Tanzania Coastal and Marine Atlas

One of the objectives for developing the Tanzania Coastal and Marine Atlas (TaCMA) is to establish a facility through which coastal zone managers, researchers, decision makers, and the general public can easily access basic data and information.

Access of up-to-date data and information is the foundation for making informed decisions that will guarantee sustainable utilization of environment and resources. Thus, the Tanzania Coastal and Marine Atlas will make a significant contribution to coastal management including poverty alleviation. It will also improve access to data.

The Tanzania Coastal and Marine Digital Atlas should become a key on-line resource for all who are interested in coastal and marine data and information for Tanzania and its neighbors. The TaCMA uses the Marine Irish Digital Atlas technology (or MIDA engine), in combination with other open source software.

The Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), University of Dar es Salaam, which is the Tanzania National Oceanographic Data Centre (TzNODC), is the lead institution in the development of Tanzania Coastal and Marine Atlas (TaCMA). Other TaCMA team members are coming from National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), Mapping and Survey Division, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, Fisheries Division, WIOMSA, and SAMAKI Consultants. All other stakeholders are informed and support preparation of TaCMA.

A Coastal (Web) Atlas is a collection of digital maps and datasets with supplementary tables, illustrations and information that systematically illustrate the coast, often times with cartographic and decision support tools, all of which are accessible (via the Internet).

The development of Tanzania Coastal and Marine Atlas (TaCMA) is an ongoing activity. On the right the main topics and subsequent directories.

A map showing the Tanzania Coastal and Marine Park Zoning Scheme in Tanga, Tanzania.

A Map showing the main coastal habitats and settlements some parts of Bagamoyo District coastal zone. Such maps assist coastal zone managers in locating possible linkages and impacts of human activities to coastal habitats and resources.

The Tanzania Coastal and Marine Digital Atlas will make use and complement available spatial and attribute datasets in national and international institutions and projects. Such data and information sources include TanSea Project through SAMAKI Consultants Ltd. and IMS,TCMP though Districts Coastal Zone Management Programs, Tanzania Marine Parks and Reserves and many others.

Sample Coastal Sensitivity Map for Tanzania: A product of the ongoing TanSea Project