



*This Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund,
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Country presentation: Mozambique

2nd Executive Project Steering Committee meeting

1-2 November, 2016

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Key national objectives in Mozambique



1. To develop incentives to engage local communities in environmental management through alternative livelihood schemes and the provision of access to unmet reproductive health needs in order to reduce threats to dugongs.
2. To assess the distribution of dugongs and the extent and diversity of seagrass beds in the areas outside the Greater Bazaruto Archipelago.
3. To raise awareness of the importance of dugongs and seagrass to the biodiversity of the western Indian Ocean and Mozambique, specifically highlighting dugongs' role in the spread, dynamics, diversity and survivability of seagrass beds and the consequent positive effects on fish abundance in the Bazaruto Archipelago.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of dugongs and seagrass to the biodiversity of the western Indian Ocean and Mozambique by mitigating human-induced threats and applying a long-term approach to responsible fisheries.
5. To Identify current gaps and additional measures that may be implemented to more effectively manage the fishery to reduce over-exploitation of the resource and seagrass habitats through participatory discussions.
6. To Build an informed and effective National Facilitation Committee (NFC) to mainstream the project activities into relevant national-level environmental policy, planning and regulatory frameworks.

Project implementation structure



PROJECT REF.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT PARTNER
MZ1	Building a model for innovative long-term community-based conservation of seagrass - dependent biodiversity in Mozambique.	Blue Ventures
MZ2	The distribution of dugongs in the coastal waters of Mozambique.	Dugongos.Org
MZ3	Developing an Education and Awareness Campaign to Conserve Dugongs in the Bazaruto Archipelago and Mozambique.	Dugongos.Org
MZ4	The Dugong Emergency Protection Project.	Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
MZ5	Participatory Research of Additional Methods to reduce the Impact of the beach seine fisheries on seagrass beds at Vilanculos and Inhassoro.	Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER) – National Directorate of Environment (DINAB)
MZ6	National Facilitating Committee for the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.	MITADER – DINAB

Mozambique achievements



Research

- MZ2 - PhD research proposal presented and defended at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- Completion of dugong by-catch surveys in the southern part of Sofala Bank (Machanga – Buzi- Beira and Dondo).
- Acquisition of 6 acoustic loggers, successful testing of acoustic loggers and learning how to deploy them with the support of Marine Megafauna Foundation.

Policy

- MZ6 - Set the partners working group to harmonize the project activities
- Formalized and operational the NFC to supervise the performance of the projects

Mozambique achievements

Incentives

- MZ1 - Blue Ventures and EWT have worked together with the BANP within MZ1 to jointly complete a health needs assessment on Bazaruto Island. It was found that there was a need for support in access and information about family planning as well as with other basic health issues.
- MZ1 and MZ4 - Blue Ventures hosted a successful learning exchange to one of their sites in Madagascar with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Here EWT was introduced to the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach to conservation, a model which is now being developed in the project (MZ1 and MZ4) on Bazaruto Island.



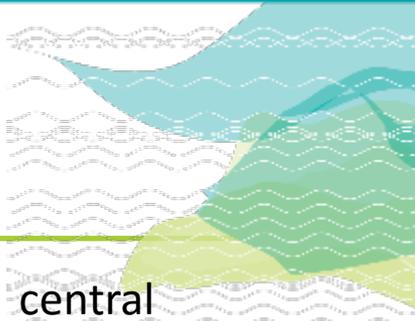
Mozambique achievements



Communications

- MZ3 - Identification and training of field officers to undertake education and awareness
- Conclusion of a facebook page “friends of dugongs” and content of the webpage
- Preparation and lay out of awareness I Poster on dugongs and seagrass
- Presentation of Dugong video at the 1st NFC meeting
- Through MZ4, fishers on Bazaruto are in the early stages of using a smart phone based app for recording fish catches – this is the first step towards developing the Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SSI). Alongside this, a detailed Baited Remote Underwater Camera survey will also begin in November in order to gauge an idea of the state of the fishery. This information will be integral to the development of the SSI.
- MZ5/MZ6 – Field visit to Vilankulo and Inhassoro for meetings with fishers stakeholders.
- Images and videos made in the 1st field visit to Vilankulo and Inhassoro for awareness rising, in coordination with MZ3 .

Mozambique challenges



- MZ2 - Limited access to remote coastal localities in some regions of central Mozambique (under current military conflict).
- Expensive cost of hiring aircrafts in Mozambique for aerial surveys (3 times expensive than average south African plane).
- Bureaucracy at National Civil Aviation Authority for permitting foreign (South African Companies) to fly aerial survey in Mozambique.
- MZ3 - Development of environmental games with dugong and seagrass (on going).
- Expert of education and awareness identified used international consultancy fees (which the project is unable to support).
- MZ4 - Limited EWT team capacity (just project coordinator).
- Limited accommodation on Bazaruto island for externally recruited staff.
- Transport (terrestrial/maritime) to/from and around Bazaruto island.
- Identifying feasible alternative livelihoods.
- Harmonize the activities of the different projects.

Mozambique lessons learned



- Awareness poster must highlight the goods and services and vital human activities in the seagrass habitat and highlight that dugong and turtle conservation/survival is essential for the continued provision of those goods and services because of the role of dugongs and turtles in recycling nutrients and re-seeding the area through ecological succession.

Next steps

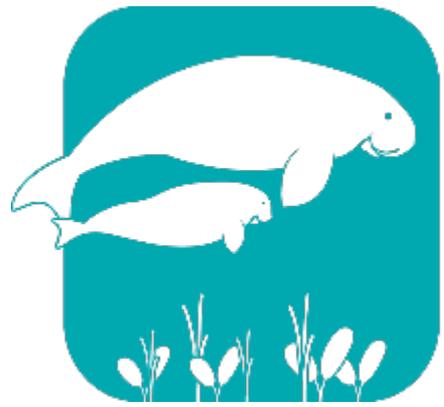


- Development of pilot PHE programme with health partners
- Development of pilot alternative livelihoods programme
- Implementation, in coordination with CTV and potential universities, of seagrass and fish monitoring towards development of SSI and improved
- Moving forward with securing a health partner after health needs assessment is complete
- Continued research and collaboration with partners into livelihood options (Mozbio)
- Fisher and youth education in collaboration with Dugongos.org and MMF
- Study the socioeconomic dependence on the beach seine fishery
- Identify further alternative livelihood opportunities for the BANP fisher man.

Next steps



- In line with the objectives of MZ4 and MZ1, EWT with the assistance of Blue Ventures, has also identified a viable additional livelihood (Pearl Aquaculture) which can be used as a buffer for communities in order to be able to plan for increased protection of seagrass habitats.
- A learning exchange with another island community in Zanzibar will take place early next year and we will also be beginning to implement a pilot of this project. Parallel to this, we will also be exploring the potential for sponge aquaculture.
- Undertake operational meetings of National Facilitation Committee.
- Communicate all the highlights of the project and progress in Social media.
- Undertake a thorough legal analysis and review of gaps in legislation and policies concerning dugong conservation and seagrass ecosystem management.
- Develop recommendations for legislative and policy reform to improve management of seagrass ecosystems and conservation of dugongs.
- Training for key government stakeholders in the importance of seagrass ecosystems.



Dugong & Seagrass

CONSERVATION PROJECT



THANK YOU very much for your attention