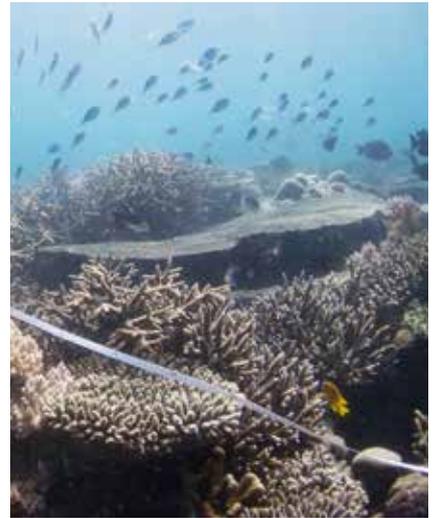




WCS MOZAMBIQUE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

July 2021

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Report contributors;

- Afonso Madope – Country Director – Editor
- Carlos Lopes – Technical Director and CWT Manager
- Hugo Costa – Marine Manager
- Niton Cuna – Niassa Special Reserve
- Sarah Markes – WCS Graphic Designer
- Francisco Cabo – WCS Communication Manager

1. WCS MOZAMBIQUE

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental organization working to conserve the world’s greatest wildlife sites and homes to over 50% of the world’s biodiversity. It was founded in 1895 as the Zoological Society of New York, and maintains around 500 conservation projects in 65 countries around the world, of which 15 are in countries on the African continent namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. WCS has operated in Mozambique since 2012, authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation through the Order of 27 December 2012, updated on 17 April 2020 registered as Society for Fauna Conservation (WCS) and aims to support Mozambique in the field of Nature Conservation.

WCS currently works in 3 portfolio domains in Mozambique, namely:

- Management and Development of the Niassa Special Reserve
- Marine Program:
 - COMBO Project;
 - Support to the management of marine conservation areas;
 - Support to the protection of species.
- Country Wildlife Trafficking (CWT).

Project Implementation Location:

- Coastal area of Mozambique
- Maputo Province and City
- Gaza Province
- Nampula Province
- Niassa Province



2. BACKGROUND

General Description

The Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) projects are carried out in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, and they involve wildlife conservation by combating the threats posed by overexploitation of natural resources, advocacy at the national policy level, supporting anti poaching initiatives and management of protected areas.

The main objectives have been:

- a) Strengthening the management of national protected areas and biodiversity in general by helping to improve policies to enhance the development of an enabling environment for effective and efficient conservation, by improving the protection of wildlife resources in the Niassa Special Reserve (the largest conservation area in Mozambique), including improving the conservation status of elephants;
- b) Strengthening ANAC’s enforcement response, through investment in specialist staff, to improve capacity to dismantle criminal trafficking networks in high-risk areas, such as international airports and ports, and border areas; and
- c) Improving the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy in Mozambique.

Discussions are underway between WCS and the Government of Mozambique to conclude the agreement for the co-management of the Niassa Special Reserve. Through opportunities created through the COMBO Project it has been possible to start a marine program in Mozambique in coordination with the Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (IIP), with activities developed with the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP) and the National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP).



3. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

2020 was an atypical year due to the restrictions imposed by the Government of Mozambique due to the Covid-19 pandemic. WCS adopted and implemented several prevention measures as follows:

- a) Implementing a work from home program with a reduced number of employees in Niassa at any one time
- b) Purchased a large number of masks for all personnel;
- c) Reduction in the number of workers occupying vehicles;
- d) Observing social distancing rules and signing the sign-in-book in the open air;
- e) Purchasing large quantities of alcohol gel sanitiser for the staff;
- f) Selection of a dedicated team to manage the measures adopted;
- g) Disinfection of all buildings; and
- h) Awareness campaigns to highlight how COVID-19 spreads and it's prevention.

Activities by the community sector that involve large gatherings of people were cancelled and in their place door-to-door public health and sanitation awareness campaigns aimed at Covid-19 prevention were carried out. These campaigns covered 1214 families in 19 communities in Mecula district in the first phase, during which more than 3000 masks were distributed and a water drum with tap was positioned in each of the communities for hand washing. Posters illustrating Covid-19 and its prevention were distributed throughout the communities.

The Administration of the Niassa Special Reserve (NSR), through the Community Department delivered 100 masks, liquid soap, and water buckets with lids to the children of Lishenguwe Primary School, in Mecula District (inside the Reserve), in Niassa Province.



Niassa Special Reserve Portfolio

The opening of 4 new environmental clubs was facilitated - 2 in the Mecula district and 2 more in the Mavago district. Added to the existing 4, REN thus ended the year with a total of 8 school environmental clubs, and 82 students who dedicated themselves to disseminating information on environmental sanitation, nature conservation, combating uncontrolled burning, building capoeiras in the communities and other activities useful for the socio-environmental development of the communities.

The project to transform honey collection for beekeepers was extended with the continued distribution of 38 hives, 20 in the Nampequesso community, 8 in Ntimbo, 7 in Mecula and 3 in Guebuza. Beekeeper protection equipment was distributed along with the hives. Currently, the village of Ntimbo II has 46 beehives installed. In addition, a fruit plantation project was created for 265 families, who have benefited from 1275 plants of various species.





The Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) sector in NSR established a mobile HWC response unit based in Mecula. This unit consists of:

- a) a driver;
- b) four scouts
- c) a Local Government Scout (Mecula District); and
- d) a manager.

This unit is supported at the community level by MOMS guardians who communicate via whatsapp to the unit in the event of an incident, be it farm invasion, threat or attack by animals or destruction of property. On receipt of information the response unit responds to the problem as quickly as safely possible. In 2020, the HWC response unit recorded 391 HWC incidents and of which 276 were resounded to during which 2113 animals were chased away and 13 problem animals were put down. Were recorded 25 people injured and 5 killed as a result of HWC incidents.

The system of temporary electric fences continues to be used to protect areas cultivated in blocks from animal incursions. In this context. In 2020, the following fences were erected:

- a) two electric fences in the community of Nampequesso benefiting 19 families,
- b) one fence at Msawise benefiting 8 families; and
- c) one fence in Lugenda benefiting 41 families.

The General Management Plan continued to be developed. Progress has been made through meetings with consultants, representatives of ANAC (National Administration of Conservation Areas) and members of the community. A proposal for the specific internal regulations for NSR has been prepared and submitted to ANAC/MTA for approval.

In June 2020 the Council of Ministers approved the Co-management agreement between ANAC and WCS for the joint administration of the Reserve. During the same period the reserve was recategorized and re-named as Niassa Special Reserve (NSR). This requalification has allowed for the zoning of the territorial area of the Reserve, the creation of Buffer Zones and the creation of Community Development Zones.



The Law Enforcement sector currently has in its ranks 89 scouts, of which 75 are fit for duty. During the year, the following was carried out:

- a) 204 foot patrols, covering 15,425.7 km;
- b) 71 car patrols covering 11,997.97 km; and
- c) 122.7 flight hours.

These actions resulted in the removal of 6575 traps of various types and the seizure of 40 bicycles and more than 600 hunting and mining implements. 21 hunters' camps, 10 illegal loggers' camps, 21 illegal miners' camps, and 30 fishermen's camps were destroyed. Because of Covid-19 the recruitment and training of 30 scouts to add to the existing staff has been postponed.

REN implements an aviation sub-program to support the surveillance sector through aerial surveillance and deployment of inspectors and rations to areas of difficult access or inaccessible during the rainy season. To this end, the sub-program operates with a Cessna 206 aircraft and a Bell 407 helicopter, the latter being rented for the rainy season, when most of the Reserve becomes almost impassable, having carried out 122.7 flight hours, of which 95.4 were performed from January to April and 27.3 in December.



Illegal mining continues to be a problem in NSR. WCS and NSR staff have worked to reducing illegal mining with the support of local government through patrolling activities by air, ground patrols and improved legal representation which has brought improving results, with arrests and confiscation of materials related to illegal mining increasing. Illegal mining occurs most during the rainy season due to the availability of water required to process the ore and the difficulties associated with flooding rivers and water logged roads making it difficult to enter these regions. In 2020, 18 people were tried, 5 for poaching and 13 for illegal mining. All defendants were found guilty and convicted. However, 13 of them were given an amnesty of their one year prison sentences in compliance with the Government's anti - Covid measures. These trials were held from February to May. From May until December no trials were held due to a lack of magistrates in Mueda district caused by the threats of attack from the insurgency in Cabo Delgado province.

Ecological monitoring continued to be carried out with the primary emphasis being elephant movement using satellite collars and fire monitoring. A total of



40 elephants in different herds were equipped with GPS satellite collars, which allows monitoring them in almost real time. These 40 elephants represent nearly 10% of the total elephant population in the NSR.

The revenue collected was shared with the communities (the 20% established by law) through Natural Resource Management Committees (CGRN) and work began on the process of selecting projects to be funded. In December the 20% was distributed to 5 CGRNs (4 from Mecula and 1 from Mavago). The total amount was 1,506,703.02 Meticaís. One of the big problems that is faced with the management of the CGRN is the lack of legal status which prevents the CGRNs from opening bank accounts. WCS contracted Lúrio University to proceed with the legalization processes for the CGRNs however the process was slow because of Covid-19 and only one new committee was legalized thus far, with the process ongoing.

In 2020 there was significant development of infrastructure in Mbatamila (NSR's headquarters) with the addition of new staff barracks and ablutions block, the acquisition of a bus to transport staff, firefighting equipment, various materials for the construction of a water system at head quarters, electricity, a water treatment plant, electrical appliances, uniforms and beekeeping equipment (protection equipment and jars for preserving honey). Four houses were also built for NSR's senior staff, two of which are already furnished and are being inhabited. A water system was installed for the NSR offices in Mbatamila, all piping is installed, and it is only missing a proper electric pump for the system to go into full operation. In the main camp, Maputo, the installation of the electrical system has started. Other works to repair access roads and bridges have been carried out employing local Labor.



WCS and the European Union signed a funding agreement in November 2020 for €4.4. million with a view to disrupt illicit wildlife supply chains in the Niassa Special Reserve, the largest conservation area in Mozambique. This event took place in the City of Lichinga on November 19th.

In June, the Council of Ministers approved the proposed Co-Management Agreement between ANAC and WCS for the administration of the Reserve.



CWT Portfolio

During the year, the Wildlife Crime Unit (CWT) hired 2 members to strengthen the team and to support ANAC in the supervision of its activities. These were the Coordinator of the Program Against Wildlife Trafficking based in Maputo starting in January 2020 and a Intelligence collector based in Nampula Province. In order to make its activities more flexible, a vehicle (4X4) was acquired and allocated at the Nampula Province level, and equipment such as laptops and cell phones were allocated to the technical staff.

WCS participated in the drafting of the Fiscal Manual, which is awaiting the final date for its official approval. Under the partnership between WCS, ANAC and Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), the Unit participated in joint security activities and operations by aligning security methodologies involving Kruger National Park, Limpopo National Park and Libombos Transfrontier Conservation Area, all part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. Due to

the restrictions imposed due to the negative impact of COVID-19, most of the meetings were conducted using digital platforms.

The Canine Unit established at Maputo International Airport continued to operate in the international, national and cargo terminals although with less intensity due to COVID 19 restrictions and far fewer international flights. Compared to other months, the flow of flights and passengers was very high between November and December, so we had to intensify the number of operations conducted in the baggage and Passenger terminals and the inspection of cargo.

In December, WCS participated in training organized by the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on how to target risk profiles of illegal goods.

In the same period a grant was approved for 1.9 million dollars from INL - USA to combat wildlife trafficking along the border with the Republic of Tanzania and for the improvement of LE capabilities and to support aviation activities. In 2020, WCS continued to invest in strengthening the institutional capacity of ANAC in leading and proper response both in the protection of endangered species and also in the response to intelligence-led LE efforts.

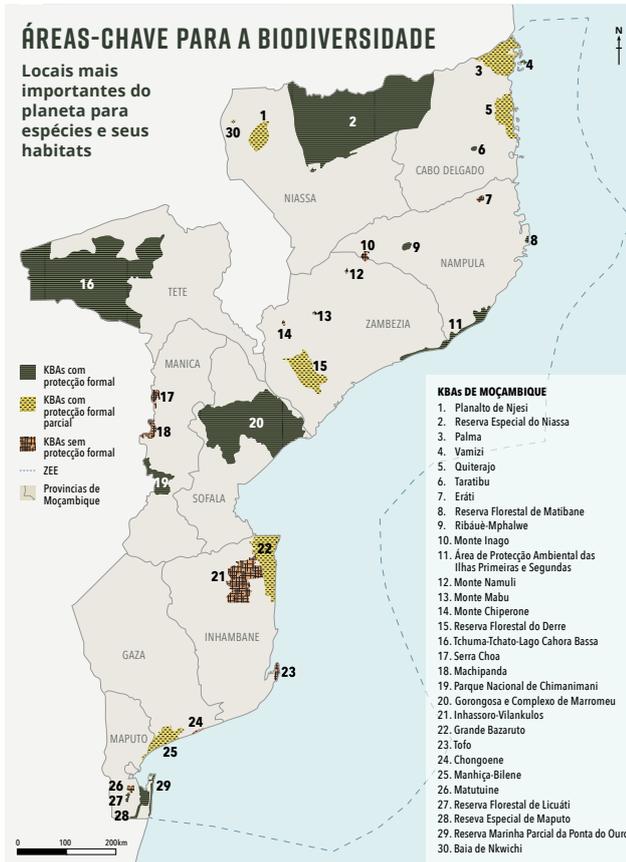
In 2020, WCS continued to invest in strengthening ANAC's institutional capacity in leading and responding appropriately both on the endangered species protection side and also in the response to intelligence-led product inspection efforts.

Marine Portfolio

The KBAs Project and Red List were disclosed to the Main Partners with emphasis on the project objectives, the work strategy, the status and expected results. The same project was published in the *Jornal Notícias*. This activity will be important to disseminate all the information produced and to certify that the Government of Mozambique endorses the results so that they can be used to support decision making and so that the private sector (bidders and environmental consultants) is aware of the Red Listed species and Key Biodiversity Areas identified for Mozambique.

The editing of the final lists, maps and guidelines for online publication on the IUCN website and the global database of KBAs was completed, making the

data available to the Government and other interested parties. This phase includes an analysis of the potential of the identified KBAs (or some) to be integrated into the National Network of Conservation Areas, with a view to achieving the targets set by Mozambique in its National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (2015-2035).



Under the COMBO Project, WCS supported the legal framework and policies through substantial contributions in the process of aligning the Environmental Regulations for Mining Activities with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation and the Biodiversity Offsets Regulation. With support from a team of legal experts, WCS, BIOFUND and DINAB developed the final proposal of the Biodiversity Offset Regulation. This document was discussed in a set of technical meetings, and the fifth version of the proposal was submitted to the MTA Technical Council in December 2020. Its approval by the Council of Ministers was expected for the first semester of 2021.

For the development of the metrics the following was carried out:

- to assess the ecological condition of Miombo culminated in the publication of the report “A Contribution to Mozambique’s Biodiversity Offset System: Framework for Assessing the Ecological

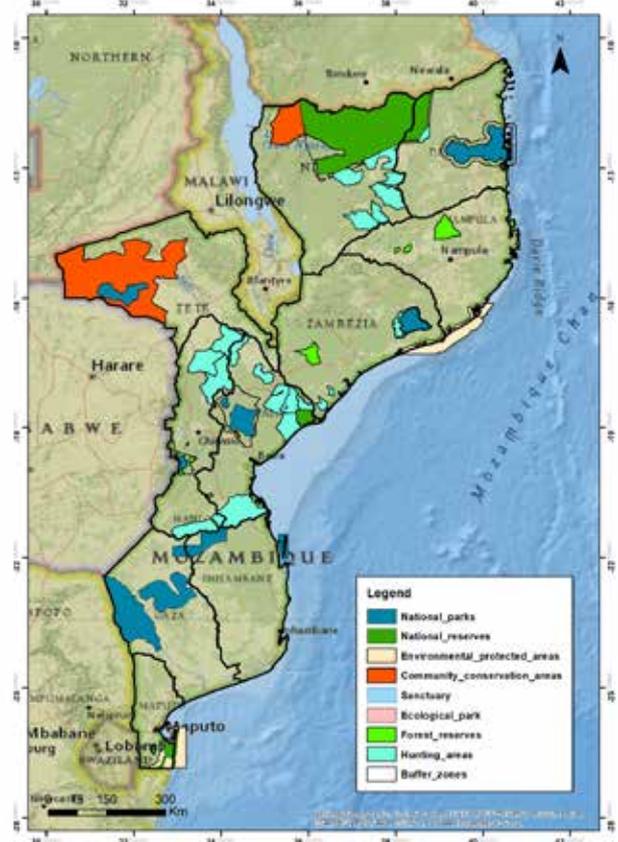
Condition of Miombo Forests.” Funded by BIOFUND;

- the development of metrics for assessing the ecological condition of the Mangal, which began in 2019 was completed by the end of 2020;
- With regard to the marine environment WCS started the development of the metrics for defining the ecological condition of coral reefs. These tools allow the measurement of gains and losses on said ecosystems and are also a very useful tool for monitoring activities.

The COMBO project has continued as much as possible with the metrics component and, as a result of a training session for about 60 trainees from various sectors held in February 2020, a roadmap was developed to promote the development of biodiversity metrics in Mozambique.

The updated map of Mozambique’s protected areas was completed and provided to ANAC, which in turn made it available to INAMI, which manages the national Mining Cadastre platform, and to the World Database of Protected Areas, managed by the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC).

In coordination with DINAB and other partners, WCS concluded the project for the “Identification



and Mapping of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Mozambique and Red List of Threatened Species and Ecosystems”. A total of 67 endemic species of amphibians, reptiles, butterflies and freshwater fishes submitted to the IUCN were assessed, of which 28 have already been published in their online Red List. Additionally, 29 KBAs were declared, including 9 coastal areas and 4 marine areas. This information supports the National Territorial Development Plan (PNDT) that was approved in 2020 and the Maritime Spatial Management Plan (POEM) currently being developed by the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP).

WCS has made efforts to have the PNDT consider the KBAs as areas to be avoided by development projects that may compromise their conservation objectives, as well as potential areas to implement biodiversity offsets. And the same is intended for the POEM, which is underway. Another major milestone of the project was a massive effort to ensure coordination of matters around the KBAs and Red List that resulted in the operationalization of the National KBAs and Red List Coordination Group for Mozambique, which was established in late 2019 and is led by DINAB.

Regarding the Marine Program, due to the COVID-19 situation, the data survey activities on sharks and rays at the landing sites of artisanal fisheries, as well as the planned campaigns using Bait-Based Remote Underwater Video (BRUVs) were temporarily interrupted. However, this time was used for the compilation, data analysis and presentation of the information collected over the last 18 months for data from 10 landing sites, and 3 ecological surveys using BRUVs, prior to the onset of the pandemic. The catch data revealed that artisanal fisheries in Mozambique are having a major impact on shark and ray species, and particularly on endangered species.

The ecological data collected from BRUVs suggest that the sanctuary zones between the areas sampled in



Mozambique do not provide sufficient protection for shark and ray species in general, and particularly for endangered species. Thus sanctuary zones should be expanded to cover a larger area as well as sandy habitat including expansion offshore to encompass deeper areas and a variety of habitats to ensure they provide adequate protection for sharks and rays.

A workshop was held in December 2020 with IIP technicians to present the results of the shark and ray catch data survey in artisanal fisheries landing sites and ecological data using Remote Underwater Bait Video (BRUVs), to conduct planning of activities for 2021, the presentation of problems and solutions within the shark and ray catch data collection, training on the updated version of the ODK Collect application used to collect shark and ray catch data and training on the collection of shark and ray genetic material.

In addition, substantial contributions were made in the revision of the Maritime Fisheries Regulation (REPMAR), especially in the development of lists of protected species (inclusion of 14 shark and ray species) and minimum catch sizes specifically for sharks and rays. This support was preceded by the hard work of preparing the report and presentation on “Binding and Voluntary Measures for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays - Mozambique”, presented by WCS at a meeting on this topic in Maputo, on July 7, 2020, attended by representatives of the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP), National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP), National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) / CITES Unit, National Institute of Fish Inspection (INIP), National Directorate of Operations (DNOP), National Directorate of Maritime and Fisheries Policies (DIPOL).





WCS and IIP have started three new projects associated with the marine environment:

- Development of the National Coral Reef Strategy and Action Plan. A process was implemented that included a kick-off meeting to revitalize the coral reef technical group in February 2020, 6 webinars and a final workshop held in October 2020. The final document is currently being drafted by IIP, WCS and a few other partners. As part of this support to IIP, WCS developed a report on the knowledge statuses of coral reefs in Mozambique, taking into account past WCS data.
- Development of a methodological guide for the drafting of monitoring plans for marine areas subject to conservation management measures was also developed, as well as a tool for global monitoring of the results of these measures, including a standard socio-economic and ecological monitoring plan.
- Support MIMAIP in achieving the national targets set for the protection of the marine environment.

To this end, support was given to IIP in setting up a coordination group to develop a robust, integrated and coherent strategic analysis for the expansion of the national network of Marine Conservation Areas, adjusted to the Policy and Law of the Sea and the National Plan for Maritime Spatial Planning. A proposed training plan was also developed to build capacity in the focal points of the CBD biodiversity conventions, the High Ambition Coalition and a set of key partners to deal with the aspects related to these conventions/initiatives, so that Mozambique is able to effectively contribute to the commitment to protect and conserve at least 30% of the ocean by 2030, and to the zero draft of the post-2020 CBD framework.

The process of collecting information on key marine and coastal biodiversity was also started, and mapping critical areas for ecosystem services that need urgent protection and that can contribute to achieving national biodiversity conservation targets and to improving the living conditions of coastal communities. To this end a process of analysis of the information produced was started in a systematic way, integrating social and economic aspects to propose scenarios for the expansion of the network of Marine Conservation Areas aligned with the goals to which the country has committed itself, being able to inform the Maritime Spatial Management Plan (POEM) and identify gaps and needs whose attainment should be prioritized in the near future.

Finally, the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA) requested support from WCS to develop the concept note for a series of virtual engagements and dialogues, culminating in a virtual ministerial summit in the second quarter of 2021 to stimulate support in the SADC region for integrated regional and global action on biodiversity and climate change as well as to build consensus around advocacy from a SADC perspective leading to CBD CoP15 and UNFCCC CoP26. Mozambique will work to motivate increased awareness of the successes of actions in the region on these issues, and seek consensus among SADC members on areas for increased conservation ambition leading to the CBD and UNFCCC negotiations in 2021.



4. MAIN RESULTS

- Production of an integrated Policy Brief on reconciling biodiversity and development;
- Final proposal for the Regulation on Biodiversity Offsets;
- Report for the determination of the ecological condition of the Miombo woodlands for Mozambique;
- Draft Regulation on Biodiversity Offsets;
- Improvement of the dialogue and collaboration between WCS and the Government of Mozambique, through the MTA and MIMAIP;
- Participatory identification and implementation of three community projects that have an impact on controlling human-wildlife conflict, namely the dog vaccination campaign, the erection of electric fences in villages in Mecula District, and the production of repellents for animals (chilli pepper balls and hives to keep elephants away);
- Consolidation of zero elephant poaching in REN;
- Improvement and expansion of management infrastructures in the Niassa Special Reserve;
- Improved species (elephant) monitoring through remote sensing collars; and
- Improved coordination and collaboration with the carnivore monitoring program implemented by the Niassa Carnivores Project.

In 2020, the NGO hired the following additional staff:

Job created	Quantity	Nationality
Sustainable Development Manager	01	Mozambican
Human Resources Manager	01	Mozambican
Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	01	Mozambican
Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Officer	01	Mozambican
Drivers	02	Mozambican
Field Assistants	02	Mozambican
Coral Reef Specialist	01	Mozambican
Researcher for the program against wildlife trafficking	01	Mozambican
Coordinator of the program against wildlife trafficking	01	Mozambican



5. CONSTRAINTS

In general, the major negative impact arising from the year 2020 was the Covid-19 pandemic, which significantly compromised the program's activities, both from a technical as well as an administrative point of view.

Within the scope of REN's management and development:

- Lack of legalization of CGRNs, as this fact creates several problems in channeling the values of 20% due to lack of bank account;
- In early 2020, the aircraft was under maintenance in Nampula, but because of restrictions on issuing visas due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the contracted pilot was unable to obtain a visa to enter Mozambique for the rest of the year;
- Notwithstanding inspection efforts carried out from May to December, no trial was held for lack of magistrates in Mueda district because of threats of attack by insurgents threatening to invade Mueda district; and
- Occurrence of insurgents in the northern region of Mozambique (Cabo Delgado), causes discomfort, especially with regard to the nature and quality of circulating information.

The Marine Portfolio constrain in 2020 is also linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. All the field activities were cancelled.

6. TOTAL PROGRAM VALUE

Actual Expenditure
USD 4,441,825

The total value of imported goods destined for the Project was 115,709USD. It should be noted that WCS seeks to order and purchase goods as locally as possible, such as for example construction inputs and materials from local NSR communities.

7. FUNDING SOURCES

- USAID;
- French Development Agency, French Global Environment Fund, and Mava Foundation;
- WILDCAT;
- CITES-MIKES;
- Save the Elephants (STE) and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF);
- IWT (DFID/Defra in Africa Program);
- OAK Foundation;
- GIZ;
- WCS;
- United Nations Development Program;
- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;
- MacArthur Foundation;
- Shark Conservation Fund;
- Tiffany Foundation;
- Foundation Ensemble;
- Resources Legacy Fund; and
- Blue Action Fund.

8. NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

The main national counterparts for WCS are:

Government Entities

A) Ministry of Land and Environment which includes:

- National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC);
- National Directorate of Environment (DINAB);
- National Directorate of Forests (DINAF);
- Directorate of Planning and Cooperation (DNPC);
- National Directorate for Territorial Planning and Resettlement (DINOTER);
- Agency for Environmental Quality Control (AQUA); and
- National Fund for Sustainable Development (FNDS).

B) Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries:

- National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP);
- National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP);
- National Policy Directorate (DIPOL);
- National Directorate of Operations (DNO); and
- ProAzul.

C) Ministry of Economy and Finance

- a) National Directorate of Planning and Budgeting (DNPO)

D) Ministry of Home Affairs (MINT)

- a) General Command of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) - Weapons and Explosives Department;
- b) General Command of PRM - Natural Resources and Environment Protection Police; and
- c) PRM Provincial Command of Niassa and Cabo Delgado.

E) Office of the Attorney General

- a) Environment Office; and
- b) Offices of Provincial Attorneys.

F) Ministry of National Defense (MDN) - National Directorate of Defense Policy (DNPDP)

G) Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC)

- a) National Directorate of Commerce (DNC)

H) Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH)

- a) National Directorate for Water Resources Management (DNGRH)

I) Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME)

- a) National Directorate of Geology and Mines (DNGM);
- b) National Mining Institute (INAMI);
- c) National Petroleum Institute (INP);
- d) National Directorate of Hydrocarbons and Fuels (DNHC); and
- e) National Hydrocarbon Company (ENH).

J) Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC)

- a) Mozambique Civil Aviation Institute (IACM);
- b) Mozambique's National Communication Institute (INCM); and
- c) National Directorate of Studies and Projects (DNEP).

K) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER)

- a) National Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry (DINAS); and

- b) Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute (IIA).

L) Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM)

M) Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Exports (APIEX)

N) Provincial Government of Niassa, Cabo Delgado & Maputo City

O) District Governments of Mecula, Mavago, Sanga, Muembe, Marrupa and Majune.

NSR Tourism Operators

- a) Luwire Wildlife Conservancy;
- b) Mariri Investments;
- c) Chuilexi Conservancy;
- d) Kambako Safaris;
- e) Metapiri Safaris;
- f) Johan Calitz Safaris;
- g) Safrique Limitada;
- h) Niassa Hunter Safaris; and
- i) Mazeze Safaris.

Other

- a) BIOFUND;
- b) Centro Terra Viva (CTV);
- c) WWF Mozambique Office;
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature;
- e) RARE;
- f) Environment Association;
- g) Mozambican Association for Environmental Impact Assessment (AMAIA); and
- h) United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - BIOFIN Project.



9. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF 2020 PROGRAM IMPACT

WCS has made efforts so that the project it has carried out in the Republic of Mozambique has an effective impact on the conservation of parks and animals, specifically in the Niassa Special Reserve. Uncontrolled fires are one of the main ills that plague humans and animals, causing loss of life and property. In 2020 WCS continued with the monitoring and management of fires in order to preserve vegetation, animals and property. One of the biggest wildlife conservation challenges is poaching, so WCS has been carrying out training actions for rangers in order to neutralize poachers. Although illegal mining is still a challenge, WCS has achieved visible results as patrols have led to the arrest and confiscation of materials related to poaching, illegal logging, and fishing.

Local communities play a major role in wildlife conservation so NSR ensured that the 20% established by law was shared with the communities. In addition, the NGO strives to create community programs with greater community engagement by conducting awareness campaigns and environmental education in schools. The NGO has invested in

greater visibility of the Niassa Special Reserve using social networks through the creation of a channel on Youtube and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/reservanacionalniassa>) in order to increase the number of visitors and knowledge of the reserve by the general public. In addition WCS and NSR have been in the spotlight in major print media (Noticias, Domingo newspapers) and also in the television press (TVM) through programs highlighting their work. The NGO is frequently invited to participate in conferences, as is the case of a presentation in the Crescendo Azul (MIMAIP) Conference whose theme was “*Regional Initiatives for the conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem management*”. Thus, all the activities carried out under the 2020 program continued to have a positive impact for the project of the Society for Fauna Conservation.

In order to fulfil all legal obligations to which it is bound, WCS submitted on 07/072020 a request for extension of WCS’s registration to Cabo Delgado, given that part of NSR covers this area.



10. CONCLUSIONS

The year 2020 was plagued by COVID-19 and the impact of the measures to restrict and contain the spread of COVID-19 made fulfilling their duties extremely difficult however the highlight was the finalization of the NSR co-management agreement. WCS emphasized its social role by delivering masks, liquid soap, and buckets of water with lids to children at Lishenguwe Primary School in Mecula District (inside the Reserve) in Niassa Province. Also in NSR the 2020 CHFB mitigation unit recorded 391 CHFB incidents and managed to respond to 276 of these ensuring that 2113 animals were chased away and 13 problem animals were culled. It was also recorded that 25 people were injured and 5 killed as a result of animal attack. Revenue from the 2020 concession fees was shared with the communities (the 20% set by law).

As for the Red List and KBAs project in 2020, despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, WCS got closer to achieving the goal of improving the national capacity to identify, prevent and mitigate impacts on priority biodiversity in Mozambique. In addition the project objectives, work strategies, status, and expected results have been disseminated to key partners. The same project was highlighted in the Notícias newspaper.

Through the marine project started in 2019, WCS began the development of metrics for the definition of the ecological condition of coral reefs. 2020 also saw the drafting and presentation of the report “*Binding and Voluntary Measures for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays - Mozambique*” which was presented by WCS at a meeting on this topic in Maputo on July 7, 2020 which was attended by representatives of the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP), National Fisheries Administration (ADNAP), National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) / CITES Unit, National Institute of Fish Inspection (INIP), National Directorate of Operations (DNOP) and the National Directorate of Maritime and Fisheries Policies (DIPOL).

In 2020, the Wildlife Crime Unit was strengthened by hiring 2 additional members to assist with coordinating activities and supporting ANAC in the enforcement of its activities. WCS is working with the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), the environmental police, and the Office of

the Attorney General to combat the illegal trafficking of wildlife, rhino horn, and ivory within Mozambique and preventing its export.

2020 marked the closing of the first phase of the COMBO Project. In this year, the proposal for the Regulation on Biodiversity Offsets was developed and presented to the Technical Council of the MTA. Relevant input was also given to the process of aligning the Mining Activities Regulation with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation and the proposed Biodiversity Offset Regulation. Through the COMBO project, WCS was able to include the KBAs in the PNDDT as areas to be avoided by development projects that might compromise their conservation objectives, as well as potential areas to implement biodiversity offsets. And it has been working with the ongoing POEM towards the same goal.

The metrics script for assessing the ecological condition of the Miombo forests was published this year, major progress has been made in developing the metrics for mangroves and the process has begun for coral reefs. Due to the pandemic, the data collection of shark and ray catches in artisanal fisheries was prohibited, and the ecological data collection campaigns using BRUVs planned for this year were cancelled. However, this period was useful to proceed with data compilation, analysis, and reporting and presentation at a workshop held in partnership with the IIP. This event was attended by IIP technicians, where the planning for 2021 was also carried out; training on the application used to collect data on the capture of sharks and rays in the landing sites of artisanal fisheries; training on the collection of genetic material of sharks and rays.

Financial and technical support was given to the workshop on “*Binding and Voluntary Measures for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays - Mozambique*”, to the MIMAIP and substantial contributions to the revision of the Maritime Fisheries Regulation (REPMAR), especially in the drafting of the list of protected species and the list of minimum catch sizes specifically for sharks and rays.

At IIP request, WCS developed a Project to support the drafting of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Coral Reefs in Mozambique. After the kick-off

meeting to revitalize the coral reef technical group, 6 webinars and a final workshop held in October 2020, the final document is being drafted by IIP, WCS and some other partners. As part of this IIP support, WCS developed a report on the state of knowledge of coral reefs in Mozambique, taking into account past WCS data. A methodological guide for the development of monitoring plans for marine areas subject to conservation management measures was also developed, as well as a tool for global monitoring of the results of these measures, including a standard socio-economic and ecological monitoring plan.

WCS developed a project to support MIMAIP in achieving the national targets set for the protection of the marine environment. To this end, support was provided to IIP in setting up a coordination group to develop a robust, integrated and coherent strategic analysis for the expansion of the national network of Marine Conservation Areas. A proposed training plan was also developed to build capacity in the focal points of the CBD biodiversity conventions, the High Ambition Coalition and a number of key partners to deal with aspects related to these conventions/initiatives.

The process of collecting information on key marine and coastal biodiversity, and mapping critical areas for ecosystem services that need urgent protection and can contribute to achieving national biodiversity conservation targets and improving the living conditions of coastal communities has also begun.

The MTA requested WCS's support to develop the concept note for a series of virtual engagements and dialogues, culminating in a virtual ministerial summit in the second quarter of 2021, to stimulate support in the SADC region for integrated regional and global action on biodiversity and climate change, as well as to build consensus around advocacy from a SADC perspective leading to the CBD CoP15 and UNFCCC CoP26. Notwithstanding the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic all WCS projects made some significant progress, although there were some constraints on the cancellation of some activities that were necessary to comply with COVID-19 prevention and containment measures. In 2021 the continuation of activities remains a challenge, but safety measures will have to be given priority for the pursuit of WCS objectives because life is our greatest resource.





Rua Orlando Mendes, n.º 163, Bairro da Sommerschild, Maputo City.

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MUITO OBRIGADO AOS NOSSOS DOADORES E PARCEIROS



E OPERADORES