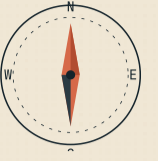


Mafia Island.

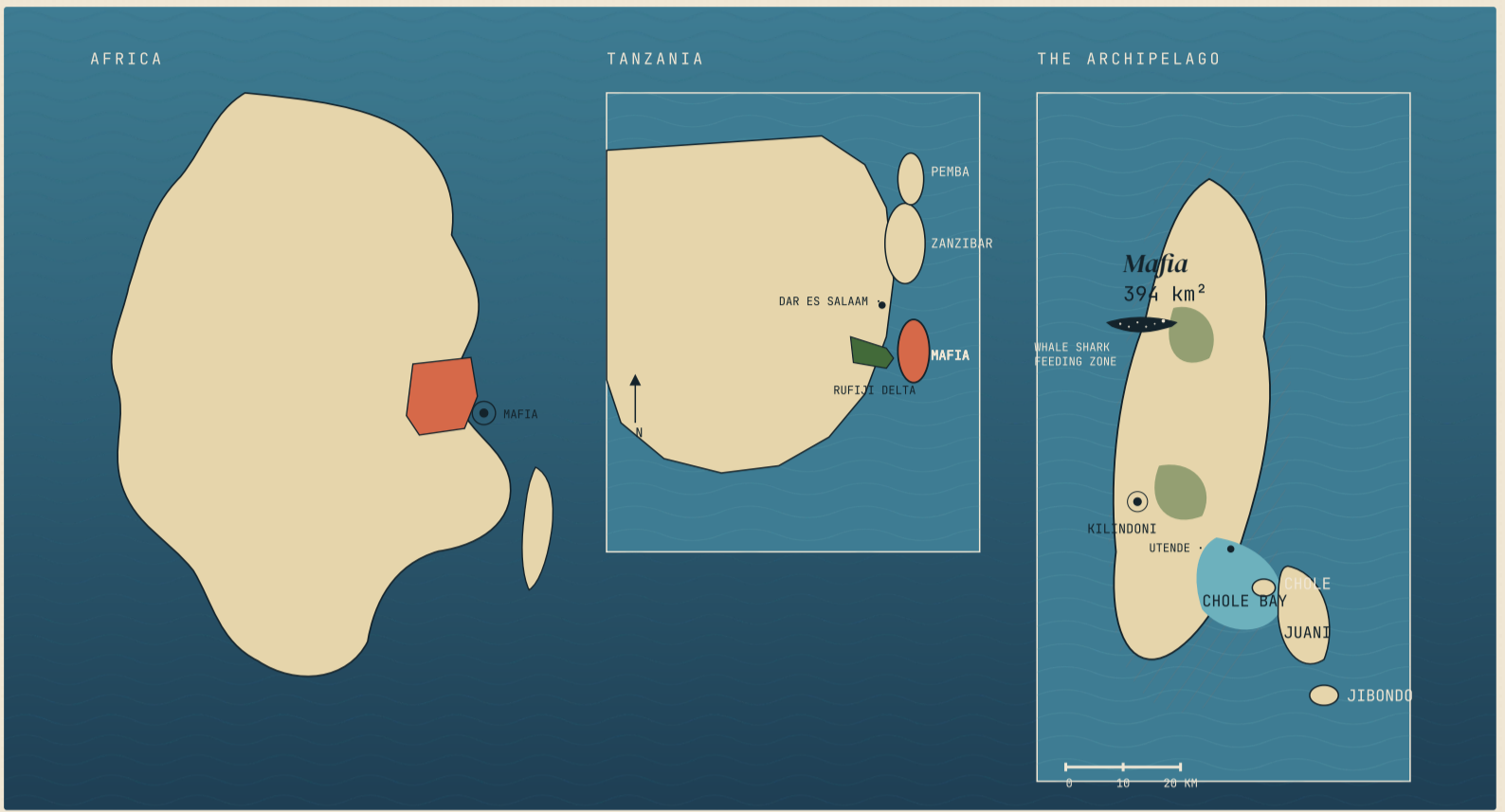
A quiet archipelago off the Tanzanian coast, where whale sharks gather and coral reefs persist.

SOUTH OF ZANZIBAR · EAST OF THE RUFUJI DELTA

7° 50' S 39° 50' E \ 25 km offshore



§ 01 - LOCATION



§ 02 - AT A GLANCE



CAPITAL
Kilindoni
Port town on the west coast, linked to Dar es Salaam by air.

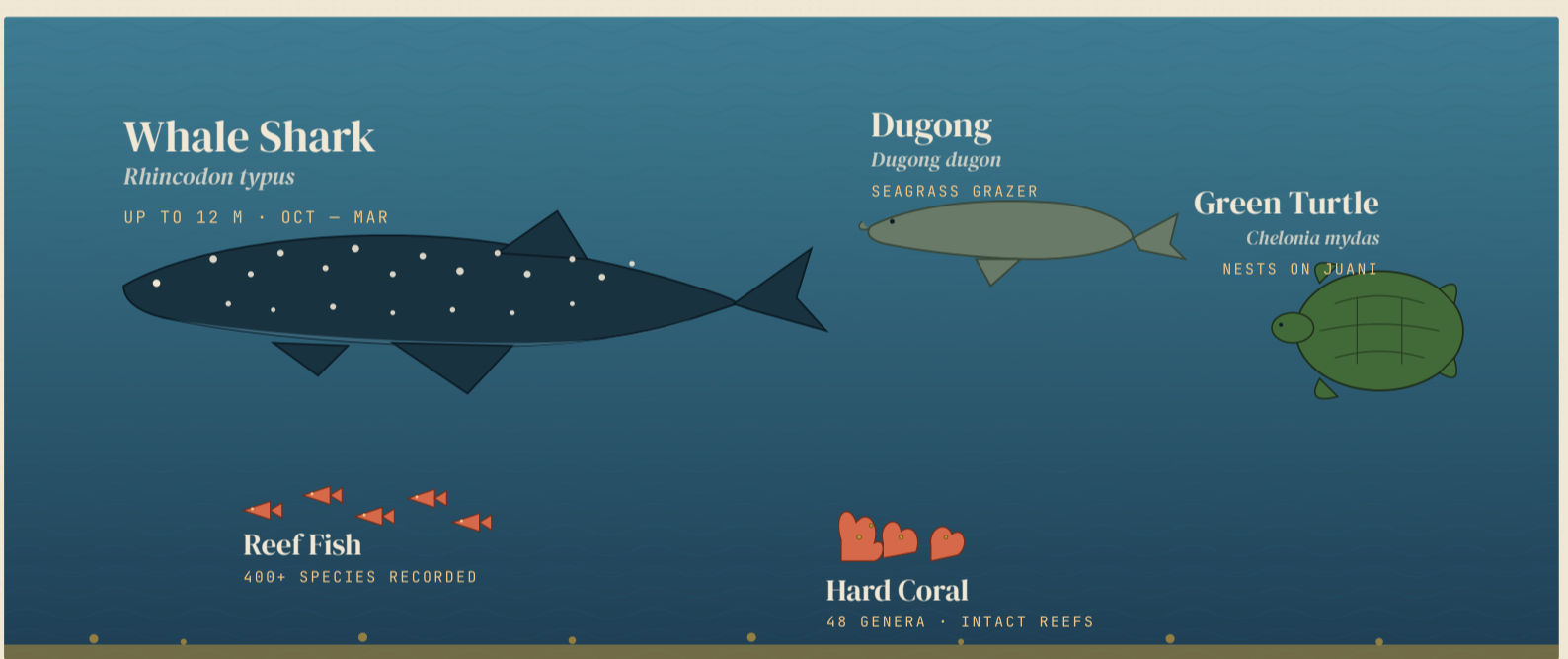
CLIMATE
Tropical
Long rains Mar–May, short rains Nov. Dry Jun–Oct.

LANGUAGES
Swahili
Plus regional dialects and English on the trade routes.

ELEVATION
53 m
Highest point on the island — flat, low-lying, palm-covered.

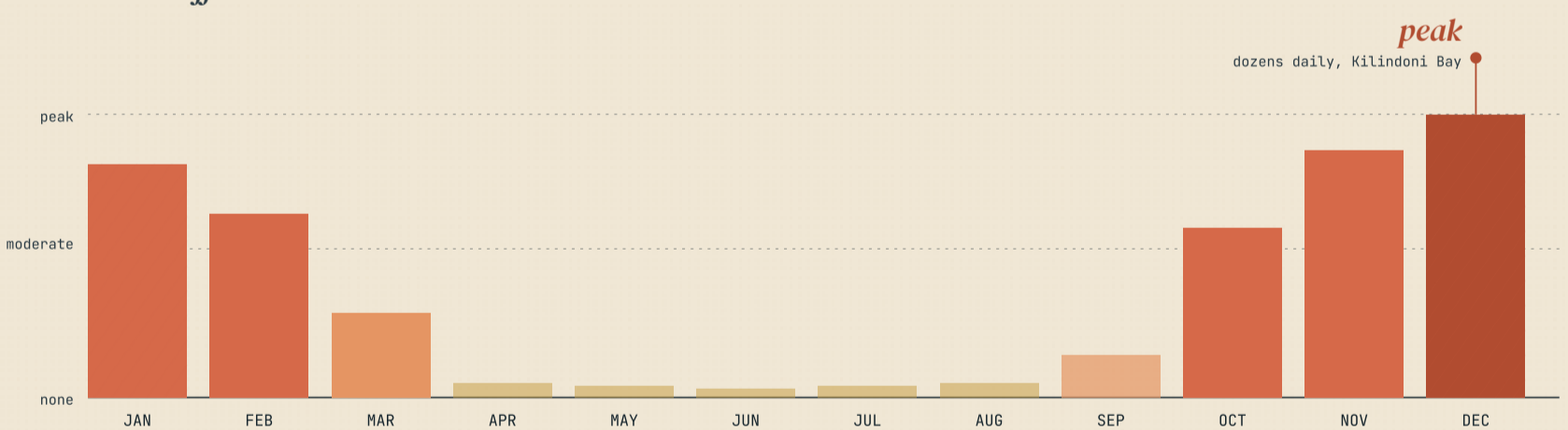
§ 03 - A CENSUS OF THE REEF

The living catalogue.
Five inhabitants of Mafia's waters, drawn to scale.



§ 04 - THE WHALE SHARK CALENDAR

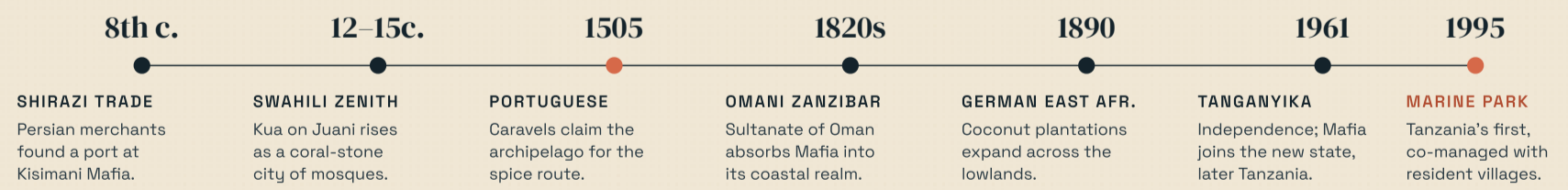
When the giants arrive.
Mafia hosts one of the world's most reliable aggregations of Rhincodon typus, drawn in by plankton blooms off Kilindoni each austral summer.



SOURCE: MAFIA ISLAND WHALE SHARK MONITORING · TYPICAL SEASON. INDIVIDUALS RETURN YEAR AFTER YEAR.

§ 05 - A SHORT HISTORY

Twelve centuries of traders, sultans, and reefs.



§ 06 - HOW THE ISLAND LIVES



- Fishing** (42%)
Dhow & outrigger crews working the channels and reefs.
- Coconut & cassava** (28%)
Smallholdings of palms, mango, cashew, rice paddies.
- Tourism & guiding** (18%)
Dive boats, lodges, guides — concentrated around Chole Bay.
- Services & govt** (12%)
Schools, clinics, the Marine Park, the airstrip at Kilindoni.

DAILY CATCH
Octopus, tuna, kingfish.
Most reef catches are sold fresh at Kilindoni market before noon, or smoked for the mainland trade.

GETTING THERE
1, 30 min flight from Dar
1, 4–6 hr dhow from Nyamisati
1, no ferries, no causeway

“Slow island, quick tide — the dhow knows both.”
— SWAHILI COASTAL SAYING