



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

Photo ©ANAC

Dear readers

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Issue No. 3 of the WCS Mozambique Newsletter covering the second half of 2021. This period was hallmarked by extremely important events for WCS including submission of the first National Strategy and Action Plan for Coral Reef Management and Conservation to the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP); provision of training and evaluation support to KBAs in São Tomé and Príncipe; approval of Decree No. 51/2021 which officially recognises KBAs and the National Coordination Group; USAID approval of the ECOSMART II project which aims to increase surveillance capacity, support ecological monitoring activities and address human-wildlife conflict in Niassa Special Reserve (REN); welcoming His Excellency the President of the Republic to REN as part of World Ranger Day celebrations to observe and participate in elephant collaring activities.

Throughout the latter part of 2021, WCS continued to create synergies with partners. As part of this endeavour, WCS Regional Director for East Africa, Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean, visited Maputo to be briefed about programmes activities and meet with national and international partners including ANAC, MIMAIP, USAID, JICA and MWA. In these meetings, the WCS

team emphasised our commitment to nature conservation causes set by the Government of Mozambique.

Despite military unrest in Mecula District during November and December, the REN team bravely continued its monitoring activities. Fortunately, the situation was controlled by the swift response of the Mozambican Defense and Security Forces.

WCS would like to express its special thanks to all individuals and entities that have provided support to its activities, with particular emphasis on the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, through the Ministry of Land and Environment and the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, without neglecting the other Government bodies. WCS extends a special appreciation to the donor community that underpin the results achieved, a hug of solidarity to the operators of Niassa Special Reserve who show impressive commitment to the cause of biodiversity conservation, and a bow to all WCS workers for their deep dedication to their work.

To all readers, WCS wishes you excellent reading and a prosperous 2022.

*WCS Mozambique Country Director,
Afonso Madopo*

NIASSA SPECIAL RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS JULY - DECEMBER 2021



LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **Joint patrols between** NSR scouts, concession holder scouts and the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR) continued on foot, by motorbike and vehicle. Operations were conducted with Chuiléxi, Luwire and Kambako primarily against commercial bush meat poaching and illegal mining.
- **World Ranger Day** was celebrated at Mbatamila NSR HQ, led by the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi. The inaugural Ranger of the Year award, supported by the Dr. Carlos Lopes Pereira Fund, went to NSR scout Mr. António Soze Fombe.
- **Intelligence efforts** in collaboration with police and scouts resulted in recovery of illegal weapons; ammunition; rope, metal and fiberoptic snares; mining tools; timber; bushmeat; wildlife traps; 1 motorbike transporting bushmeat and 1 bicycle.
- **Scout capacity building** covered SMART CEDAR, crime notice legislation and new physical training. Intelligence training covered data collection and data security.



AVIATION

- Following deployment of the WCS **Cessna 206** aircraft at Mbatamila HQ patrol and logistics flights have comprised **53 flying hours** including support to elephant collaring.
- The **Bell 407 helicopter** spent **57.4 flying hours in LE support**, elephant collaring, maintenance and fire transects.



Photo ©Keith Begg



HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- **40 elephants were fitted with electronic collars** during 2 collaring events. Tracking these animals will allow deployment of HWC response teams before they approach agricultural areas to prevent them entering fields. The collaring was witnessed by the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi, the general director of ANAC, WCS country director, the Minister of Earth and Environment and other public figures.
- **12 lions were fitted with satellite collars** by Mariri Investments (Block L5S) through the Niassa Carnivore Program (NCP) assisted by NSR HWC officer, Samuel Bilério. This will assist in monitoring lion movements around communities, poaching control and HWC reduction.
- **Mecula, Mavago and Marrupa response units** continued chasing problem animals from communities (primarily elephant and buffalo), protecting food storage barns from elephants, distributing HWC resources and crop-raiding mitigation awareness materials. Mecula unit collaborated with NCP and Chulexi scouts to capture and translocate a male leopard from Everuka.
- **Injured animal veterinary care** included treatment of a lion with a fractured leg, a pangolin that was recovered from poachers at Negomano, removal of a snares from an elephant's leg in Luwire.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Sustainable honey production** by community associations was supported with provision of material to build 21 hives at Ntimbo I and support to hive installation in Ntimbo I, Ntimbo II and Mussoma.
- **Livestock promotion** to provide an alternative to game meat included training 10 women in integrated duck management and distribution of 123 ducks to 41 families in Guebuza, Ntimbo 2 and Mungano communities. 72 goats were distributed to communities in the Mussoma-Mecula corridor through Natural Resources Management Committees (COGEMU and MUNGANO). Prior to delivery of the animals, the Reserve's Community Department organized training for the recipients including in improved corral construction techniques. The handover ceremony was attended by the administrator of the District Government and the administrator of the Reserve.
- **Agricultural inputs** in the form of Chinaca improved maize seeds were distributed to needy farmers in collaboration with Mecula SDAE and the District Farmers Union of Mecula who also provided guidance on planting, seed collection and ongoing distribution. In partnership with SDAE 2 irrigation pumps and an equal number of sprayers were allocated to 12 vegetable growers in Lichengue.
- **Conservation agriculture** outreach efforts focussed on raising awareness among farmers of the dangers of uncontrolled fire and the benefits of not burning. 100 farmers were advised to allow grass stubble to become mulch instead of burning it. This increases soil fertility and water retention while reducing weeds and discouraging seed raiding by monkeys. At a later date, 345 farmers from 8 farmer associations a long Mussoma-Mecula corridor received conservation agriculture training conducted by NSR Sustainable Development Unit manager, Mr. Cipriano Martinho. With the support of Mecula and Mecula District Farmers Union (UDCA), farmers learned about the use of mulching to improve soil quality and fertility in cultivated fields.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Rabies and canine distemper awareness and vaccination campaigns**
 Following on from the awareness campaign the WCS Vet led the vaccination program coupled with a sterilization program for male dogs together with our with partners (Luwire Wildlife Conservancy, Mariri Investimentos- Niassa Carnivore Project and Mozambique Wildlife Alliance). This activity was carried out in October by the HWC unit to reduce the breeding population of domestic dogs within NSR and to minimize the outbreaks of rabies and canine distemper. These diseases have the potential to wipe out carnivore populations. 275 dogs were vaccinated during this exercise.
- The environmental club** at Jose Macamo Secondary School in Mavago was supplied with agricultural inputs (vegetable seeds, irrigation pedestal pumps, backpack sprayer) to improve their vegetable production. Students are learning the importance of sustainable food production and conservation of natural resources. Msawise Environmental Club carried out a cleaning campaign to educate the community about correct waste disposal and the benefits of a healthy, clean environment.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Catembe outpost construction** began, comprising an officers house, dormitory for scouts, refectory, pantry, toilet, wood-fired kitchen, guardhouse and gate.
- Maintenance of 12 bridges** along the road from Lichengue to Matondovela town was carried out by the NSR maintenance team supported by 8 seasonal employees hired from local communities.
- Construction of a generator house** for the Maputo camp was completed by our in-house team
- Rehabilitation of 14 Afridev water pumps** in the Mecula / Marrupa corridor communities began, which will benefit approximately 11,175 people with the provision of safe water and reduction in dangerous encounters with wildlife when fetching river water.



MARINE PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS JULY-DECEMBER 2021

Key Biodiversity Areas and Red Lists Program

Considering the experience and the successful KBA national assessment in Mozambique, as well as for being a Portuguese-speaking country, WCS Mozambique was invited by the global KBA secretariat and Birdlife international - STP to provide intensive training, share experience and give technical assistance during the KBA national assessment in São Tome e Príncipe. Eleutério Duarte, a Mozambican biologist and project assistant at WCS-Mozambique since 2019 with experience in conducting KBAs assessments was appointed for this activity.

The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants (online and in person), which included local and international experts, as well as representatives of public and private organizations with interests in biodiversity issues. During the workshop it was proven that defining key biodiversity areas is a critical exercise to provide strategic guidance for both local government and funding agencies to ensure biodiversity conservation.



Climate Change

WCS participated in a USAID workshop on climate change resilience on the coast of Nampula and Zambezia.



Marine Protected Areas support program

- Capacity building training for the Mozambican delegation for the Conference of the parties to the CBD, was conducted in partnership with DINAB, WCS, IUCN and WWF.
- A technical report on scenarios for the expansion of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs/MPAs) was developed.
- WCS participated in the annual meeting of the Civil Society Forum for the Marine and Coastal Environment (FOSCAMC).

Program COMBO+: Conservation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets

- An exploratory visit to Chimanimani National Park (CNP) and its buffer zone was conducted for feasibility testing of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) tool and rapid ecological assessment of indicated sites with restoration potential for future biodiversity offset projects. The field team comprised technicians from BIOFUND, WCS (Eleutério Duarte), CNP and Micaia.
- Field visit in Djabula conducted by WCS and BIOFUND to follow up the study on the socio-economic and environmental characterization of the charcoal value chain in the Licuáti Forest Reserve and surrounding area.
- Two training modules, on i) the basics for applying the Mitigation Hierarchy; and ii) using tools to identify avoidance areas and biodiversity for offsets, were provided by WCS and BIOFUND to DINAB and other relevant institutions of the MTA, as part of the intensive training program for the application of the new biodiversity offsets ministerial diploma.
- Field work in Maputo National Park, conducted by BIOFUND, WCS and UEM team with the purpose of testing the mangrove ecological condition metrics.
- Restoration Priority Assessment - A contribution to the implementation of Biodiversity Offsets in Mozambique was published. It describes an approach that supports the identification and mapping of potential restoration areas to achieve the goals of biodiversity offset legislation in Mozambique, and can be applied at different scales, depending on the information available.



Shark and ray conservation program

- A workshop for the elaboration of the NDF - Shark, was organized by the Fisheries Research Institute with the support of WCS – Mozambique.
- Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) sampling was conducted in Inhambane Bay, Pomene Reserve, Morrungulo, Chonguene/Chidenguele and Ponta de Ouro. BRUV is a system used in marine biology research. By attracting fish into the field of view of a remotely controlled camera, the technique records fish diversity, abundance and behaviour of species.
- Training workshops on fin identification for protected shark and ray species in Mozambique were provided to technicians from various Government institutions.



Coral reef conservation

- The Government of Mozambique through the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), held the 2nd Edition of the Crescendo Azul International Conference under the theme: "Investing in the ocean's health is investing in the future of the planet. WCS was invited by MIMAIP to participate in 3 panels during this important event. The 'Biodiversity and Conservation' discussion was moderated by WCS Mozambique coral specialist, Erwan Sola, and Rhett Bennett, WCS Western Indian Ocean shark conservation program manager was one of the speakers. WCS project assistant Eleutério Duarte presented scenarios for the strategic expansion of Marine Conservation Areas in Mozambique on the panel for Blue Economy and Maritime Spatial Planning. Finally, Hugo Costa, WCS Marine Program Director, was invited by conservation partner RARE to participate in the community co-management of coastal areas panel.
- WCS supported IIP in organizing a the Public Consultation on Mozambique's National Coral Reef Management Strategy.



Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries Program

WCS conducted a field trip to Memba/Mossuril to collect complementary information on socio-economic aspects of the local communities associated to the new project Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast.



Many thanks to our donors and partners

