

Progress of the project

May 20th, 2006

The project started officially in the beginning of January 2006. Since then, a whole lot has happened. The first Finnish participants were in Zanzibar in February and March. The main focus was then to survey all caves as good as possible and plot them further to be able to draw maps of the cave area. The second purpose was, however, to deliberate several practical questions and problems considering the actual arrangements of the resort. The Zanzibarian participants had already realistic proposals for the most of the aspects. The progress appeared to be rather trouble-free and cooperation between Zanzibarian and Finnish participants seem function well. Yet, there still are many things that need to be solved, such as refuse disposal among others.



June 1st, 2006

The second Finnish participants came back from Zanzibar last week. The month in Zanzibar went fast and fine despite the misfortune with small illness. The main purpose was to define concern with the project outside participants. We received feedback from tourists, local tour operators and habitants of the villages near the resort. All of them did nibble at the ecotourism resort designate.

The nature trail is also almost completed and it will be digitized as a part of the ArcGis-map of the cave area. The local participants gleaned tradition about the flora and fauna around the trail. We got as well a lot of interesting information from the elders of the villages; of plants and how they have been, and still are used; of cultural history concerning caves among other things that we are deeply indebted for. The next things to happen are most likely different kinds of constructional operations. Expect to hear more of them and reports of the visits of Finnish participants in the near future.



June 2nd , 2006

The Zanzibarian participants have done two interesting reports concerning the cave area, namely **Flora identification report** by Mr. Tahir A. Haji and **Report for Identification of Interesting Features at the Cave Sites** by Mr. Mwinjuma M. Sallah.

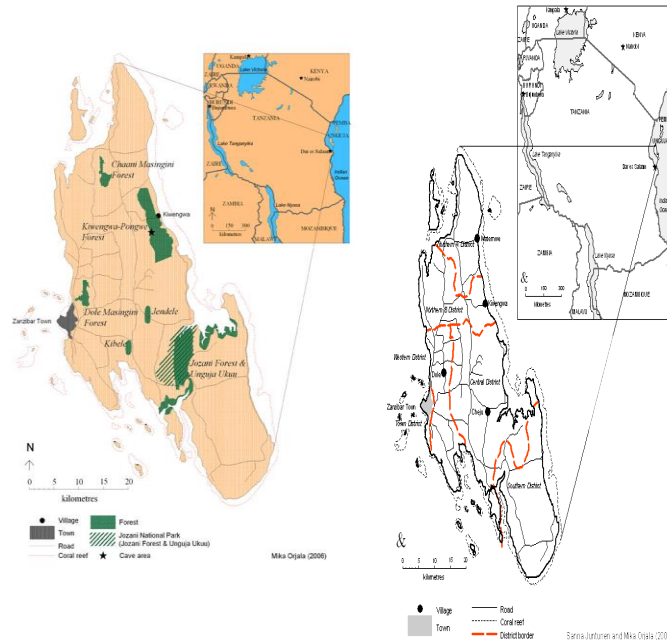


July 15th, 2006

Two new reports have been done, namely a report on the history and cultural connections of the caves by Mr. Tahir A. Abbas and a study report on tourist attractions and willingness to pay by Ms. Maija Hyypiä and Elina Kasvi.

October 29th, 2006

The project is progressing constantly both in Kiwengwa and in Turku. Almost all the necessary disquisitions have now been done and the construction is being started. A new map of the island of Unguja has also been made. Two of the Finnish participants are going to island during the November and four other will follow them in January. The project also had a poster in the poster session of the geography days in Helsinki. We are thankful of all the people who showed their interest concerning this project!



The new map (on the left) can be found in the press-section.

March 24h, 2007

It has been very quiet in these sites during the last four months. Despite, a whole lot has been going on in the project. Ms. Nora Fagerholm and Ms. Salla Himberg were in Zanzibar in November and December. During their stay, education was organized and many new contacts were made. Here is a short description of some of them:

- A three-day long schooling session in GPS in the DCCFF. The education consisted of theory, field work and data transfer.
- Production of the map of the cave area and nature trails. The map will be used in the brochures of the resort.
- Visiting other resorts, such as Jozani park, and binding new contacts with other actors in Zanzibar.

- Tutoring, assisting and cooperating in several tasks in the DCCFF. For example the posters to the nature trail were designed.

- Chasing up the possibilities for the University of Zanzibar to participate the marketing of the project.

Many other things have of course been done as well. Another four Finnish participants landed to Zanzibar in January. Expect to hear more of them shortly, within weeks.

May 10th , 2007

As said earlier, another four Finnish participants spent a month in Zanzibar in January and February. As a result of their visit a collaboration with the local handicraftpeople has begun. The specific form of the activity is still taking its shape but we are really looking forward to it. The posters of the surrounding environment have now been completed and a leaflet of the resort is also ready and waiting. Little by little the resort begins to be prepared to meet and serve the visitors.



January 31st , 2008

The project is proceeding according to the plans and thus the infrastructural facilities begin to be in a rather good condition. The service building is ready and waiting and the information center will be completed during the spring. You can see these buildings in the photos below. The nature trail is also finished, the plants introduced along the trail are identified with both their Swahili and Latin names (see the photo below).



The service building.



The constructions of the information center (left) and plant from the nature trail (right).

Two participants from Zanzibar also visited Finland in the autumn. Mr. Tamrini Said and Mr. Tahir A. Haji got acquainted with some nature tourism resorts in Finland. The project also organized a seminar about ecotourism in The University of Turku. We would like to thank all who participated and showed their interest!