

To: Dr. Zakaria
From: Students of Boston College Schiller Institute's Working For and With Communities
Course

Date: October 30, 2024

Re: Blue Economy Policy Recommendations

It is well known that while tourism is one of the biggest contributors to the development of Zanzibar's economy, Zanzibaris' involvement in this sector is comparatively low. Often, foreign investors are the ones to build hotels, attracting other expats with them to create successful businesses. Given the language requirements and specific skills needed to be directly employed in tourism, Zanzibaris are often relegated to indirect or informal involvement, for example providing seafood for the increasingly large hotel market. Tourism's use of local resources coupled with barriers that limit local involvement in the industry creates tension within communities. Locals also tend to resent tourists because of their lack of cultural awareness. Our ethnographic research has led us to believe that this tension is primarily due to a lack of communication, understanding, and difficulty in equitably accessing resources. Education is a crucial avenue for creating opportunities for cooperation between stakeholders and increasing revenue for the tourism sector in Zanzibar.

and Italian, so he can communicate with tourists and build his business. However, those who do not have access to education to learn languages or basic financial literacy face greater barriers when trying to get involved in the tourism industry.

Keshodkar (2013) talks about the struggles Zanzibaris face when trying to become involved in tourism: “People from the mainland possess the educational background, the linguistic skills and the willingness to work in tourism, in contrast to Zanzibaris, who often have lower education and are less qualified.”

There are also issues relating to the ownership of land by Zanzibaris, a key factor in developing wealth. On the one hand, “less than 15% of homeowners in Zanzibar have documentation to signify property ownership, say government officials” (Harrisberg 2020). The Ministry

allow people to learn at their own pace at any time, without requiring a burdensome time and financial commitment.

A key challenge is the lack of ready access to smartphones and other internet technologies which will allow the Zanzibaris to put their new technological literacy into practice. Particularly with older generations, it may also be difficult to generate motivation and sustained

A short and welcoming video that introduces visitors to key aspects of the islands while mentioning cultural etiquette related to different spaces, including wearing more modest clothing while not on the beach or while interacting with Zanzibaris engaged in coastal

This data was collected by a group of seven students, one staff member, and one professor, all from Boston College. After a semester of study and preparation, our group spent three weeks in Zanzibar conducting ethnographic research to gather information on how economic and environmental change has impacted the coastal livelihoods in Zanzibar. Our research allowed us to form connections with stakeholders around the island including government officials and agencies, business owners, employees, investors, native-born community members, and immigrants who have moved to Zanzibar to pursue opportunities in the tourism sector commonly referred to as foreigners. While our perspective and inherent biases as foreigners lends an incomplete picture of Zanzibar's complexities, we intend for our research to draw on our outside lens to help construct an objective understanding of the changes occurring in Zanzibar.

Harrisberg, Kim. "Speedy deeds: Zanzibar goes digital to prove property ownership." Reuters, 24 November 2020.