EDGE Success Story

Zanzibar Judicial Modernization Project (Zi-JUMP) Sets a New Standard for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure with Six EDGE-Certified Court Buildings

The Judiciary of Zanzibar (JoZ), through Zi-JUMP, embarked on an ambitious programme to modernize judicial infrastructure across the islands. The programme aims to improve access to justice while delivering court buildings that are efficient, resilient, comfortable and environmentally responsible. Furthermore, JoZ aimed to increase court efficiency through capacitating staff, digitalizing the judiciary information management system (JIMS to enhance case disposal and backlog clearance. Lastly through Zi-JUMP JoZ will strengthen citizen and stakeholder's engagement in the justice sector in general.



Integrated Justice Centre at Tunguu designed to meet EDGE Advanced standards.



EDGE Advanced Preliminary Certificates awarded in February 2026

When the project began its design phase in 2024, applying internationally recognized green-building standards to government court buildings was a new approach for the Judiciary of Zanzibar. EDGE—Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies—is an international green-building certification system developed by the International Finance Corporation. It requires projects to demonstrate at least 20% projected savings in energy use, water use and embodied energy or carbon in materials compared with a standard local building. EDGE Advanced recognition requires at least 40% energy savings, together with the minimum 20% thresholds for water and materials.

Neither the client, the Judiciary of Zanzibar, nor the design consultant, Hab Consult Ltd, had previously delivered EDGE-compliant public buildings. Knowledge of sustainable design practices was still developing, while conventional approaches could not consistently meet the performance thresholds required for certification. Following extensive design optimization, with the EDGE technical support from Urban Green Consultants Ltd (UGC) and Design Consultant: Hab Consult Ltd, five buildings under construction achieved EDGE Preliminary Design Certification while IJC Tunguu building achieved EDGE Advanced Preliminary Design Certification in February 2026 making a total of six (6) buildings certified with EDGE. The certificates were independently issued by Sintali in accordance with EDGE assessment procedures.

The project has also strengthened local technical capacity within the Judiciary of Zanzibar. A member of the JoZ technical team has achieved EDGE Expert accreditation, creating in-house expertise that can support the adoption of green-building practices and EDGE certification across future public buildings in Zanzibar.

Across the five buildings currently under construction, the project is expected to deliver substantial annual resource savings in-total:734 MWh of electricity savings per year, 7,459.4 m^3 of water savings per year, 1,274.9 tons of embodied carbon savings. Using the project's household-equivalence assumptions through research, the annual energy savings are comparable to the electricity consumption of approximately 432 average Zanzibar households[1].. The water savings are equivalent to the annual household water consumption of approximately 65–76 households[2]. The embodied-carbon savings are estimated to be comparable to the annual carbon-absorption potential of approximately 57,950 mature trees [3]. However, once the Jendele

[1] https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/569391623031256913/txt/Tanzania-Zanzibar-Energy-Sector-Transformation-and-Access-Project.txt

[2] https://openjicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/11814712_01.pdf

[3] catchfoundation.in/blogs/how-many-trees-to-offset-carbon-missions https://share.google/SJHw7BaM7ElNqWZjd

building will be completed it will be total of 6 buildings which makes **849.4 MWh of electricity savings per year equivalent to 500 household electricity consumption, 8,826.2 m³ of water savings per year equivalent to 75 to 89 household water consumption, 1,473.2 tons of embodied carbon savings equivalent to 66,964 mature trees**. This is not only crucial for energy, water and embodied carbon emitted savings contributing to the global efforts to overcome the climate change but also substantial reduction in operational cost in those EDGE certified court buildings.



District Magistrate Courts (DMCs) designed to meet EDGE standards.



EDGE Preliminary Certificates for District Magistrate Courts (DMCs) February 2026

Table 1: EDGE assessment performance per building

Building	Floor area in meter square (m^2)	Energy saving in percentage per year	Energy saving in megawatt-hour (MWh) per year	Water saving in percentage per year	Water saving in cubic meter (m^3) per year	Embodied carbon saving	Embodied carbon saving in tons of carbon emitted **(tCO_2e)**
IJC -Tunguu	4,468	45%	272.4	32%	1,992.2	27%	481.4
DMC- Kinduni	1,265	36%	115.6	33%	1,366.8	27%	198.4
DMC- Kijichi	1,265	35%	115.4	33%	1,366.8	22%	198.4
DMC- Makunduchi	1,265	35%	115.5	33%	1,366.8	27%	198.4
DMC- Nungwi	1,265	35%	115.1	33%	1,366.8	27%	198.3
DMC-Jendele	1,265	35%	115.4	33%	1,366.8	22%	198.3
Total	**10,793**		**849.4**		**8,826.2**		**1,473.2**

The achievement is significant not only because the project has secured international green-building recognition, but because it demonstrates that sustainability can be embedded in essential public infrastructure in-line with high quality service delivery as demonstrated in the Zanzibar Court User satisfaction survey 2025 where satisfaction level was 80% and now JoZ aimed to increase that to 85% by 2029.

Chief Justice quoted *"The Judiciary of Zanzibar is committed to ensuring that access to justice is supported by infrastructure that is modern, resilient and responsible to the environment including climate change. Through Zi-JUMP, we are demonstrating that court buildings can deliver high-quality judicial services while conserving energy and water, reducing environmental impacts and protecting public resources for future generations. Currently Zanzibar court user satisfaction survey (2025) indicated 80% satisfaction level expecting to improve more and more Insha-Allah"*

Zi-JUMP Coordinator quoted "*Achieving EDGE Preliminary Design Certification reflects the commitment and collaboration of the entire project team. It required us to rethink conventional design approaches, strengthen technical capacity and use evidence-based performance modelling. The result is a practical foundation for court facilities that are more efficient, more resilient and responsive to climate change and better prepared for the future. We are ready to continue sharing our experiences and more success stories with any one in Tanzania, Africa and Globally from what we have learned so far in the implementation of the Zi-JUMP. So far Zi-JUMP on average for the two years (2024/25 and 2025/26) have met the targets for 76% in all 29 indicators (10*

project development objectives (PDOs) indicators and 19 intermediate results indicators (IRIs). We expect our performance to reach 90% by the end of year 3 in May 2027 and at least 98% by end of the project in May 2029 Insha-Allah"

Benjamin N Mtasigwa (Senior Governance Specialist and TTL, World Bank representative) quoted *"The Zanzibar Judicial Modernization Project represents an important milestone as among the first court building projects in Africa and East Africa to integrate EDGE green building standards into the design of modern public court buildings. This achievement demonstrates that modern judicial infrastructure can simultaneously improve access to justice while advancing environmental sustainability. The project sets an important foundation for greener government buildings in Zanzibar and provides a valuable model for the adoption of sustainable public infrastructure across Tanzania and the wider region."*

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