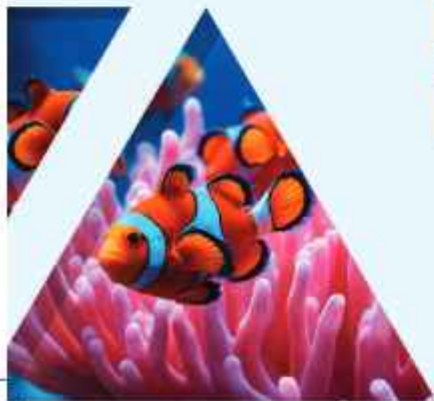




THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA



National Coral Reef Hub (NCRH)

June 2025



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



NATIONAL CORAL REEF HUB (NCRH)



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA



FOREWORD

Globally, coral reefs are threatened mainly by anthropogenic activities, climate change, and natural disasters. Since Tanzania does not exist in isolation, its coral reefs have been declining over time due to unsustainable fishing practices, including the use of blasts, seine and drag nets, oil spills, the release of chemical wastes, persistent plastic waste/marine debris, and sedimentation from agricultural activities, dredging and coastal development.

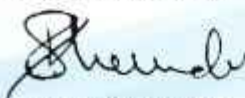
In order to safeguard services and benefits from coral reefs, it is very important to prevent further degradation and encourage sustainable utilization of coral reefs' resources by setting up appropriate conservation strategies (policies, laws and guidelines). However, this cannot be achieved without having coordinated efforts from different stakeholders especially those who in one way or other benefit from it.

The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) was consolidated through a team of diverse expertise after a series of consultative meetings whereby various stakeholders (i.e. Ministries, Local Government Authorities, departments, agencies, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, private sectors, and the coastal communities) especially from the areas where coral reefs are abundant (referred to as local hubs) were consulted.

The NCRH is a national partnership between government (ministries, Local government Authorities (LGAs), government bodies), non-government organizations, universities, community organizations, fisher communities, etc. which strives to protect and preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the United Republic of Tanzania. The NCRH has been designed to be a centre point for all information, initiatives, news and events related to the climate refuge coral reefs and their related ecosystems (i.e. mangroves and seagrass).

The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) is aimed at ensuring effective management measures are undertaken to conserve the already declining coral reefs in the United Republic of Tanzania.

We finally commend those who made the preparation of the National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) possible.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (Mainland Tanzania) and the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries (Zanzibar) would like to extend gratitude to all those who have contributed in one way or another to the preparation of this National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH).

We would particularly thank the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MPRU) for the operationalization of the various local hubs and for supervision and leading the process of the preparation of this Hub. Secondly, we appreciate the hard work done by the experts for the consolidation of the NCRH. Also, all those who in one way or other has contributed to the good of this hub, are acknowledged.

Furthermore, we extend our gratitude to the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) 7 - Coral Reef Rescue Initiatives (CRRI) project for the financial support during the consultation processes and in the hub preparation.

Lastly, we note with satisfaction that the preparation of this Hub could not be possible without the cooperation and commitment of wider stakeholder groups who were consulted at different levels and capacities and these include; Ministries, Local Government Authorities, departments, agencies, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, private sectors, and the coastal communities through their invaluable input and technical support.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge their valuable contributions and efforts, which made possible the preparation of this Hub important for the good of the coral reefs of the United Republic of Tanzania.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	VLC	Village Liason Committes
2	BMU	Beach Management Unit
3	DMRS	Dar Es Salaam Marine Reserves System
4	MIMP	Mafia Island Marine Park
5	PECCA	Pemba Channel Conservation Area





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the importance of coral reefs in Tanzania, over the years, the Tanzania coral reefs have been degraded by anthropogenic, climate change, and natural factors. However, the majority of the reefs are still intact and functionally capable of giving all the expected ecosystem services (biological, ecological, and socio-economic). In order to safeguard services and benefits from coral reefs, it is very important to prevent further degradation and encourage sustainable utilization of coral reefs' resources by setting up appropriate conservation strategies (policies, laws and guidelines). However, amongst others this cannot be achieved without having coordinated efforts from different stakeholders.

The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) was consolidated through a team of diverse expertise after a series of consultative meetings whereby various stakeholders (i.e. Ministries, Local Government Authorities, departments, agencies, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, private sectors, and the coastal

communities) especially from the areas where coral reefs are abundant (referred to as local hubs) were consulted.

The NCRH is a national partnership between government (ministries, Local government Authorities (LGAs), government bodies), non-government organizations, universities, community organizations, fisher communities, etc. which strives to protect and preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the United Republic of Tanzania. The NCRH has been designed to be a centre point for all information, initiatives, news and events related to the climate refuge coral reefs and their related ecosystems (i.e. mangroves and seagrass). The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) is aimed at ensuring effective management measures are undertaken to conserve the already declining coral reefs in the United Republic of Tanzania.

This NCRH document stipulates some coral reef issues important for interventions in the URT and defines the NCRH, its objectives, vision, structure, compositions, roles and responsibilities and as well working modalities.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief Background

Tanzania's coral reefs, spanning approximately 3,500 km², are among the most biodiverse and economically vital ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean. These reefs support over 30% of the coastal population through fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection, contributing an estimated \$525 million annually to the national economy. However, rampant illegal and destructive fishing practices including blast fishing (20.8% prevalence), cyanide use (7.2%), small-mesh nets (14.6%), and coral mining have triggered a 30-50% decline in coral cover and a 40% reduction in fish biomass over the past decade (MPRU 2025).

The consequences extend far beyond ecological degradation. Unsustainable fishing methods sacrifice long-term economic resilience for short-term gains, eroding the very resources that coastal communities depend on. For example, blast fishing alone costs Tanzania an estimated \$1.07 billion annually in lost fisheries productivity and habitat destruction. In comparison, reef-related tourism loses \$150 million per year due to damage to the ecosystem. Without urgent intervention, these practices pose a significant threat to food security, livelihoods, and Tanzania's ability to adapt to climate change (MPRU 2025).

1.2 Coral reef issues for interventions in Tanzania

Among the coral reef issues for interventions includes:

- I. Coral reef bleaching and mortality
- II. Blast fishing and other destruction of coral reef environment and all forms of pollution and unsuitable fishing.
- III. Inadequate information and education programmes.
- IV. Weak/inadequate enforcement of existing legal frameworks.
- V. Lack of coral reef resilience/adaptation plan or strategy and inadequate research and monitoring programme.
- VI. Inadequate coordination among stakeholders.
- VII. Inadequate research and monitoring to address knowledge gaps and understand coral status and their associated biodiversity.
- VIII. Lack of financial sustainability for coral reef monitoring and conservation programs.
- IX. Insufficient programs and projects leading to alternative livelihoods for coastal communities, particularly the youth and women.

In order to safeguard services and benefits from coral reefs, it is very important to prevent further degradation and encourage sustainable utilization of coral reefs' resources by setting up appropriate conservation strategies (policies, laws and guidelines). However, this cannot be achieved without having coordinated efforts

from different stakeholders especially those who in one way or other benefit from it. Thus, the formation of a coral reef hub in Tanzania, to bring together the diverse stakeholders of coral reefs for management and conservation purposes will be highly appreciated as important.

2. NATIONAL CORAL REEFS HUB (NCRH)

2.1 What is NCRH?

The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) is a national partnership between government (ministries, Local government Authorities (LGs), government bodies), non-government organizations, universities, community organizations, fisher communities, etc. which strives to protect and preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the United Republic of Tanzania.

The National Coral Reefs Hub (NCRH) has been designed to be a centre point for all information, initiatives, news and events related to the climate refuge coral reefs and their related ecosystems (i.e. mangroves and seagrass).

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 MAIN OBJECTIVE

To secure key reef ecosystem services (e.g. coastal protection, fisheries production, tourism) from environmental damages.

2.2.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- I. Protect, preserve and restore corals
- II. Maintain ecosystem functions
- III. Improve coral reefs healthy, protect its populations and maintain its biodiversity.



2.3 Vision

Healthy and well-maintained coral reefs for the sustainability of the Tanzania fisheries and other associated benefits.

3. FUNCTIONS OF NCRH

Among the main function of the hub shall include:

- I. Coordination of coral reef related researches.
- II. Coordination on all activities within and around coral reef areas.
- III. Coordination on funding solicitation.
- IV. To link with other marine related hubs.
- V. Coordination on all practitioners involved in coral reef related works
- VI. Develop policies to be implemented in the coral reefs e.g. FADs and pots for octopus fishing.

4. THE NCRH STRUCTURE

The NCRH is composed of the Steering Committee, Secretariat or Facilitator, Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTF), and Working Group members (members from the thematic areas and members from the Local Hubs on where resilient coral reefs resides).

4.1 National Steering Committee (NSC)

The National Steering Committee (NSC) is the highest decision-making authority for the hub, responsible for supervising and monitoring the technical and financial execution of the hub, including the fulfilment of hub objectives, activities, and goals, approving annual work plans and budgets, hub reports, and financial audit reports, among others.

The NSC is responsible for strategic guidance and approving any major changes that may be needed in the strategic plans or execution of the hub, informed by the NTFs.

The NSC will meet at least twice a year (with at least one face to face meeting). Members of the NSC include: The Director - Department of Conservation - Ministry of Blue Economy- Zanzibar (co-chair), Director of Fisheries - Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (DFs- chair), Head of the Tanzania Coral Reef Task force, Two representative from the highly actively NGOs operational in the Marine Environment (i.e. WCS and WWF), representative from the Vice President's Office/preferably under the directorate of Fisheries and Environment, Manager of the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MPRU), representative from the University with high influence on the Marine Environment (i.e. University of Dar -Es- Salaam(UDSM), Institute of Marine Science (IMS) -Zanzibar), and the representative from the private sector with high interaction with the marine environment. The head of department of conservation at MPRU will be the principal Secretary of the hub assisted with any of the appointee from Zanzibar under the department of conservation, Ministry of Blue economy.

4.2 National Technical Facilitators (NTFs)

The National Technical Facilitator (NTFs) will be the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries - MLF) and the Department of Conservation (Ministry of Blue Economy-Zanzibar).

The NTF will serve as the Secretariat to the Hub National Steering Committee. NTFs will coordinate the hub and ensuring all stakeholders are actively engaging with equal voice and influence, managing relationships between members of the Hub.

The NTFs will be responsible for the provision of technical advice, coordination, and financial management of the hub activities. Also, NTFs will provide high level oversight, technical advice and monitoring of technical work conducted by subgrantees as well as procurement and expenditure of all grants.

4.3 Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTF)

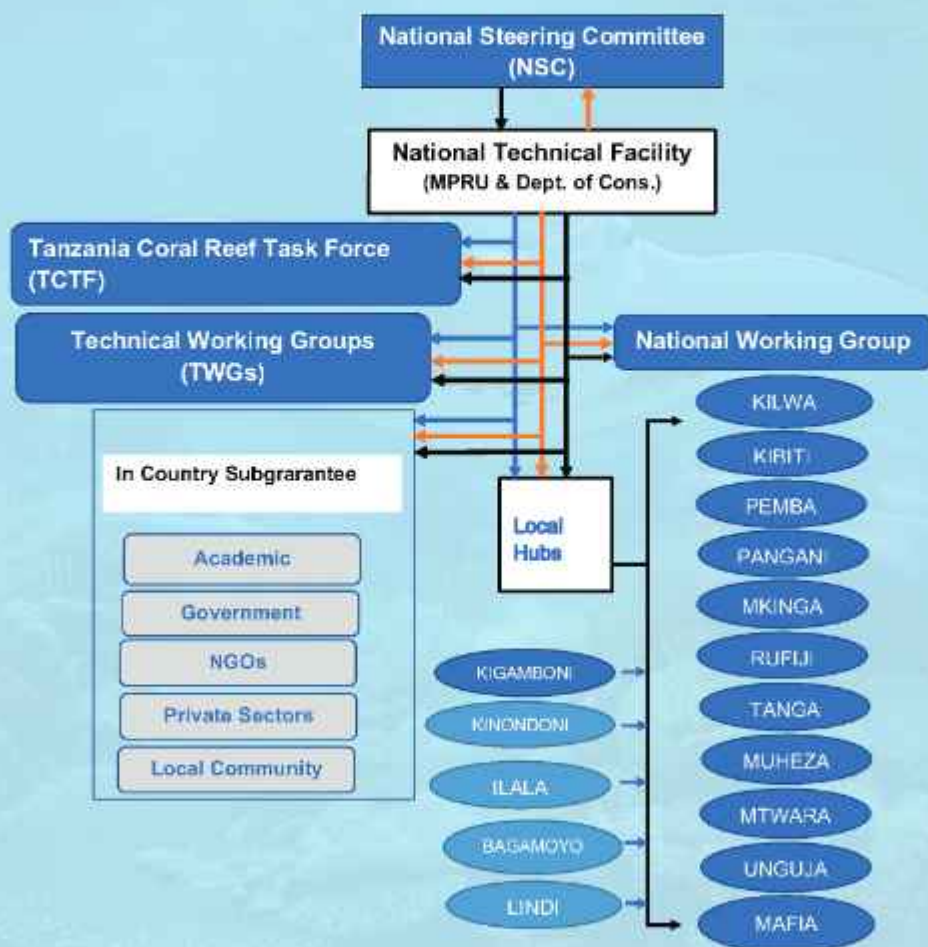
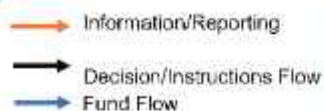
The Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTF) was established in 2005

facilitated by the Western Indian Ocean Coral Reef Task Force (WIO CRTF), which was established in 2002 and endorsed as per decision of the Conference of Parties (CoP 3/2) on the protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems of the Nairobi Convention in 2004. The TzCRTF is linked to both the WIO-CRTF and to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which developed a global Strategy and Plan of Action (2021-2024), "Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs". The TzCRTF is the overall machinery of the hub.

4.4 National Working Group (NWG)

Within the National Hub there will be different groups with diversity of expertise, for example, fisheries, traditional, government, NGOs, government bodies, Research, Universities, private sector, science, economic, ecological, social ecological, marketing, finance, law, communication, public relation, etc. and from different levels. Representatives from these groups in view of the Hub stakeholder analysis and scope compose the National Working Group (NWG).





5. NATIONAL CORAL REEFS HUB COMPOSITION

5.1 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NCRH				
The Steering Committee members is formed by the members from the "Thematic Areas" as follows:				
SN	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION	POSITION	No
1	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLS)	Director of Fisheries (DFs)	Chair	1
2	Vice President's Office (VPO): Environment and Union Matters	Representative from the VPO	Member	1
3	Ministry of Blue Economy/ Zanzibar	Director of Conservation	Co-chair	1
4	Representative of highly active NGOs operational on among the coverage areas -WWF	Director of Marine Program	Member	1
5	National Environmental Management Council (NEMC)	National Coordinator of the Coral Reef Task Force	Member	1
6	Marine Parks and Reserves Unit -MPRU	Head of Conservation	Secretary	1
7	Representative of high Learning Institution	Senior Lecture from University of Dar Es Salaam	Member	1
8	Representative of highly active NGOs operational on among the coverage areas	WCS-Marine Program Director	Member	1
9	Representatives of private sector/business community from among the coverage areas of the Project	Director of Hotel or diving business	Member	1
10	Marine Parks and Reserves Unit -MPRU	Manager	Member	1
TOTAL				10

5.2 NATIONAL TECHNICAL FACILITY

SN	INSTITUTION	POSITION
1	Marine Parks and Reserves Unit – MPRU	Chair
2	Department of Conservation	Co -Chair

5.3 TANZANIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

8 members of the coral reef task force

5.4 WORKING GROUP MEMBERS, NGOs, LOCAL HUBS AND MPRU

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The “National Working Group” is formed by:

1. Members from the “Thematic Areas” (ministries, government bodies, etc.).
2. Technical Working Groups (TWGs).
2. Representatives from the Local Hubs (Coral Reef areas).
3. Highly active NGOs
4. Representatives from the private sector/business community
5. Representatives of Coral reefs scientists from the Local hubs

A	THEMATIC AREA: REPRESENTATIVES	MEMBERS
1	Research Institution 1. Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute -TAFIRI -1, 2. Zanzibar Fisheries Research Institute-ZAFIRI-1	2
2	University: Mainland Tanzania 1. University of Dar Es Salaam (UDSM)-1 2. Sokoine University (SUA)-1	2
3	University: Zanzibar Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)-	1
4	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) Community officer	1
5	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) Zonal in charge officer of Mtwara/Tanga waters	1
6	Vice President’s Office; Environment and Union Matters (VPO) Aquatic Environment	1
7	Ministry of Blue Economy/Zanzibar Department of Conservation	1

8	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - MNRT	Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB)	1
9	National Environmental Management Council (NEMC)	NEMC	1
B. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL HUBS (CORAL REEF AREAS).			MEMBERS
1	Mafia District Council	Warden in-charge MIMP, District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of VLCs and BMU networks	5
2	Kilwa District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
3	Tanga City Council	Warden incharge TACMP, Regional Fisheries officer, District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of VLCs and BMU networks	8
4	Rufiji District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
5	PECCA	Manager PECCA, Fisheries officer, Community Development officer, Leaders of Conservation networks, Representative of Rangers	6
	Unguja	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of community groups networks	4
	Pemba	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of community groups networks	4



6	Kibiti District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
7	Nkinga District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
8	Pangani District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
9	Muheza District Council	District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of BMU networks	4
10	Mtwara Region	Warden incharge MBREMP, Regional Fisheries officer, District Fisheries officer, District Community Development officer, Leaders of VLCs and BMU networks	8
11	Bagamoyo District Council	District Fisheries officer and Leaders of BMU networks	2
12	Mkuranga District Council	District Fisheries officer and Leaders of BMU networks	2
13	Kidondoni District Council	District Fisheries officer and Leaders of BMU networks	2
14	Kigamboni District Council	District Fisheries officer and Leaders of BMU networks	2
C NGOs			
1	WWF		2
2	Tanzania Nature Conservancy (TNC)		2
3	WCS		2
4	MWAMBAO		2
5	GIZ		2
6	Heshimu Bahari		2



D PRIVATE SECTOR/BUSINESS COMMUNITY			
1	Diving centers		4
2	Transporters i.e. ferries, ships etc.		5
3	Tourist islands i.e. CHICOP: Chumbe island Coral Reef Park LTD.		2
4	Hotels		2
E MPRU			
1	Conservation	MPRU HQ	3
2	Warden inCharge DMRs	DMRS	2
3	Coral Reef Scientists	DMRS	2
4	Coral Reef Scientists	MIMP	2
5	Coral Reef Scientists	MBREMP	2
6	Coral Reef Scientists	TACMP	2
TOTAL			116
GRAND TOTAL- 116 +18 =134			

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 STEERING COMMITTEE

Amongst the roles of the steering committee comprise the following:

- I. Oversee the objectives of the hub and provide guidance, recommendations, and leadership for the successful outcomes.
- II. Acquire, Manage, disburse and monitor Hub funds
- III. To make all official communication with regards to sensitive issues related to coral reefs.

6.2 NTF- MPRU AND DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Amongst the roles of the NTFs comprise the following:

- I. Coordinate and control all activities around the coral reef areas that including research and investments.
- II. Host, control and manage a coral reefs data base for the national hub
- III. Manage and control all players that in one way or another impacts coral reefs
- IV. Host, control and manage a Marine Conservation Trust Fund
- V. Host, control and manage a National Coral reef Hub website
- VI. Perform all other duties as has been directed by the steering committee

- VII. Conduct timely meetings as would be agreed and report the progress to the steering committee
- VIII. Provide the yearly update on the coral reef status and threats in the United Republic of Tanzania.

6.3 TANZANIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

The Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force:

Cooperate with MPRU and Department of conservation on all matters concerning coral reefs of the United Republic Of Tanzania.

6.4 NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Amongst the roles of the NWG comprise the following:

Cooperate with the NTF with all matters related to the objectives, roles, and mission of the hub in the manner as would seem feasible.

7. WORKING MODALITIES

7.1 Communication

Virtual Meetings, Mobile phones i.e. Whatsapp Groups, Telecommunication, internet, and Physical Meetings. Other means of communication will be as suggested by analysis of stakeholders' level of awareness and by the Hub communication strategy.

7.2 Working procedures:

There will be agreement among members of the NCRH on commitments that will be signed by the leadership of the institutions.









