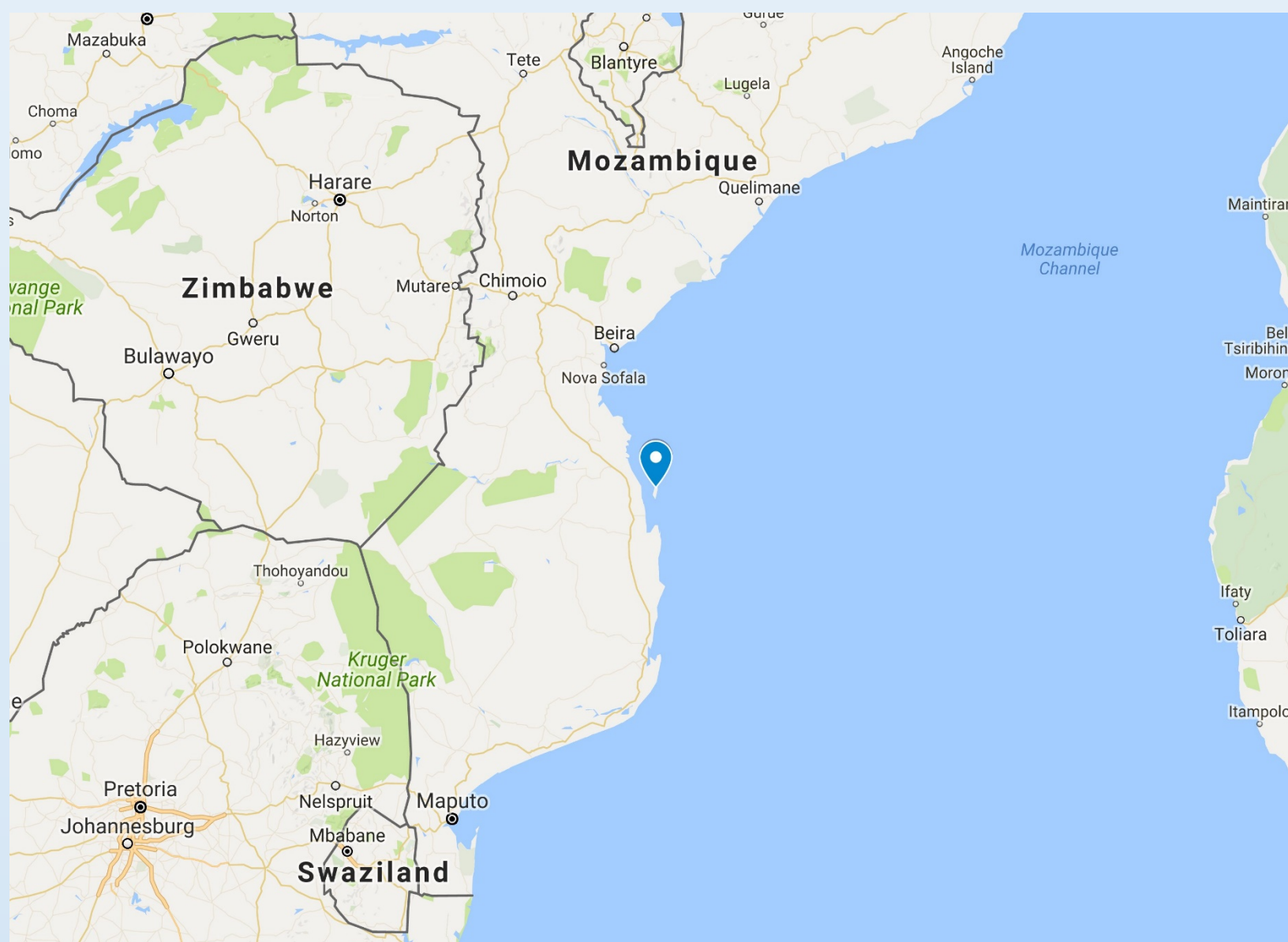


Improving local engagement in marine management in the Bazaruto archipelago

Project Summary

The dugong population in the greater Bazaruto region is considered to be the last viable population in the Western Indian Ocean region. This population is threatened by unsustainable fishing practices and a lack of alternative livelihoods. In addition, due to a lack of access to family planning services, fertility rates in the region are higher than desired, which in turn place increasing pressure on the marine ecosystems upon which local fishing livelihoods depend, thereby contributing to seagrass habitat degradation and negatively impacting dugongs. Furthermore, the inability of women to space or limit their births restricts their availability to engage in fisheries management efforts. MZ1 promotes conservation and sustainable use of dugongs and seagrass ecosystems by identifying and support the creation of alternative livelihoods and by increasing access to health information and services, including voluntary family planning.



Main Activities

Specific activities to increase access to health information and services, and to identify and support the creation of alternative livelihoods include:

1. Training of EWT staff in livelihoods and integrated Population-Health-Environment (PHE) programmes, including learning visits to Madagascar
2. Developing an understanding of communities and local context through community consultations
3. Needs assessment and feasibility studies for alternative livelihoods
4. Potential health partner mapping and engagement
5. Development of alternative livelihoods programme
6. Development of integrated PHE programme

Results

1. A mariculture risk assessment was conducted, and found that in the case of the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, the introduction of seaweed aquaculture is not recommended as the environmental risks outweigh the benefits.
2. A health needs assessment was conducted and found that women living in Bazaruto have poor access to family planning information and services (due to supply chain issues and distance to providers) and lack partner support for family planning.
3. Inhassoro district health services and Population Services International (PSI) have been engaged in conversations around improving access to health services on Bazaruto island.



Learning Visit in Madagascar, April 2016



Community Focus Group,
July 2016



Community Focus Group,
July 2016



Community Focus Group,
July 2016



Focus Group with Park
Rangers, July 2016

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

Next steps for an integrated PHE programme in Bazaruto include:

1. Working closely with the district health services to place community health workers in these isolated communities.
2. Agreeing on a plan with PSI to assist with increasing access to family planning services.
3. Exploring other livelihood alternatives.

However, EWT is currently reassessing their strategy on Bazaruto Island and Blue Ventures is scoping the possibility of supporting additional partners in Mozambique.

About Our Organization

Blue Ventures develops transformative approaches for catalysing and sustaining locally led marine conservation. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and are committed to protecting marine biodiversity in ways that benefit coastal people.

Blue Ventures recognises the inextricable links between poor health, unmet family planning needs, food insecurity, environmental degradation and vulnerability to climate change. In response to these interconnected challenges, we have developed a holistic approach integrating reproductive health services with marine conservation and coastal livelihood initiatives.