Journey's Carnet

FANJOVE ISLAND – ARCHITECTS BOOKLET

african architecture matters

This booklet has been brought to life thanks to the direction of
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Some images come from the internet.

Illustration of Giorgia D'Annibale.

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FANJOVE ISLAND - Where is it?

When talking about Tanzania's beaches, it is common to hear the name of Zanzibar, with its fabulous beaches and its crystal clear waters; but from North to South, the country offers other 800 km of coastline characterized by white sandy beaches, dotted with palm trees and lapped by the warm and clear waters of the Indian Ocean.

The beautiful island of Fanjove is part of the small and unexplored Songosongo Archipelago, located South of Mafia Island and 30 miles from the mainland.

Once you have landed on this paradise you immediately breathe a magic air, due to multiple natural factors: crystal clear water, flourishing vegetation and rare fauna.

Fanjove

If you decide to go to the magnificent island of Fanjove, there, in the kingdom that lies beyond the invisible border of the Indian Ocean, when buying a ticket you will also buy a small piece of a fairy tale!

This booklet tries its best to give you an idea of the wonders of this corner of the world, but it will be only when your feet will touch the unpalpable Fanjove's sand and your eyes will discovery for the first time an infinity shades of blue and green never seen before, you will understand why we are fully in love with Fanjove.

Indian Ocean

The island of Fanjove is touched by warm and emerald waters, which in the past had been the setting of numerous conflicts because of its strategic importance as a route of transit and trade between Asia and Africa. To our eyes it appears today as a peaceful expanse of water of great colors that vary from turquoise to cobalt blue, studded here and there by little corners of paradise: the islands.

Among these, nestled between Fanjove and Mafia Island, there is an important protected area characterized by one of the world's richest marine habitats. The marine park of Mafia, established in 1995 by the Tanzanian government, is the largest protected marine area in the Indian Ocean and it is characterized by an indescribable beauty generated mainly by the proximity of the Rufiji river delta, which allows an extraordinary variety of marine flora and fauna to thrive in its waters. This park is a natural spectacle not to be missed for any reason and it encloses within some of the best fishing grounds in eastern Africa. The transparent waters of the Ocean, with a temperature that fluctuates between 25 and 28 C°, will ravish the diving lovers and take them into a fascinating swim to the discovery of the underwater world, a world teeming with life and vivid colors.

transparent waters of the ocean

Being part of this paradise, Fanjove waters are the perfect marine metropolis where humpback whales migrate, sea turtles lay eggs, and tropical fish dance before you. A great concentration of biodiversity that has yet to be revealed. The reefs show remarkable resistance to global marine threats, and further research and exploration of the area is vital to help replenish the reef and support healthy ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices for the local villages.

Varied marine landscapes such as underwater pinnacles and gardens of cabbage coral with20+ meter visibility make for a rare chance to experience an area that no one has ever explored before.

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Indian Ocean

Coral Reef

Before reaching Fanjove's shores, the Indian Ocean meets a 11 km long coral reef that embraces the entire eastern profile of the island: at this point the big waves run out in strength, ensuring quiet baths and water activities.

The reef is a natural structure composed by biogenic rock formations constituted and enhanced by the sedimentation of the coral calcareous skeletons. This type of environment is essential and incredibly important as it has given life to all the ecosystems of the islands and the lagoons.

The unique characteristics of the environment shelterd by the reefs originate from the presence of extensive coral gardens that provide an ideal habitat to thousands of species of tropical fish, crustaceans and molluscs.
In this stretch of sea more than fifty varieties of coral, very delicate and crumbly, can be counted.

The most widespread fish spieces found are:
Pennant Coralfish,
Melon Butterflyfish, Auriga Butterflyfish, Chevron Butterflyfish,
Raccoon Butterflyfish and Peppered Butterflyfish,
Emperor Angelfish, Dash-and-dot goatfish,
Peacock Grouper, Coral Grouper, Potato Cod,
Bluethroat Triggerfish, Redtooth Triggerfish,
Spotted Surgeonfish, Powder Blue Surgeonfish,
Brown Tang, Spotted Unicornfish, Lionfish,
Moorish Idol, Trumpetfish, Yellow Boxfish,
2-bars Anemonefish, Skunk Anemonefish, Damselfish.

Less common but visible:
Zanzibar Butterflyfish, Lined Butterflyfish, Somali Butterflyfish,
Gold saddle Goatfish (blue form), Picasso Triggerfish, Sea Horse,
Napoleonfish, Ghost Pipefish, Long hor Cowfish, Yellow Leaf Fish.

Coral Reef

Corals

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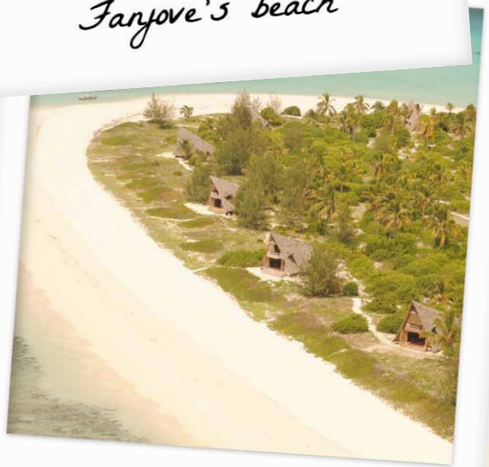
White Sands

Fanjove's beach



sandy ground

As any tropical island, Fanjove is characterized by a stretch of white beach: a sandy stripe, particularly candid and soft in Fanjove, lays from the highest point in the eastern part of the island to its south-western tip.

In addition, during the low tide further stretches of beach are clearly visible, such as a sandbank that extends in the lagoon, which is a magical place to admire the sunset.

The location of the beach is crucial to the understanding of the morphological conformation of Fanjove which, being close to the shoreline, is flat and characterized by the presence of a soil of sandy texture.

The seasonal change of the current direction distributes the sand differently, modifying the appearance of the island season by season.

Tides has a daily range which vary from 1.1 m to 3.2 m.
In few days of staying on Fanjove, someone is able to appreciate the daily transformation arranged by the tide variation: eyes see new colours every minute, appearance and disappearance of sand banks, arrival and departure of flocks of birds; ears will know about the tide by the sounds of the sea...

Geomorphologic conformation

While a fine sandy ground characterizes the South-eastern part of the island, the other part up to the North lays on a rocky substrate.

There is an imaginary line that divides the island into two parts and this is particularly evident when analyzing the distribution of the vegetation.

In the previously described sandy area, there are tall trees (for example, the coconut palm), which are only present where there is enough soil to grow their roots.

On the other hand, in the part of the island that is characterized by a rocky layer, as we shall see hereafter, there are mainly small shrubs, bushes and a few mangroves and the coastline is distinctive: it is jagged and it has a cliff that extends from the northern tip of the Island down until they meet again with the sandy beach in the vicinity of the lighthouse.

The cliff and all its beauty and habitants can be discovered on foot walking around the island in very low tide or by kayak in higher tide.

The wave and atmospheric agents erosion of hundred thousands of years have dug into the coral rock and created natural sculptures and chambers.

The cliff is broken in some spots and in certain area apertures on the cieling of the cliff creates fascinating light effects.

rocky substrate

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cliff

Weather and Winds

The best time to come to Fanjove is during the period that goes from mid-December to mid-February and from June to October.
In these months the climate is warm and the rainfall is contained.

The wet season is divided into two periods: the one called "big rain season" that goes from the end of March to May (when it reaches its maximum intensity) and the one of the "small rains" from late October to late November.

The climate of Fanjove is tropical and strongly conditioned by the monsoon winds.
The first is the KUSI that originates from the South-East and begins at any time between the end of March and continues to blow at the end of October.
This wind has a strength between 19 and 25 knots, and it blows from morning until late in the evening and in the central months it creates a small drop in temperature.
It is strong enough to generate a considerable wave motion and it is the cause of rough sea conditions.

The second wind is the KASKAZI, which is a constant monsoon that blows from the North-East with an intensity of an average of around 15 knots and crescent in the afternoon.
This wind blows from mid-November until the end of January and exceptionally it may continue with lower intensity until the beginning of March.
The Kaskazi comes as a warm and humid wind which doesn't agitate the sea.

Coconut Tree

The coconut tree is a tree indigenous of tropical region of Asia, but it is now widely cultivated in Asia, in all African continent and in central and south America.

In Africa the major producing countries of this plant are Tanzania, Mozambico and Ghana.

The specific name nucifera derives from the Latin and means 'bearer of walnuts'.
The coconut tree is a very long-lived plant that can reach 100 years of life and almost 30 meters in height. The leaves, pinnate and up to 5 meters long, are composed of small lanceolate leaves curved, rigid and bright green.

Its fruit is nearly as big as a man's head but weighs a lot less (approx. a kilo): for this reason it can be transported by sea at great distances while maintaining its germination for long.

These palms are plants with multiple functions.
They are in fact a rich source of nutriment thanks to the tasty fruits they produce and they are used for local construction: the leafy branches are arranged to make "makuti", which is used to build roofs and other various structures.

Bunches of leaves are tied together and arranged along a wooden shaft to make panels.

These sections are superimposed to form the distinctive roofs of African villages.

palm tree

Ficus sansibarica

There is a magnificent specimen of ficus sansibarica on the island.

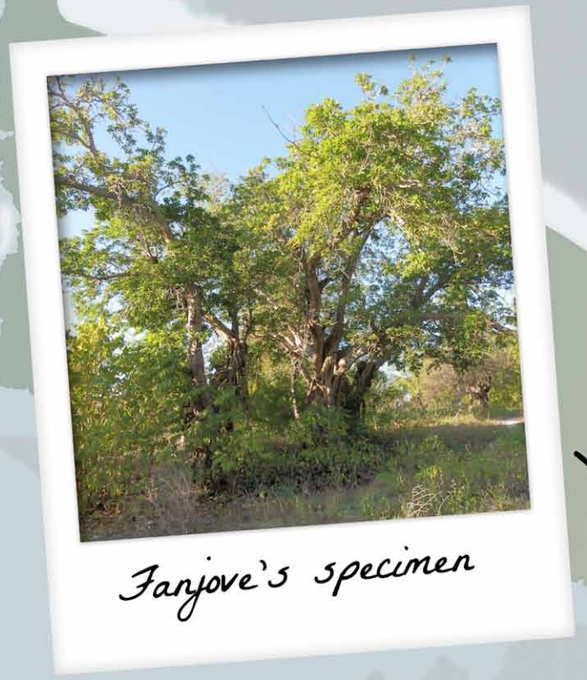
Usually this plant develops up to a height of 10 mt but sometimes, especially in low altitude, it can go up to more than double.

In this part of Tanzania and in the North of Mozambique there can be found 30 mt tall trees. The bark of the trunk is smooth and light grey.

The leaves are oblong with a slightly rounde tip, which can be up to 21 cm long.

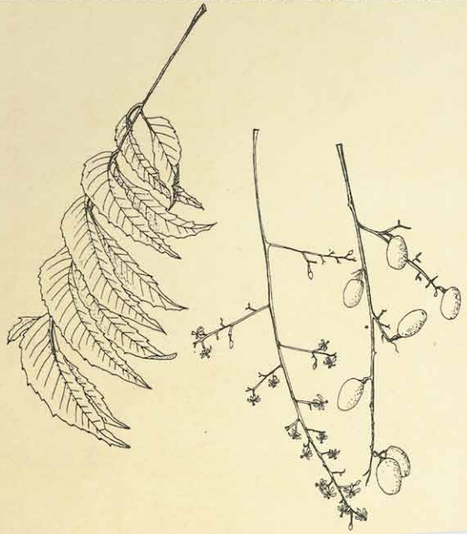
The fruits of this plant are the figs, which have a diameter of 5 cm. They grow directly on main branches in clusters of 2 or 3 elements.

fig leaves



Fanjove's specimen

Neem Tree



In the central part of Fanjove, facing the beautiful sheltered, is visible a concentration of neem.

The neem is a native to India and Burma tree, famous to be the numerous medicinal properties, so that in India it is called "the pharmacy of the village".

It reaches 20 meters in height and about 25 meters in circumference, providing good shade to villages.

It was introduced to West Africa at the beginning of the twentieth century in order to provide shade and prevent the extension of Sahara desert.

It requires few care and it survives in poor soils. Rarely attacked by the termites it is used in construction.

neem tree flowers

Some researchers have defined it a prodigious plan. In neem more than forty active compounds have been identified: its main properties are anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, anthelmintic, anti-viral and blood redeeming.

Moreover, it is known that in its leaves is present a substance called salannina which is a strong insect repellent but not harmful to birds, animals and people.

leaves and flowers

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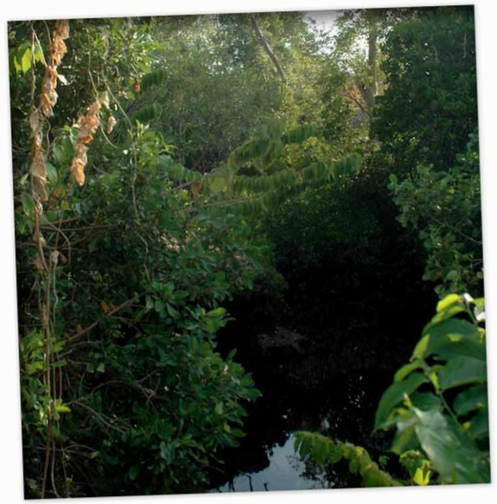
Small Mangrove Forest

In a certain point of the island there is a small pond where mangroves can grow. Mangroves preferrably plant their roots in humid environments, especially in the vicinity of salt or brackish water.

Because of its many properties some countries have prohibited the deforestation of mangrove forests with specific laws.

The seed of the mangrove trees, which appears as small green stubs with a tip: once unleashed by the shaft it travels between the waters tipping with the lower end, which is heavier, immersed in water. When it arrives to correct salinity waters, the seed is planted in a vertical position in the substrate and there it grows its roots.

The typical environment for its development is the saturated water of waste substance, which has a low quantity of oxygen and a high concentration of debris.



Fanjove's seepage and mangroves

However this plant has something more to it than common trees. Its roots grow in colonies and have the ability to creep on everything, winding rocks and creating pleasant aesthetic effects.

The roots, when well planted, emerge from the ground and create wooden arcs and complicated structures, which become refuges for many marine and terrestrial species.
These large structures are called "aerial roots" and give the impression that the plant has raised from the water as if it was a large spider.

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mangroves

Grewia glandulosa e Sideroxylon inerme

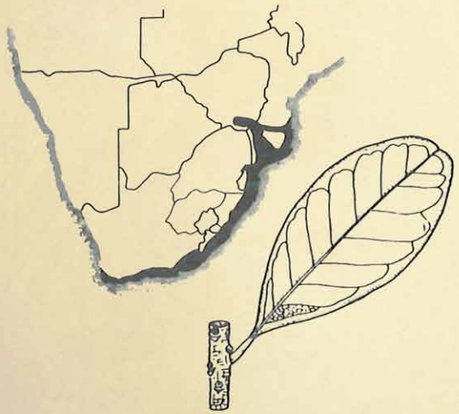
grewia's fruits

As the map shows, the association of the two species in a vast area of the Island, at the base of palm trees, is quite evident.

Grewia glandulosa is a shrub or small tree that can mesure up to 7.5 mt in height; its leaves are lanceolate and can be 7 cm long and light green; its flowers are pink and its fruits (in the picture) have a peculiar four-lobed shape.

It is distributed along the coasts of Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is common in coastal areas, in dry forests and bushes on coral rags and cliff tops. Its bark fiber is used to make good cordage. It was used for tying wood before nails were used.

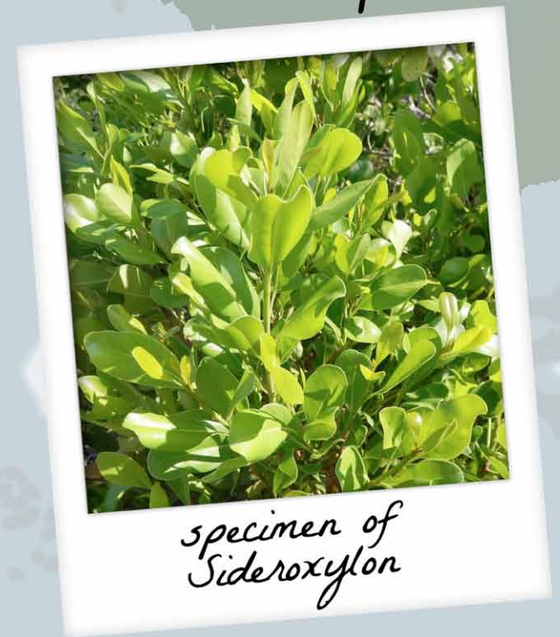
In Zanzibar and Pemba young branches have been used to clean the teeth.; A decoction of the root is drunk against flatulence. An infusion of the flowering shoots has been recommended to be taken before going to sleep, because of its emollient and calming effects.



The *Sideroxylon inerme*, or White Milkwood, showed in the drawing, is a tree up to 10 m tall, distinguished by knotted branches.

Its long leaves can be 12 cm long.

It is a protected tree in South Africa where some specimens have been named National Monuments: one of these has been called 'Old Post Office Tree' in Mossel Bay, and it has been described in a 600-years-old Portuguese soldiers' letter. The tree had been chosen by the Portuguese as the place to leave letters until a ship would collect them to bring them to Europe."



specimen of Sideroxylon

Grewia glandulosa

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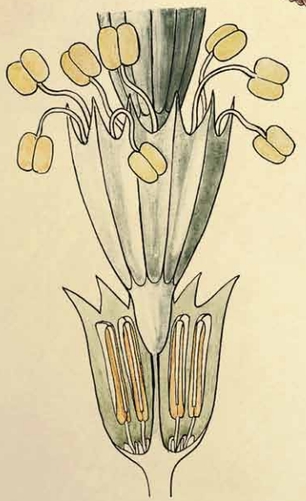
Casuarina equisetifolia



The Australian pine has been imported to Africa from Indonesia and Australia, because it is a fast growing tree that can be used for firewood and for the building of local dhows, fences and jetties.

It grows in coastal areas, it can mesure up to 25 mt tall and it has a pyramidal and dark green canopy. Its leaves are long, 1 mm wide, and form clusters at the correspondence of the knots.

Its trunk is straight and strong, covered by a dark brown bark, smooth at the beginning which becomes irregular and scaled as time goes by. Its fruits are 2,5 cm long spiny pines; once dried they release winged seeds."

The specific name *equisetifolia* is derived from the Latin equisetum, meaning "horse hair" (referring to the resemblance of the drooping branchlets to horse tail).

Casuarina equisetifolia leaf litter suppresses germination of understory plants using a biochemical means or allelopathy. This is one reason it can be such a damaging invasive species in places outside its native range.

Cuasuarina equisetifolia is an actinorhizal plants: they are able to form a symbiosis with the nitrogen fixing actinobacteria Frankia. This association leads to the formation of nitrogen-fixing root nodules. This confers a selective advantage in poor soils, like moraines, volcanic flows or sand dunes.

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Canavalia rosea and Scaevola plumieri

Canavalia rosea
pod and leaves

Canavalia Rosea and Scevola Slumieri an interesting combination of these two small shrubs is present close to the white sand beach of Fanjove, with the important function of intertwining with sand dunes and stabilizing in this way the soil with their roots.

The *Canavalia rosea* is a perennial plant, herbaceous and capable to withstand drought conditions that characterize the tropical coasts. There are several different uses, direct and indirect, of this small and scattered bush. Called in English 'Bay' bean", its seeds are widely consumed by both men and animals mainly used as protein source in the countries of West Africa. Also in this case as in neem tree we are faced with a plant with many healing properties: it is in fact used to treat pain, rheumatism and leprosy. The leaves help to alleviate the pain and to promote the healing of burns.

The *Scevola Slumieri*, shown in the drawing, is native from the Caribbean but spread rapidly in Africa, in the Pacific Islands and in Brazil thanks to propagation of their seeds through the ocean waters. This plant grows naturally in full sun and is very tolerant to drought, to the wind, and the saltiness. Characterized by a dark green foliage, hard and fleshy, is also known by the name of 'Ink Berry' because of its fruits: large black berries, very visible, that contain a seed inside them.

Canavalia rosea
flowers

Scaevola plumieri

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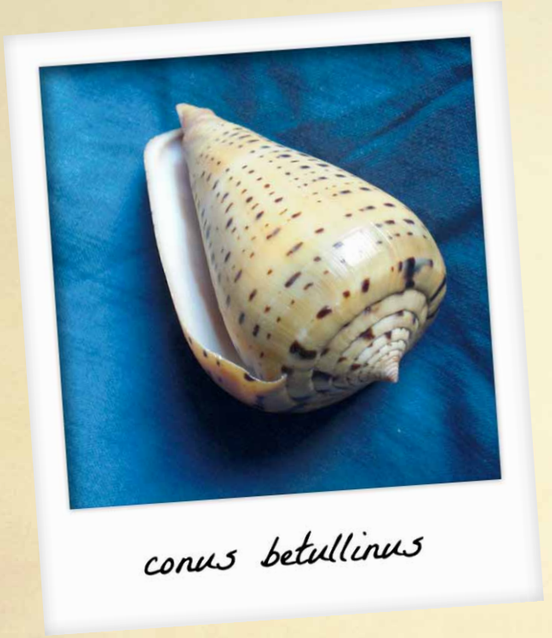
tridacna maxima

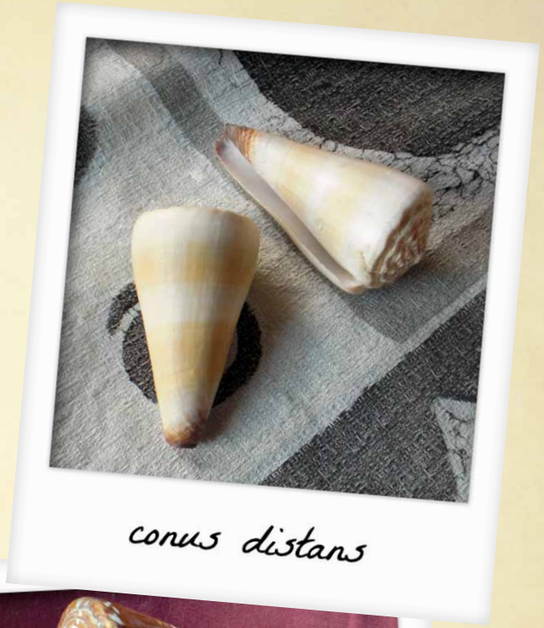
tridacna squamosa



conus betullinus

conus augur

conus pennaceus



conus distans

conus ebraeus

conus litoglyphus

cypraea argus

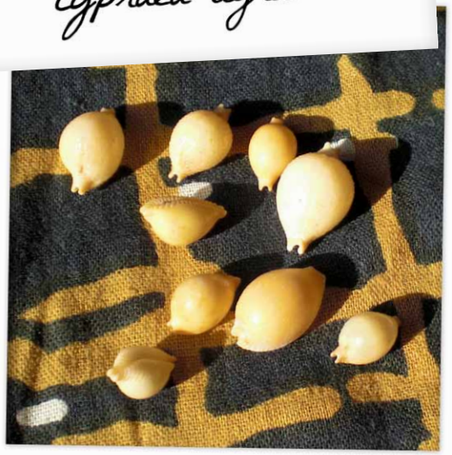
cypraea mappa

cypraea stolida

cypraea isabella

cypraea mauritiana

cypraea tigris



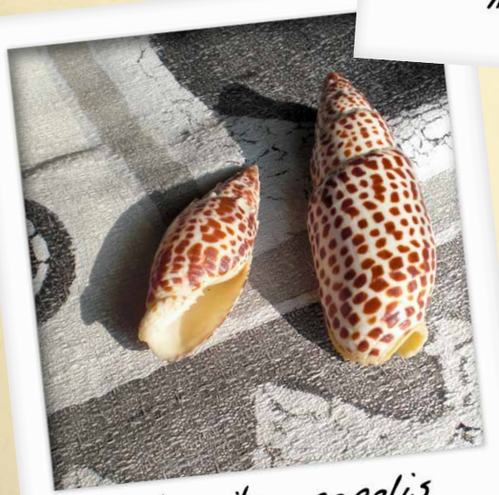
cypraea cicercula

cypraea annulus

cypraea depressa

Cypraeidae

mitra stictica



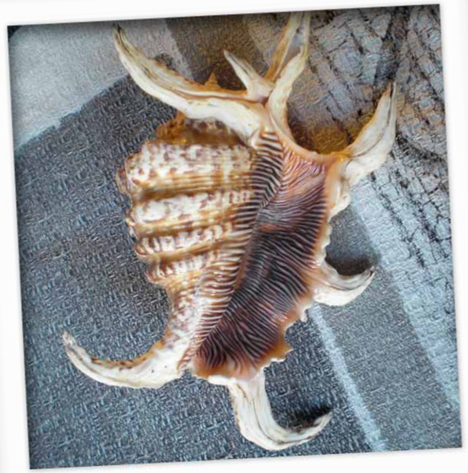
left: mitra papalis
right: mitra cardinalis

mitra mitra

trochus niloticus

trochus maculatus

clanculus puniceus



lambis chiragra

lambis digitata

lambis crocata

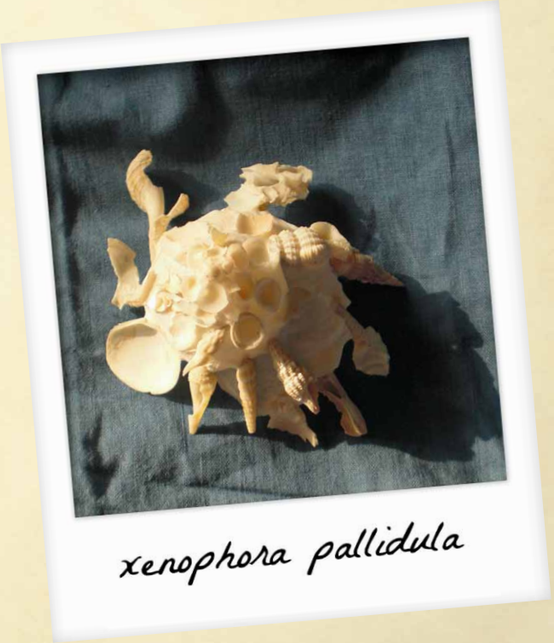
terebralia palustris

tarebra chlorata

peuroploca trapezium

murex pecten

volva volva



xenophora pallidula

Turbinellidae

vasum turbinellus

Turbinidae

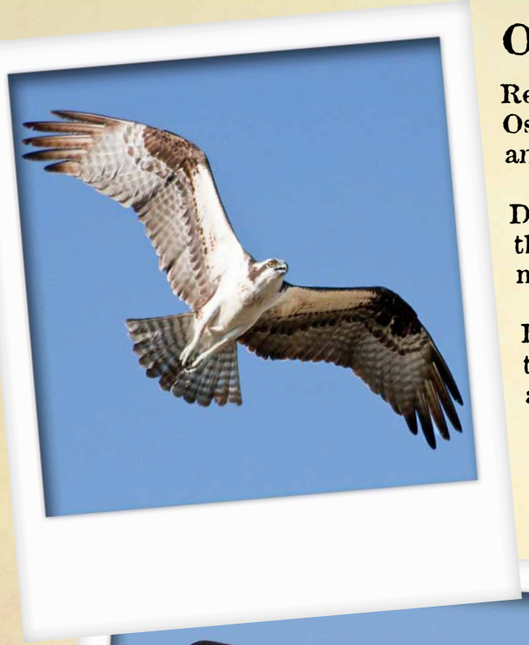
turbo argyrostomus

Spirulidae

spirula spirula

Nautilidae

nautilus pompilius



Osprey

Residing mainly in the northern hemisphere, the Osprey can be found in some regions of Australia and only in some areas of East Africa.

Dark in the upper part of the body, very light in the lower part, it has very long wings that may measure 180 cm and blue-grey colored legs.

Its habit of plunging into the water with its legs to capture fish makes this species easily identifiable.

Peregrine Falcon

It is a species of falconide that is widespread almost all over the world; in Africa it is present mainly in the east and the central parts of the continent. The body of the Peregrine Falcon has a length ranging between 34 and 58 cm and a wingspan of 80-120 cm.

Males and females are very similar however, they are characterized by a marked sexual dimorphism as females are bigger than males. The back and the wings tips of adult individuals are usually of a color that goes from black blue to slate grey. The tips of the wings are black.

Grey heron

Heron of considerable size, an adult individual can mesure 90-98 cm in height and have a wingspan that can easily reach 170 cm. The plumage is grey in color on the top and white in the lower part of the body.

The legs and the beak are yellow. There are no specific signs that enable us to distinguish females from males even if the latter are generally slightly larger. Originating in Africa, the Grey Heron is able to migrate up to the very North, at the point that during the migration it can also be seen along the Norwegian coast. As all herons, it bends the neck to form an S while flying.

Crab-plover

This bird has a plover-like look, but has very long grey legs and a strong heavy black bill; with its black-and-white plumage all these features make it distinctive and unmistakable.

It is a migrant species: Crab-plovers breed along the coasts of the Arabic peninsula up to Somalia in the months of April to July, then disperse across the Indian Ocean in August and travel to as far as Sri Lanka in the East and Tanzania and Madagascar in the South.

Dimorphic Egret

The Dimorphic Egret is perfectly adapted to the environment of the island of Fanjove. It is normally found in coastal areas, it can adapt to a wide variety of habitats: muddy expanses, sandy beaches, rocky coasts, small coral islands, mangroves and estuaries. This bird has long and slender legs, which are suitable for walking in shallow waters. It has a long and robust neck with a large pointed beak. It nests on its own or in mixed colonies. The nests are built with twisted branches and twigs, usually on shafts, but always near the water.

It feeds mainly on fish, frogs, small reptiles, crustaceans and molluscs.

Whimbrel

The Whimbrel is similar to the Curlew but it is smaller and with a distinctive white stripe on the top of the head and above the eye; the beak is curved but shorter than the Curlew's.

In the upper part of the body the plumage is brownish with tawny/black spots while in the lower part it is light in color with dark streaks.

Its diet consists of water invertebrates, especially crabs and other crustaceans.

Black Headed Weaver

The Black Headed Weaver is an 18 cm long squat bird with a bright yellow plumage, except for some brown streaks along the body, which characterizes this species; the nape is completely black.

It lives in colonies, on trees or palms.

In addition to Tanzania, this bird is also quite present in Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya and very common in Uganda.

Amethyst Sunbird

The Amethyst Sunbird is variously colored and has an iridescent plumage which characterizes this 10 cm long bird.

A long, thin and curved beak reveals its adaptation to feeding on the flowers' nectar, which is the reason behind its scientific name: Nectarinia loriae amethystine.

It is an uncommon species in Africa, which can possibly be seen in the South of Sudan, in Uganda, Kenya and obviously in Tanzania.

Coconut Crab - Birgus latro

The largest of the terrestrial crabs and in general among the arthropods: not being constrained by the confines of living in a shell allows this species to grow larger.
-up to 60 cm of length
-up to 4 kg
-Leg span can reach 1 m
Males are larger than females.
10 pairs of legs: last pair of legs is very small and used by females to tend their legs.
The left cheliped leg is larger then the right one.

Life cycle: they mate from May to September; the female holds the fertilized eggs for few months before releasing the eggs in the ocean: normally in the night from rocky shore and during the high tide. After 2/3 weeks of planktonic life, it metamorphoses and seeks in a gastropod shell and move onto land where it buries in the substrate to molt to the first juvenile abandoning the shell forever.
The adult lives in burrows, holes and cavities in root systems.

Forages by night, feeds on plants and coconuts but also scavenges on carcasses or injured animals (turtles eggs and hatchlings). It has e very good sense of smell comparable to the insects' one.
They breathe through branchiostegal lungs, instead of gills.
They cannot swim and they drawn if immersed in water.

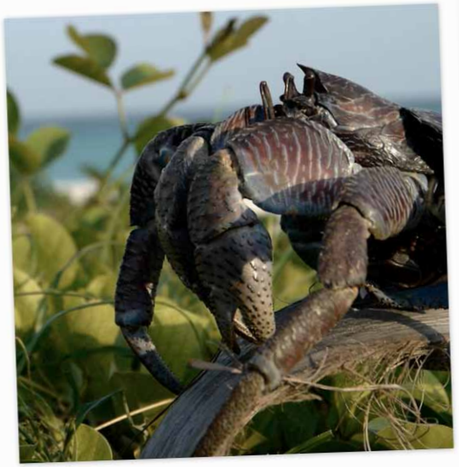
Sexual maturity at the age of 5, life span may be over 60 years.

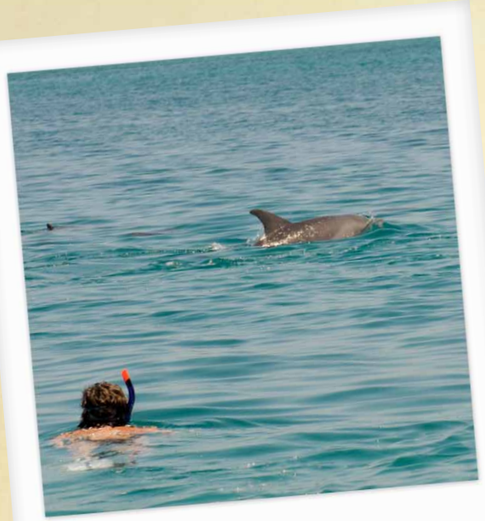
They don't have natural predators a part of other coconut crabs and people.

Distribution: coconut crab is a indo-pacific species, which is present nowadays only on islands. It has disappeared from mainland Australia and Madagascar, and in many other minor islands.

The abundance of this species is unclear.
One fact is very clear: this species disappeared from many area of his former distribution
because considered a delicacy by local populations.

On Fanjove Island exists a natural population, whose dimension and status is unknown: for this reason we started a collection of data where measurements and individual marking are recorded.





Bottlenose Dolphin

Size: 2-4 m
Recognition: dark spots on the belly when adults.
Social structure: schools of 5-10 individuals normally, up to 50 animals.
Presence: year-around
Life span: to 45 years.

Diet: Fish, Squid. Most important prey Conger, Arrotooth Eels and Cardinal Fish. They can dig eels from sand bottoms with their beaks into the sand. They do not chew their food, instead swallowing it whole. Dolphin groups often work as a team to harvest schools of fish, though they also hunt individually. Dolphins search for prey primarily using echolocation, which is a form of sonar.
Gestation: 11 months.
Conservation status: unknown
Threat: bycaught in gillnets.

This species can be found in the warm and temperate tropical oceans worldwide. Some bottlenose populations live closer to the shore, inshore populations, and others live further, offshore populations. Generally, offshore populations are larger, darker, and have shorter fins and beaks. Offshore populations can migrate up to 4,200 km in a season, but inshore populations tend to move less.
Sightings in Fanjove's waters: a school of 20 ca. has been seen mostly in the area delimited by Fanjove's Reef, Mwambakati's Reef, Pupu's Reef and Songosongo.
This group has showed to be very social.

Spinner Dolphins

Size: 1.9 – 2.1 m
Recognition: acrobatic display, they can spin as they leap: a dolphin can make two to 5.5 spins in one leap. Dorsal fin: slightly curved, triangular to erect.
Social structure: large schools, > 5o animals.
Presence: year-around.

Diet: Fish, Squid and small Shrimps. Prefer to eat small fish and cuttlefish:
female prefers to eat cuttlefish
male prefers to eat lanternfish.
Life span: 20-25 years.
Gestation: 10 months.
Conservation status: unknown
Threat: bycaught in gillnets.

The spinner dolphin lives in nearly all tropical and subtropical waters.
The species primarily inhabits coastal waters, islands, or banks
Sightings in Fanjove's waters: a school of more than 100 individuals. It has been seen mostly outside Fanjove's Reef, from south (Pwela) to north. Looks like they prefer deep water.

Green Turtles

Fanjove's beaches provide ideal nesting conditions with steeply sloping beaches bordered by grasses and scrub-like vegetation.
On other Songosongo Archipelago's islands turtles are no longer nesting due to the presence of a permanent settlements.
The conservation of Fanjove as a nesting destination for turtles becomes essential.

Turtles eggs hatches occur between April and July. Green Turtle and Hawksbill Turtle are both present but only Green Turtles nest on the island.

Fanjove staff have been trained by SeaSense organization in managing turtle nests: every nest receive the needed protection and data is recorded in order to monitor the condition and development of the eggs.

In July 2012 Fanjove staff recorded 3 nests with a total of 318 eggs hatched successfully;

in July 2013 a total of 260 eggs hatched and babies reached water safely;

in 2014 no nests were recorded;

in 2015 10 nests were laid on the island.

Humpback Whales

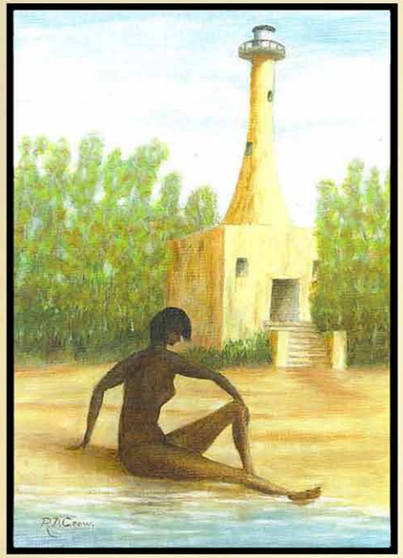
Humpback whales migrates from cold souther waters to tropical equatorial waters and back every year.
They reach the warm, low latitude tropical waters to breed and give birth and they go back to cooler, polar waters to feed.

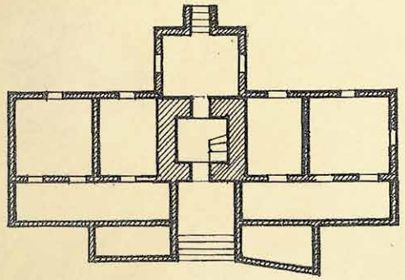
Humpbacks are capable of travelling at 5 mph but, during such a long journey, they average only 1 mph, resting and socialising along the way. Not all members of a particular population will travel together however.

Humpback Whales transit in the channel between mainland and songosongo archipelago every June until October.

Some whales prefer to make the passage between Songo Songo and Fanjove, in calmer waters,
allowing exciting and breathtaking sightings also from the dining.
Mums with babies, small aggregation of adults, singles were seen in 2013 with a total record of 22 individuals sighted.

The Light House





Fanjove Island pictures are all very distinctive because of its lighthouse, which stands magnificently right in front of the small bay.

Located in a magical point, it is a tangible piece of history: it is one of the rare surviving 19th century buildings erected by the Germans in Tanzania. A chiselled stone plate over the central door marks the erection of the building: Erbaut 1894 (erected 1894) in German gothic characters.
The origin of this commemorative plate has not yet been defined. Up to this moment, little to none is known about the origin of Fanjove lighthouse. The early date of 1894 suggests its importance at the beginning of German occupation of Tanzania.
The Mafia area, where
Fanjove is located, was of interest to the Germans. The Mafia lighthouse,
which is in a much better condition, shows great similarity to Fanjove
lighthouse and may be taken as a reliable reference for eventual restoration.

It guided ships through the devious waters of this part of the Tanzanian but shortly after the end of the First World War, the island returned to being uninhabited and abandoned until the 60's, when nomadic fishermen began to use it as dwelling point for themselves and their families. In those years the original vegetation was cut to give place to the plantation of coconut palms.

The central tower of the lighthouse is approximately 18 mt high and at its feet there is a building divided into 4 parts of a total length of 20 mt.

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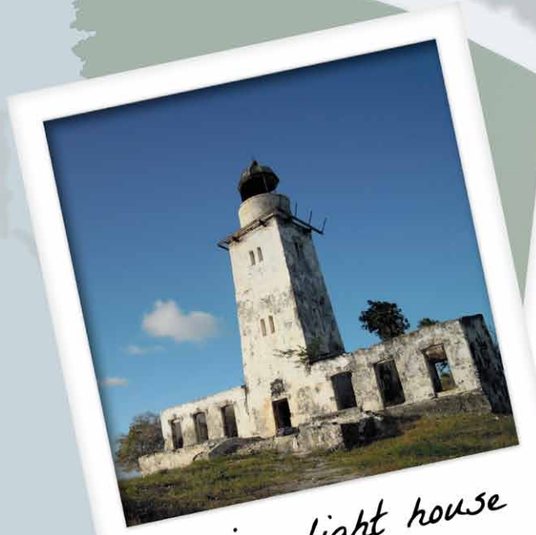
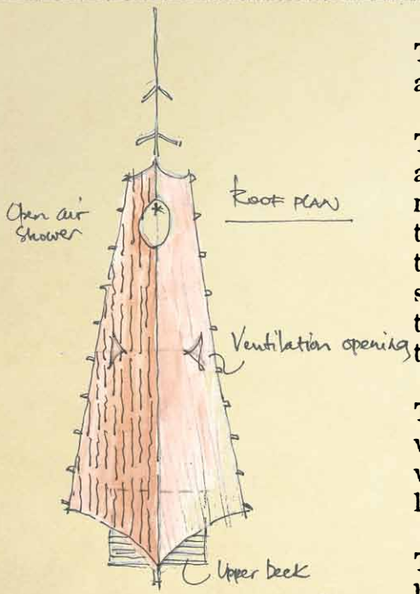
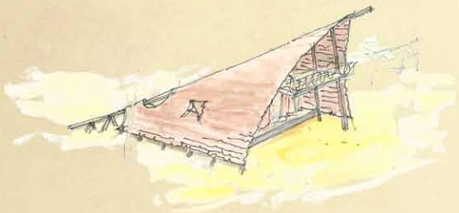


Fanjove light house

light house

Fanjove Private Island Lodge



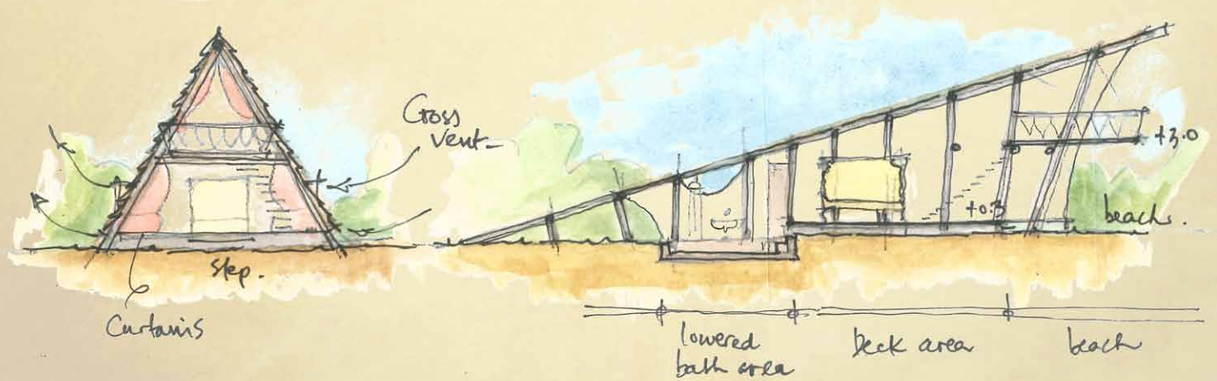


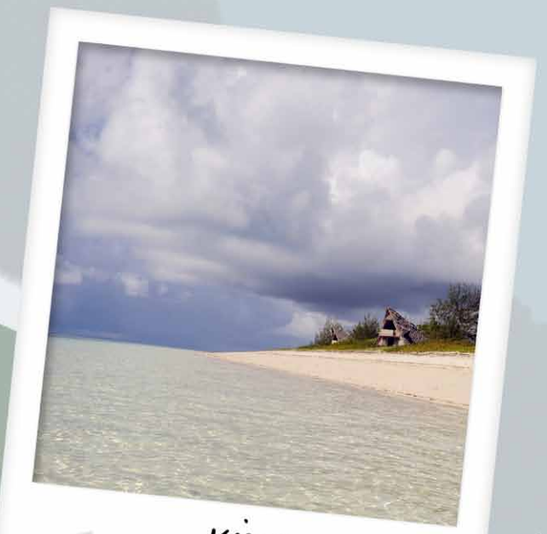
The lodge is composed by 6 Bandas and a main dining and lounge area.

The word "Banda" in Kiswahili means "Hut" and, in a way, it describes well the accommodation. Its shape resembles that of the Dhow sail (Dhows are the local traditional sailing boats, that you will see almost at any time when looking at the sea); but also their rigid "A" structure recalls the classic tents that are well known throughout the world and which have been used from the 50's.

The entire structure and the furniture are made of wood (only planted wood has been used, and no hard wood has been cut from forests) and Makuti (palm leaves).

The main area is located near the lighthouse, sheltered by the small Fanjove bay.





view from the sea

Fanjove Island Lodge

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Dedicated to those who never stops traveling ...