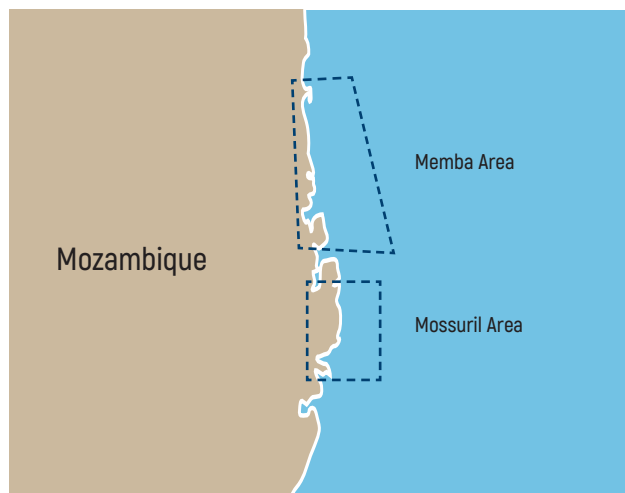


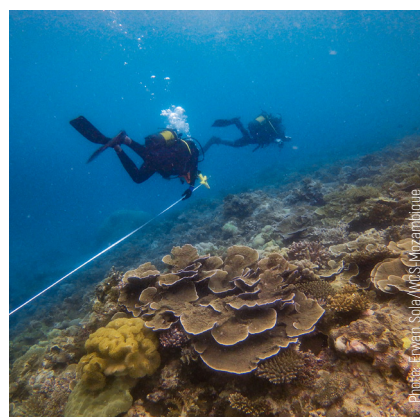
GRANT FACT SHEET



Building a blue future on the East African coast, Mozambique



Project duration	July 2022 – June 2027
Country/ies	Mozambique
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Partners	Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP), Associação do Meio Ambiente (AMA), Department of Biological Sciences of the University Eduardo Mondlane, ProAzul Fund, Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity (BIOFUND), Mozambican Oceanographic Institute (InoM)
Total project costs	€ 7,917,900
Blue Action Fund grant	€ 5,913,747 (75%)
Match funding	€ 2,004,153 (25%)



Mozambique offers an extraordinary abundance of natural resources and biodiversity that is vital for the country's development and livelihoods. The coastal region between the north-eastern Districts of Memba, Mossuril and Nampula plays an important role in ecological connectivity, linking with both the Quirimbas National Park and the Primeiras and Segundas Environmental Protected Area. Located on the Northern Mozambique Channel, the region is the second richest global hotspot for marine biodiversity. Coral reefs, vast areas of seagrass meadows and one of the most extensive mangrove forests in the country characterise the coastline of this area, which local communities rely on for their livelihoods and for coastal protection.

With its long coastline and extensive areas below sea level, the country is highly vulnerable to climate change effects. It is particularly susceptible to changes in sea levels, precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, all leading to biodiversity degradation and habitat loss. Exacerbated by unsustainable fishing practises, marine resources have diminished over the past few decades, directly impacting about 40% of the region's coastal population, who rely solely on fisheries for their livelihoods. Furthermore, the lack of alternative livelihood opportunities has led to harmful fishing practices affecting

numerous marine species, as well as the overexploitation of critically endangered mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows, which act as effective carbon sinks and provide crucial ecosystem services such as coastal protection.

Taking an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach, WCS and partners will focus on improving the resilience of climate-relevant ecosystems through increased protection and management. The project will establish a marine protected area (MPA) of at least 1,000 km² between Memba and Mossuril that will support the Mozambican government's commitment to expanding the national network of MPAs from about 2% to at least 30% by 2030. Local communities will be able to use integrated community-managed fishing areas, and will be involved in restoration activities, including mangrove and seagrass rehabilitation and coral reef recovery. The project also aims to enhance and increase the resilience of the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, for example by generating activities that act as effective alternatives to current livelihoods, including the support of business start-ups. The 'blue future' envisioned for this region will be promoted through sharing knowledge with local stakeholders and communities about how to restore and protect key biodiversity, reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change in the long term.

KEY TARGETS

Newly created MPAs:
1,000 km²

Effectively managed MPAs:
N/A

Number of beneficiaries:
14,786

KEY ACTIVITIES AND AREAS OF WORK



MPA GOVERNANCE

- ▶ Establish an MPA of at least 1,000 km² between the north-eastern Districts of Memba and Mossuril
- ▶ Undertake stakeholder assessments and participatory workshops to assess current community-based resource recovery areas and legalise new mangrove, seagrass and coral reef resource recovery areas
- ▶ Enable capacity building of government agencies and contributions to policy and regulatory frameworks
- ▶ Promote the vision of a 'blue future' for the region by sharing knowledge with local stakeholders and communities, e.g. at annual conferences on EbA and marine conservation



SPECIES CONSERVATION/SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

- ▶ Establish Community Fishery Councils, provide equipment and provide training in effective management and monitoring of fishing areas and areas for resource recovery (no-take zones), including new marine fisheries regulations (e.g. prohibited species, authorised fishing gear)
- ▶ Legalise new community-managed fishing areas and resource recovery areas, and update artisanal fisheries management plans



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- ▶ Create livelihood clubs as self-support platforms for fishers and their families, with more than 50% participation by women
- ▶ Support livelihood clubs with, for example, adopting EbA agriculture practices to improve food and water security, and generating alternative livelihood strategies for small-scale producers that include new business development and mentorship
- ▶ Establish Village Savings and Loan Associations (VLSAs) and support existing non-functional savings groups



HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

- ▶ Enable the capacity building of communities for restoration activities through community consultations to develop mangrove restoration plans and seagrass management plans
- ▶ Engage community groups in the tree planting of non-mangrove species to reduce the pressure on mangroves from communities using them for firewood and construction, while improving the fertility of the soil and nutrition within the community by establishing fruit tree orchards

