

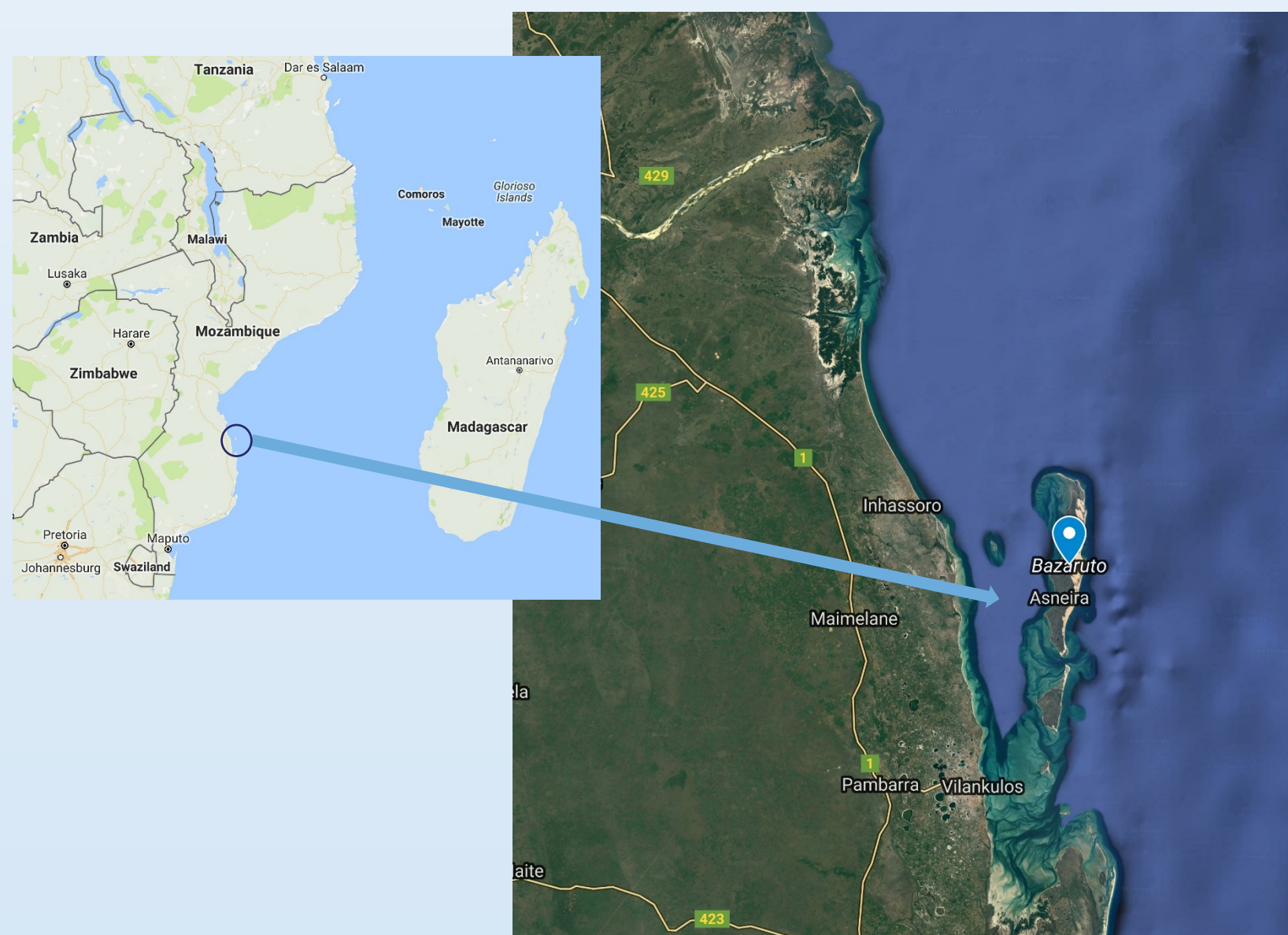


Bazaruto Dugong Protection Project



Project Summary

The Bazaruto Archipelago, off the coast of Mozambique, is a haven of life. Step off the swaying boat and onto the sandy beaches. The sun is setting, a pod of humpback dolphins just glided past. You are greeted by brightly dressed mothers, children, brothers, friends. Bazaruto island is filled with the sounds and colours of nature's best. A naturalist's heaven; hosting a diversity of plants, birds, corals, tropical fish, seagrass and marine invertebrates. As your eyes close after nightfall, the beating of your heart adjusts to the rhythmic sound of distant drums and the gentle movement of the ocean. This is the world that houses the Western Indian Ocean's last viable population of Dugongs. The Bazaruto Dugong Protection Project acts through a multi-approach to promote the continued existence of this species and its habitat.

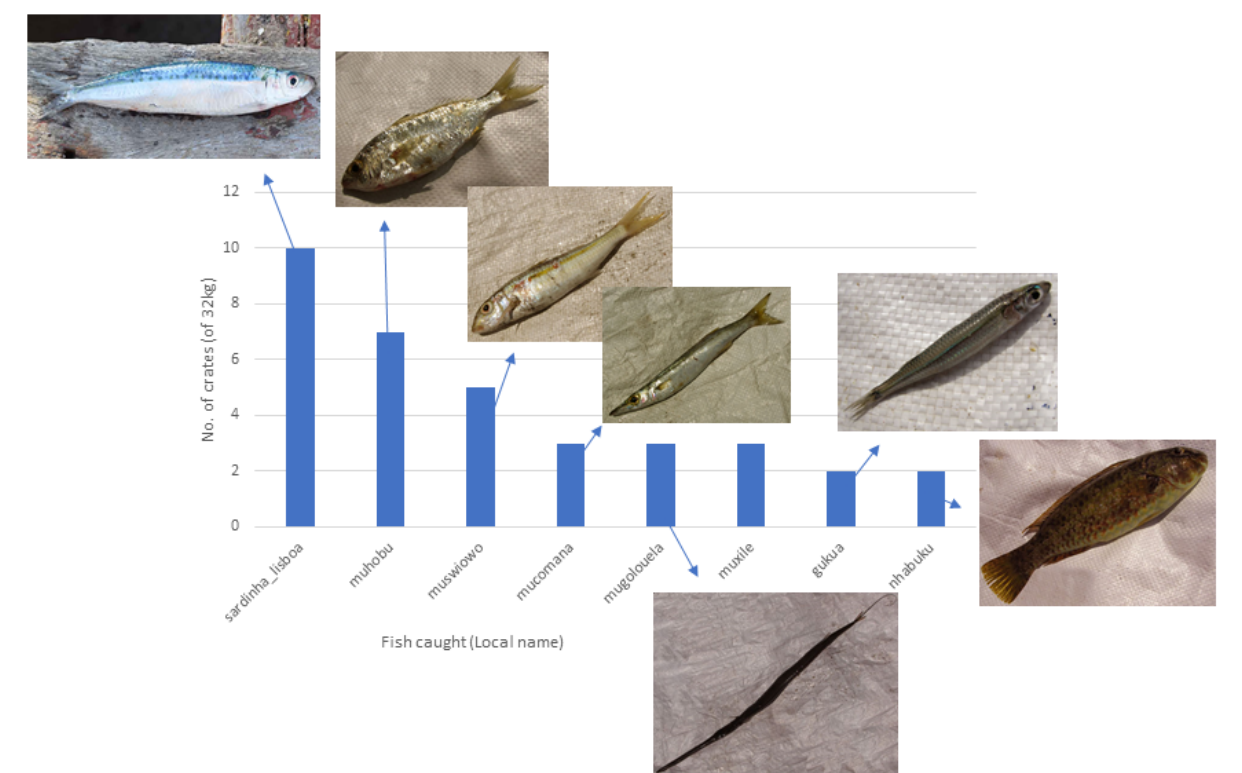


Main Activities

The project is working with artisanal fishers on the island of Bazaruto to develop a human-rights based sustainable fishery. This work is catalysed using smartphones and ICTs, allowing for simple, time efficient and quick return participatory data collection. This information is then used as a means through which to discuss the fishery, share and co-create information and discuss pertinent conservation and sustainability issues. Alongside the fishery data, we are developing a Baited Remote Underwater Survey methodology for the marine park. This will give estimates on relative abundance and diversity of fishes in and around the marine park. The dream is to begin a long-term monitoring programme. The data can be used for scientific research and to inform adaptive management.

Results

A short pilot of participatory fish monitoring has been carried out and was successful with fishermen motivated to continue monitoring their fishery. The data that was collected is not particularly accurate but already gives an idea of the fishery. The fishers also enjoyed recording their fishery. During preliminary discussions, we discussed more effective closed seasons and adaptations to fishing methods. As of yet we have not begun the BRUV surveys, however we are organising to start in June.



Results of ICT4Fishers pilot in Zenguelemo. Fish are identified by local name. The number of crates caught over a three week period by one fisher in the village of Zenguelemo is shown.



Test of BRUV in Sitone



BRUV underwater. Xinjototo (*Lethrinus variegatus*) can be seen checking out the bait box.



Local woman drying sardines



Women collecting mapalo (*Pinctada imbricata*)

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

Over the last year many lessons have been learnt that are now informing our way forward. Clear and transparent communication and an understanding of expectations between all partners involved in the project is key to the successful implementation of initiatives. In response to this we are working to ensure that all partners are supportive of the project's objectives and there is a clear understanding of each partner's roles. We also were not able to implement many of our initial objectives, highlighting the importance of having focused objectives that are realistic and achievable. We have to now downscale and focus our objectives and are working on logistical, administrative and human resource issues to facilitate implementation.

About Our Organization

In 1973 Clive Walker was inspired to paint a watercolour of a Cheetah, to sell 250 signed, copies, and to use this money to help conserve the Cheetah, at the time still considered as vermin. From this, along with two friends, the Endangered Wildlife Trust began. The EWT is about action for biodiversity conservation through engagement with species, their habitats and ecosystems, and the surrounding communities and governance systems. Today the EWT runs 90 programmes across Southern Africa.

