

# Tanzania

## Zanzibar—Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management

*Examine coastal ecology and natural resource management in one of the most remarkable areas of the world: Zanzibar and the islands of the Western Indian Ocean.*

## Coursework

### Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management Seminar

ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Dar es Salaam and its affiliate, the Institute of Marine Sciences in Zanzibar.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Zanzibari Culture and Society*

Precolonial and colonial history; independence, revolution, and the union; contemporary political and economic issues; rural development and appropriate technology; cultural anthropology; human and physical geography; Islam and society; role of women in Islam.

#### *Coastal Resource Management*

Coastal zone management; fisheries resources; mangroves; seaweed; environmental law and policymaking; biodiversity; basic oceanography; coastal erosion; conservation strategies; community-based conservation; coral reefs; coastal forests; development and urban pollution; the roles of conservation and environmental education in relation to tourism in Zanzibar.

#### *Coral Reef Conservation*

Analysis of marine systems including the ecology and interdependence of corals, sea grass, and mangrove systems of the Indian Ocean; coral identification; examples of symbiosis in coral communities; fish of the Indian Ocean; migration and distribution of animals; threats to coral reefs; the relationship between coral reefs and coastal communities; evaluating the health of coral communities.

#### *Educational Excursions*

Educational excursions provide students the opportunity to examine directly the consequences of ecotourism on coastal forests and ecosystems. The program includes excursions to neighboring Pemba Island and Misali

Island Conservation Area; the Tanzanian mainland, including an opportunity to experience terrestrial megafauna at Mikumi National Park; and local field visits including Chumbe Island Coral Park Ecotourism Project and Reserve, Jozani Forest, the Zanzibar Butterfly Centre, and other areas of ecological and cultural interest.

### Intensive Language Study: Swahili

SWAH 1000–2000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive beginning or intermediate classes, with further language practice in homestays, lectures, and field visits.

### Environmental Field Study Seminar

ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data in order to critically understand and evaluate program-related environmental issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Field studies include designing a portfolio research project; interviewing; surveys; maintaining a field journal. Specific ecological field study methods may include micro- and macrohabitat analysis; fauna and flora identification; biodiversity monitoring; population analysis; and animal behavior.

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in the Zanzibar archipelago or in another approved Tanzanian coastal location.

**Sample topic areas:** turtle conservation on Misali Island; oral histories of a Zanzibari fishing village; a survey of invasive species in Jozani Forest; environmental impact of hotels

## AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Stone Town, Zanzibar

**Language Study** Swahili

**Homestays** Stone Town, 2 weeks;  
Pemba Island, 1 week

**Other Accommodations** Guest houses, small hotels, and university housing. In some semesters, the group may also camp.

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in environmental studies, ecology, biology, or related fields, as assessed by SIT. Swimming and snorkeling proficiency is strongly recommended.

on Unguja; a survey of coral genera near Chumbe Island; a survey of red colobus monkey migration corridors; ecological impacts of salt farming; environmental education in local schools; urban water use on Pemba; feasibility and impacts of seasonal closure of an octopus fishery; an assessment of community-based ecological monitoring.