2023

Chumbe Island Coral Park Research Plan

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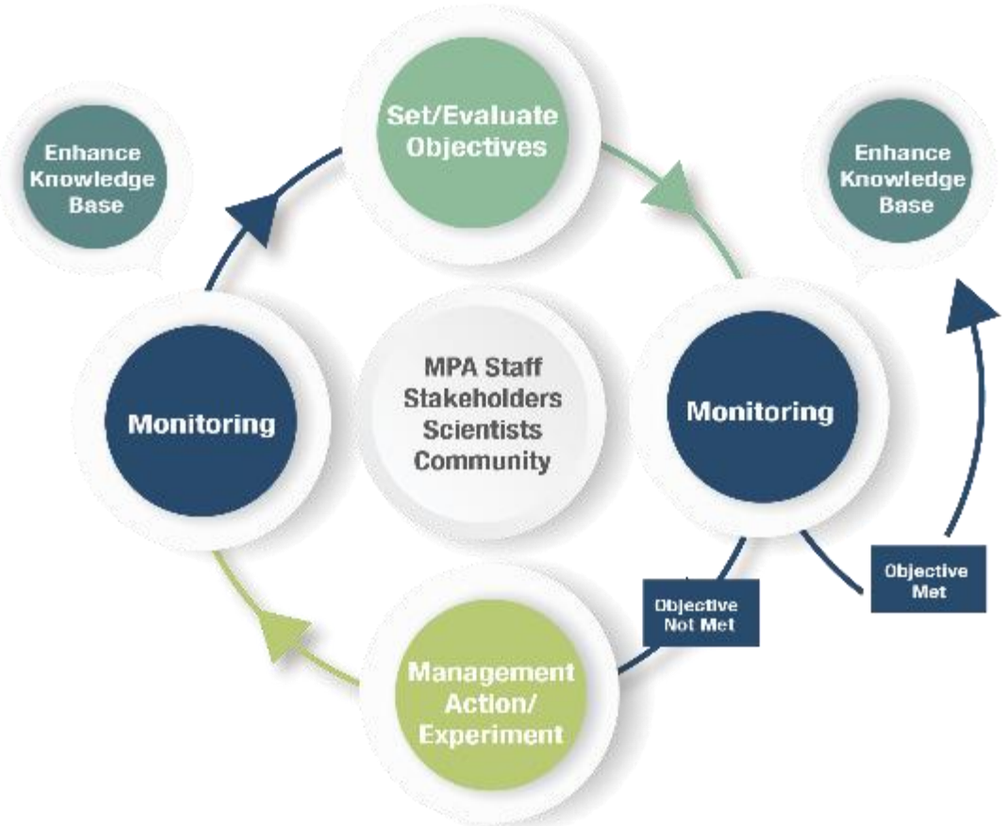
Welcome / Karibuni Sana

Dear Scientific Community,

Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. (CHICOP) is an internationally acclaimed conservation area, hosting a fully protected Coral Reef Sanctuary (CRS) and a Closed Forest Reserve (CFR). As a not-for-profit enterprise, the revenue generated by eco-tourism on the island funds all conservation activities and an extensive environmental education programme with local schools and communities in Zanzibar. Operational for more than 20 years, Chumbe is the world's first financially self-sustaining Marine Protected Area (MPA).



Our vision statement:

"The Chumbe Island Coral Reef Sanctuary and Closed Forest Reserve are effectively and sustainably managed in order to maximize their contribution to biodiversity conservation, serve as a model for effective ecotourism and MPA management, and provide a platform to promote wider environmental awareness for sustainable development and ecological stewardship in Zanzibar."

Maximizing scientific knowledge in order to guide and better inform MPA decision making is rarely put in practice when governing marine areas. Chumbe Island, however, has been built upon a strong biophysical and social science foundation; from preliminary baseline surveys at all levels at the start of conceptual development in the early 90's, through to regular monitoring and assessment to ensure a strategic adaptive management approach (illustrated above) in order to be able to react and respond in real-world time to challenges as they arise in the 21st century.

Over the years, our nature reserve has provided various research opportunities, with long-term research activities, as well as short-term studies being carried out by a host of academic institutions involving a varied sector of the scientific community around the world. The following information is therefore, intended to assist researchers in planning, conducting and communicating their research activities on Chumbe Island. We aim to ensure clarity of expectations between CHICOP and interested researchers/research institutions, including around areas of data sharing and final presentation of results, and plan to focus and prioritize external research efforts to better align with our management objectives and areas of management interest, as to minimize ad hoc research.

Moreover, we are looking forward to the development and strengthening of potential alliances and collaborative arrangements with research institutions both nationally and internationally.

Karibuni to unique Chumbe Island.

Ulrike Kloiber
Conservation Manager
Chumbe Island Coral Park
www.chumbeisland.com

About Chumbe Island

Chumbe Island is located in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), in the channel between Zanzibars' Unguja Island and mainland Tanzania. It is part of the Zanzibar archipelago, a politically semi-autonomous region within the United Republic of Tanzania. The Island is roughly oval in outline with its long axis running roughly north-south. It is approximately 1.1km long and 300m wide at its widest point, and covers a total area of 74.14 ha. The highest point is ~ 5m above the high tide level.

Chumbe was gazetted as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) with a Coral Reef Sanctuary (CRS/55.06 ha) and Closed Forest Reserve (CFR/16.64 ha) in 1994. Establishment of the MPA was advocated by a private company established for the purpose: Chumbe Island Coral Park that went on to sign management agreements with the Government of Zanzibar for full and exclusive management of the area. This made Chumbe the first privately managed MPA in Africa. CHICOP operates a small (7 bungalow) high-end, close to zero-impact eco-lodge on the island to generate the funds required to manage the MPA. It operates as a not-for-profit enterprise, where all revenue generated by ecotourism is ploughed back into the management of the MPA. The MPA is operationalized through three key pillars: (1) Conservation, (2) Education and (3) Ecotourism which are outlined in detail in the current CHICOP Management Plan 2017-2027:

https://chumbeisland.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Chumbe_Management_Plan_2017-2027.pdf.

Island Facilities, Equipment, Staffing

Accommodation

Located in the coral rag forest, aside the lodge area is the Manager's house which has a dedicated area with a shared bathroom for researchers. It includes a basic room with a double bed on a semi-open roof top where simple beds for up to three researchers can be set up. Linen, towels and mosquito nets are provided and included in the overnight rate. The house is equipped with a rainwater collection system for showering, a composting toilet and a photovoltaic system for powering lights. As there are no plugs in the house, all electronic items need to be charged at the Education Centre.

Education Centre

The Education/Visitor Centre is the main building on the island and a key location for guests and researchers. It houses the Island Manager's office, the restaurant, the classroom and plenty of seating and relaxation areas. WiFi and solar powered charging stations are provided here. Please note that phone network is limited on the island.

Cuisine

Our research rates provide two dining options: (1) very economic staff meals which are based on local dishes dominated by rice and bread or (2) discounted meals at the lodge restaurant. Please inform us before your stay about any specific dietary needs. Drinking water, tea and coffee are included in both rates. Alcoholic drinks are available for purchase on the island but are not included in either rates.

Refrigerators

The guest kitchen has two solar powered refrigerators with a small freezer compartment that can be used to store small samples.

Boats

CHICOP operates three fiber boats of various sizes (Virore1, Virore2, Ussi) with 15HP outboard engines (see images). These boats are primarily used for lodge activities (guest snorkelling, supply trips) and surveillance patrols, but may also be available for research (through coordination with the Chumbe management). Petrol for research work conducted from Chumbe boats will be recorded and charged with the current price per litre.

Snorkel Banda

This semi-open hut, directly located at the arrival jetty, is equipped with snorkeling gear for lodge guests and visiting school children (who participate in our extensive Environmental Education (EE) programme), two changing rooms and shelving for research equipment. Two containers with freshwater are available to rinse equipment, however, freshwater is a precious commodity on the island and needs to be used wisely. Researchers are advised to bring their own snorkel gear.

Scuba Diving

There is no scuba diving facility on Chumbe Island, and scuba diving to undertake research requires explicit permission (see section on research regulations). If scuba diving has been approved as part of the research proposal, the Conservation and Education Manager can assist researchers in organizing equipment from a dive company in Stone Town. All associated costs need to be covered by the researcher.

The Chumbe Team

The success of the Chumbe project lies with the Chumbe Team. Out of our 45 employees, 99% are Tanzanians (many from local communities), two thirds are working on the island in shifts while one third is based in the head office in Mazizini. A third of our staff is directly involved in conservation management and education, while the whole team is extremely proud of the successful protection of the nature reserve and has been trained by CHICOP in their respective roles. In particular, Head Ranger, Omar Nyange, who has been with the project since 1992, has an incredible knowledge of both the reef and forest, speaks fluent English, and holds a PADI Rescue Diver certificate since December 2007. He is the designated counterpart of all visiting researchers and supports any research project taking place on the island; with his extensive knowledge available to be tapped. However, as a former fisher without formal education, his confidence in coming forth with information to foreign researchers can be limited. Therefore, we request that researchers consider this situation when carrying out research on the island, and approach Omar and his ranger team with suitable diplomacy and grace.

Researcher Rates (2023)

Research applicants will be expected to cover the costs of the research and to provide all necessary equipment and manpower unless prior agreement/funding have been arranged through CHICOP.

Service		Costs
Day Trip Rate #1	Includes boat transfers to and from island, staff lunch, drinking water, tea and coffee	US $25 per person
Day Trip Rate #2	Includes boat transfers to and from island, guest lunch buffet, drinking water, soft drinks, tea and coffee	US $40 per person
Overnight Rate #1	Includes accommodation in Manager House, staff meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner snack), drinking water, soft drinks, tea and coffee	US $50 per person
Overnight Rate #2	Includes accommodation in Manager House, guest meals (breakfast a la carte, lunch and dinner buffet), drinking water, soft drinks, tea and coffee	US $80 per person
Boat Transfer from Chukwani *note transport to and from the boat landing is the researcher's own responsibility	To and from the island on pre-scheduled supply trips	Free of charge
	Hire outside pre-scheduled supply trips and arranged on availability	US $20 per trip
Boat Transfer from Mbweni *note transport to and from the boat landing is the researcher's own responsibility	To and from island on pre-scheduled guest boat transfers based on availability	Free of charge
	Private hire guest boat transfer	US $50 per trip
WiFi	Password restricted	Free of charge

Researcher Regulations

These regulations set out the rationale by which research and monitoring on Chumbe Island can be planned and executed within a priority structure based on the reserve's wider aims of nature conservation and environmental education. All research conducted must comply with the following regulations:

1. Appropriate government research permits are required for all research (and CHICOP will provide guidance and advice for the acquisition of such permits).
2. Only non-consumptive, non-exploitative research activities are allowed in the Chumbe Reef Sanctuary (CRS) and the Closed Forest Reserve (CFR).
    a. Guidelines for the collection of specimens
    There is a presumption against the collection and subsequent killing of specimens of native species or any other exploitative research techniques in line with CHICOP's conservation objectives. If collection of species is considered absolutely essential for a high priority research project (e.g. for genetic sampling); and where it can be proven that collection cannot take place outside the protected area; full consultation and agreement with the management of CHICOP and the relevant government permit(s) for collection and transportation must be sought.
3. Accidental introduction of any exotic, non-indigenous species onto the island is to be avoided at all times.
4. Researchers are expected to avoid 'littering' the CRS with excessive numbers of, or inappropriately designed markers. Where possible and appropriate, research conducted in the CRS should take advantage of the permanent markers in place for the monitoring protocol. Where new areas are required, only temporary, removable markers can be established, with specific consent of the Chumbe management.
5. New introductions of rare or endangered native species is permitted only where appropriate research is conducted prior to the translocation, and where the ecological limitations of the CRS & CFR are observed.
6. Only CHICOP rangers and authorised persons are permitted to drive and navigate boats inside the CRS.
7. Research using scuba diving is permitted where applicable and where agreed upon between the parties concerned. However, where research may be facilitated by the use of snorkelling as opposed to SCUBA-diving this should be encouraged in order to minimise any potential risk to both the researcher and the reef through potential SCUBA-diving related problems. Any researcher undertaking SCUBA-diving as part of his/her research activities needs to acquire consent from Chumbe management, show appropriate dive certification (advanced or higher level), valid dive insurance and sign off a liability form.
8. Socioeconomic/cultural research relating to Chumbe Island, where a component of the research will involve interviewing people in local communities and other stakeholders, will only be permitted if the research topic is (i) of high priority, and (ii) new in scope and breadth compared to studies already undertaken (either through CHICOP or associated agencies) in order to avoid 'survey fatigue' in the local communities associated with the Chumbe MPA. Survey questions are first discussed with CHICOP management and associated stakeholders to ensure the suitability and cultural acceptability of the questions being asked.

Researcher Applications

All requests to carry out research must be made in writing (conservation@chumbeisland.com) at least three months in advance to allow consideration and planning. Applications should follow the format of a scientific proposal (not exceeding two A4 pages) and include the following:

- Research aim and question (including reference to if / how the research aligns with Chumbe's 'high and medium priority research areas', outlined in the next section).
- Summary of methods.
- Intended length of stay on Chumbe Island.
- If applicable: an explanation of the necessity for collecting specimens along with a detailed description of number/type of specimens required.
- If applicable: an explanation of the need for Scuba diving in relation to the research, and accompanied by attached proof of diving certificate (advanced or higher) and valid dive insurance.
- Description of the benefits of the research to the conservation of the species concerned or to the wider conservation and management objectives of CHICOP (complete management objectives can be found in the CHICOP 10-year management plan, at https://chumbeisland.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Chumbe_Management_Plan_2017-2027.pdf).
- Qualifications of the applicant.
- Contact details of supervisors.

CHICOP will consider all requests in the light of this Research Plan and in line with its identified priority areas for research, as outlined on the following page.

Priority Areas of Research *(2023)*

	Definition	Coral Reef Sanctuary (CRS) Research Topics	Closed Forest Reserve (CFR) Research Topics
High Priority Research	Contributes directly towards CHICOP's conservation targets and addresses emerging climate change issues	Hard coral recruitment and recovery trends after 2016 bleaching impact Reef resilience evaluation after 2016 bleaching impact Experimental testing of reef support techniques How to improve in situ observations, monitoring, and measuring of coral reef condition including: developing low cost chemical and biological sensors that provide CHICOP with an "early warning" on declines in environmental condition Improve rapid assessment techniques Long term water quality monitoring (salinity, pH, Chlorophyll a) Quantification of sedimentation Impact of Chumbe MPA on wider fisheries in Zanzibar/assessment of spill-over levels Fishing effort, fish catch composition and fishing trends at the boundaries of the MPA	Invasive plant species mapping Entomological surveys Coconut crab genetics and population dynamics (ongoing) Ader's duiker population study Medicinal plant surveys
Medium Priority Research	Contributes to the further understanding of species and habitat complexity on Chumbe Island, including comparison studies	Hard coral inventory on species ID level Genetics of corals that survived 2016 bleaching Coral disease mapping Reef fish larval abundance and dispersal Invertebrate inventory studies (especially sponges, molluscs) Marine debris and microplastic quantification studies	Status and distribution of U.kirkii after the 2003 baseline study
Low Priority Research	Well-studied, common or introduced species/habitats with no likely applied benefits to the conservation or management of the CRS or CFR	There should be presumption against undertaking low priority research on Chumbe Island since most such research could be carried out elsewhere and the benefits are unlikely to justify the use of a small protected area in this way.	

Property Utilization and Data Ownership

All the equipment, supplies and material purchased or acquired through joint project activities will be the property of the leading institution (CHICOP or the collaborative institute/organisation) upon their completion.

The data and information collected during the course of the research will ultimately be the property of the two institutions/organizations concerned. See data sharing agreements in appendix.

Funding and Finance

Where possible CHICOP will offer logistical support for initiating collaboration and working out draft proposals to address high priority research topics. Both parties will seek funding resources for the administration of any collaboration. Collaborating institutions/organisations may jointly seek outside funding for specific and major research activities

Reporting

Reports of all research and monitoring projects must be prepared and at least one copy sent to / kept in CHICOP (and any associated institutions concerned and particular to the specific research area). A draft copy of the report must also be sent to CHICOP (conservation@chumbeisland.com) for fact-checking and feedback prior to (a) the submission of the report to the affiliated University or Institution, and (b) publication of the report in any publicly available platform.

Wherever possible, and following review and approval from CHICOP, results of research should be published in appropriate journals. Full acknowledgement should be given to any previous research used in the preparation of a paper for publications, and to the Chumbe MPA as the research site.

For any long-term (>1 year) research project, researchers should provide CHICOP, as the management authority of the nature reserve, with interim progress reports bi-annually. This is essential to facilitate the production of the overall MPA management reports of CHICOP required by the relevant government authorities (as per the contractual agreement of the gazettement of the CRS and CFR).

In addition to this, any observation made by a researcher during his/her stay on Chumbe Island, that is relevant for monitoring and effective management purposes, should be communicated to CHICOP immediately. This includes observations that may be made outside of the remit or research criteria under investigation by the researcher.

Science Communications Policy

In order to more effectively communicate about science on Chumbe Island, all visiting research students and scientists are asked to provide the following:

- At least 3-4 photos from your research trip, highlighting the process / results your research for CHICOPs social media outlets (all photos are credited). Preferably, these should be sent while you are on the island, or shortly after your return (within one week, please).

- One article submission summarizing your activities on the island. This submission should be 500-600 words in length, written in a “blog post” style, i.e. meant for public consumption. Your article should be accompanied by 1-2 high-resolution photographs. You can use photos submitted during (or shortly after) your trip, but if there are more pertinent photos related to your article, please share those with us as well. Your article is due within one month of your trip to Chumbe Island.

- Please notify us ahead of time if you plan on doing any blogging on your own, or if you’ve been invited to blog for another media outlet, or if you plan on posting to Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram so that we can re-tweet, share, and otherwise boost your post as well share your content with our audience. If you are writing for another outlet, please include a link to our website in your article (www.chumbeisland.com).

- There are always opportunities to participate in outreach events and to co-operate in the production of educational materials suitable for the general public (i.e. non-technical leaflets, displays, etc). Especially evening lectures and presentations for lodge guests and CHICOP staff are highly appreciated.

Island Code of Conduct

Researchers will be treated as part of the Chumbe team and will be encouraged to interact with the team and guests where possible, share information and communicate the benefits of the research to the project as a whole (see also Science Communications Policy).

Lodge management can be challenging at times, especially in terms of logistics, and our Island Managers work hard to coordinate all island activities and meet the expectations of our lodge clients who always come first. We ask all researchers to ensure that public access areas on the island are kept neat, tidy and dry, and that research materials of any sort are put away after use in their designated location.

The majority of our team are Muslim and therefore we ask everyone coming to the island to appreciate and respect this. It is disrespectful to walk around half dressed on the island unless directly associated with swimming and the like. Whilst being tactile amongst friends is an accepted and non-intrusive familiarity in western culture, any contact between genders, other than shaking hands, is considered to be a sexually provocative gesture from a foreigner and should be avoided. It is also CHICOP policy that any staff/researcher relationships must be kept purely platonic whilst on the island.

What to Bring

- Head torch (path to Manager House is not illuminated)
- Refillable water bottle
- Reef shoes
- Reef safe sunscreen
- Organic shampoo and skin products (such as mosquito repellent)
- Sunglasses and wide-brimmed hat
- Camera – for all those spectacular sunsets
- Sense of humor: Chumbe Island is a small island and there is a slower pace of life in Zanzibar than in the western world, things don't always go to plan so don’t set yourself too tight a schedule

Summary Checklist to Conduct Research on Chumbe

To Apply

- ☐ Review the ‘Priority Research Areas’ provided in this document. If your planned research aligns with our high or priority areas of research identified, there is greater likelihood of gaining approval.
- ☐ Review the ‘Research Regulations’ to ensure your research meets our policy requirements.
- ☐ Send an application to CHICOP as outlined in the section on ‘Research Applications’, at least three months prior to the desired commencement date.
- ☐ Once approved, review and arrange all logistical considerations with the Chumbe management as outlined in this document, including data-sharing agreement and indemnity form.

During your Research Time

- ☐ Adhere to the ‘Research Code of Conduct’ as outlined in this document.
- ☐ Where research is greater than a one-year timeframe, to submit bi-annual update reports to the Chumbe management, and to contribute to social media and associated platform updates.
- ☐ To report any observations that may impact effective MPA management to Chumbe leadership in immediate-time.

Following your Research

- ☐ Share research report / thesis with Chumbe management for fact-checking and input prior to academic submission and / or publication.
- ☐ Share photographs of research activities (for Chumbe media updates).
- ☐ Produce one article / blog-style summary on the research conducted (suitable for a wide public audience).

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Research & Indemnity form

Appendix 2 – Data Sharing Agreement form

Appendix 3 – Scuba Diving Liability Release form

Research & Indemnity

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the research regulations and guidelines provided in CHICOP Research Plan.

I acknowledge and appreciate the possible dangers and risks associated with a marine park and forest reserve which contain a variety of wildlife and vegetation, and the possible risk of injury, death and/or loss of property that may arise from my visit or stay whilst on the reserves.

I hereby waive all claims of any cause or nature howsoever arising against the owners of the reserve, their associates, manager/s, rangers, domestic employees and/or any person connected whether directly or indirectly with the running of the reserve which I might have arising out of harm, injury, death or loss suffered whilst on the premises or property of the reserve and whether arising from an act of commission or omission on the part of those hereby indemnified.

In the event of injury the reserve may at its discretion and without prejudice or admission of liability arrange for emergency medical treatment for and on behalf of myself.

I have read and understood the conditions appearing above and with my signature I am bound thereby.

Research Topic:	
Name:	Organization/Institution:
Address:	
Email:	Phone:
Local Supervisor/Partner University:	
Signature:	Date:

Please return signed form to conservation@chumbeisland.com

Data Sharing Agreement

This Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) covers the sharing and use of data for the purposes of science based, strategic, adaptive management of the Chumbe Island nature reserve which includes the Coral Reef Sanctuary (CRS) and the Closed Forest Reserve (CFR). The overarching aim is to ensure that the best available data informs research, decision making and management in support of Chumbe's mission to effectively and sustainably manage the CRS and CFR in order to maximize their contribution to biodiversity conservation, serve as a model for effective ecotourism and MPA management, and provide a platform to promote wider environmental awareness for sustainable development and ecological stewardship in Zanzibar.

The DSA Conditions set out below will constitute a legal agreement between Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP) and _____ (known further as Data Provider) in relation to the data described below.

Name of Data Provider: _____

Organization/Institution: _____

Physical address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

General description of dataset: (to be filled out by Data Provider)	
File Name: and brief description of files being shared	
What does the dataset represent?	
Are there any restrictions/conditions specific to this dataset?	
Additional information	

(Continued on next page)

DSA Conditions

- The Data Provider permits CHICOP to use, reproduce, make Enhancements to and print the Data, and combine it with other data held by CHICOP.
- CHICOP shall not commercialize the Data or any product or service derived from the Data.
- This DSA does not infringe the Intellectual Property rights of any person and CHICOP is entitled to distribute this Data in accordance to agreement with source.
- CHICOP shall maintain the Data in safe custody.
- CHICOP will take all reasonable steps to ensure that any person given access to the Data is aware of these Conditions and uses the Data only in accordance with this Agreement.
- For any use of the data CHICOP agrees to ensure the Data Provider is recognized as contributor of the data.
- CHICOP assumes responsibility for selection of the Data to achieve any intended results, and for its use.
- CHICOP assumes responsibility for the interpretation of any results obtained from use of the Data and will exercise all appropriate precautions before placing reliance on those results.

If you agree with the DSA Conditions, please sign below and if you are entering into this agreement on behalf of a company or organization, you warrant that you have the authority to do so.

Data provider	**CHICOP**
Name:	**Name:**
Signature:	**Signature:**
Date:	**Date:**

Scuba Diving Liability Release

I, _____ (Name), hereby declare that I am a certified Scuba diver, trained in safe diving practices, and affirm that I am aware that skin and scuba diving have inherent risks which may result in serious injury or death.

I understand that scuba diving with compressed air involves certain inherent risks; including but not limited to decompression sickness, embolism or other hyperbaric/air expansion injury that require treatment in a recompression chamber. I further understand that my dive trips that I will conduct are at a site that is remote, either by time or distance or both, from such a recompression chamber. I still choose to proceed with diving in spite of the possible absence of a recompression chamber in proximity to the dive site.

I understand and agree that Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. (CHICOP, hereinafter referred to as "Released Party") may not be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death or other damages to me that may occur as a result of my participation in this scuba diving experience or as a result of the negligence of the Released Party, whether passive or active. In consideration of being allowed to participate in scuba diving, I hereby personally assume all risks of this experience, whether foreseen or unforeseen, that may befall me while I am a participant in this experience. I further release, exempt and hold harmless said experience and Released Party from any claim or lawsuit by me, my family, estate, heirs or assigns, arising out of my participation in this scuba diving activity, including both claims arising during the experience or after I complete the activity.

I also understand that skin diving and scuba diving are physically strenuous activities and that I will be exerting myself during this experience, and that if I am injured as a result of heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, drowning or any other cause, that I expressly assume the risk of said injuries and that I will not hold the Released Party responsible for the same. I understand that past or present medical conditions may be contraindicative to my participation in this activity. I declare that I am in good mental and physical fitness for diving, and that I am not under the influence of alcohol, nor am I under the influence of any drugs that are contra indicatory to diving. If I am taking medication, I declare that I have seen a physician and have approval to dive while under the influence of the mediation/drugs. I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release. I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital and that I have signed this Agreement of my own free act and with the knowledge that I hereby agree to waive my legal rights. I further agree that if any provision of this Agreement is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision shall be severed from this Agreement. The remainder of this Agreement will then be construed as though the unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

I understand and agree that I am not only giving up my right to sue the Released Party but also any rights my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries may have to sue the Released Party resulting from my death. I further represent I have the authority to do so and that my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries will be stopped from claiming otherwise because of my representations to the Released Party.

I, _____ (NAME), BY THIS INSTRUMENT AGREE TO EXEMPT AND RELEASE CHUMBE ISLAND CORAL PARK LTD (CHICOP) WHATSOEVER FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH, HOWEVER CAUSED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE. I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Diver Accident Insurance? ❒ NO ❒ YES Policy Number _____