

# NEWSLETTER WCS MOZAMBIQUE

ISSUE: 10/JANUARY TO JUNE 2024



NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE



President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, flanked by senior WCS staff, during the Miombo Conference in New York

## WCS joins African leaders' initiative to protect Miombo forests

The Miombo Conference was launched on April 17 in Washington City, United States of America, a Miombo Initiative led by the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and other Heads of State of the Maputo Declaration, which calls for the creation of an innovative financial instrument to mobilise long-term funds for the conservation and restoration of the Miombo Forests.

The initiative includes the protection of critical areas within the Miombo forests, such as the Niassa Special Reserve in Mozambique, which is jointly managed by WCS and the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC).

## Editorial



Dear partners and the general public, it is with great pleasure that we share the WCS Mozambique Newsletter for the 1st Half of 2024.

The beginning of the year 2024 was quite special because it marked the arrival in Mozambique of a high-level delegation from WCS Global, which, among other things, came to take part in a meeting with the Mozambican Head of State, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, about the Miombo Forest Integrated Management Initiative, an initiative that was launched in August 2022 by the Mozambican Head of State through the Maputo Declaration. There are 11 signatories to the Maputo Declaration, namely: South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Following the meeting held in Maputo National Park in February, two international conferences were held, both in the United States and both chaired by the President of Mozambique. The main aim of these conferences was to promote the potential of the Miombo Forest to contribute to global efforts to achieve goals on climate change, biodiversity conservation and integrated sustainable development.

The WCS delegation also visited the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR) as part of the inauguration of new tourist infrastructures in that conservation area and also met with President Nyusi.

With regard to the Marine Program, this period was marked by a number of impactful activities, most notably the fact that WCS presented the Historical Vegetation Map and National Red List Ecosystem Assessment to the Land and Environment Ministry (MTA) for internal validation. This process consisted of presentations to the Steering Committee of the National Directorate for the Environment (DINAB) and the Technical and Advisory Councils of the MTA. The presentation to the Advisory Council was very well received by H.E. Ivete Maibaze, Minister of Land and Environment, who considered the map relevant for the operationalization of various government regulatory instruments, especially the National Land Development Plan.

This period was also marked by the 2nd edition of the Biodiversity Conference, which took place in the Nacala City, North of Mozambique, and was attended by around 510 people, chaired by the Minister for the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Lídia Cardoso. This event also marked the launch of the website for the Blue Future Project, which is being operationalized in Nampula Province and aims to strengthen the capacities of local artisanal fishing communities by supporting the Community Fishing Councils in the creation, legalization, management and sustainable monitoring of community-managed fishing areas and in restoration, among other things.

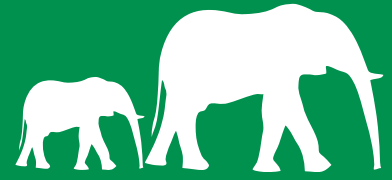
We therefore invite you to read the WCS Mozambique Newsletter for Semester 1 of the year 2024, in an edition that provides a wide range of information about the Niassa Special Reserve and the Marine Program, programs developed by WCS in partnership with the Government of Mozambique and national and international implementing partners.

Best wishes for an excellent read!

**Afonso Madope - WCS Mozambique Country Director**



# CONSERVATION



## Seminar on human-wildlife conflict in Niassa Special Reserve

From 4 to 5 June, the workshop on the human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy was held in Marrupa District, Niassa Province, bringing together all stakeholders in the conservation chain, including the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR) management, government institutions, community authorities, civil society, NGOs and partners.

The workshop, supported by GIZ, was an important step in developing a strategy for managing human-wildlife conflict in the NSR in an integrated manner, with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.



HWC chain stakeholders discussing HWC mitigation strategy ideas

## Solar system installed by Lodge Solutions

Lodge Solutions has installed a solar system at Maputo Camp in Mbatamila (NSR headquarters), providing 24 hour electricity to the management units and improving the overall power grid

In addition to this camp, the solar system was also installed at Irangué Camp, providing 24 hour electricity as well.

This was an important step forward, as the workers living in this camp previously had restrictions on the supply of electricity and consequently the Internet, which prevented regular communication with the outside world.

## A workshop on fire management held



The fire management workshop was held in Maputo, funded by the US Forestry Service, and attended by representatives of the NSR, UEM, ANAC and several NSR operators. The workshop was followed by a field visit with the USFS team to establish a working group that will develop an NSR fire management plan by March 2025.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Niassa Special Reserve implements Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

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Social safeguard team during a meeting on FPIC in the community

The Niassa Special Reserve introduced FPIC, for the first time, a principle of international law that states that local communities have the right to give or withhold consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or use.

This measure is part of the social safeguards and aims to establish a community concession in Block L4E, a sustainable use conservation area within the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR), whose National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) intends to convert it into a parcel to be managed by local communities.

## Niassa Special Reserve publishes and distributes community quotas for animal slaughter

The distribution of community quotas for the slaughter of animals is carried out with a focus on transparency and equity, ensuring that local communities benefit directly from the resources derived from the region's fauna.



Part of the buffalo meat goes to the local community

This process begins with the dissemination of information on the approved quota for slaughter to the Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCS), which includes community meetings where the approved species are explained. The NRMCS ensure that all members of the community are consulted and that culling is carried out in a sustainable manner, in line with conservation and sustainable wildlife management policies.

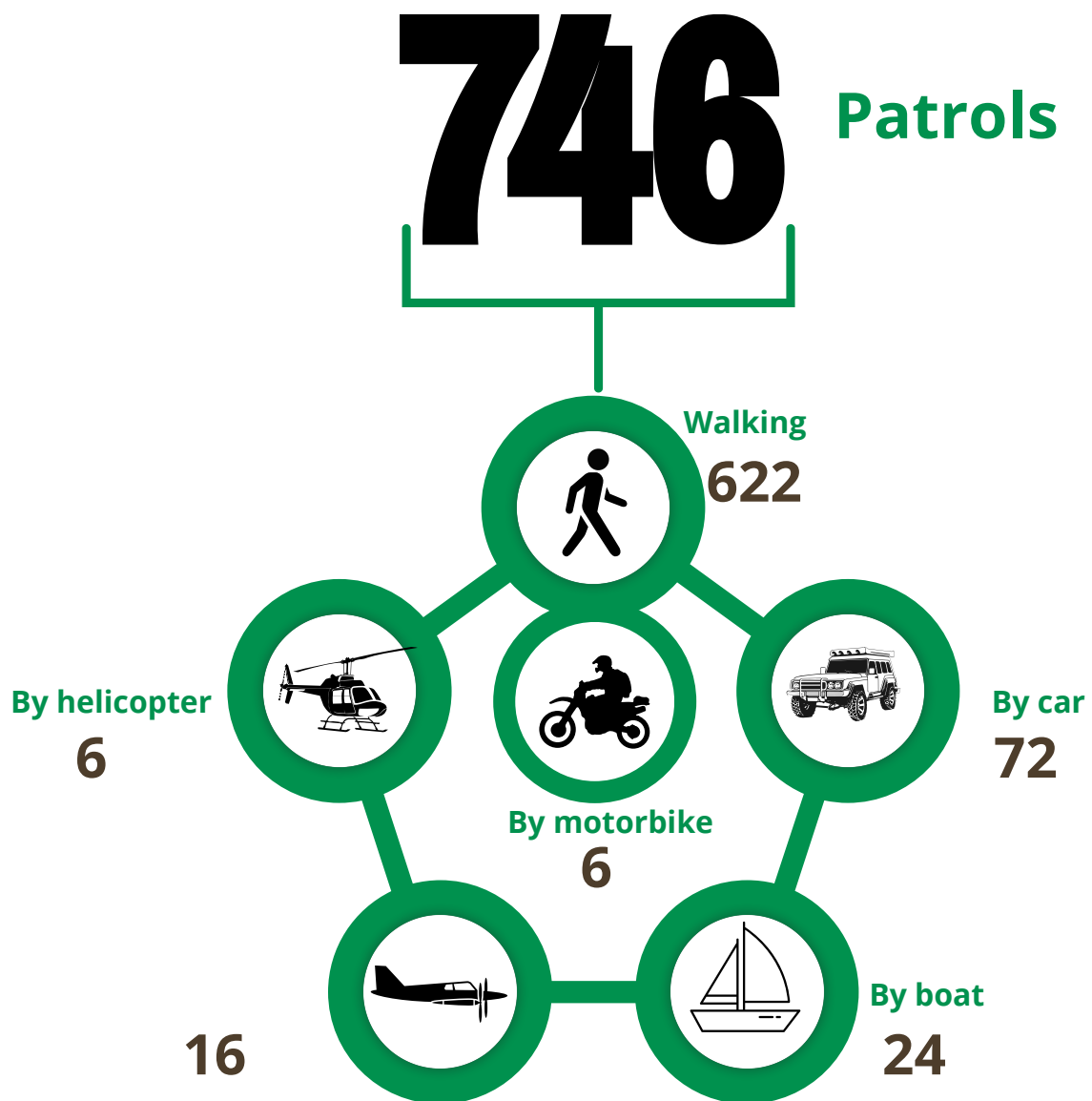
# LAW ENFORCEMENT



NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE

## Patrols

During the first half of the year, 746 patrols were carried out, compared to 755 in the same period last year, which represents a decrease of 9 patrols.



## Results





Family photo of the meeting of the members of the Management Council;

## Niassa Special Reserve holds meeting of Management Board

The Niassa Special Reserve (NSR) Management Board meeting was held in Lichinga town in May, with the main agenda items being the presentation of the NSR Management Plan (2024-34) and the proposed NSR Special Regulation.

The meeting brought together the NSR Administration, the administration of 8 districts covered by the NSR, the Provincial Environmental Services, the Provincial Directorates of Territorial Development and Environment, Culture and Tourism, community authorities, non-governmental organizations and private sector.

## Niassa Special Reserve holds Annual Meeting with Tourism Operators

The Niassa Special Reserve held its annual meeting of tourism operators in Maputo in the first half of 2024, in the presence of the Deputy Director General of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), Severino Khoi, with the aim of discussing the main strategic management issues of the Mozambican protected area with the largest population of some species, such as the wild dog (mabeco), elephant and lion.



NRS tour operators and partners during the meeting

The meeting was marked by the evaluation of the 2023 tourist season and the assessment of the degree of implementation of the action points agreed at the last operators' meeting (in 2023), as well as the updating and informing of operators on the achievements of the NSR. The management plan and the NSR's guidelines for good hunting practice were also presented and, finally, the challenges and perspectives of the NSR's tourism operators for the 2023/2024 season were heard in order to define action points for improving the management of the NSR.

## Training provided

During this period, various training courses were given which focused on the technical development of employees, including: Drafting news reports; Planning patrols; Assessing helicopter cargo transport capacity; Free and Prior Informed Consent; Use of fire extinguishers in firefighting; Code of conduct with greater emphasis on prohibiting acts of harassment; and Training in social safeguards and dialogue and complaints mechanisms.

# INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE



During this period, the infrastructure sector completed the construction of the women's toilet block at Ndembo camp.





WCS and Biofund teams from Mozambique and FIAES and MARN from El Salvador during their visit to Santa Rita park

## Strategic visit to El Salvador by WCS Mozambique and Biofund

The Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation (Biofund) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Mozambique), partners in the COMBO+ Program, embarked on an inspiring exchange of experiences with the Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador (FIAES). The visit was essential to understand the ten years of success of the FIAES in implementing biodiversity offsets in El Salvador, Central America.

From 27 to 31 May, six members of the COMBO+ Program from the Mozambique delegation, three from BIOFUND and three from WCS, participated in the in-person phase of the BRIDGE Project Mentoring Program, an initiative launched by RedLac and CAFÉ in 2022. The aim of this mentoring is to accelerate the process of conservation and restoration of ecosystems and landscapes with the contribution of the private sector, through the biodiversity offset mechanism.

## New training strengthens implementation of biodiversity offsets in Mozambique



A training session on the implementation of biodiversity offsets under the mitigation hierarchy in Mozambique was held in Maputo City on 17-18 April 2024. The training aimed to provide environmental consultants, project proponents and members of the newly created 'Technical-Scientific Unit for Supporting Biodiversity Offsets' with the tools and information necessary to apply the Technical Manual for the Implementation of Ministerial Decree No. 55/2022.



# SHARKS AND RAYS PROGRAM



## MARINE PROGRAM

### Extensive training in “Quantitative Ecology for Conservation Research and Management”

WCS Mozambique and Samantha Strindberg from the Conservation Technologies team had a comprehensive training on “Quantitative Ecology for Conservation Research and Management”. The event, held at WCS’s Maputo office, was attended by 22 participants and aimed to equip them with the skills to design effective ecological surveys, analyze the resulting data, estimate animal population density and size, investigate spatial distributions and identify ecological or human-influenced factors. Special emphasis was placed on improving participants’ proficiency in data visualization and statistical testing.

### Supporting fishing communities to safeguard their livelihoods

On 12 and 13 June, WCS and its government partners held two meetings to share the results of the project “Supporting fishing communities to safeguard their livelihoods and conserve shark and ray populations at Zalala Beach, Mozambique” with stakeholders from Zalala Beach and to encourage the active participation of several local institutions. This is a project that has been running since 2023 between WCS, InOM and the University of California Santa Cruz.

### WCS speaks in Television of Mozambique (“Televisão de Moçambique”) about the importance of Oceans Day

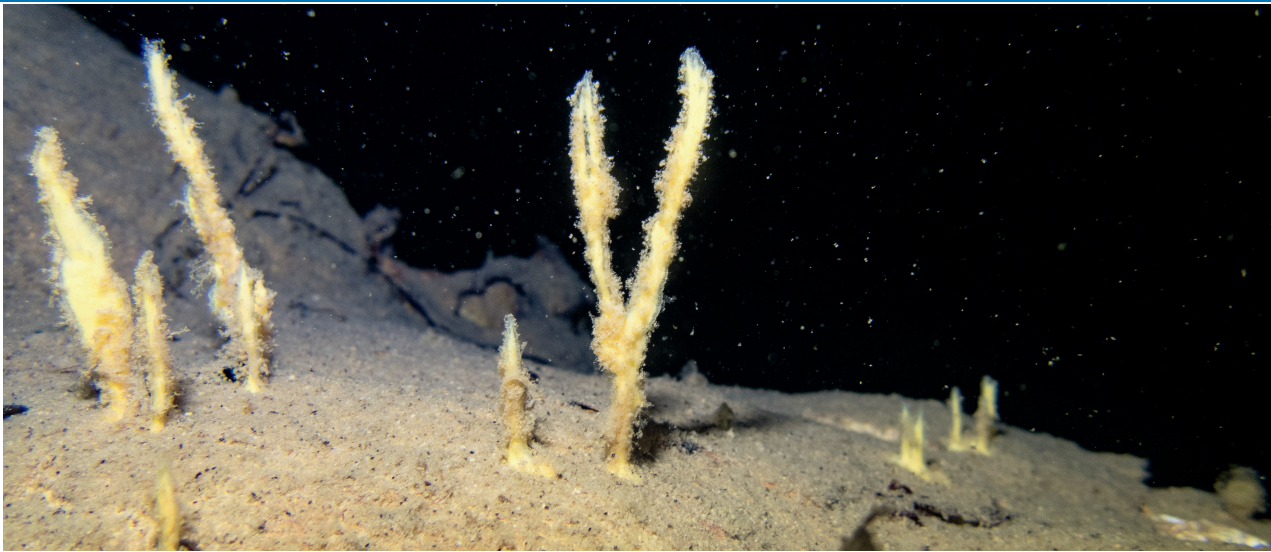


Nazaré Manuel during an interview on TVM

On 8 June, WCS Mozambique joined the celebrations of World Oceans Day by participating in TVM’s front page Program.

On this occasion, Nazaré Manuel, a WCS staff member who participated in the Program, highlighted WCS’s involvement in work related to the oceans, as well as the role of the day in engaging society in activities related to the oceans.

# CORAL REEFS PROGRAM



Coral reefs

## **WCS works with InOM to coordinate consultations (funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Vibrant Oceans Project)**

Throughout the semester, WCS worked with InOM to coordinate two consultations (funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Vibrant Oceans Project) aimed at implementing key actions of the Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Coral Reefs (ECOR 2022-2032), namely:

### **Development of the National Coral Reef Monitoring Program**

The activity is expected to be completed during the second semester, culminating in the submission thereof to MIMAIP for approval. This activity included:

- Review the monitoring of existing coral reefs by 2024 to produce an updated report on the status of coral reefs at the national level.
- Selection of key indicators for the monitoring framework
- Defining standard methods to be applied periodically at fixed locations along the entire coastline.
- A series of national stakeholder workshops for product validation (planned for the second half of 2024).

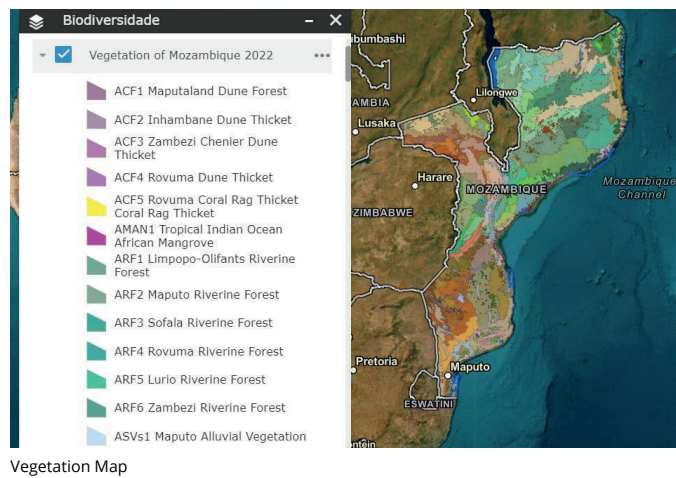
### **Reviewing the legal and regulatory framework governing coral reefs in Mozambique**

The aim of this activity is to carry out an analysis of the gaps in the legal framework and to develop proposals to address them. It is expected that this activity, which will be completed in the second half of the year with public consultations to validate the proposals and submit them to the relevant bodies, will lead to the strengthening of the legal framework to ensure effective management and conservation of reefs in Mozambique.



## WCS presents historical Vegetation Map and National Assessment of Red List of Ecosystems to the Ministry of Land and Environment

Between March and May 2024, WCS presented the Historical Vegetation Map and the National Assessment of the Red List of Ecosystems to the Ministry of Land and Environment for internal validation. This process included presentations to the Steering Committee of the National Environment Directorate (DINAB) and to the Technical and Advisory Boards of the MTA. The presentation to the Advisory Board was very well received by Her Excellency the Minister of Land and Environment, Ivete Maibaze, who considered the map relevant for the operationalization of several government instruments.



## City Nature Challenge joins Mozambique

From 26-29 April 2024, through the promotion of the SBAPP project, Mozambique participated in the City Nature Challenge, with 31 participants contributing 422 observations and 239 species to iNaturalist. The number of citizen scientists contributing data to iNaturalist increased by 39%, from 731 individuals in June 2022 to 1,040 in January 2024. In addition, the third iNaturalist training session was held on 15 August 2024.



Director of WCS Global's Coral Reef Programme, first from left to right, shared his experience of conservation in indigenous communities.

## WCS participates in the 2nd Biodiversity Conference

The 2nd edition of the Marine Biodiversity Conference and Exhibition was held in Nacala-Porto from 17 to 21 June. The event was a great success, bringing together a total of 510 in-person participants and more than 6000 online participants over the two days of the event.

The Minister for the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Lídia Cardoso, attended the entire event, including the exhibition. She emphasized the need for clear and effective communication to implement conservation measures and the vital role of sustainable fishing techniques.

## Ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem services training workshop hosted by WCS



Partner group exercise (ADPP, AMA and SDAE) during the workshop.

The training aimed to increase the knowledge, experience and capacity of the project team, government and other relevant partner agencies to effectively integrate Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) approaches into planning activities, implementation and decision-making processes.

WCS Mozambique organized training on ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) and ecosystem services in Nacala from 23 to 25 January 2024, in collaboration with Lutea Magaia, a consultant specializing in EBA, as part of the Blue Future Project, co-funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

## BLUE FUTURE PROGRAM

### Local communities benefit from stove production training

From March to June 2024, 1,440 community members (984 women and 456 men) from the communities of Geba, Napila, Crusse, Chicoma and Nantaca in the districts of Memba and Mossuril were mobilized and trained in the production of firewood-saving stoves.

The stoves are made entirely from locally available materials, helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. To date, 3,515 stoves have been produced, exceeding the original target of 1,000. The success is attributed to the strategy within the Livelihood Clubs model, which allows members to produce and sell the stoves together.

### WCS Mozambique launches the Blue Future Project website

The Blue Future project is being implemented in the province of Nampula and aims to strengthen the capacity of local artisanal fishing communities by supporting Community Fisheries Councils in the creation, legalization, management and sustainable monitoring of community-managed fishing areas, and in the restoration, protection and management of mangroves, sea grasses and coral reefs, contributing to the goals set out in national strategies and action plans related to climate, conservation and sustainable development goals.

The site is live at [wcsbluefuture.com](https://wcsbluefuture.com) Several news items about the project have been posted on social media.

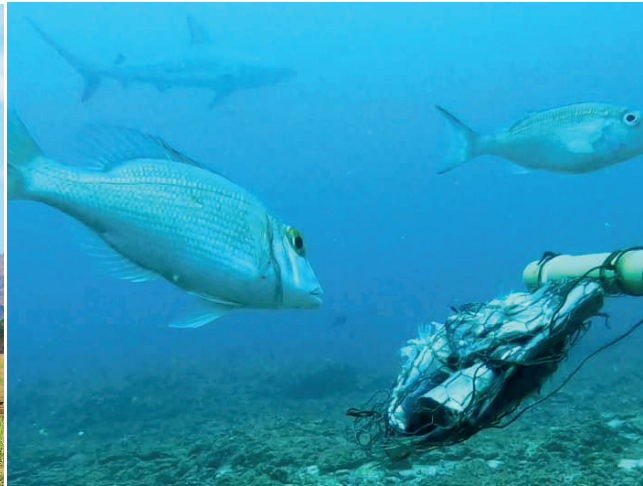
### WCS holds workshops with government to define boundaries of future Memba-Mossuril Marine Conservation Area (MCA)

In May 2024, WCS hosted participatory workshops with the government to determine the overall boundaries of the future Memba-Mossuril Marine Conservation Area (MCA). Several activities were carried out in relation to the MCA establishment process.

The whole validation process and the different stages were agreed with several stakeholders. Two technical meetings were held with several institutional partners, namely InOM, ADNAP, SPAE, SPA, ADMAR (Maritime Administration), INSTRASMAR (Maritime Transport Institute), DPAP (Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries) and District Governments.



## Our social media: Wildlife Conservation Society Moçambique



## Donors and partners:



## Technical data

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