



TRAFFIC

FACTSHEET

November 2022

CURIOS **IN TANZANIA**

**RAPID ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE PRODUCTS IN CURIO
SHOPS IN THREE URBAN CENTRES IN TANZANIA**

*Martin Andimile
Camilla Floros*

INTRODUCTION

Marine animals or animal derivatives are sold as curiosities or 'curios' worldwide but are particularly prevalent in countries with diverse coastlines.

Curios consist of ornaments, trinkets, crafts, and trophies that are sold either in raw or in processed form. Mollusc shells and corals are among the most common products sold as curios around many coastal regions in African countries. In Tanzania, most curio products are sold through craft and jewellery shops in popular tourist destination areas. Tourism has intensified the curio trade in the

region whereby marine species are targeted and sold as mementos to foreigners and visitors. This is an important economic activity that provides employment and income in subsistence fishing communities. However, increasing tourism has led to increasing demand for curios as souvenirs, placing many wild species at risk of overexploitation. This assessment looked at the wildlife species traded as curios at various sites in Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Unguja (Zanzibar), with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the species and quantities in trade, and potential threats to wild populations.



curios consist of ornaments, trinkets, crafts and trophies

METHODOLOGY

1



Local enumerators conducted photo surveys and interviews at known curio shops and with curio trade vendors.

2



Surveys took place from September to mid-October 2021 in Tanzania mainland sites and from October to November 2021 in Unguja.

3



Four sites (Sahare and Madukani in Tanga region, Feri and Kunduchi in Dar es Salaam region) were surveyed in Tanzania mainland.

4



Four sites (Magomeni, Bububu, Mazizini, Malindi) were surveyed in Unguja.

5



Eighty-seven curio shops were surveyed: Dar es Salaam 28, Tanga 30, and Unguja 29.

RESULTS

35

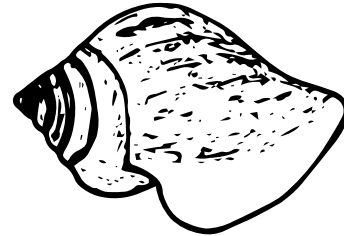
marine
and no terrestrial
species

6

species are
**nationally
protected**

4

species are listed on
**CITES
Appendix II**



mollusc shells
were by far the dominant
products traded as curios

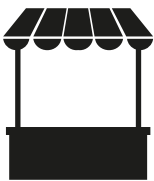
HARVEST AND QUANTITY

< 10 TO > 1000

Quantities of harvested species varied considerably for selected species. The intensity of collection varies in accordance with the **tourist season**



Molluscs and corals are collected largely by means of diving, and hand picking during low tides by **artisanal fishers**



curio shops

sold species that were also found in traditional medicine stalls showing cross-over between the two trades. This includes species such as sea horses (mainly sourced through by-catch) and shells, particularly large gastropods.

Women and children are also part of the trade and often trade curio products on the beaches and around the hotels.

TBAL 1

Species mentioned and recorded in surveys and interviews with curio traders.

SWAHILI NAME	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LOCATION	QUANTITIES*	NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS	IUCN ² RED LIST STATUS	CITES' APPENDIX
Matumbawe	Knob-horn Coral Staghorn Coral	<i>Pocillopora</i> <i>Acropora</i>	Matambw, Tanga and Kunduch Dar es Salaam	10-20	Protected	NE	II
Kiti cha pweza	Cushion Starfish	<i>Culcita schmideliana</i>	Taveta maili nne, Unguja	50-100	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kiti cha pweza	Indian Starfish	<i>Fromia indica</i>	Magomeni, Unguja	10-20	Protected	NE	Not currently listed
Mwezi/Kausi	Great Green Turban shell and operculum	<i>Turbo marmoratus</i>	Malindi, Unguja and Feri Dar es Salaam	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kichurambwe	Mauritius Cowry	<i>Mauritia mauritiana</i>	Ngamiani, Mtaa wa 12 and Mtambwe, Tanga	50-100	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kaure yai	Egg Cowry	<i>Ovula ovum</i>	Mtambwe, Tanga, Kunduchi Da es Salaam	50-100	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kichurambwe	Honey Cowry	<i>Erosaria helvola</i>	Malindi, Unguja	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kaure/Simbi	Money Cowry	<i>Monetaria moneta</i>	Mnyanjani, Mtambwe, Tanga and Mabuluu, Unguja	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kururu/ Kungungu	Tiger Cowry	<i>Cypraea tigris</i>	Bububu, Unguja and Ngamiani Tanga	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kaure/Simbi	Gold Ringer Cowry	<i>Monetaria annulus</i>	Ngamiani, Tanga and Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kichurambwe	Mole Cowry	<i>Talparia talpa</i>	Malindi, Unguja	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kaure/Simbi	Money cowry	<i>Cypraea moneta</i>	Mtambwe, Tanga and Mabuluu, Unguja	10-20	Not protected	NE	II
	Calf Cowry	<i>Cypraea vitellus</i>	Mnyanjani, Tanga & Feri Dar es Salaam	20-50	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
	Arabian Cowry	<i>Mauritia arabica</i>	Mnyanjani, Tanga & Feri Dar es Salaam	1-10	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kishela	True Harp	<i>Harpa harpa</i>	Malindi, Unguja and Feri, Dar es Salaam	50-100	Not protected	LC	Not currently listed
Baragumu	Giant Triton Shell	<i>Charonia tritonis</i>	Malindi, Unguja	1-10	Protected	NE	Not currently listed
Mwamizepwani /Nyera	Fluted Giant Clam	<i>Tridacna squamosa</i>	Malindi, Unguja	1-10	Protected	LR/Cd	II

SWAHILI NAME	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LOCATION	QUANTITIES*	NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS	IUCN2 RED LIST STATUS	CITES1 APPENDIX
Vichomvi/ Vikoa	Short Spined Murex	<i>Murex brevispina</i>	Malindi, Unguja	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kome jike	Ramose Murex	<i>Chicoreus ramosus</i>	Bububu, Unguja	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Simba	Chiragra Spider Conch	<i>Harpago chiragra</i>	Malindi, Unguja and Ngamiani, Tanga	100-200	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Kome dume	Trapezium horse conches	<i>Pleuroploca trapezium</i>	Bububu, Unguja	>1000	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Nyale	Common Spider conch	<i>Lambis lambis</i>	Mtambwe and Ngamiani Tanga	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Dondo	Bull Mouth Helmet Shells	<i>Cypraeacassis rufa</i>	Bububu, Unguja	>1000	Protected	NE	Not currently listed
Gunda mwamba	Giant Frog Shell	<i>Tutufa bubo</i>	Feri Dar es Salaam,	1-10	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Jeta	Giant Honeycomb Oyster(inner)	<i>Hytissa hyotis</i>	Ngamiani, Tanga	>1000	Not protected	DD	Not currently listed
Kiwangwa	Lithograph Cone Shell	<i>Conus litoglyphus</i>	Malindi, Unguja	1-10	Not protected	LC	Not currently listed
Gunda	Grey Bonnet Shell	<i>Phalium glaucum</i>	Malindi, Unguja and Kunduch Dar es Salaam	1-10	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Chaza	Senatorial Scallop Shell	<i>Mimachlamys sanguinea</i>	Magomeni and Malindi, Unguja and Mnyanjani, Tanga	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Shela	Tun Shell	<i>Tonna canaliculata</i>	Malindi, Unguja and Feri Dar es Salaam	1-10	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Farasi bahari	Reunion Seahorse	<i>Hippocampus borboniensis</i>	Tanga	50-100	Protected	VU	II
	Humpbacked Conch	<i>Gibberulus gibberulus</i>	Mtambwe, Tanga and Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam	100-200	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
	Drupella	<i>Drupa spp</i>	Bububu,	10-20	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
	Long-tailed Spindle	<i>Fusinus colus</i>	Mtambwe, Tanga	50-100	Not protected	NE	Not currently listed
Pasi	Helmet conch seashell	<i>Cassis cornuta</i>	Mtambwe, Kundich Dar es Salaam Tanga	10-20	Protected	NE	Not currently listed
Bunju	Pufferfish	Unidentifiable	Malindi, Unguja	20-50	Not protected	LC	Not currently listed

*Quantities of curios were grouped into categories because numbers were not always easy to ascertain due to traders not being open to photographs and certain species being present in enormous numbers.

¹CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

²IUCN= The International Union for Conservation of Nature. LC = Least-concern; NE = Not Evaluated; LR/cd = Lower Risk: Conservation Dependent; DD = Data Deficient



FIGURE 1: Shells photographed from a vendor shop in Dar es Salaam (top row; Great Green Turban, middle row Chiragra Spider Conch, bottom row True Harp)



FIGURE 2: Vast quantities of harvested Murex shells outside a curio stall in Bububu, Unguja

CONCLUSIONS

Marine shells are the most common curio product traded

Surveys revealed marine shells are the most common curio product traded, some of which are collected in significantly large quantities. Vast piles of several species were found at vendor stalls estimated to contain more than 1000 individuals. Such large quantities indicate very high and potentially unsustainable harvesting levels and could lead to local depletion of targeted species.

Nationally protected species as well as CITES listed species are traded

Nationally protected species as well as CITES listed species are traded as curios. Lack of awareness among fishers, compliance officers and tourists on legislation is identified as a significant gap that needs to be addressed.

Unsustainable harvesting may threaten an income stream for coastal communities

The trade in curios is an important economic activity for coastal communities in Tanzania, however unsustainable harvesting may threaten this income stream if it is not monitored and regulated.



RECOMMENDATIONS

PROVIDE UPDATES TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

Relevant authorities and other stakeholders are to be updated on the status of the curio trade in Tanzania – the current levels of harvesting and key target species.

RAISE AWARENESS AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities are to be made aware of protected species and the impact of unsustainable levels of harvesting on local curio species.

RAISE AWARENESS AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Capacity building is needed amongst compliance officers and Beach Monitoring Units in curio species identification, particularly those species protected by national legislation and listed on **CITES**.

DEVELOP INFORMATION BOARDS

Information boards are needed at popular tourist sites and beaches to raise awareness among tourists about nationally protected and CITES-listed species.

The research was supported by Arcadia – a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin through the Reducing Trade Threats to Africa's Wild Species and Ecosystems (ReTTA) project. We would like to thank the vendors of the curio shops in the Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Unguja for sharing their knowledge and permitting the surveys in their shops. We are also grateful to Shamte Mohammed and Mbui Senga for their assistance with data collection. We also thank Nick Ahlers and Julie Thomson for their reviews and comments on the report.

TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

For further information contact:

TRAFFIC

*David Attenborough Building,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UK*

traffic@traffic.org

traffic.org

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