



Summary Paper of Safety & Security Review for Tourism-Related crime on Zanzibar

One of the principal challenges to the development and expansion of tourism in Zanzibar is the perceptions of insecurity surrounding the destination. Security is a key consideration when selecting a holiday or travel destination, safety and security vital to providing a quality tourism experience. The success or failure of a tourism destination depends on being able to provide a safe and secure environment for visitors, more so than in any other economic sector.

Through a grant approved by BEST-AC (Business Environment Strengthening Tanzania), ZATI has analysed the security situation with the purpose of advocating for judiciary reforms that will lead to an improved security situation, conducive to a healthy tourism environment. The commissioned study has discovered that issues related to safety and security in Zanzibar are generally regulated under criminal laws. There is no specific legal framework that provides specifically for the security and safety for tourists, rather the security issues are generalized as part of crimes and criminal offences to any person or property under criminal law.

The security and safety concerns need to be addressed using a combined legal, policy and institutional sectoral approach rather than integrated approach. Also, the study analyzed different laws that affect or regulate tourism and special efforts that have been introduced to combat crime such as the instigation of special “tourism police” units. The study revealed that the criminal procedures and investigations, prosecutions are complicated and cases take longer to be decided than appropriate for visitors. This becomes more inconvenient when cases involve tourists who have been robbed but have only a few days remaining in their stay on Zanzibar.

The study recommended reforming a series of policies and laws to safeguard the security and safety of tourists visiting Zanzibar. Among the proposed measures are:

- Changing the legislation as it pertains to crimes against tourists. Laws need to be changed or strengthened to address the problem; for example, reclassifying crimes as acts of terrorism, or racially-motivated crimes for stronger deterrent sentencing.
- Re-establishing the specially-trained tourist police unit providing security and assistance to tourists and residents alike.
- Establishing Tourist Hotline for reporting of crimes against tourists.
- Introduction of '24 Hours Court' so the cases regarding acts of theft, rape and robbery against tourists can be dealt with in a short timeframe.
- Capacity-building for law enforcement and security officials on issues relating to crime against tourists, using specialist trainers from overseas.
- Presence of multi-lingual, dedicated Tourist Relations police officer in all major police stations.
- Specialized investigation units for tourists' cases.
- Preventive and directed patrols.
- Enhance greater collaboration between tourism stakeholders and law enforcement agencies
- Need for mandatory legislated security measures at tourist establishments and places that cater for tourists
- Address the issues of youth's marginalization, and drug use
- Coordinating efforts among tourism stakeholders to prevent and investigate tourist from engaging in any criminal activities
- Prioritize police investigations and prosecution for tourism-related crimes.
- Educating the public about the importance of the tourism industry

ZATI sincerely hopes that these recommendations will be considered by the Government of Zanzibar in the hope that through Public Private Partnership, we might be able to create a safer tourism environment, and thereby strengthen Brand Zanzibar for the benefit of private and public sector alike, so that together we might build a stronger business environment and achieve Tourism for All.