and enhance capacities of National Coral Reef Task Force (NCRTF) members in the WIO for the integrated management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, monitoring and reporting on ecosystem health.



# CURRENT STATUS AND POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIONS OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION CRTF

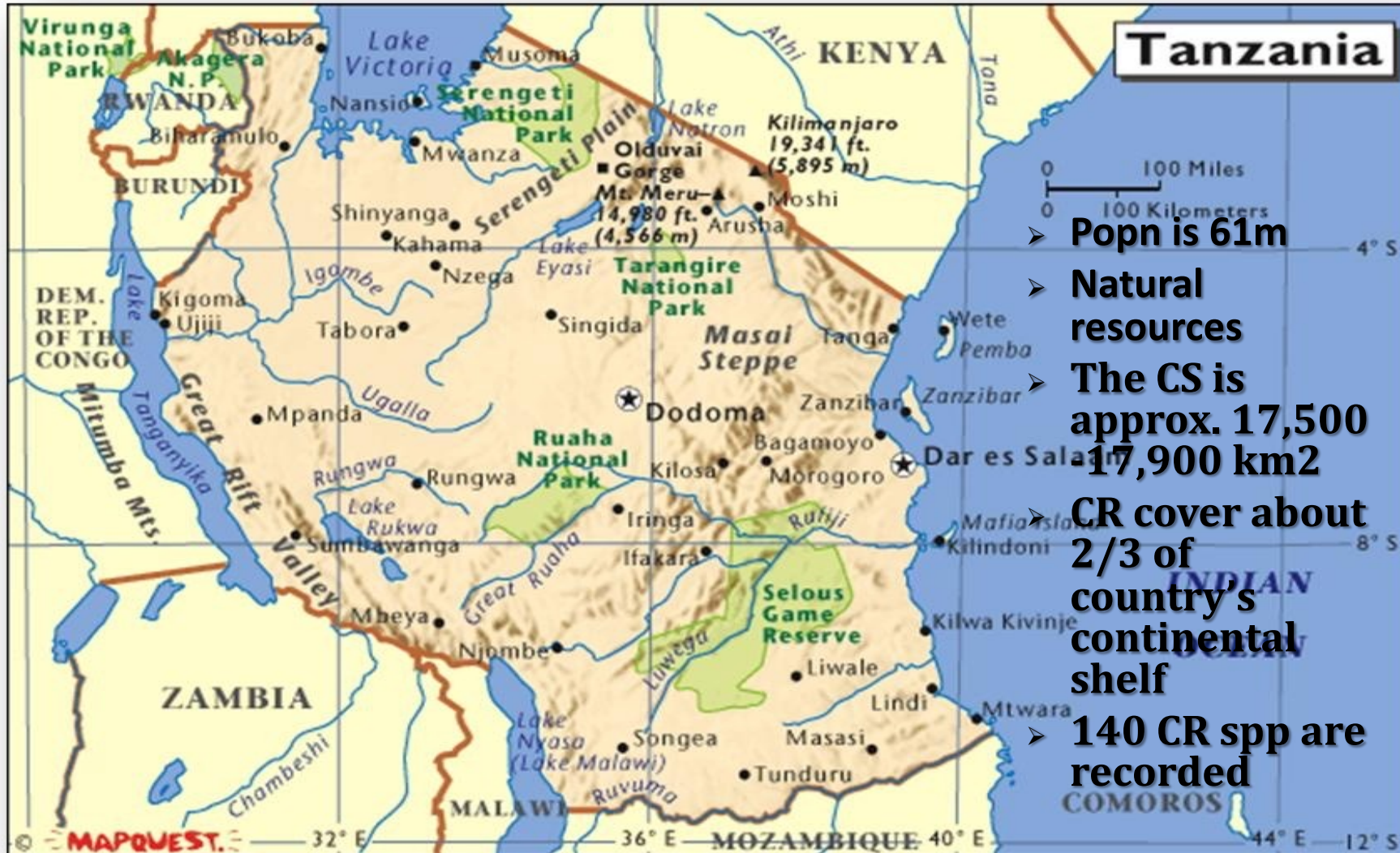
- Regional activities have been sporadic over the last two decades. Activities largely related to project funding.
- National chapters of CRTF in Kenya, Tanzania and some other countries are active, with active support from CORDIO and other NGOs.
- Suggestion for name change from CRTF to CR Working Group.
- Need to develop a roadmap for CR monitoring against threats. Funding needed to develop National Action Plans.
- Restoration trials are ongoing in Mauritius and Kenya. Research funding needed to test viability of various restoration methods.
- Detailed mapping of coral reefs extent and health needed, as well as sensitivity mapping in the face of threats such as oil spills.

# CURRENT STATUS AND POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIONS OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION CRTF

- Include coral reef monitoring in the WIO regional Ecosystems Indicator Monitoring Framework under development.
- Ecosystem Valuation to be undertaken to assist with policy and decision making around protection vs fisheries activities, for example.
- Public awareness at local community level.
- Aggressively promote alternative livelihoods (e.g. blue carbon, seaweed farming) to reduce pressure on coral ecosystems.
- Co-management approaches using OECMs such as LMMAs to be promoted based on regional best practice.
- Preparation for the next GCRMN coral reef status report to be published in 2025.
- Investigate opportunities for support of some of the above from the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, and the Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform etc.

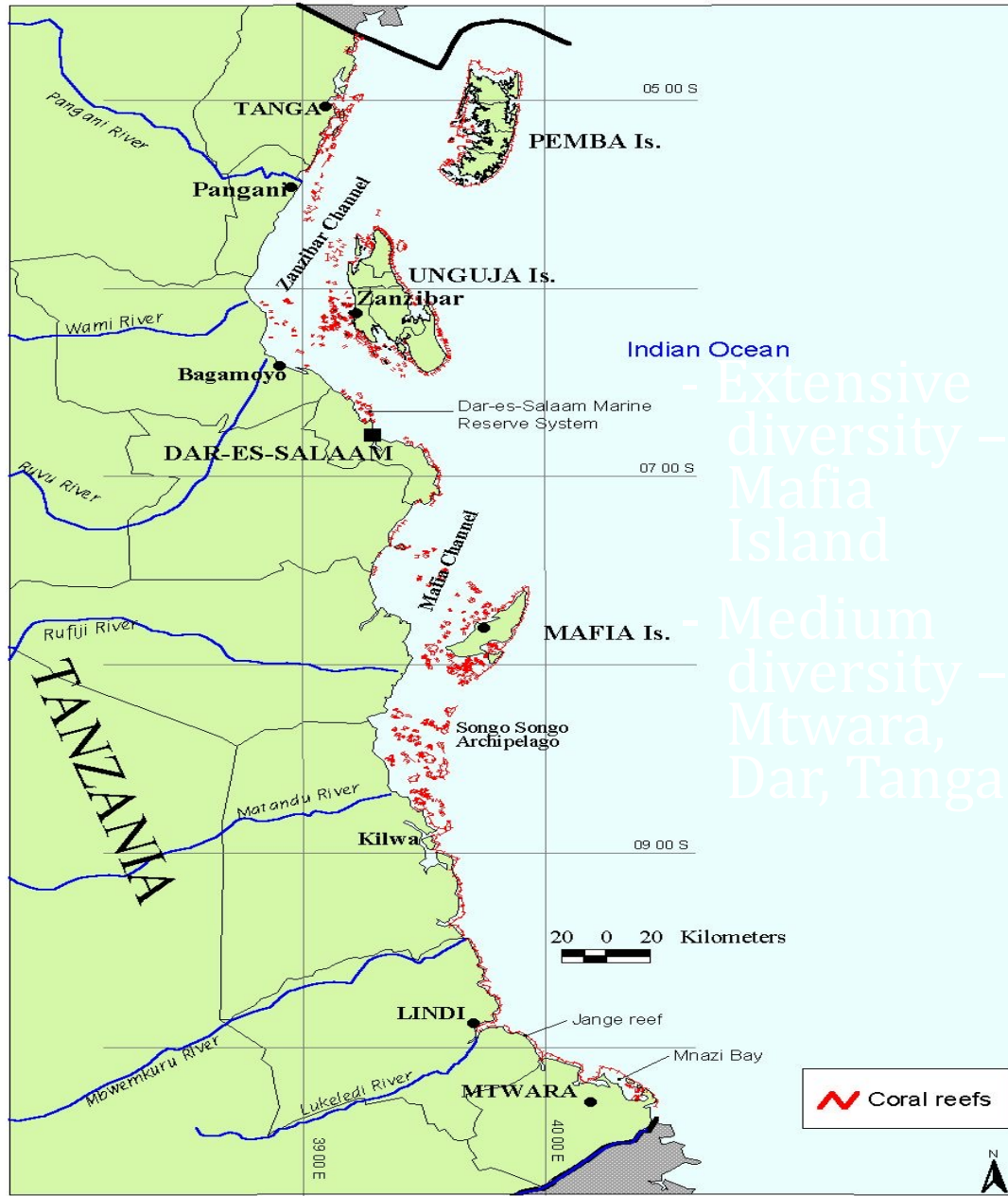
# Tanzania Efforts to support coral reef conservation in the WIO

Tanzania is located on the East coast of Africa with its total area is 945,087 km<sup>2</sup> and this includes the 3 islands.



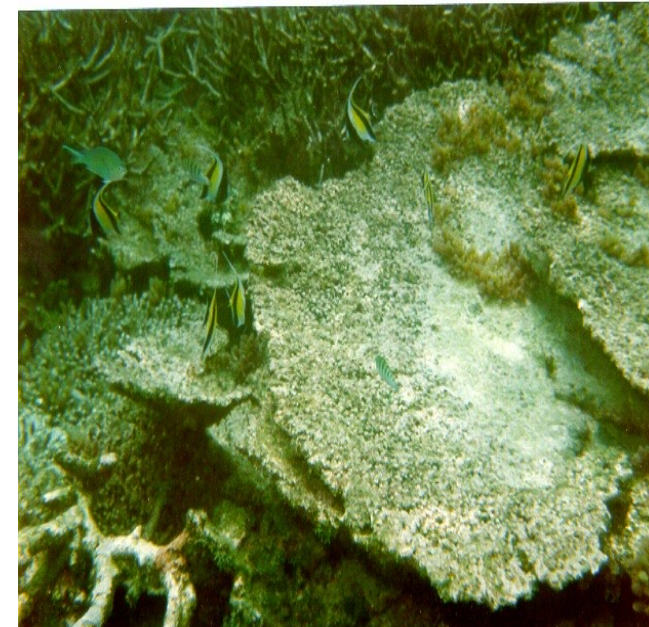
- Popn is 61m
- Natural resources
- The CS is approx. 17,500 km<sup>2</sup>
- CR cover about 2/3 of country's continental shelf
- 140 CR spp are recorded

# Tz Coral Reef Distribution areas



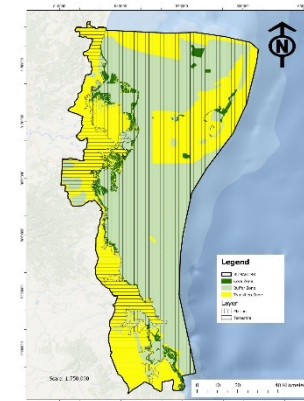
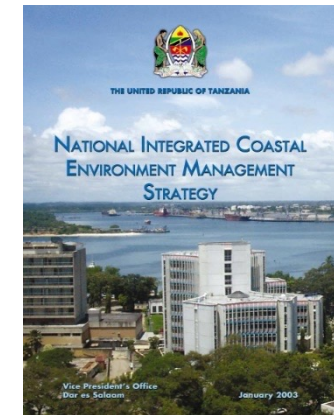
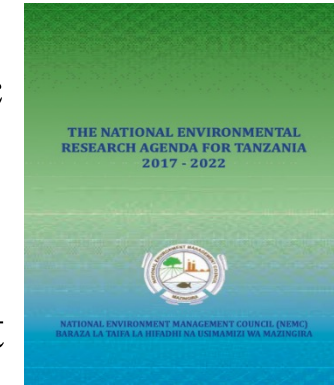
- Extensive diversity – Mafia Island

- Medium diversity – Mtwara, Dar, Tanga



# Development of Management Tools and coordination of committees

- ❖ National Environment Policy of 2021 from 1997.
- ❖ National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions
- ❖ The National Environmental Research Agenda (NERA)
- ❖ National Integrated Coastal Environmental Management Strategy (NICEMS).
- ❖ Marine Spatial Planning guidelines.
- ❖ Blue Economy Policy.
- ❖ National Marine Oil Spill Response Contingency Plan.
- ❖ National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
- ❖ National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).
- ❖ The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy.
- ❖ Coordination of committees and Task Forces
  - ❖ Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTF)
  - ❖ National Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme
  - ❖ Environmental Research Advisory Committee (ERAC)



# Restoration initiatives – coral reefs



(a) mid-water nurseries for promoting fast growth coral fragments (Zanzibar and Mafia)

(b) transplanted nursery grown fragments in denuded reef areas.

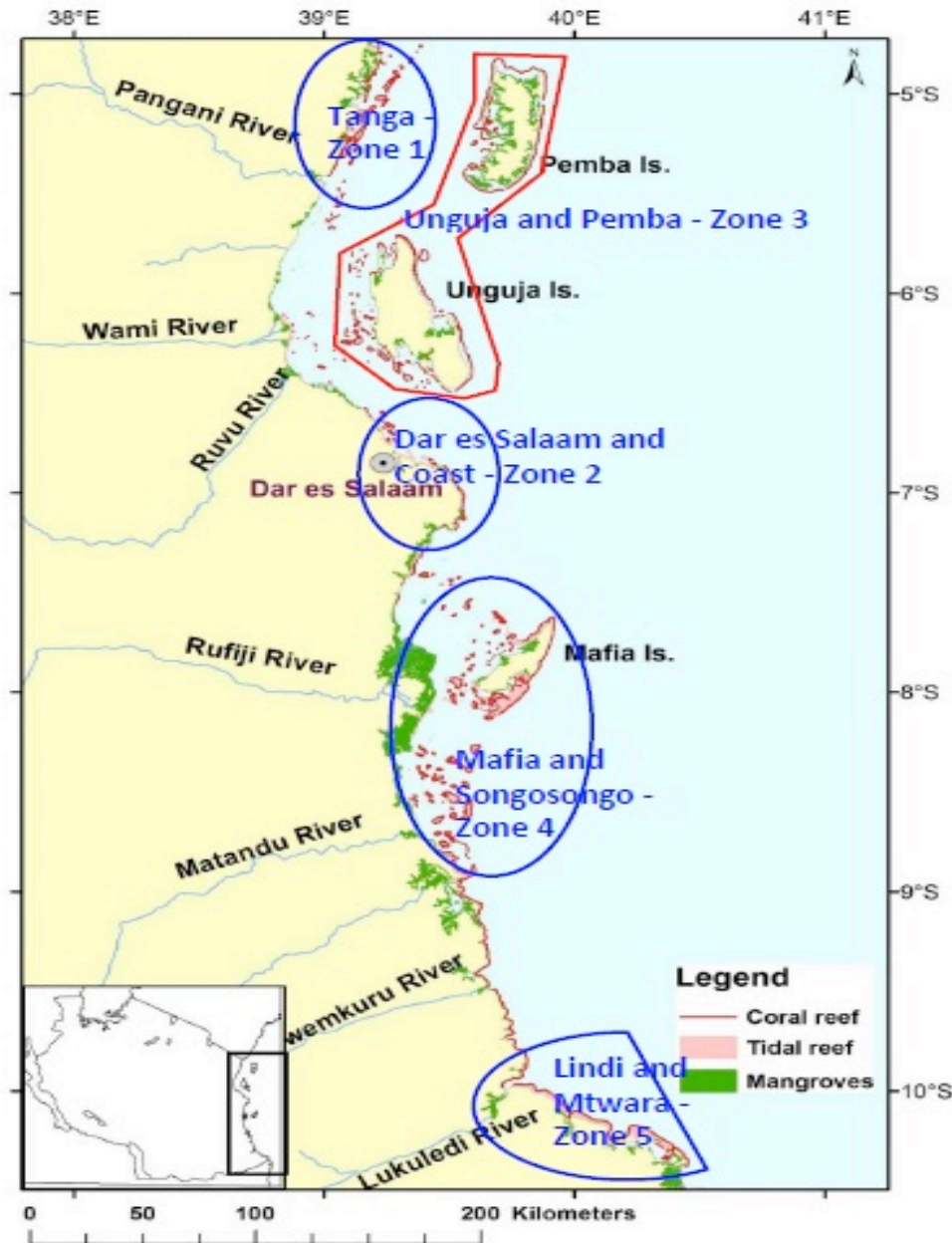
# Monitoring Coral Reef using GCRMN methodology

- ❖ Benthic cover data, Coral size class, Coral recruit, Macro invertebrates, Fish abundance, diversity, Biomass & Population structure – size (Coral Reef Monitoring Manual – SWIO Islands ....D. Obura)
- ❖ Measurement of environmental factors, e.g., seawater temperature, nutrients, sedimentation, ocean currents and tides, fishing and coastal erosion processes.
- ❖ Also studies on Coral diseases and Coral Reef mapping
- ❖ Institutions (UDSM- IMS and MPRU) and findings are shared to the TzCRTF).





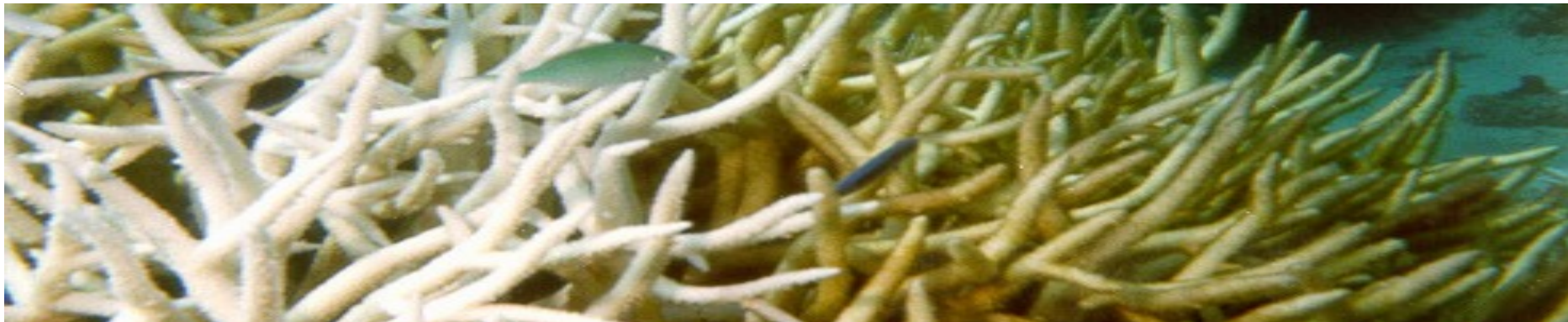
# Monitoring zones



- Zone 1: Tanga
  - Zone 2: Dar es Salaam
  - Zone 3: Pemba & unguja
  - Zone 4: Mafia & Songosongo
  - Zone 5: Lindi & Mtwara
- 
- Reef biodiversity and socio-economic studies
  - CR resilience studies
  - Coral reef restoration
  - Various socio-economic and ecological studies
  - Community based coral reef monitoring
  - SCUBA based coral reef monitoring

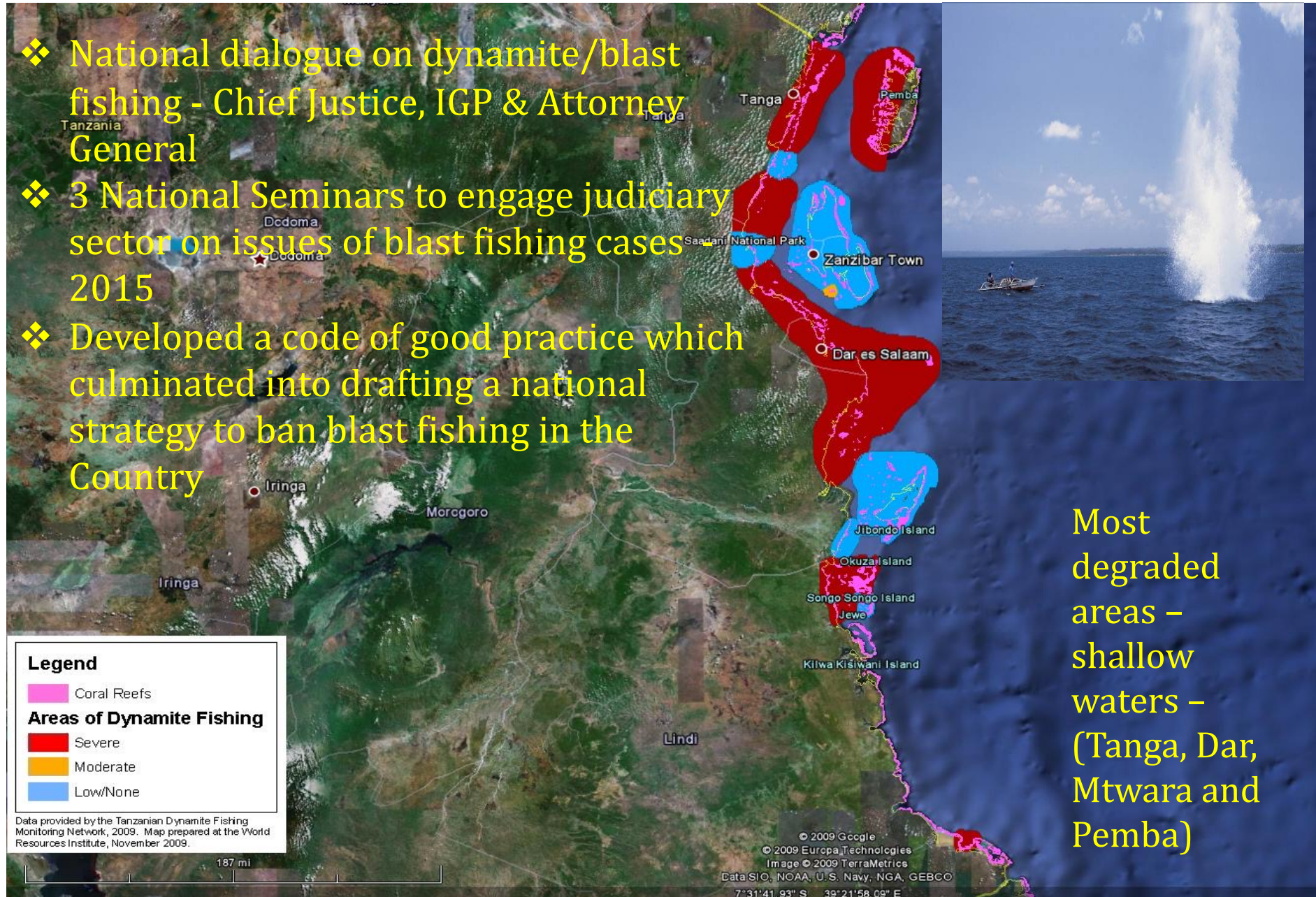
# ESIA, enforcement, awareness, education

- ❖ Managing waterfront developments through ESIA.
- ❖ Enforcement of laws and compliance monitoring of different actors (developers, companies) - ban of plastic.
- ❖ Awareness raising initiatives through social media and during World Environmental Events/Ocean day.
  - ✓ Different stakeholders on CR management.
  - ✓ Seminars to Parliamentary Committee members.
- ❖ National Seminars to judicial offices on Illegal fishing activities (CJ, IGP, DPP and AG).



# Seminars on Illegal fishing activities

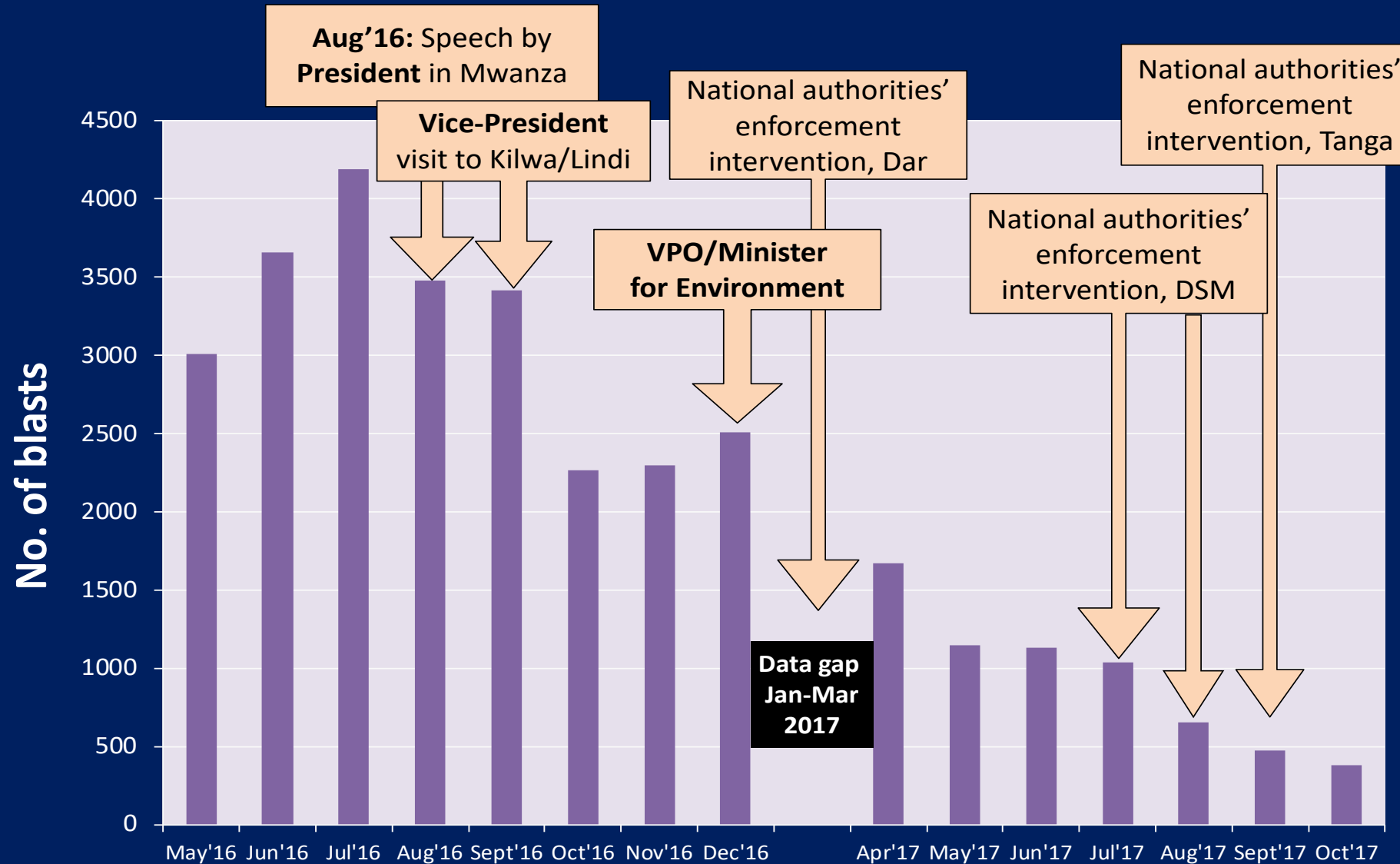
- ❖ National dialogue on dynamite/blast fishing - Chief Justice, IGP & Attorney General
- ❖ 3 National Seminars to engage judiciary sector on issues of blast fishing cases 2015
- ❖ Developed a code of good practice which culminated into drafting a national strategy to ban blast fishing in the Country



Most degraded areas – shallow waters – (Tanga, Dar, Mtwara and Pemba)

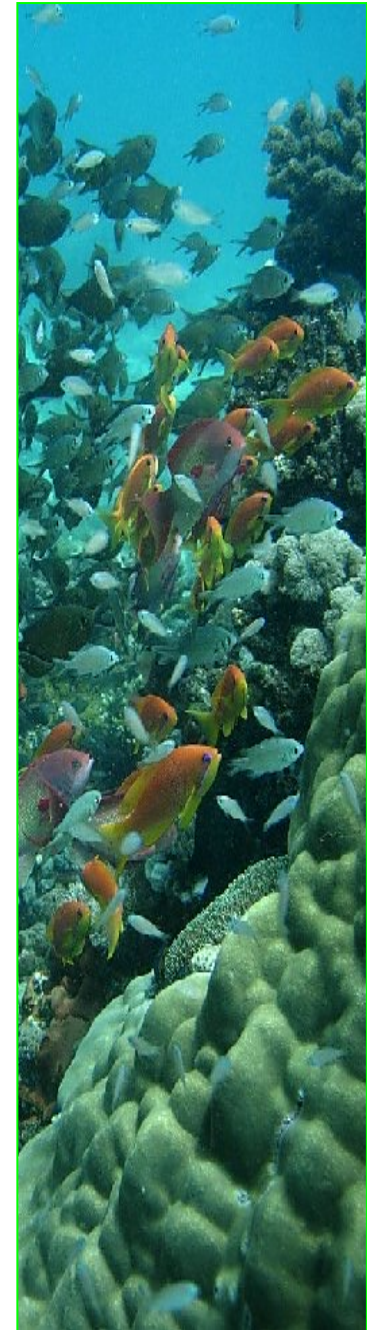
# After Government interventions (Rubens et al...)

## Timeline of key interventions



## Research and reports/National/Regional/Global Fora

- ❖ Development of State of the Environment Report
- ❖ Draft Status and Trends of Coral Reefs Report
- ❖ Draft 4th State of the Coast Report (SoCR)
- ❖ Regional Ocean Health Index Technical Report, 2018
- ❖ Status of Informal Ports
- ❖ Biosphere reserve nomination reports - WNBRs
- ❖ Regional Coral Reef Monitoring Report.
- ❖ Coral reef projects in collaboration with different organisations (WWF, WIOMSA, etc).
- ❖ Hosted the 2022 Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects-sustainable biodiversity in areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ and BBNJ)



## Conclusion

- ❖ Sustainable management requires data and information and hence the need for coral reef research and monitoring.

## Recommendations

- ❖ Build capacity in research and monitoring
- ❖ Develop fundable proposals for CR management
  - ✓ Support National Task Force
- ❖ Develop Biosphere Reserve guidelines
- ❖ Raise public awareness on relevant policies
- ❖ Enforce the implementation of laws and by-laws



*Thank  
you!*