



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 delighted to welcome you to this year's second quarter newsletter. This period was marked by landmark events for WCS. The first major was undoubtedly the launch of 29 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified in the country. The event was conducted by Her Excellency the Minister of Land and Environment, Ivete Maibaze, and was also attended by the USAID's Outgoing Representative in Mozambique, Ms. Jennifer Adams and key conservation stakeholders. The launch of the KBAs represents a major milestone for the country as these areas are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity and are identified based on internationally accepted scientific criteria.

Another landmark for this period was the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), to set out the mechanisms for collaboration between the parties in terms of planning and implementation of activities across ocean, inland waters and fisheries. These two events are the corollary of the work that WCS has increasingly developed with Mozambican authorities in order to

make its contribution to accomplish its mission and the government's objectives. In this period the development of community initiatives for the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR) were continued, notably the improvement of support infrastructure, placement of electric fences in communities' cultivation areas, as well as support in agricultural supplements allocated to the Government of Mecula District, with a view to raising agricultural production and mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC).

Last but not least, WCS keeps on providing support to national authorities, in particular the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) through the Wildlife Crimes Unit, in dismantling networks trafficking in wildlife and flora products and by-products, and those involved in the illegal hunting and trade of endangered or otherwise protected species.

We hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter, and would like to stress that your contribution to improving this work is always welcome.

We wish our readers an excellent reading!

*WCS Mozambique Country Director,
Afonso Madope*

NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS APRIL - JUNE 2021

 <p>142 RANGER PATROLS CONDUCTED COVERING 8,921 KM</p>	 <p>45 ILLEGAL CAMPS DESTROYED</p>	 <p>700 WILDLIFE TRAPS REMOVED</p>	 <p>36 OFFENDERS ARRESTED FOR WILDLIFE CRIMES</p>	 <p>1 CROP PROTECTION ELECTRIC FENCE INSTALLED</p>	 <p>AGRICULTURAL INPUTS DELIVERED TO MECULA SDAE</p>	 <p>3 YEARS & 1 MONTH, NO ELEPHANT POACHING RECORDED</p>
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LAW ENFORCEMENT

- A joint effort between NSR intelligence services and national police of led to confiscation of 2 AK-47 and SRS types weapons in Mavago district;
- 45 illegal fishing, poaching, logging and mining camps destroyed and 138 tools (including machetes, hoes, saws, shovels, picks) confiscated;
- Sixteen Notices for thirty-six arrested individuals, including fifteen Tanzanian nationals and twenty one Mozambican nationals drawn up;
- Eight trials conducted, including seven poaching-related crimes and one illegal mining crime;
- Training on investigating wildlife poisoning conducted for technicians, to improve the fight against poaching and create a network for data collection on poisonings in the NSR.

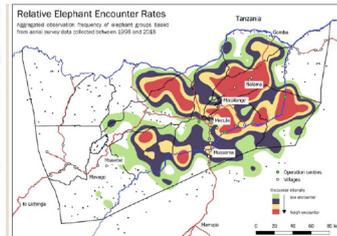


HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- HWC status report completed, advising on diversification of HWC mitigation strategies, including the use of natural repellents, firecrackers, whistles, and reflective tape;
- Two more HWC response units established for Mavago and Marrupa districts;
- Chili produced to chase away elephants in Guebuza, Alamissa and Nampequesso communities.



HWC management Niassa:
Status quo and recommendations for a way forward

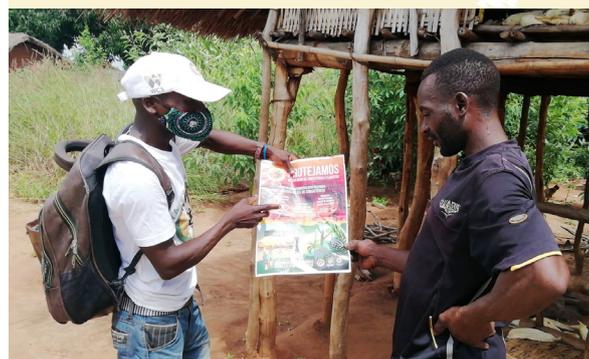


ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

The first NSR Science and Miombo Network Meeting was held, with the theme 'From Science to Management'. The event was hosted by Eduardo Mondlane University's Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering, which has led research on miombo woodlands fires and dynamics in NSR for over 15 years and is part of the Regional Miombo Network.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and mitigate uncontrolled fires were conducted in 14 communities, reaching 764 households, in partnership with the Mariri Operator.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The first block format farm field was established in Lichengue locality, enabling installation of an electric fence to mitigate human-wildlife conflict - a collaboration between NSR and the Economic Activities District Services of Mecula;
- The USA Embassy Military Attaché, Colonel Fergal O'Reilly, visited NSR and delivered a Tuc-Tuc ambulance, medical supplies, a stretcher and cleaning products to the Medical Centre. This donation was funded by Spirit of America (SoA) and the U.S. Department of Defense, supported by the Luwire Operator.
- Afonso Madope, WCS Mozambique Country Director, was received by the Secretary of State of Niassa Province, Dinis Vilanculos, as part of his visit to NSR. The meeting also served as a formal introduction to the leader of Niassa province, and an opportunity to discuss various pressing aspects relevant to the NSR - including implementation of the co-management agreement between the Government of Mozambique and WCS.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction of Catembe surveillance post, and Mecula District electric fencing, funded by AFD and UNDP, were put out to tender. New support infrastructure was begun at NSR headquarters, in Mbatamila.



WCS signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries

Signed on 20 May, this MoU sets out the mechanisms of collaboration between the Parties in terms of planning and implementing activities across marine and inland waters and fisheries in support of conservation, protection and sustainable management of marine biodiversity.



Development of a tool for the assessment of biodiversity restoration priorities: a contribution to the implementation of Biodiversity Offsets in Mozambique

As part of the Biodiversity Offset Program undertaken by the Government of Mozambique, in partnership with WCS and BIOFUND, an initial attempt was made to develop an updated assessment of restoration priorities in Mozambique. To this end, the UICN's ROAM approach, i.e. the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (MICAIA et al., 2018; MITADER, 2018) was used and focused on identifying areas for restoration so as to achieve the objectives of the legislation on biodiversity offsets in Mozambique.



Official Launch of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Mozambique

The Minister of Land and Environment, Ivete Maibaze, led the launch ceremony, on 21 May, in Maputo city to mark the identification and mapping of 29 KBAs. The work was carried out as a partnership between the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA) and WCS, funded by USAID through Project SPEED+.

In June, an international webinar was held in partnership with the global secretariat and KBA community, involving over 50 people.

KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater, marine and groundwater systems and are identified based on a set of international scientific criteria.



WCS training on marine ecosystems in Inhambane

A WCS Mozambique team provided 20 days of training in coral, mangrove and seagrass sampling and conducted socio-economic surveys for local NGOs operating in the establishment of Community Management Fishing Areas, namely the Marine Megafauna Association and Ocean Revolution Mozambique, and technicians from the Fisheries Research Institute (IIP).

The WCS team was complemented with trainers from UniLúrio, UEM and Associação do Meio Ambiente (AMA).



Training in ecological and socioeconomic monitoring methods in Inhambane

WCS has played an important role in establishing and supporting the management of Community Fisheries Management Areas (CPAs, also known as Locally Managed Marine Areas - LMMAs). Through the Sustainable Seas Project of Marine Megafauna Association (AMM) with complementary funding from Fondation Ensemble and Tiffany & CO., WCS developed an Ecological Monitoring Guide and Socio-Economic and Ecological Monitoring Plans for two organizations based in Inhambane province, namely AMM and Ocean Revolution Mozambique (ORM).

WCS also provided training to AMM and ORM conservation officers on monitoring methods to ensure high quality scientific data collection and analysis.



Celebrating World Shark Day

This year's theme was, 'The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.' To mark the day, the WCS Mozambique Marine Portfolio launched a series of infographics reflecting work that WCS is developing in Mozambique for the protection of these species. This is in partnership with the Government of Mozambique, through the National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP), the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP) and other partners.

Luke Warwick, WCS Shark and Ray Program Director said, "There is a growing global movement that recognizes that sharks are vulnerable and their fisheries need to be managed in a sustainable way."

See images overleaf.

