



WCS
MOZAMBIQUE

2022 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

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ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT | 2022





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1. SUB-PROGRAMS WITHIN WCS PROGRAM - MOZAMBIQUE

1.1 Table of sub-programs by province/city

Item	Project Name	Province
01	Co-management of the Niassa Special Reserve ¹	Niassa and Cabo Delgado
02	Marine Program	Maputo City, Inhambane, Zambézia and Nampula

1.2 Geographical Location of Implementation

- Maputo City
- Niassa and Cabo Delgado: Niassa Special Reserve

* The COMBO project, the Marine Program, as well as the establishment of the Wildlife Crime Unit are centered basically in Maputo City.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Overview

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) was founded in 1895 as the Zoological Society of New York, and it is a Non-Governmental Organization established under the laws of the United States of America and declared as a non-profit entity. It has its headquarters in New York City and is dedicated to nature conservation, and the protection of wildlife and natural sites around the world. Its activities are founded on science, conservation actions, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

WCS supports more than 270 conservation areas around the world and has about 500 conservation projects in 65 countries worldwide, of which 15 are in African countries, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

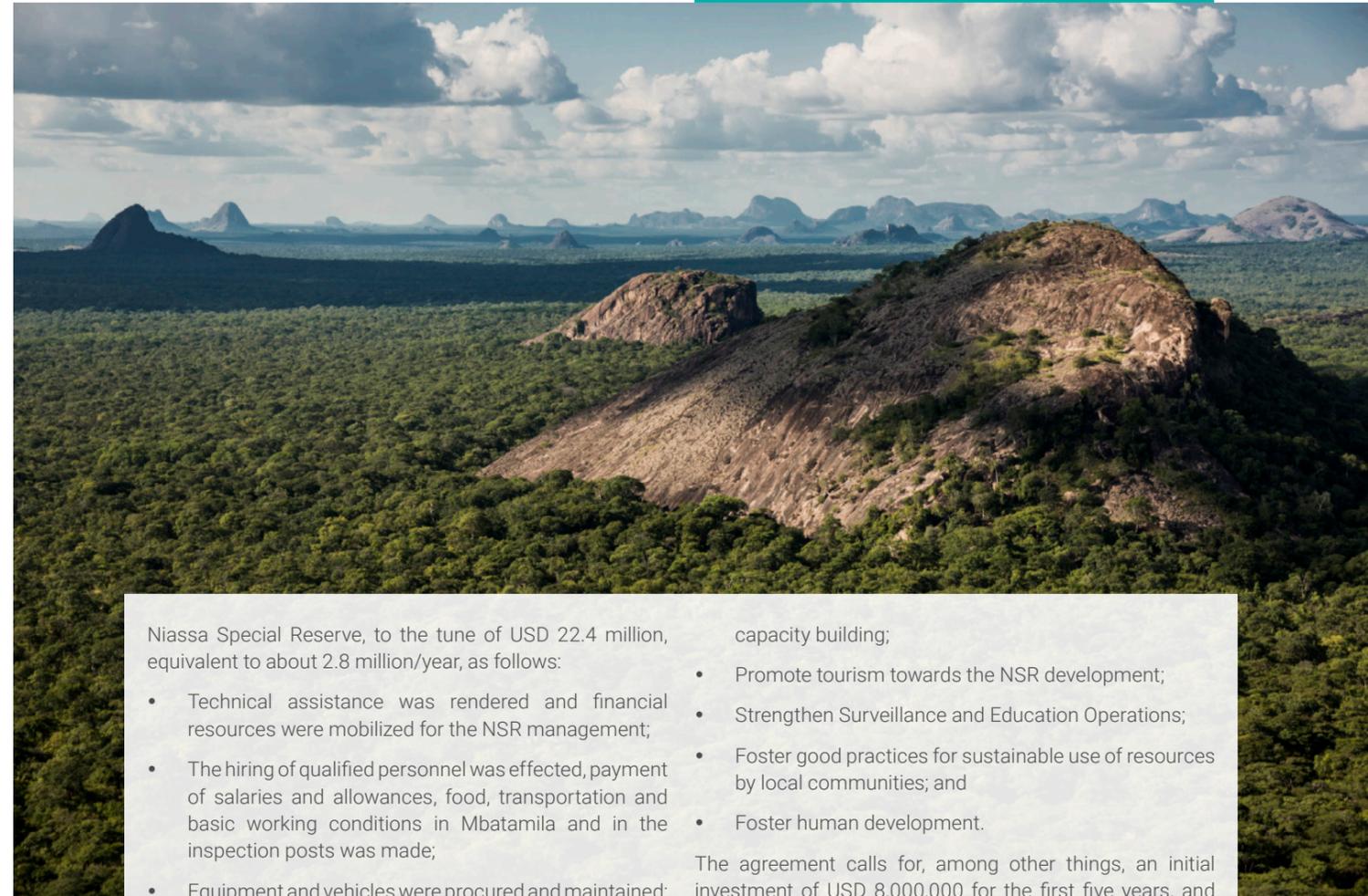
Since its launch, WCS has worked in intact terrestrial and

marine regions, by supporting the management of more than 370 protected areas that are home to more than 90% of the world's coral habitats, 75% of known shark and ray species, and 60% of the world's marine mammal diversity. WCS leads ocean conservation initiatives in 24 countries, with a team of more than 200 marine specialists.

WCS has been established in Mozambique since 2012, on an order from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, to implement a national program initially, with two main goals:

- Improving the protection of the Niassa Special Reserve and improving the conservation status of its elephants; and
- Reinforcing the management of protected areas at the national level, by helping improve policies and legislation on wildlife crimes.

For 8 years it provided support for the development of the



Niassa Special Reserve, to the tune of USD 22.4 million, equivalent to about 2.8 million/year, as follows:

- Technical assistance was rendered and financial resources were mobilized for the NSR management;
- The hiring of qualified personnel was effected, payment of salaries and allowances, food, transportation and basic working conditions in Mbatamila and in the inspection posts was made;
- Equipment and vehicles were procured and maintained;
- The constant presence of aircrafts to support surveillance and logistics was secured;
- Resources were mobilized for the training of the NSR scouts (basic training, refresher and specialization training);
- Improvements were made to the Radio Communication system;
- Support infrastructures were both improved and built;
- Flora and fauna monitoring activities were conducted; and
- Community development programs focusing on income generation, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict have been carried out.

In 2014 WCS Mozambique began to have other programs, namely on Biodiversity Impact Mitigation and Compensation and Marine Biodiversity Conservation.

- In January 2020, WCS entered into a 20-year Co-Management Agreement with the Government of Mozambique, through the Ministry of Land and Environment for the Niassa Special Reserve, with the following goals: Reinforce management capacity for the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR);
- Support the NSR development financially;
- Reinforce management team and provide technical

capacity building;

- Promote tourism towards the NSR development;
- Strengthen Surveillance and Education Operations;
- Foster good practices for sustainable use of resources by local communities; and
- Foster human development.

The agreement calls for, among other things, an initial investment of USD 8,000,000 for the first five years, and states that all revenues generated at the NSR will be re-invested in the area in accordance with legislation, and that WCS shall raise additional funding for the various development activities of the Communities living within the NSR.

In May 2021, WCS, in partnership with the Ministry of Land and Environment, presented the mapping of 29 Key Areas for Biodiversity in Mozambique, totaling about 139.947,00 km², which include 4 marine and 9 coastal areas with an area of 5.600,00 km². This picture clearly indicates the need for a more careful assessment that will surely allow the identification of other key areas along the Exclusive Economic Zone as more information is generated.

In June 2021, WCS concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP, acronym in Portuguese) as a result of a strengthened collaboration that has generated substantial results. During the period 2018 to 2020, WCS worked with the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM, acronym in Portuguese) to prepare information to support decision-making. Together with other conservation partners, WCS supported MIMAIP in reviewing the Marine Fisheries Regulation and in preparing a list of protected marine species, with emphasis on 14 species of sharks and rays, and WCS and InOM drafted a map of marine ecosystems and built scenarios that allow the identification and definition of options to achieve national goals regarding the expansion of the National Network of Protected Areas.

So WCS's projects are carried out in close collaboration

¹ | It includes the main funding: ECO-SMART: The Alliance for Ecosystem Conservation Systems.



WCS Mozambique Country Director, Afonso Madope (left side), and Niassa Special Reserve Warden, Terência Tamele.

with the Mozambican Government and are focused on wildlife conservation by fighting the threats posed by the overexploitation of natural resources, advocacy at the national policy level, support to combat poaching, and support for the management of protected areas. Thus, the main goals are:

- a) Increase protection and co-manage the Niassa Special Reserve, a vast landscape in the north of the country and the largest conservation

area in Mozambique, and improve the conservation status of its elephants through co-management of the Reserve;

- b) Strengthen the management of national protected areas and biodiversity in general by helping improve policies to enhance the development of an enabling environment for effective and efficient conservation;
- c) Strengthen ANAC enforcement response, through investment in specialized personnel,

in order to improve the ability to dismantle criminal trafficking networks in high-risk areas, such as international airports and ports and border areas; and

- d) Improve the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy in Mozambique.



Community involvement, NSR

2.2 Support Sub-Program for the Development of the Niassa Special Reserve

In Mozambique, the management of conservation areas is done by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), an entity under the umbrella of the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA).

WCS is the co-manager of the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR or Reserve), in partnership with the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), by means of a Co-Management Agreement² signed with the Government of Mozambique, through MTA.

² | Co-Management Agreement is attached hereto.



CELEBRATING WORLD ELEPHANT DAY!

Our elephant monitoring programme uses GPS collars to track animals' movements. This allows timely deployment of human-wildlife conflict reponse teams if elephants approach farms. It also increases our knowledge of Niassa's largest mammals.



Photo © ANAC

2.2.1 Where It Stands Today

The Mecula district of Niassa Province, where the headquarters of the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR) is located, was attacked by insurgents in November 2021, resulting in the evacuation of all non-priority personnel, leaving only members of the Enforcement Unit, who were instrumental in the pursuit of the insurgents, acting as trackers due to their knowledge of the forests. These attacks on five villages, two of which were completely burnt down, resulted in more than 500 people being displaced. This meant that 2022 began with security problems, with technical staff only returning to their posts in April 2022.

This was the picture for activities in support of humanitarian aid from January to June. Enforcement and Community conservation activities were negatively affected.

Another event worth mentioning is the fact that the NSR

has a new Director (Terêncio Tamele) from February 2022 replacing the former Director, Baldeu Araquechande.

In September 2022, as the rainy season ended and the hot season began, there was an increase in illegal activities such as illegal mining, illegal logging, illegal fishing and poaching.

In order to control, discipline and direct the activities related to the protection, conservation and management of natural resources, during the period under review various activities related to patrolling, access control, etc. were carried out by the joint enforcement force of the NSR (consisting of State inspectors, agents of the FDS – UIR battalion directly deployed to support the enforcement force of the NSR, and inspectors of private operators).

2.2.2 Forest and Wildlife Surveillance

It should be noted that the actions of the insurgents operating chiefly in the province of Cabo Delgado had a negative impact on the pursuit of the objectives of Surveillance, since the surveillance activities were suspended from the end of November 2021 until January 2022, with the force devoting itself only to the activities of securing posts and property, as well as allowing the Defense and Security Forces (FDS, acronym in Portuguese) deployed on the ground to carry out their activities in the face of the situation of terrorist attacks. Surveillance activities resumed in February, when some improvement in the security situation was observed.

During this period, a total of 876 patrols were conducted, covering 81,182.4 km and 38 ambushes. These efforts resulted in the seizure and confiscation of 2907 snares



The NSR elephant collar replacement process (Credit: Keith Begg)

of various types, 3 vehicles, 3 tractors, 4 motorcycles, 6 bicycles and 267 items used for illegal mining. 124 suspects were arrested for the above crimes, including 14 Tanzanian nationals and one Chinese national.

The Legal Sector continued to follow up suspected cases for subsequent steps in the organs of the administration of justice. A total of 41 crime notices were issued against 124 detainees. Of particular note was illegal mining, with 85 cases registered, of which 18 were arrested for poaching. The NSR Legal Sector assisted in the trial of 18 cases in which 41 defendants were tried for poaching and illegal mining. These trials resulted in 13 of the defendants being sentenced to between 4 and 18 years in prison.

In order to ensure that cases filed with the judicial authorities

2.2.3 Biodiversity Monitoring

Biodiversity monitoring continued to be an important activity at NSR, focusing on all species of flora and fauna, with an increased emphasis on monitoring collared animals, namely elephants and lions. It should be noted that NSR has been using EarthRanger (EarthRanger is a system for real-time monitoring of various elements based on installed remote devices and complemented by the use of devices such as Garmin Inreach, Delorme and Cedar). It is a new technology for biodiversity monitoring that reflects in real time the state of migration of collared animals, the movement of inspectors during patrols, forest burning, thinning or felling, and includes the monitoring of the use of circulating means such as vehicles.

By the end of 2021, 20 elephant collars had been replaced and a further 20 collars had been fitted to new elephants. The lion tracking data is managed by the Niassa Carnivores Project. Placing collars on elephants allows real-time monitoring of the animals by integrating the radio signal from the collars with the EarthRanger system.

Earth Ranger stores all historical data on an online server,

are received and that perpetrators are tried and convicted in accordance with the law and justice, a workshop on the prevention of legal risks was held during the reporting period, attended by 15 inspectors from four concessionaires, namely Mariri, Chiulexi, Kambako and Luwire, and the following topics were addressed: Community Involvement in Natural Resource Surveillance, In Flagrante Delicto and Without Flagrante Delicto Apprehension, Photographic Recording of the Offence and the Offender, Preservation of the Site of the Offence and the Human Rights of Offenders. The workshop was moderated by Agostinho Jorge, the Director of Conservation at Mariri, and included four facilitators: the Community Sector Manager, a Lawyer from the NSR and two Magistrates, one from the Public Prosecutor's Office and one from the Judiciary.

allowing management decisions to be made based on historical trends for both Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) management and Enforcement. No damage to elephant collars reported during this period.

During the period under review, the movement of collared elephants was concentrated in regions with abundant water resources, particularly the Rovuma and Lugenda rivers. Note that the regions used by these elephants require a great deal of effort by patrols to avoid poachers being close to them. During the reporting period, 77 radio-collared elephants were monitored, of which 2 stopped transmitting in the month of August. This group of 77 collars being monitored includes the batches installed in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

One of the most important components of the environmental monitoring process is communication. During the reporting period, specifically in August, repairs were made to the communications' system with the technical assistance from a company under contract: Kinetics Six. On Mount Mecula, the antenna was replaced with a higher mast, a

The Result of the work with the communities of Ntimbo II, Mecula District



repeater was installed at Mecula and solar panels were replaced. Electronic and electrical equipment such as panels, inverters, batteries and controllers were replaced at Mount Yao, Rungwe and Mariri.

In the Community Development component, the first 3 months of the year were atypical compared to the same periods in previous years because of the aforementioned insurgent attacks that occurred from November 2021 to January 2022.



Community assistance following insurgency

2.2.4 Communitarian Participation in the Management of Renewable Natural Resources

The attacks on the villages forced the population to move to safer areas such as Marrupa and the Mecula chief district. This forced migration did not allow for the implementation of sustainable development activities in the communities. At the end of January, some people slowly returned to their areas of origin, while others left their former villages for good.

By late March and early April, most people had returned to their home regions, albeit timidly. This allowed the community sector team to develop some activities.

On the instructions of His Excellency the President of the Republic and under the supervision of the Niassa Provincial Government, the NSR, through the community sector, in partnership with private players and under the leadership of the Mecula District Administration, developed activities to support the return of communities to their areas of origin. 500 zinc sheets were distributed to

people who were victims of insurgent attacks.

Due to the late return of communities after the attacks, there was also a late resumption of community activities after they had been abandoned for security reasons. Only a few communities that continued to live in their homes were monitored. The NSR Community Assistants concentrated on monitoring programs started in the previous year, such as goat and duck rearing. Meetings were also held with the NRM (CGRN, acronym in Portuguese) of Mecula and Mussoma to coordinate activities for 2022.

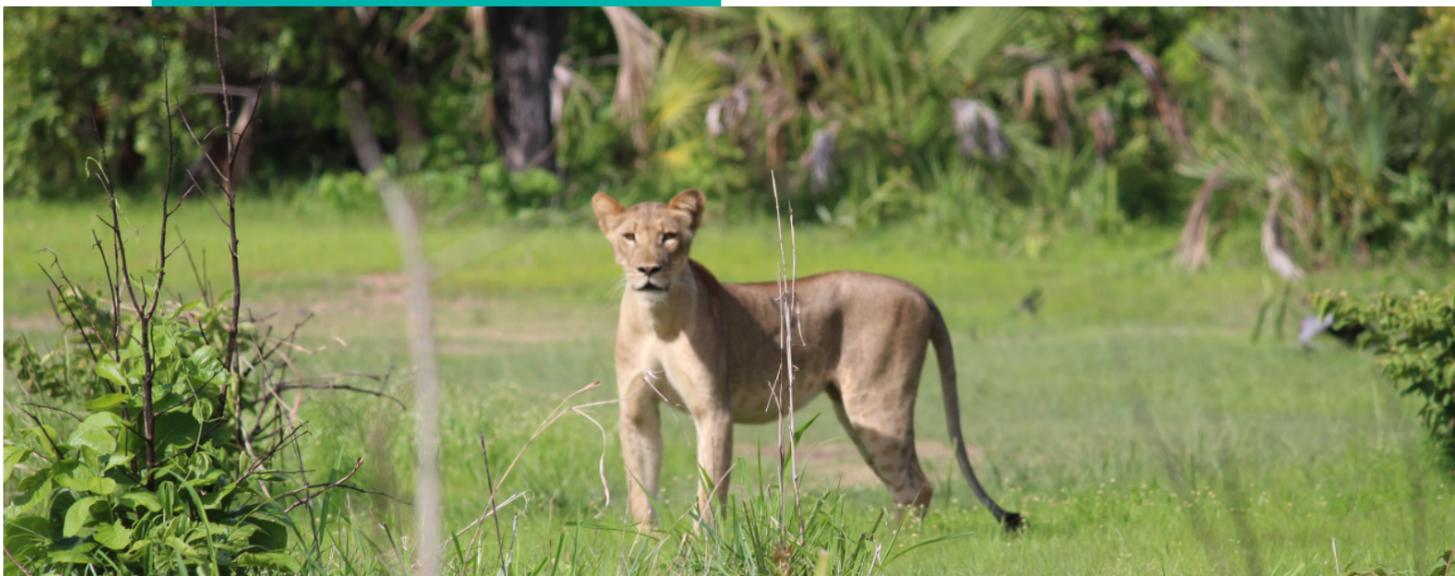
Regular monitoring meetings have also been held with the Mecula district government to discuss the return of communities displaced by insurgent attacks to safer areas.

A search for potential economic activities that could be funded by the NSR was initiated. The following activities have been identified:

- the sales of agricultural inputs, and
- bakery and prepared food shops – selected as a priority.

In the first phase, a program was set up to support local farmers with improved seeds of various second season crops. Training in conservation agriculture was provided.

The community sector also focused on restructuring the NRMCs at the NSR level. To this end, contacts were made that culminated in meetings of the Matondovela, Mussoma, Mecula and Mavago committees. The aim of the restructuring was to provide the NRMCs with the organizational capacity for proper legalization and the adoption of a clear organizational chart to facilitate their management. It also aims to provide the NRMCs with the necessary structure to make the most of the 20% in order to create sustainable programs for the benefit of the community in which these NRMCs are located.



young lioness photographed in the LS4 block region

2.2.5 Human-Wildlife Conflict Management

As for Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), the Rapid Response Unit was reactivated and continued to implement conflict mitigation strategies, and the following activities were carried out:

- Three training sessions were held on the production of chilli pepper repellents to scare elephants, involving 120 farmers from the communities of Alássima, Ntimbo I and II, Mecula, Macalange and Guebuza.
- In coordination with the security forces, permission was obtained to resume the use of rockets to scare away large animals. 170 rockets were distributed in the community of Msawise and the chief community of Mavago.
- A survey of areas has been carried out to install mobile electric fencing as a HWC mitigation measure.
- Environmental education campaigns focusing on the commemoration of environmental days such as World Wildlife Day (3 March) and World Forest Day (21 March), which were celebrated in Mbatamila, at

the NSR's headquarters, and in Mecula, at the Mecula Chief District.

- World Elephant Day was celebrated on 12 August in the Ntimbo II community, attended by 250 people, mostly schoolchildren.
- A special celebration was held on 26 August - World Day of the African Wild Dog (Mabeco) – in the community of Nacalange, with the participation of 350 people.

All the activities were used to reflect with the communities on the importance of biodiversity conservation through lectures, film projections, theatre performances, and environmental songs and dances.

- The construction of inspection posts in Catembe, Msawise and Milepa has resumed after a period of interruption, and the construction of two houses for the NSR senior staff in Mbatamila has continued at a satisfactory pace. One of the houses has been completed and the other is awaiting finishing touches.



Celebration of the World Forest Day in Niassa Special Reserve

2.3 Marine Sub-Program

The implementation of the marine component is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), which covers a very wide range of activities grouped under the following thematic headings:

- ◆ Combo+ Project
- ◆ Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation
- ◆ Shark and Ray Conservation;
- ◆ Coral Reef Conservation;
- ◆ Capacity Building of the Biodiversity Convention Focal Points for CBD CoP 15;
- ◆ Support to the management of sustainable artisanal fisheries in Mozambique;
- ◆ Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast – Blue Future;
- ◆ Support to the expansion of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) in Mozambique.

2.3.1 COMBO + Program: Conservation, Impact Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets

The first phase was run from 2016-2020 and led to either the introduction or improvement of measures, legislation, policies, technical tools, capacity building and institutional reorganization to properly implement the mitigation hierarchy, including biodiversity offsets, in the four African countries covered by the project.

As a result of the first phase, WCS successfully negotiated with AFD and FFEM, who decided to fund a second phase, now called the COMBO+ program, which started in July 2021 and will run until 2025.

In Mozambique, the COMBO+ program is implemented through a partnership between WCS, the Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation (BIOFUND) and the National Directorate of the Environment (DINAB) of the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA). Its main goal is to ensure the correct application of the mitigation hierarchy in the country and the operationalization of the new Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets (Ministerial Order 55/2022 of 19 May), which includes the development of additional tools, the strengthening of institutional capacity and the implementation of pilot projects, while contributing to the achievement of the country's conservation and climate goals.

2.3.1.1 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- Under the COMBO+ program, Ministerial Diploma 55/2022 of 19 May 2022, setting out the Biodiversity Offset Directive, has been approved and officially published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Mozambique (<https://tinyurl.com/4d6ppz7m>).
- With technical and financial support from the COMBO+ program, Ministerial Diploma No. 118/2022 of 21 November 2022, establishing the Directive on Independent Expert Reviewers in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for category A+

activities, was approved and officially published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Mozambique, attached hereto;

- Official translation of the Ministerial Diploma on Biodiversity Offsets into French and English to make it more inclusive and easier to interpret for a number of international companies operating in the country;
- The second phase of the COMBO+ program was officially launched in a ceremony led by His Excellency the Vice Minister of Land and Environment, together



New Directive on Biodiversity offsets, Ministerial Diploma, 55_2022 of 19 May, 2022



The Official launching ceremony of the second phase of the COMBO+ program along with the deliverables of the CONNECT project (SIBMOZ - Mozambique Biodiversity Information System and SGLA - Environmental Licensing Management System) Led by His Excellency Vice Minister of Land and Environment (credits, WCS).

with the products of the CONNECT project (SIBMOZ - Mozambique Biodiversity Information System and SGLA - Environmental Licensing Management System);

- The National Steering Committee of the COMBO+ program met for the first time to validate the committee's ToRs and present the work plan for 2022;
- In coordination with Portucel Mozambique, a case study report was prepared on how the company applied the mitigation hierarchy to biodiversity impacts;
- Within institutional capacity building:
 - Three young professionals recruited through BIOFUND's Leadership Program for Conservation in Mozambique (PLCM in Portuguese) for a 6-month internship in the COMBO+ program.
 - A technical consultant was recruited and seconded to DINAB to provide ongoing support to the new Biodiversity Offset Assessment and Monitoring Unit (RAACB, in Portuguese) within the Environmental Licensing Department.
 - Module III of the intensive training program was delivered to DINAB's Biodiversity Offset Assessment and Monitoring Office and members of the MTA's Technical Committee on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the form of a two-day retreat in Macaneta, attended by more than 25 government officials, focusing on the implementation of the Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets.
 - Module IV of the intensive training program was conducted for DINAB's Biodiversity Offset Assessment and Monitoring Office and members of MTA's Technical Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), with a one-day theoretical session focusing on the design of a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan according to Ministerial Order no. 55/2022, and a half-day practical session consisting of a visit to the eucalyptus clearing sites

of the Habitat Enhancement Pilot Project in Maputo National Park (see here);

- A two-day training session was held for the private sector and DINAB on the implementation of the new Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets, with 49 participants from the private sector (including individual consultants, officials from the Mozambican Association for Environmental Impact Assessment - AMAIA - and the Mozambican Association of International Oil Operators - AMOPI - as well as project proponents from the mining and forestry sectors);
- A regional training program was conducted to build the technical capacity and raise awareness of institutions within the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA) and the Technical Evaluation Committee (CTA, in Portuguese) regarding the Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets in Mozambique. Approximately 25 Government Institutions and 119 Officials from the environment sector were involved (37 Officials from the Southern Region, 38 Officials from the Central Region and 44 Officials from the Northern Region), 42% of whom were women.
- UNEP-WCMC and the Norwegian Environmental Agency (NEA) were supported in the implementation of an intensive training program on the Environmental Licensing Management System (SGLA), the Mozambique Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for various government institutions.
- In collaboration with CEAGRE and under the leadership of BIOFUND, a baseline study on the ecological and socioeconomic characterization of the Licuati Forest Reserve was conducted; this study will be used for the pilot project being developed by BIOFUND and WCS through the COMBO+ program.
- A consultancy was started with Impacto Lda, to assess

the potential of Conservation Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of the coastal zones as recipients of biodiversity offset projects in Mozambique, enabling an effective application of the Biodiversity Mitigation and Offset Hierarchy in the country, according to Ministerial Order 55/2022;

- A technical webinar was held to update and standardize the application of the IUCN global typology on the historical vegetation/land ecosystem map of South Africa and Mozambique;
- A technical webinar on the historic vegetation map of Mozambique was held with national experts to present updates and collect comments. Version 2.0 is significantly improved, with the mapping of 162 ecosystem types, grouped into 8 biomes;
- An updated open-access interactive map of Mozambique's historic vegetation/terrestrial ecosystems was developed, including an app that allows users to view the map and all associated information from a mobile device, even when the device is offline;
- Technical webinars were held to discuss the general approach on updating the assessment of the Red List of Ecosystem (RLE) for Mozambique with the participation of more than 20 national experts;
- A flowchart (decision-key) was developed to help the officials of the Office for Assessment and Monitoring of Biodiversity Offsets decide whether or not a project will require a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP) in accordance with Ministerial Order 55/2022;
- Under the leadership of BIOFUND and in collaboration with CEAGRE, the IV Meeting of the Monitoring Group for Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives in the Licuati Forest Reserve and Surrounding Area was co-organized with the objective of presenting and discussing the results of the baseline studies

(ecological and socio-economic) and the proposed management plan for the conservation of the Licuati region in the Matutuine district of Maputo;

- Support was given to the preparation and monitoring of the fieldwork of the CEAGRE team in the Chimanimani National Park (PNC, in Portuguese) contracted by BIOFUND to collect socio-economic and biophysical data in the Total Protection areas of the park as part of the preparation of the strategy and action plan for the improvement of its key biodiversity;
- Under the leadership of BIOFUND, a technical webinar was organized with stakeholders to share the preliminary results of the ecological and socio-economic characterization study of the PNC;
- A webinar was held on Spatial Biodiversity Data, data portals for use in the mitigation hierarchy, guidance on the preparation and application of this data;
- Participation in IMEC Thematic Group webinar on "Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar: No Net Loss Commitments";
- Participation in the exchange of experiences between FIAES in El Salvador and BIOFUND in Mozambique, focusing on how to transform BIOFUND into a viable financial mechanism for biodiversity offsetting in Mozambique;
- COMBO+ program management committee meeting was held, where each Country covered by the program had the opportunity to present the main results achieved over the last year, and discuss the administrative aspects of the program;
- A technical webinar was held on the testing models for implementing biodiversity offsets, where Mozambique's team had the opportunity to share their experience in implementing pilot projects as a mechanism to test models for implementing biodiversity offsets.



Training for private sector and DINAB on implementation of the Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets



Field visit to Eucalyptus clearing sites in Maputo NP for DINAB and MTA's Technical Commission for EIA



Lago Azul, Bilene

2.3.2 Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation

By partnering with the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA, in Portuguese acronym), through the National Directorate of Environment (DINAB, in Portuguese acronym) WCS is, since 2019, implementing the Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation mapping project. This project is funded by USAID, through USAID/SPEED. This initiative allows for assessment of threatened species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and mapping the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Mozambique.

The project was one of the first global initiatives to conduct a comprehensive national assessment of KBAs, applying the IUCN Global Standard (2016) to a whole range of biological groups and elements (insects, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, plants, ecosystems and marine biodiversity).

The identification of KBAs and assessment of species under the IUCN Red List, an internationally recognized criteria, were undertaken to support:

i) conservation planning and priority setting, ii) the strategic expansion of conservation area networks, iii) inform environmental safeguard policies for the private sector, iv) provide opportunities for local communities. KBAs serves as indicators of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets 11 and 12, as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15.

2.3.2.1 Activities Carried Out in

- The third phase of the KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) program was set in motion and the respective kick-off meeting was held. The project aims to: (i) collect data that can help identify and map potential coastal and marine KBAs, with a focus on Nampula province, developing and submitting proposals to the KBA Secretariat, (ii) Carry out additional Red List assessments for fauna and flora, including marine species, (iii) increase national capacity in KBA and Red List assessments and their use for decision making (iv) support the development of conservation plans and financial solutions that can ensure the long-term sustainability of these KBAs by creating opportunities to improve the economic status of local communities, such as performance-based payments through blue carbon solutions, v) compile information on the conservation status of coral reef ecosystems across the country's coastal zone.
- Two consultancies were launched to collect quantitative data on field species that could potentially trigger a KBA in northern Maputo (Marracuene) and Pemba Bay.
- In the context of the leadership renewal of the National Coordination Group of KBAs and Red Lists, created in 2019, the voting process for the new steering committee was launched.
- A consultancy was started for the translation of KBAs online course from English to Portuguese.



The launch of the new regional project, "Building biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa: biodiversity assessment, prioritization and spatial planning in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi" (or simply "SBAPP Project") (credits, WCS).

- A consultancy was started for the Blue Carbon pre-feasibility and feasibility study in Mozambique (to support the development of conservation plans and financial solutions that can guarantee the long-term sustainability of KBAs).
- The annual meeting of the National Coordination Group (NCG) for KBAs and Red Lists was held:
- validation process of the national species database integrated in the SIBMOZ portal;
- definition of the NCG training needs;
- presentation of the findings in 2 potential new KBAs (Pemba Bay and North Maputo/Marracuene);
- update on the process of developing a proposal to categorize the Namuli KBA as a community conservation area through an initiative led by NITIDAE (French NGO, with the mission to develop and lead projects to preserve the environment while contributing to the local economy);
- Two presentations on Integrating Key Biodiversity Areas in the achievement of national targets and international commitments were made during the training for the private sector, Environment Directorates of the southern provinces of Mozambique, and the Technical Committee for Environmental Impact Assessment on the implementation of the new Ministerial Order on biodiversity offsets.
- Launch of a consultancy to conduct research on the "blue holes" of Nacala;

- A meeting was held to exchange experiences between WCS-Mozambique and the National Institute for Biodiversity and Conservation Areas of Angola (INCB, acronym in Portuguese) regarding the national assessment of KBAs and the structure and functioning of the Mozambican National Coordination Group;
- Participation in the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in which it presented the work being developed in Mozambique on KBAs;
- A new regional project, "Building³ biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa: biodiversity assessment, prioritization and spatial planning in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi" (or "SBAPP Project") has been initiated, which includes field data collection and assessment of new KBAs in Mozambique, funded by AFD and FFEM;
- The official launch event and a BioBlitz³ was held in Mozambique after the launch of SBAPP, as an

interactive way to illustrate the importance of citizen science and community involvement in field data collection;

- Support for the participation of the Government of Mozambique, represented by Mr. Alexandre Bartolomeu – the Head of Department of Environmental Management at the Ministry of Land and Environment, in the COP15 side event hosted by the KBA secretariat on the theme Why Key Biodiversity Areas Should Be in the Global Biodiversity Framework: Lessons from Countries Around the World; and
- WCS attended: i) the event "APAIPS Biodiversity Celebration", which presented the main values and threats affecting the KBA of APAIPS; ii) an event on the Conservation Planning Analysis of the Maputaland region organized by DICE and UEM and iii) the national dialogue on natural capital for a green economy in Mozambique, fostered by MTA and WWF.

2.3.3 Shark and Ray Conservation

Shark and ray related activities started in the last quarter of 2018, with the support of the Shark Conservation Fund. The goal of this program is to improve the conservation status of sharks and rays in Mozambique, namely:

- ◆ Build capacity, advance scientific knowledge, and fill critical data gaps to enable informed decisions;
- ◆ Improve sustainability and control in the trade of shark and ray products through better implementation of CITES;
- ◆ Develop science-based policy and management, including species-specific regulations, to ensure best conservation practices and binding management commitments.

2.3.3.1 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- 3 samplings using Baited Remote Underwater Video Station (BRUVs) at Maputo National Park (MNP) were conducted;
- 4 samplings using Baited Remote Underwater Video Station in Inhambane Province were conducted
- First Baited Remote Underwater Video Station was conducted in Gaza Province covering the entire coast of the province;
- 2 samplings using Baited Remote Underwater Video Station were conducted in the districts of Memba and Mossuril covering an extension of 200 km of coast;
- Shark and ray sampling were conducted in artisanal fisheries landing sites in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Zambézia, Sofala and Maputo;
- Socio-economic surveys of 120 fishermen related to sharks and rays (Zalala, Pemba, Inhambane, Maputo and Mecufi) were conducted;
- Sampling for environmental DNA (eDNA, in English

acronym) collection was carried out, 120 samples collected in Maputo National Park, 12 samples in Inhambane Province and 48 samples in Nampula Province (Memba and Mossuril);

- WCS participated in a documentary about shark and ray research using BRUVs Video Station in the MNP;
- As part of the partnership with the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM) in shark and ray research and applied innovative techniques, the Televisão de Moçambique and Jornal Notícias conducted interviews with WCS in the context of the World Endangered Species Day;
- Three workshops were held for the dissemination of the Decree no. 89/2020 on the Regulation on Maritime Fisheries (REPMAR, in Portuguese acronym), attended by participants from the fishing sector and other institutions indirectly linked to the sector, as well as the Fishing Community Councils of Costa do Sol and Muntanhana in the Province and City of Maputo and the Province of Inhambane. Information was shared on

the protection and management of species included in Annexes XI and XIII of REPMAR;

- 160 posters on protected marine species were produced and delivered to the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) during the REPMAR workshops.
- 40 roll-ups of the REPMAR protected species were produced and delivered to the National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP) for dissemination in the various ports of the country;
- Support was given to ADNAP to produce and disseminate communication materials about the protected species at the Mozambican Airports;
- Participation in 6 technical meetings for the development and completion of the Baseline

Assessment for Sharks and Rays and the National Action Plan for Sharks and Rays;

- Participation in the 12th Symposium of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with the presentation of results on ecological surveys of sharks and rays from BRUVs in 3 campaigns carried out in the Maputo National Park, on the south coast of the Inhambane Province and in the Cabo Delgado Province, from the mouth of the Lúrio River to Matemo Island, in the Quirimbas National Park;
- Participation in the Fifth Meeting of the Forum of Civil Society Organizations working in the Marine and Coastal Area (FOSCAMC, in Portuguese acronym) organized by the Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries.



Baited Remote Underwater Video Station



Workshop for dissemination of Regulations on Maritime Fisheries, at Costa do Sol Community Fishing Council, Maputo

2.3.4 Coral Reef Conservation

Coral reefs are ecosystems with high biodiversity and, for the ecosystem services they provide, are of great socioeconomic importance for coastal communities and for the country's economy, being recognized globally and nationally as critical and priority ecosystems. To support the protection and management of coral reef ecosystems, contributing to their continued resilience, biological diversity and richness, and provision of ecosystem services to local populations in Mozambique, WCS has been working on several projects with the Government of Mozambique (GoM), through MIMAIP and InOM, with the following goals:

- Support the GoM in achieving national and international goals and commitments towards the protection of

coral reef biodiversity.

- Provide technical and financial support for the development of the National Strategy for Coral Reef Management and Conservation (ECOR 2022-2032), in order to create a policy and legal framework that will promote effective integrated management of coral ecosystems in Mozambique. ECOR (2022-2032) aims to increase technical capacity for coral reef research and conservation, protection and monitoring of critical coral reef areas, mobilization of funding for coral reef conservation, and institutional coordination for effective coral reef management at the national level, among others.

- Identify indicators and develop an index to assess coral reef conditions to guide the implementation of counterbalance schemes and contribute to assessing the condition of Mozambique's coral reefs over time.
- Re-establish and update the national coral reef monitoring program, which will include standardized methodologies and solutions for the storage and analysis of data resulting from reef and coral monitoring.
- Identify and map Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) overlapping coral reefs.
- Promote potential MCAs in important coral reef areas, which involves the systematic and in-depth assessment of understudied areas, such as the reef complex in Nampula Province in the districts of Memba and Mossuril.
- Advise GoM on the review of coral reef relocation/restoration plans proposed by oil and gas companies.

2.3.4.1 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- Support was provided to InOM in several final revisions of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Coral Reefs (ECOR 2022-2032) in order to respond to important questions and comments raised by the MIMAIP Office.
- The document was approved by the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) in Consultative Council, reviewed by all relevant Ministries and prepared for approval by the Council of Ministers;
- Support was provided to MIMAIP over the approval process for ECOR (2022-2032), which was submitted

to the Council of Ministers and approved on November 15, 2022. The start of the Strategy's implementation activities is imminent. The approval of this new instrument is expected to mark the beginning of a new era for the management of precious coral reef ecosystems, which provide essential services to a large part of the Mozambican coastal population, as well as an essential role in mitigating the effects of climate change (carbon sequestration), and also contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through sectors such as fisheries and tourism;



- A set of tools for assessing the ecological status of coral reefs was completed to be used for the implementation of biodiversity offsets, ecological restoration and monitoring activities. The selected indicators are integrated into a metric that allows the health status of any coral reef in Mozambique to be assessed systematically. A pilot application of the metric was carried out using real data collected in the study areas of the Blue Future Project in Nampula Province.
- As part of the Blue Future project, the first coral reef status assessment campaign was carried out in March 2022 in Memba and Mossuril districts, Nampula Province. About 200 km of coastline were investigated aboard a liveboard boat, with the participation of partners from InOM and UniLúrio, who underwent training in underwater sampling methods on coral reefs using diving and ROV (underwater drone);
- A second sampling campaign was conducted in December 2022 to complete the assessment of the study area;
- The target of 40 coral reefs sampled to assess their biodiversity and health status was reached;
- Analysis of the large amount of data collected has begun. It should be noted that the studies conducted included the occurrence and distribution of marine mammals in the area, scuba diving surveys and Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVs) that will be used to study coral reefs and reef fish communities. These studies will help develop a proposal for a new Sustainable Use Marine Conservation Area;
- Throughout 2022, the WCS-Mozambique coral reef team worked with the MERMAID programming team to develop the platform, including new features. MERMAID is a free online platform for storing and analyzing coral reef data, which was developed by WCS, WWF and other partners. In particular, the new functionalities allow: i) the integration of data from photo-squares (a method widely used globally for coral reef monitoring) is already supported by MERMAID.

Scientists in Mozambique and worldwide can now use this new online tool; ii) automatic loading of photo-square data into the MERMAID platform, making it now possible to load large amounts of data into MERMAID using the R-Studio interface.



2.3.5 Capacity Building Program for the Biodiversity Conventions for the CBD CoP 15 Focal Points

Mozambique is signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), whose targets are: a) Conservation of Biological Diversity; b) Sustainable use of its components; and c) Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. In the operation of the Convention, Conferences of the Parties (CoPs) are organized to appraise the implementation of the convention.

This program aims to empower officials from the Government and other sectors that implement the CBD with relevant information, in order to ensure the full and effective participation of the Mozambican delegation in CoP15 and future CoPs, by holding several preparatory meetings, according to the priority themes for Mozambique, and to develop a guidebook for the negotiations and implementation of the CBD global biodiversity framework.

2.3.5.1 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- The V session of preparation for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in the format of a 2-day retreat in Maputo province, with the objective of developing a proposal of the national policy position related to priority issues and targets for the country in the negotiations of the new Global Framework for Biodiversity to be agreed upon during the COP15 of the CBD.
- A guidebook for the negotiations and implementation of the global biodiversity framework of the convention on biological diversity (CBD) was developed, providing the delegation of Mozambique with guidelines and tips on planning and opportunities for effective participation in the negotiation meetings under the CBD (pre-CoP and CoP). Support was given to the Government in participating over the preparatory meetings for COP15:
 - COP15 Preparatory Meeting with the goal of harmonizing Mozambique's position with that of the African Group and prioritizing the events to be attended by the delegation according to the priority themes for Mozambique.
 - Meeting to present the state of play of the delegations' preparations, the African Group's position, among other relevant points (e.g. follow-up actions).
- Financial support was given to the Government for the participation of two officials (1 from InOM, and 1 from the Directorate of Planning and Cooperation of MTA) of the Mozambican delegation in the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal, Canada, from December 5 to 19, 2022.



V Session to prepare for the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the form of a 2-day retreat in Maputo province (credits, WCS).

2.3.6 Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries Management Support Program in Mozambique

WCS Mozambique has committed to support the Government in improving artisanal fisheries, making them more environmentally sustainable, along two main lines:

- Provide support to the Government in developing clear guidelines and procedures on the step-by-step for the establishment and legalization of fishing areas co-managed by local communities in accordance with national legislation, as well as, in establishing clear communication and understanding between national, provincial and district authorities regarding the approved guidelines and procedures for the legalization and development of law management and enforcement plans on marine resources.
- Support the Government through on-the-ground projects to strengthen the Community Fishing Councils and local authorities, support them in establishing Community Managed Fishing Areas and promote and foster alternative income sources to fishing. This

is done through direct implementation of specific projects, as presented in the next section, or through technical assistance to other NGOs, namely:

- The Marine Megafauna Association (AMM, abbreviation in Portuguese), based in Inhambane Province, aimed at developing a monitoring program for Community Management Fishing Areas (APGCs, acronym in Portuguese), through the development of socio-economic and biodiversity monitoring plans, and a law enforcement strategy for these areas to be implemented in Tofo, Barra and Rocha Beaches, under the project "Sustainability of APGCs through adequate

monitoring and law enforcement – Sustainable Seas"; and

- Ocean Revolution Mozambique (ORM), also based in Inhambane Province, with the aim of supporting activities as to the process of creation, legalization and management of APGCs, their management plans, and law enforcement process, under the project "Support activities to the process of legalization of APGCs, management and law enforcement plans", by developing a standardized and replicable socio-economic and biodiversity monitoring plan that can be used by different marine projects.

2.3.3.4 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- A meeting was held with ADNAP and partners (WWF, RARE, World Bank) to discuss the status of the revision of the Ministerial Order on the procedures of

the process of design and management of APGCs by ADNAP, in order to clarify issues regarding the establishment and management of these areas.



Training on the Ministerial Order specifically on the procedures of the process of establishment and management of community managed fisheries areas (APGC, in Portuguese) in the city of Inhambane (credits, WCS).

- A Gap Analysis has been developed on the law enforcement process and marine resources surveillance in the APGCs, by detailing the results obtained from interviews with stakeholders (local, provincial and national authorities, NGOs with a role in local fisheries management, and CCPs, including a workshop with the latter, where Inhambane was selected as a pilot province), including the status of implementation of the APGCs; the current status regarding the enforcement process in the APGCs or in

the national marine resources; the positive aspects, the main problems detected and the proposed solutions for each problem; and the main recommendations from stakeholders to optimize the process of inspection and enforcement in the marine resources.

- Participation in the Workshop for exchanging experiences and sharing results from projects funded by the Fondation Ensemble: "Revitalization of the working group for exchanging experiences and sharing long-term results from projects funded by

the Fondation Ensemble and associated partners”, organized by Megafauna Marinha Association (AMM, in Portuguese) and Ocean Revolution Moçambique (ORM).

- In collaboration with AMM, a workshop was held on November 22, 2022, in Inhambane City to share, with various national and local stakeholders, the results of the gap analysis on the law enforcement and inspection process in APGCs, using the coast of Inhambane province as a case study.
- An information and capacity building session on the new Ministerial Order was held on November 23, 2022 in Inhambane City, in collaboration with
- ADNAP, involving different relevant players at the national, provincial and local levels who have a role in the process of sustainable management of artisanal fisheries.
- Two capacity building sessions on the innovations of the new REPMAR were held on November 24, 2022, involving local fishermen, national, provincial and local authorities, and local NGOs that have contributed to the management of artisanal fisheries at the local level. These meetings were organized and led by ADNAP, in coordination with InOM and with technical and financial support from WCS, in collaboration with AMM and ORM.

2.3.7 Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast - Blue

WCS and a group of partners (InOM, ProAzul, ADPP, AMA, UEM and BIOFUND) have developed the Blue Future project, by collaborating with the Government of Mozambique to create a sustainable use MCA (Marine Conservation Area) in the coastal zone of the Memba and Mossuril districts – covering an area of at least 1,000 km² including a network of well operated community managed fishing areas.

The project area is experiencing overfishing and overexploitation of local ecosystems, but still has extensive areas of mangrove, seagrass and coral reefs, which will be improved through ecosystem-based adaptation and management measures, restoration and/or protection depending upon the ecosystem. The project will develop a business and financial plan to ensure the sustainable management of the MCA and at the same time aims to

improve the economic condition of local communities.

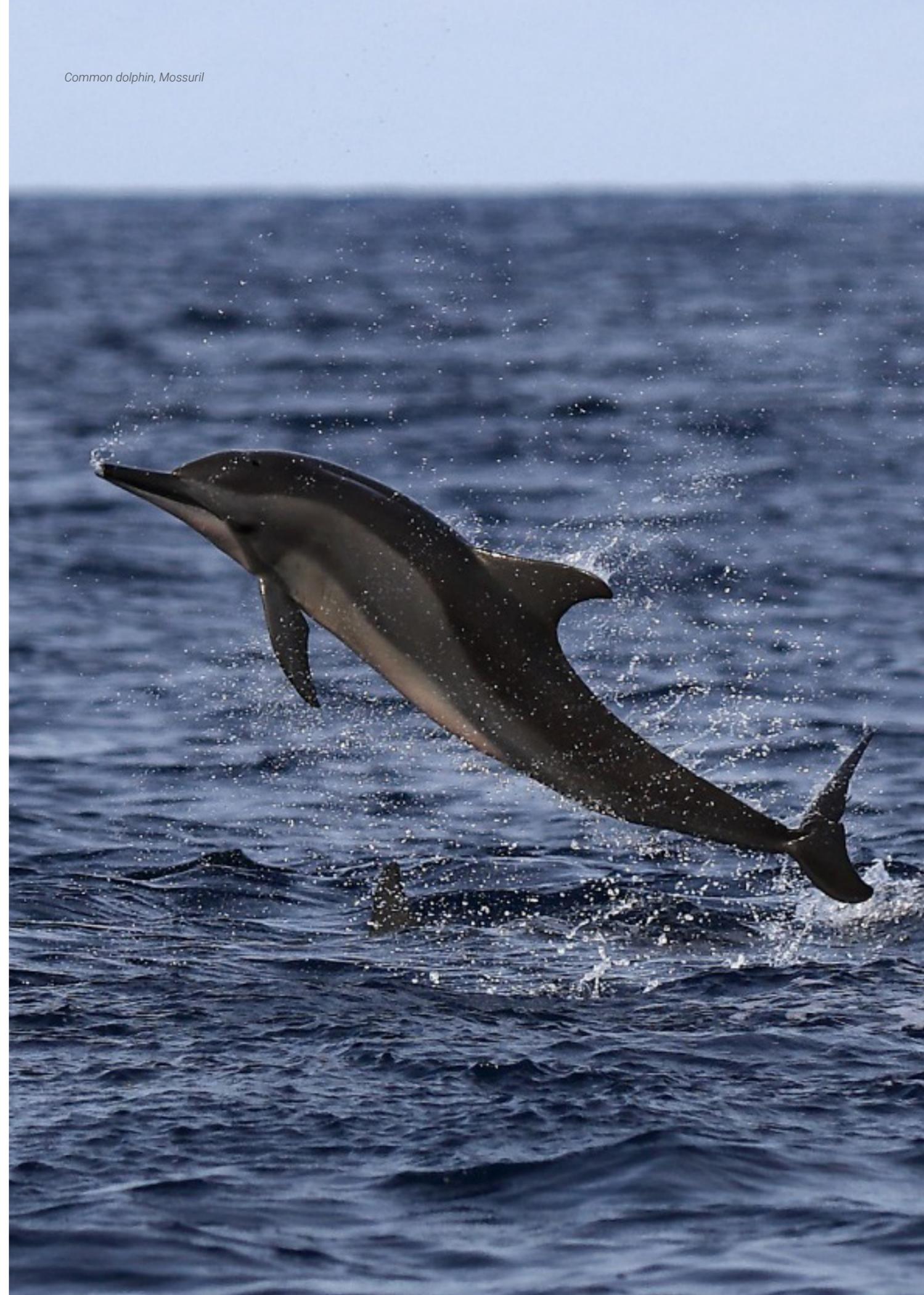
What’s more, the project will enhance priority ecosystem services through adaptations that reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of local communities to climate change impacts, assist in coastal protection, and support resource-based livelihoods, including fisheries, contributing to national climate and conservation targets. The proposed approach will also help local fishing communities to establish, legalize, sustainably manage and monitor community-managed fishing areas.

Specific project outcomes include: (1) enhanced resilience of climate-relevant ecosystems through increased protection and management; and (2) improved resilience and livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities.



Handline fishers, Mossuril

Common dolphin, Mossuril



2.3.7.1 Activities Carried Out in 2022

- Official start of the “Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast” project on July 1, 2022, which will be implemented over 5 years until June 30, 2027.
- Preparation of the administrative and logistical procedures associated with the start-up of the project, including the preparation of grant agreements, subcontracts and the procurement of key equipment, as well as the development of financial control systems.
- The first official implementing partners meeting for induction about the project was held, involving InOM, ProAzul, BIOFUND, AMA and ADPP Mozambique, including the presentation of the project summary, work plan and main requirements of the Blue Action Fund at administrative and financial level.
- An internal Workshop was held for the planning and start-up of the project activities, involving all partners, so that all partners got to know each other and were aligned, with their responsibilities within the project properly allocated.
- Project official launch event, involving government entities at the central level and in the project’s implementation districts (Memba and Mossuril), and other stakeholders, where its goals, results to be achieved, work plan and the project’s organization chart were disclosed.
- Hiring the field project team and preparing the local office;
- Presentation of the project at the local level, namely to the Memba and Mossuril district governments;
- The project’s Grievance Redress Mechanism was developed.
- The project’s safety management system, which includes a risk analysis and a risk mitigation plan, has been developed.
- Drafting of the Gender Action Plan, which set forth objectives and guidelines so that the project activities take gender-related issues into account. A preliminary diagnosis of gender issues was also carried out.
- Training of trainers on Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS), Basic Needs Survey (BNS) and Natural Resource Governance Tool (NRGT) for 37 participants from partner institutions and Blue Future project team was carried out.
- The setting up of communication rules for the project, sharing with partners and defining focal points. Creation of the project logo and project banner.
- The preparation of protocols for the baselines: economic-social, fisheries diagnosis and mapping of fishing patterns;
- Conducting the surveys for coral reef ecological baselines, mapping and health status and surveys



Launch of the Blue Future Project (ENH)

- of shark and ray communities using Baited Remote Underwater Video Station (BRUV), marine mammal sampling;
- Preparation of Terms of Reference for the annual scientific-technical conference on Ecosystem Adaptation and Marine Conservation;
- Preliminary and partial diagnosis of communities affected by the project, to understand existing changes and update data for the proposal phase;
- Launch of scholarships for students aimed at promoting the development of the communities involved in the project;
- Preparation of Terms of Reference for the creation of the Steering Committee, which will allow various stakeholders to participate and be involved with the strategic definition of the project;
- Analysis of the parties interested and affected by the Blue Future project, in order to carry out the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and support the implementation of the activities;
- Safety and security diagnostics to establish contingency and security plans for the project staff.

2.3.8 Supporting the Expansion of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) in Mozambique

Recognizing the importance of marine ecosystems for the survival and well-being of the population, the Government of Mozambique has committed to expanding the national network of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) under international conventions and treaties. In 2019 the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP) now the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM), an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), in partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), prepared a technical study with the overall objective of building scenarios to support the Government in the expansion of MCAs in Mozambique. Three scenarios were built. By taking into consideration the results obtained and the challenges, MIMAIP proposed

the development of a strategy and action plan for the expansion of the national MCA network, and took this proposal to the Council of Ministers for consideration. On August 2nd 2022, the Council of Ministers, in its 26th Ordinary Session, considered the information on the MCA expansion scenarios and selected the 10-12% scenario as the one on which the strategy should focus, so that this goal is reached by 2030.

WCS is supporting the Government in the development of a national strategy and action plan for the expansion of the national network of Marine Conservation Areas. InOM has created a technical working group (task force) consisting of a representative of the National



Field visit to Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (PNAB) as part of the current diagnosis of Marine Conservation Areas in Mozambique (credits, WCS).

Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), the National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP), the National Directorate of Maritime Policies (DIPOL), the National Directorate of Environment (DINAB), the National Marine Institute (INAMAR) and the International Union for

2.3.8.1 Activities Carried Out in 2023

- A Marine Atlas was designed with the compilation of all relevant public information collected or produced during the scenarios development program towards the strategic expansion of the national network of Marine Conservation Areas.
- The scenarios for the strategic expansion of the MCAs were presented in the technical and consultative councils of MIMAIP and in the Council of Ministers. In the latter, scenario B (protection of 10-12% of the Exclusive Economic Zone - EEZ) was adopted to reach 2030 and the preparation of a national strategy and action plan for the expansion of the national network of MCAs was approved.
- A Technical Working Group (task force) consisting mainly of key governmental entities in the area of the Environment and the Sea was established to design

Conservation. This program is being implemented through a joint partnership between the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM) and WCS, with funding from the WCS Marine Conservation Areas Fund (MPA Fund) and the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF).

- the national strategy and action plan for the expansion of MCAs.
- A Project Assistant was hired to assist in the coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of all activities related to the process of developing the national strategy and action plan for the expansion of MCAs in Mozambique.
- The kick-off meeting of the technical working group was held in order to present the status, the plan and the updated budget for the development of the strategy and action plan and set out the next steps;
- A field visit was conducted to the Maputo National Park (PNM, acronym in Portuguese), Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (PNAB, acronym in Portuguese) and the Area of Environmental Protection of the First and Second Islands (APAIPS, acronym in Portuguese).

2.4 Wildlife Crime Unit

This project is one of the main conservation challenges, as the coverage is limited to the southern region of Mozambique.

The partnership between WCS and PPF is enabling the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) - comprising Kruger National Park (KNP) in South Africa, Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, the Limpopo National Park (LNP) which includes the Greater Limpopo Region located in the southern reaches of the Elephant River along the border with the Republic of South Africa – Greater Limpopo Conservancy (GLC).

The target of this program continues to be:

- Setting up trilateral cooperation between the governments of Vietnam, Mozambique, and South Africa to investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes;
- Improving information sharing between the governments of Vietnam, Mozambique and South Africa;
- Seeking closer cooperation by strengthening and improving existing legal coordination mechanisms.

In 2022, the following activities were carried out:

1. Two annual meetings between Vietnam and Mozambique on progress in combating transnational organized crime and implementing MLAT;
2. Strengthening of capacity for collaboration between prosecutors and police in Mozambique using expertise from Vietnam and WCS;
3. Annual analysis of the transnational wildlife trafficking status for the three countries;
4. Facilitating the sharing between South Africa and Mozambique of DNA samples from seized rhino horns in Vietnam;
5. Review of the procedural and legislative framework for joint operations between South Africa and Mozambique;

As part of the adaptation of WCS-Mozambique, the anti-trafficking unit at the central level will cease to exist and will be concentrated in NSR and its surroundings (Cabo Delgado and Niassa) as of 2023.



3. TOTAL PROGRAM VALUE IN 2022

NGO CONTRIBUTION	INITIAL FORECAST	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE
Year 2022	USD 5,576,266	USD 4,219,226

4. FUNDING SOURCES

The Project's funding sources in this period were:

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) USAID; | k) SPEED |
| b) French Development Agency, | l) Shark Conservation Fund |
| c) French Facility for Global Environment; | m) Margret A. Cargill Foundation; |
| d) USDA, Forest Service International Programs; | n) Rockefeller Philanthropy Foundation; |
| e) CITES-MIKES; | o) Tiffany Foundation; |
| f) European Union; | p) Fondation Ensemble; |
| g) Fondation Segre; | q) Resources Legacy Fund; |
| h) Marine Area Protected Fund; | r) Oceans 5 |
| i) United Nations Development Programme; | s) Blue Action Fund; |
| j) Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; | t) Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); and |
| | u) WWF. |

WCS has participated, through co-financing (Leverage Funds) in each of the grants in an amount ranging from 10 to 20% of the total funding amount.



5. NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

The main national counterparts to WCS are, among others, the following:

5.1 Government Entities

- 1)** Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA, acronym in Portuguese), which includes:
 - a) National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC, acronym in Portuguese);
 - b) National Directorate of Environment (DINAB, acronym in Portuguese);
 - c) National Directorate of Forests (DINAF, acronym in Portuguese);
 - d) Planning and Cooperation Directorate (DNPC, acronym in Portuguese);
 - e) National Directorate of Land and Territorial Development (DNDT, acronym in Portuguese);
 - f) Agency for Environmental Quality Control (AQUA, acronym in Portuguese); and
 - g) National Sustainable Development Fund (FNDS, acronym in Portuguese).
- 2)** Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMIAP, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM, acronym in Portuguese);
 - b) National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP, acronym in Portuguese);
 - c) National Policy Directorate (DIPOL, acronym in Portuguese);
 - d) National Marine Institute (INAMAR, acronym in Portuguese); and
 - e) ProAzul.
- 3)** Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) National Planning and Budgeting Directorate (DNPO, acronym in Portuguese)
- 4)** Ministry of Interior (MINT)
 - a) General Command of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM, acronym in Portuguese) – Weapons and Explosives Department;
 - b) General Command of PRM - Natural Resources and Environment Protection Police; and
 - c) PRM Provincial Command of Niassa and Cabo Delgado.
- 5)** Attorney General's Office
 - a) Office of Environment and Diffuse Affairs; and
 - b) Provincial Attorneys' Offices.
- 6)** National Defense Ministry (MDN, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) National Directorate of Policy and Defense (DNPD, acronym in Portuguese)
- 7)** Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) National Directorate of Commerce (DNC, acronym in Portuguese)
- 8)** Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH)
 - a) National Directorate for Water Resources Management (DNGRH)
- 9)** Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) National Directorate of Geology and Mines (DNGM, acronym in Portuguese);
 - b) National Mining Institute (INAMI, acronym in Portuguese);
 - c) National Oil Institute (INP, acronym in Portuguese);
 - d) National Directorate of Hydrocarbons and Fuels (DNHC, acronym in Portuguese); and
 - e) National Hydrocarbon Company (ENH, acronym in Portuguese).
- 10)** Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) Mozambique Civil Aviation Institute (IMCA, acronym in Portuguese);
 - b) National Institute of Communication of Mozambique (INCM, acronym in Portuguese); and
 - c) National Directorate of Studies and Projects (DNEP, acronym in Portuguese).
- 11)** Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER, acronym in Portuguese)
 - a) National Agriculture and Forestry Directorate (DINAS, acronym in Portuguese); and
 - b) Mozambique's Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM, acronym in Portuguese).
- 12)** Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM, acronym in Portuguese)
- 13)** University of Lúrio (UniLúrio, acronym in Portuguese)
- 14)** Agency for Investment and Export Promotion (APIEX)
- 15)** Provincial Government of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula & Maputo City
- 16)** District Governments of Mecula, Mavago, Sanga, Muembe, Marrupa, Majune, Mueda, Memba and Mossuril.

5.2 NSR TOURISM OPERATORS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) Luwire; | e) Metapiri Safaris; |
| b) Mariri Investimentos; | f) Johan Calitz Safaris; |
| c) Chuilexi Conservancy; | g) Safrique Limitada; |
| d) Kambako Safaris; | h) Niassa Hunter Safaris; and |

5.3 Others

- BIOFUND;
- Living Earth Center ("Centro Terra Viva") (CTV, acronym in Portuguese);
- WWF Mozambique;
- International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN, acronym in Portuguese);
- RARE;
- People-to-People Development Aid (ADPP, acronym in Portuguese)
- Environment Association (AMA, acronym in Portuguese);
- Ocean Revolution Moçambique (ORM)
- Mozambican Association for Environmental Impact Assessment (AMAIA, acronym in Portuguese); and
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – BIOFIN Project.
- Luambeze Safaris.

6. IMPORT VALUE OF GOODS DESTINED FOR THE PROJECT IN 2022

The total value of imported goods destined for the Project was USD 43,100.00. It should be noted that WCS seeks to order and purchase goods as locally as possible, as is the case for example of inputs and construction materials from NSR local communities.

7. JOBS CREATED IN 2022

In 2022, the NGO hired as follows:

JOB CREATED	Nº	NATIONALITY
Senior Accountant	03	Mozambique
SMART Assistant	01	Mozambique
Electrician	01	Mozambique
Mechanic Assistant	01	Mozambique
Conservation agriculture officer	01	Mozambique
CBNRM Coordinator	01	Mozambique
Green Economy Coordinator	01	Mozambique
Gender and Social Safeguards Coordinator	02	Mozambique
Temporary (seasonal) Jobs	147	Mozambique
Financial Manager	01	Mozambique
Project Assistant	02	Mozambique
Biodiversity Offsets Technical	01	Mozambique
Interns (seasonal)	02	Mozambique

8. TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN 2022

WCS developed a range of trainings throughout the year 2022, which benefited 600 people among public sector officials, private sector officials and community members at the implementation sites of the different projects. The training activities were more focused on the enforcement component (NSR) and on the sharing of the new normative provisions related to the Marine Program and community awareness, as shown below:



TYPE OF TRAINING	LOCATION
Assembling and disassembling firearms	Mbatamila (NSR)
Elaboration of patrol plans and reports	Mbatamila (NSR)
Carrying out inspection and access control	Mbatamila (NSR)
Physical fitness exercise	Mbatamila (NSR)
Physical fitness exercise	Mbatamila (NSR)
Crime Notices	Mbatamila (NSR)
Wood Volume	Mbatamila (NSR)
Zoonotic diseases	Mbatamila (NSR)
Intensive training to DINAB's Biodiversity Offset Assessment and Monitoring Division and members of the MTA's Technical Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Macaneta
Training to the private sector and DINAB regarding the implementation of the new Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets	Maputo
Regional technical capacity building and awareness training for Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA) institutions and the Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) regarding the Ministerial Order on Biodiversity Offsets in Mozambique	Maputo
Intensive training on the Environmental Licensing Management System (SGLA, acronym in Portuguese), Mozambique Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Maputo
Capacity building on the Decree no.89/2020 on the Regulation of Maritime Fisheries (REPMAR), involving different relevant stakeholders at national, provincial and local levels with a role in the process of sustainable management of artisanal fisheries	Inhambane
Two training sessions on the innovations of the new REPMAR, involving local fishermen, national, provincial and local authorities, and local NGOs	Maputo
Training of trainers on Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS), Basic Needs Survey (BNS) and Natural Resource Governance Tool (NRGT)	Nampula

9. CONCLUSIONS

The signing of the Co-Management Agreement and the approval of the 2022 business plan allowed the implementation of mechanisms for management during the transition phase of the Agreement's implementation.

Currently the Niassa Reserve, benefits from an annual funding of approximately US 1 million, and it may grow in the coming years. The following is noted with satisfaction:

- Significant reduction in poaching;
- Increased community engagement in biodiversity conservation, although channeling the 20% defined by Law is still a major challenge
- Growth of Management Infrastructure (access roads, Mbatamila already has 3 camps, water supply sources and communications)
- Improved management of Human-Wildlife Conflict, although the means of control are still scarce, but the use of wildlife monitoring technology has brought significant advances
- Improved communication between the Niassa Reserve and the Local Administrative Authorities, with emphasis on the Mecula District

- Better integration of the NSR development plan in the context of local economic development, although the approval of the Management Plan of the Niassa Special Reserve is still pending, as a fundamental instrument, not only to guide the activities to be developed, but also as programming instruments for mobilizing multifaceted support for the development of the NSR.

WCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Sea, Fisheries and Inland Waters in 2021 that has provided the design of new projects that are being crystallized in the various activities described for the Marine Component with emphasis on support for activities that contribute to climate resilience and the continued protection of key species and their habitats, contributing to the improvement of the livelihoods of communities that depend on the oceans and coastal zone, so that they have continuous and sustainable access to natural resources and ecosystem services on which they depend for their survival.

Support in expanding the national network of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) that currently cover only about 2.1% of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



Through a technical exercise developed, the Council of Ministers approved. on August 2, 2022, one of the scenarios that resulted from the joint modelling work, and which corresponds to a target of 10-12% of marine protected area by 2030.

During the World Seas Conference in Lisbon (June 2022), the "Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast" project, abbreviated "Blue Future", was approved as a result of the aforementioned memorandum and work between WCS and InOM, which were joined by the partners Development Aid from People to People (ADPP), the Department of Biological Sciences of Eduardo Mondlane University (DCB-UEM), the Association for the Environment (AMA), ProAzul and the Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation (BIOFUND), with funding of about 8 million Euros. This project will allow the achievement of the national Biodiversity targets and answer priority questions established in the scope of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, such as:

- Implement on-going strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation Improve the economic status of coastal communities by creating more alternative livelihoods to fishing and promoting more sustainable artisanal fisheries
- Increase the national network of Marine Conservation Areas

This project has four (4) deliverables that will result from its effective implementation, namely:

I. Improved resources, tools and capacities for the

management and sustainable use of the MCA;

II. Degraded coastal ecosystems, particularly relevant for climate change adaptation, rehabilitated;

III. Promoting climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods and;

IV. Improved knowledge, expertise and capacity of relevant national agencies to use EbA approaches for climate resilient coastal zone management.

With this MoU emerges the need for WCS support to other regions of the country, namely the provinces of Zambezia and Nampula, hence the request for a license to operate in those provinces, beyond the traditional areas, namely Maputo, Niassa and Cabo Delgado.

WCS has been making efforts so that the projects it carries out in the Republic of Mozambique have an effective impact on the conservation of parks and animals, specifically in the Niassa Special Reserve. Local communities play an important role in wildlife conservation, and as a corollary of this importance, the activities of the Community Sector are among the most important in the projects developed by WCS in the largest conservation area in Mozambique.

WCS continues to focus on greater visibility of the Niassa Special Reserve, on social media as well as through the semiannual WCS Mozambique Newsletter and the weekly WCS Global Newsletter, as well as participation in TV and radio programs where the work that WCS is developing on behalf of biodiversity is made known, in close alignment with the Governance mechanisms set by the Government of Mozambique.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



MISSION

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.



VISION

WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.

VALUES

Respect, Accountability & Transparency, Innovation, Diversity & Inclusion, Collaboration & Integrity.