

Nairobi Convention



Demonstration projects in Mozambique

Mozambique is in the southeastern part of the African Continent and has a total surface area of 784,032 km². The country possesses the third longest coastline in the Indian Ocean, covering a total distance of 2700 km, with the total continental shelf area measuring approximately 104,300 km².

The Mozambique Channel separates Mozambique from Madagascar and is an important source region for the Agulhas current, one of the major western boundary currents. The Mozambique Channel is also one of the two routes through which the South Equatorial Current feeds the Agulhas Current.

Mozambique has an extensive aquatic network that includes about 100 principal river basins and nine international rivers, including the Rovuma, Zambezi, Save, Limpopo and Incomati Rivers.



**FIND SUMMARIES OF 8
PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN
MOZAMBIQUE**



1

UNDERTAKE SEAGRASS RESTORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SHELLFISH AND DRAFTING A MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION GUIDELINE FOR SEAGRASS RESTORATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

Despite the importance of seagrass to biodiversity and local livelihoods, floods, sedimentation, and destructive fishing have caused the number of seagrass beds in Maputo and Inhambane Bays to plunge, as highlighted by the project proponents. Harvesting of invertebrate foods (such as clams) has led to a loss of biodiversity in seagrass.

This project is developing a seagrass action plan that would collect ecological, economic, and social information on invertebrate fisheries and engage communities in seagrass restoration and conservation.

The expected outcomes of this project include a better understanding of the relationship between seagrass and invertebrate fisheries, a sustainability strategy for seagrass, and documentation of seagrass areas for restoration and their economic value.

Proponents: Eduardo Mondlane University, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM)
US\$ 199,411



2

MANGROVE RESTORATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN LIMPOPO RIVER ESTUARY, MOZAMBIQUE

Mangroves provide nesting and breeding habitats for marine life, support fisheries, help maintain water quality, and slow erosion. However deforestation, floods, and cyclones are decimating the mangrove forest in the Limpopo Estuary. This project aims to demonstrate how mangrove management could be improved in Xai Xai district through restoration projects, a community-based management system, and the generation of baseline information to support decision-making.

The project aims to design a community-led local management plan, the conducting of carbon inventories in mangrove stands, and enhanced management decision-making.

***Proponents: Agência Nacional para o Controlo da Qualidade Ambiental (AQUA)
US\$ 130,000***



3

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS IN SELECTED COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

Climate change is a global issue that refers to medium to long-term changes in temperature and precipitation, associated with rising of the sea level, as well as ocean acidification. Mozambique, a developing country located on the east coast of Africa, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, the vulnerability of its coastal communities is not well understood, making it difficult to implement appropriate adaptation measures.

The WIOSAP Project executed a project in Mozambique that has developed a method of evaluating the vulnerability of coastal communities, using a Climate Vulnerability Index that considers various dimensions and domains through questionnaires. The study has found that livelihoods and learning have the largest impact on the Vulnerability Index in the studied communities.

To reduce vulnerability, specific actions such as job creation, diversifying sources of income, improving access to quality food, education, and conservation efforts, and increasing livelihood options were proposed.

Proponents: Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER)
US\$ 42,000

4

ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS FOR ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE INCOMATI DELTA, MOZAMBIQUE

The Macaneta wetlands in Mozambique play a crucial role in providing ecosystem services such as fishing, agriculture, and resource gathering for the surrounding community. However, increased tourism and development, combined with ongoing drought and increased demand for water resources, have put strain on the wetlands and the Incomati river system.

This project aims to design environmentally friendly water flows to preserve and improve biodiversity and the health of estuarine and delta ecosystems in the Lower Incomati. The goal is to maximize the benefits for various stakeholders, with a focus on vulnerable populations.

The project will help implement and test environmental flow assessment guidelines for the Western Indian Ocean region in Mozambique, providing lessons and innovative ideas for other WIO countries. It will also encourage collaboration between natural and social sciences.

Proponents: - Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM)
US\$ 250,354

5

ENHANCE NATIONAL LEVEL POLICY HARMONIZATION AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM TO IMPLEMENT SAPPHIRE AND SAP FOR IMPROVED OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The SAPPHIRE Project aims to support and assist the appropriate and formally mandated governmental institutions in the WIO region to implement related activities to ensure sustainability of efforts and actions for the management of the long-term WIO Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), as well as the sustainability of institutional arrangements and associated partnerships.

The objective of this project is to enhance harmonization of the national legal framework on Sea Governance and support the work of the National Intersectoral Coordination Committee in strengthening coordination amongst sectors at national level for sustainable ocean use.

Proponents: Ministry of the Sea Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) US\$ 30,000



6

UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL MARINE ECOSYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS ANALYSIS (MEDA) FOR MOZAMBIQUE

In executing the SAPPHIRE project, the Nairobi Convention has initiated the updating of Mozambique's MEDA and the Transboundary Diagnosis Analyses (TDAs), developed under the ASCLME project.

The updated MEDAs will provide a baseline for sustainable management of marine resources and include assessments of land-based pollution sources, resulting in a comprehensive "Ridge to Reef" assessment of the country's marine ecosystems. The findings will be used to prioritize areas of concern in a merged Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

Proponents: National Institute of Fisheries Research (IIP) US\$ 20,000

7

COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT FOR MUSSEL AQUACULTURE ON INHACA ISLAND-MAPUTO PROVINCE

Mussel is not only a high demand marine product in Mozambique, but also globally owing to its high nutritional value.

Unfortunately, this resource has been on a rapid decline because of overexploitation. Loss of this resource translates to loss of income for communities in Inhaca island.

This project's proponents aim to restore the 'mussel economy' by repopularizing sustainable mussel aquaculture on Inhaca island.

This project enables residents of the Island to practice Mussel aquaculture as an alternative source of income, complimented by other natural resources; also declining alarmingly, if not depleted. In addition, this project will reduce pressure on natural stocks, promote ecotourism and also reduce inappropriate mussel culture systems.

This project also aims to consolidate the work of the NICC members, organization of seminars to improve knowledge of Sea Governance legal framework to be harmonized with all sectors with interest in the maritime field.

Proponents: Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento da Pesca e Aquacultura, IP (IDEPA) – US\$ 80,000

8

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE GROWTH OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN MAPUTO BAY AND LIMPOPO RIVER MOUTH IN MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Bay is in southern Mozambique and covers major cities and ports. It has diverse coastal and marine ecosystems including mangroves, coral reefs, and dune forests which provide fishing resources. However, urban and industrial activities are affecting the ecosystems.

The Limpopo River Mouth is in Gaza province and has mangrove forests and dune vegetation. The area is home to 28,852 people who depend on agriculture and fishing, but salinization is affecting these resources. The project in Maputo Bay aims to improve livelihoods and food security of coastal communities through sustainable use of marine resources and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for poverty alleviation.

The priorities include developing an MSP framework, management plans for critical habitats, a fisheries management plan, and livelihood strategies for the fishing community.

Proponents: Ministry of Land and Environment - Mozambique (MTA) US\$ 210,500