

WCS bases its actions on protecting wildlife and the natural environment through science, conservation actions, education, and inspiring communities to value nature.

Dear readers

I am very pleased to address you with the summary of WCS Mozambique activities from April - June. This period was marked by major events, especially for our Marine Program.

WCS began the 'Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast' Project - which was announced at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon. This 5-year project will benefit both ecosystems and local communities in northern Mozambique, with a focus on the coastal zone of Nampula Province.

In May, the Ministerial Diploma 55/2022 on implementation of Biodiversity Counterbalances was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Mozambique. This very important legal instrument emerges as a requirement for the Environmental Impact Regulation (Decree 54/2015 of 31 December), and will allow the Government to ensure that category A+ or A development projects creating negative impacts on biodiversity, implement plans to restore or rehabilitate equivalent biodiversity. The process was strongly supported by WCS.

The CONNECT project outputs (SIBMOZ, SGLA, *Ficha Padrão*) were officially launched along with the second phase of WCS's COMBO+ program. His Excellence Fernando de Sousa (Deputy

Minister of Land and Environment) attended the event, along with Afonso Madope (WCS Mozambique Country Director), Dr Carlos Lopes (former Supervision Director for ANAC) and project partner representatives.

As for Niassa Special Reserve (NSR), law enforcement continues to perform well thanks to effective collaboration with operators, the positive impact of scout training run by NSR's administration, and investment in equipment.

Community engagement is also showing positive results through livestock support including duck breeding, crop raiding mitigation through chilli repellent training, and infrastructure support for housing and inspection posts.

These activities, and more, are the corollary of WCS's progress towards its marine and terrestrial biodiversity conservation goals in Mozambique. We invite you to this second newsletter of 2022 and wish you an excellent reading!

*WCS Mozambique Country Director,
Afonso Madope*

NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS APRIL - JUNE 2022



17,805 KM
RANGER PATROLS
CONDUCTED;
17,054 ON **FOOT**,
751 BY **VEHICLE**,



14
ILLEGAL CAMPS
DESTROYED
(8 mining, 4
poaching,
2 fishing)



1,713
WILDLIFE
TRAPS &
SNARES
REMOVED



150
TOOLS CONFISCATED
FROM **ILLEGAL**
MINERS (picks,
machetes, pots, axes,
buckets, bowls, shovels)



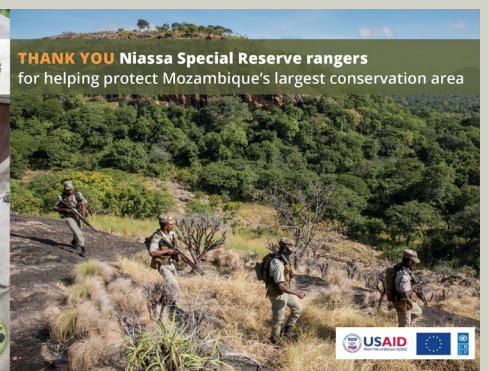
SEIZURES
OF **2G MERCURY**,
7 BICYCLES,
9 VEHICLES,
349KG BUSHMEAT,
55KG FISH



53
OFFENDERS
ARRESTED FOR
WILDLIFE CRIMES
(poaching, illegal
mining & fishing)

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)

- **27 in-house training sessions** were conducted in this reporting period with NSR scouts, comprising over 59 hours.
- **15 crime notices were prepared** covering individuals who were arrested for poaching (4 cases), illegal mining (9 cases) and illegal fishing (2 case). All suspects were male, and included 4 Tanzanians.
- **7 wildlife crime cases were tried** covering 10 defendants. Three (3) defendants were convicted of crimes related to poaching, with penalties ranging from 2 to 7 years in prison.



AVIATION

- **Deployment of the Bell 407 ZS-RUE helicopter** continued to conduct LE operations and logistics support flights, comprising 33.4 flight hours covering 6,012 km.



HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT (HWC) MANAGEMENT

- **21 vultures and 2 eagles were fitted with tracking devices to assist REN detect and respond to potential poisoning events.** Funded by ECOSMART II, the exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Chuilexi Conservancy, Niassa Carnivore Project and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. 10 white-backed vultures, 1 bateleur eagle and 1 white-headed vulture were tagged in Block L5S and 10 white-backed vultures and 1 bateleur were tagged in the Chuilexi Conservancy block.
- **Mobile electric fences were installed to protect crops** from elephant, hippopotamus, and buffalo in Cuchiranga, Lichengue and Guebuza communities. NSR provides the cable, energizer, charging system and battery and community members clear the fence lines and provide the poles.
- **Training in chilli brick elephant repellent production** was provided to 92 farmers from Alássamima, Macalange, Ntimbo I and II and Mussoma villages in the Mecula Mussoma corridor and 21 members of the Matondovela Community in the Chicunja, Daraja and Ngalinje agricultural blocks along the Chuilexi river. The latter were also given 3 spotlights and encouraged to start farming chilli.
- **50 crop protection firework rockets** were issued to the communities of Msawise and Mavago.
- **Awareness campaigns about living safely with elephants** were carried out in Lichengue, Ntimbo I and II, Mecula sede, Mussoma and Macalange, reaching 674 people in total.
- **Mecula HWC response unit was reactivated** with a permanent vehicle allocated, and arrangements made for rations and accommodation. Additional units were also set up in other critical areas, comprising members from the NSR, local SDAE and Environmental Police.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **WCS conducted a socio-economic survey training program** at Mbatamila HQ for NSR, Luiwire, Mariri and Chiulexi community teams to improve participants project design skills.
- **Meetings were held with Mussoma, Mecula-sede, Matondovela, Mavago-sede and M'sawize Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMC)** to assess their capacity and legal status. NSR Natural Resources Management Program staff evaluated the CGRNs. The first legal CGRNs are (COGEMU) from Mussoma, (MUNGANO) from Mecula-sede and (CHAMA CHA MAENDELEO) from Matondovela. NRMCs not yet legalised will be supported in achieving this status so that they can become part of the Association for the Management of Natural Resources.
- **The identification of pilot enterprise sustainable development projects to be funded in pilot CBNRM zones** began with a meeting with the Mungano Committee and community leaders of the Regedor Nanguar. The 34 participants learnt about the program and suggested a follow up meeting to discuss and prioritize at least 2 projects for Mecula, and identify entrepreneurs with capacity to execute them. To date, 8 entrepreneurs have competed for these prioritized pilot projects and work assessing project resources and equipment for financing is ongoing.
- **Community beneficiaries of the small livestock program** were visited in Mecula and Guebuza to assess progress, comprising 14 women and 13 men who are breeding ducks. Despite significant disruption caused by the insurgency, duck numbers are now starting to rise.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- **An awareness event was held for World Environment Day** led by the Mecula district administrator, featuring the planting of shade trees; song, dance and poetry about environmental conservation and speeches about positive behaviour change.
- **A mini basketball program** was conducted in partnership with Mariri, to engage 85 students in sport, leadership and biodiversity conservation awareness.
- **Geral José António Macamo de Mavago Secondary School Environmental Club activities** included horticulture field preparation, cabbage and lettuce planting.
- **An awareness campaign to reduce uncontrolled fires** and human-wildlife conflict was discussed with local radio.

INFRASTRUCTURE

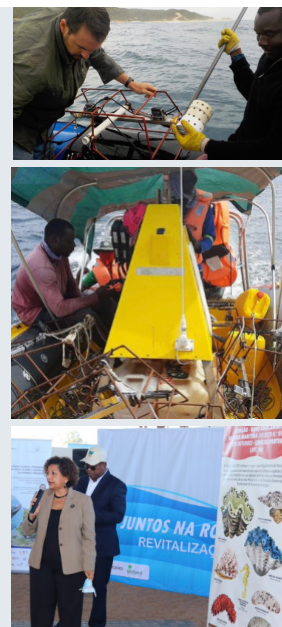
- **Construction of control gates** in Milepa and Msawise have resumed after the rains. Construction of Msawise toilet and septic tank installation is also now underway.
- **Construction of Mbatamila administration houses** (numbers 5 and 6) is almost complete.
- **Water system installation at Maputo Camp** is progressing, with piping and inspection boxes completed, tower and tank base construction in progress.
- **Installation of a new solar power system** for Mbatamila Headquarters was completed, supported by the ECOSMART II solar equipment grant.



MARINE PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS APRIL - JUNE 2022

SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- **Two Baited Remote Underwater Surveys (BRUVs)** were conducted in Maputo National Park (48 long term sampling points) and Inhambane Province (44 long term sampling points).
- **Artisanal fisheries landing site surveys** were conducted in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Maputo.
- **12 eDNA samples were collected** in Maputo National Park and Barra Beach, Inhambane Province.
- **WCS participated in a documentary on shark and ray research** using BRUVs in Maputo National Park.
- **WCS was interviewed for the Jornal Noticias about the importance of shark and ray research** and innovative techniques being implemented in partnership with Mozambique Oceanographic Institute (InOM) and by Mozambique Television to mark World Endangered Species Day.
- **A workshop to disseminate the General Regulation Maritime Fisheries (REPMAR)** was conducted, attended by participants from the fisheries sector as well as the Fishing Community Councils of Bairro dos Pescadores and Muntanhana. Information was shared regarding the protection and management of species included in annexes XI and XIII of the REPMAR.
- **16 Protected Marine Species rollup banners** were delivered to the Minister of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries during World Ocean Day celebrations.
- **WCS participated in 5 technical meetings for the elaboration of the Baseline Assessment for Shark and Rays and National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays.**



MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) PROGRAM

- **Scenarios for the strategic expansion of MPAs were presented** at the technical and advisory councils of MIMAIP and at the Council of Ministers
- **Planning for development of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of the National Network of Marine Protected Areas by 2030** is ongoing.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOCAL POINTS OF BIODIVERSITY CONVENTIONS

- **Guidance documentation was prepared for negotiation and implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).**



CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

- **The National Strategy and Action Plan for Management and Conservation of Coral Reefs (ECOR)**, which WCS is assisting the government to develop, was reviewed before being submitted to the Council of Ministers. Important comments were addressed by the working group and implementation is expected to start soon.
- **Data analysis of the coral reef baseline survey** WCS conducted in March is ongoing. Preliminary results for reefs in Memba and Mossuril Districts, Nampula Province confirm the importance of this region for national and regional coral reef biodiversity while also highlighting threats posed by intense human pressure. Effective management is urgently needed if these key reefs are to be preserved in the long term. The team is currently planning a second survey in the same area, where additional sampling sites will be visited to complement the first survey - including unexplored sites in the north of the Memba District and some in Mossuril. Data will be collected on marine mammal occurrence and distribution in the area, while scuba surveys and BRUVs will be used to study coral reefs and reef fish communities.



BUILDING A BLUE FUTURE FOR ECOSYSTEMS AND PEOPLE ON THE EAST AFRICAN COAST

- The project was approved by the main donor - Blue Action Fund and the funding agreement was signed with WCS (see: <https://tinyurl.com/2zct2kn7>) during the Oceans conference in Lisbon, taking effect from July 1. The project will be implemented over five years, ending June 30, 2027.
- Another grant agreement was signed with the second largest donor of the project so far, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP).

SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

- In collaboration with the donor Foundation Ensemble, WCS conducted fieldwork regarding law enforcement in APGCs, based on interviews with local, provincial and national authorities, NGOs with a role in local fisheries management, and CCPs, including a workshop with the latter. Inhambane was selected as a pilot province. This activity was the culmination of an interview process started in November 2021, which involving national authorities.
- WCS followed up on the review of a new Ministerial Diploma by ADNAP, aiming to clarify issues regarding the establishment and management of community-managed fishing areas.



KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS (KBAs)

- The inaugural meeting of the new project phase, entitled “Mainstreaming Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), piloting Blue Carbon, and Strengthening Coral Reef Fisheries in Mozambique” was held.
- Project inception reports were developed covering Mainstreaming of KBAs, Coral Reefs and Blue Carbon. (More information [here](#)).
- A new regional project SABAPP was signed, which includes field data collection and assessing new KBAs in Mozambique, funded by AFD and FFEM.
- The annual meeting of the National Coordination Group (NCG) for KBAs and Red Lists was held, to discuss the process of validating the national species database integrated to the SIBMOZ portal; define NCG training needs; present findings on 2 potential new KBAs (Pemba Bay and Maputo North /Marracuene); get updates from NITIDAE regarding the process of developing a proposal to re-categorize the Namuli KBA as a community conservation area.

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS (KBAs) CONTINUED

- **Two consultancies were launched for collection of quantitative field species data** that could potentially trigger KBA in Maputo North (Marracuene) and Pemba Bay.
- **WCS participated in the “Celebration of the APAIPS Biodiversity” event**, which presented the main values and threats affecting the APAIPS KBA; in an event on **Maputaland Conservation Planning Analysis**, hosted by DICE and UEM and in **national dialogue on natural capital for a green economy in Mozambique**, promoted by MTA and WWF.

COMBO+

- **With technical support from the COMBO+ program, the Ministerial Diploma 55/2022 of May 19 approving the Biodiversity Offsets Directive, was officially published in the Mozambique Official Gazette** (<https://tinyurl.com/4d6ppz7m>).
- **The second phase of the COMBO+ program was officially launched** at a ceremony led by H.E. vice-minister of Land and Environment, along with the CONNECT project products ([SIBMOZ - Mozambique Biodiversity Information System](#) and [SGLA - Environmental Licensing Management System](#)). More information available [here](#).



- **The National Steering Committee for the COMBO+ program met** to validate the committee's ToRs and present the work plan for 2022.
- **A technical webinar on the historical vegetation map of Mozambique** was held with national experts to present updates and gather new feedback. Version 2.0 is significantly improved - now showing about 162 ecosystem types in 8 biomes. It is available in the new open access webmap.
- **A webinar covering Spatial Biodiversity data**, data portals for use in the mitigation hierarchy, guidance on the preparation and application of such data was held.
- **WCS participated in the British Standard 8683 webinar on the process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain**, as well as the European Development Day Conference in Brussels to present Mozambique's experience in implementing the mitigation hierarchy.
- A flowchart to help technicians, consultants, and proponents identify whether or not a **Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP)** is necessary was prepared.

Many thanks to our donors and partners

