Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute (ZAFIRI), is a public research institute under the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries Zanzibar. ZAFIRI was established in April 2019 with focus of conducting and promoting fisheries research, aquaculture research and other marine resources and marine sciences research to ensure sustainable use of its oceans and natural resources, while protecting the marine environment and its ecology. The institute got its full mandates after signing of its Act No.11 of 2023 by Ho. President of Zanzibar and the Chair of Revolutionary Council, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

ZAFIRI is mandated to conducting basic and applied research and promoting better methods, techniques, technology and innovation of fishing, aquaculture and processing of fish products; establish fish quality control, post-harvest preservation and value addition technologies and innovation; communicate and disseminate research findings; and advise the government on policy and decisions based on evidenced-based research.

ZAFIRI is located at Maruhubi street in Urban District of Zanzibar. The institute is headed by the General Director, who is the overseer of the day-to-day activities. The institute is administratively composed of three departments, which are Department of Research, Innovation and Outreach, Department of Laboratory and Department of Human Resources, Administration and Planning. The institute has adequate working research facilities, including laboratories involving microbiology and chemistry labs; research equipment involving computers, underwater cameras and drones as well as tablets for data collection.

**Our Mission Statement**

ZAFIRI is dedicated to conducting state-of-the-Art researches on fisheries and marine resources, and promoting the cutting-edge innovations to unleash opportunities of Blue Economy for sustainable economic development of Zanzibar.

**Our Vision Statement**

To be a centre of excellence for fisheries and marine resources research in the Western Indian Ocean.

**Our Research areas**

* Fish catch and tock assessment;
* Capture fishery
* Aquaculture
* Fish biology
* Fish disease
* Oceanography
* Climate change and environment
* Coastal and marine pollution
* Socio-economics of fisheries and aquaculture
* Bioinformatics
* Fish farming and processing technologies;
* Aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity
* Fish breeding and feeding
* Fish handling, storage, processing, marketing and distribution facilities;
* Tissue culturing of seaweed and other marine cultured species

**Human Resources**

* 42 total
* 21 researchers
* 5 lab scientists
* 16 supporting staff

**Our projects**

**Ongoing projects**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Year** | **Title** | **Funder** |
| 1. | 2025 | Estimating nutritional contributions of the Marine dagaa (Rastrineobola argentea) fishery to local, national, and regional food systems | WorldFish |
| 2. | 2025 | Trade-off Analysis of Nutrition, Economic and Environmental Impacts of Climate-Smart Postharvest Technologies in the Dagaa Value Chain in Zanzibar | WorldFish |
| 3. | 2024-2025 | Quantification of Fish Wastes generated from the Fish Landing Sites and Fish Markets. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
| 4. | 2024-2025 | Developing Nursery Farms for Demonstration and Multiplication of Seaweed Seedlings | Good Neighbors Tanzania |
| 5. | 2024-2025 | Water Quality Assessment for Marine Coastal Waters of Zanzibar | Nairobi Convention - UNEP |
| 6. | 2021-2026 | Maintaining Economy, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods for Zanzibar Communities  (SAMAKI project) | Norhed |
| 7. | 2023-2027 | Increasing Climate Resilience of Zanzibar with Integrated Marine Management and Sustainable Bleu Economy (BLUE-ZAN) | The Government of Finland |
| **8.** |  | Digital Coast Project | UK Government |

**Completed project/works**

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| **No** | **Year** | **Title** | **Funder** |
| 1. | 2024 | Empirical Review on Ecotoxicology of Sea Turtles: Implications to Human Food Poisoning. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. |
| 2. | 2024-2025 | Assessment of Marine Litters Along the Coast and Marine Environment of Zanzibar. | Nairobi Convention-UNEP |
| 3. | 2024-2025 | Mapping and Assessment of Potential Land-based Pollution Sources Around the Coastal Zones of Zanzibar. | Nairobi Convention-UNEP |
| 4. | 2024-2025 | Examining the Spatial Variation of Physico-Chemical and Biological Parameters, and Trace Metals within the Coastal Water of Zanzibar. | Nairobi Convention-UNEP |
| 5. | 2024 | Perceptions of Local Communities on Marine Conservation Areas in Zanzibar. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
| 6. | 2024-2025 | Upgrading the Laboratory Infrastructures for Blue-Bio trade Products Quality Standards. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
| 7. | 2024-2025 | Monitoring the Growth Performance of Seacucumber seeds provided to the farmers from the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
| 8. | 2024 | Identification of potential sites for the establishment of seaweed nursery/demo farms | Good Neighbors Tanzania |
| 9. | 2022-2023 | A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth. | Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) |
| 10. | 2022 | Baseline Survey for GCP/SFS/005/SWE –A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth. | FAO - SIDA |
| 11 | 2021 | Assessment of Income and Expenditure of Fishers and Fishmongers in Zanzibar | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
| 12 | 2020-2021 | The Present State of Knowledge of Fisheries and Marine Science in Zanzibar, Tanzania. | Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar |
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