



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**
Protecting forever, together.

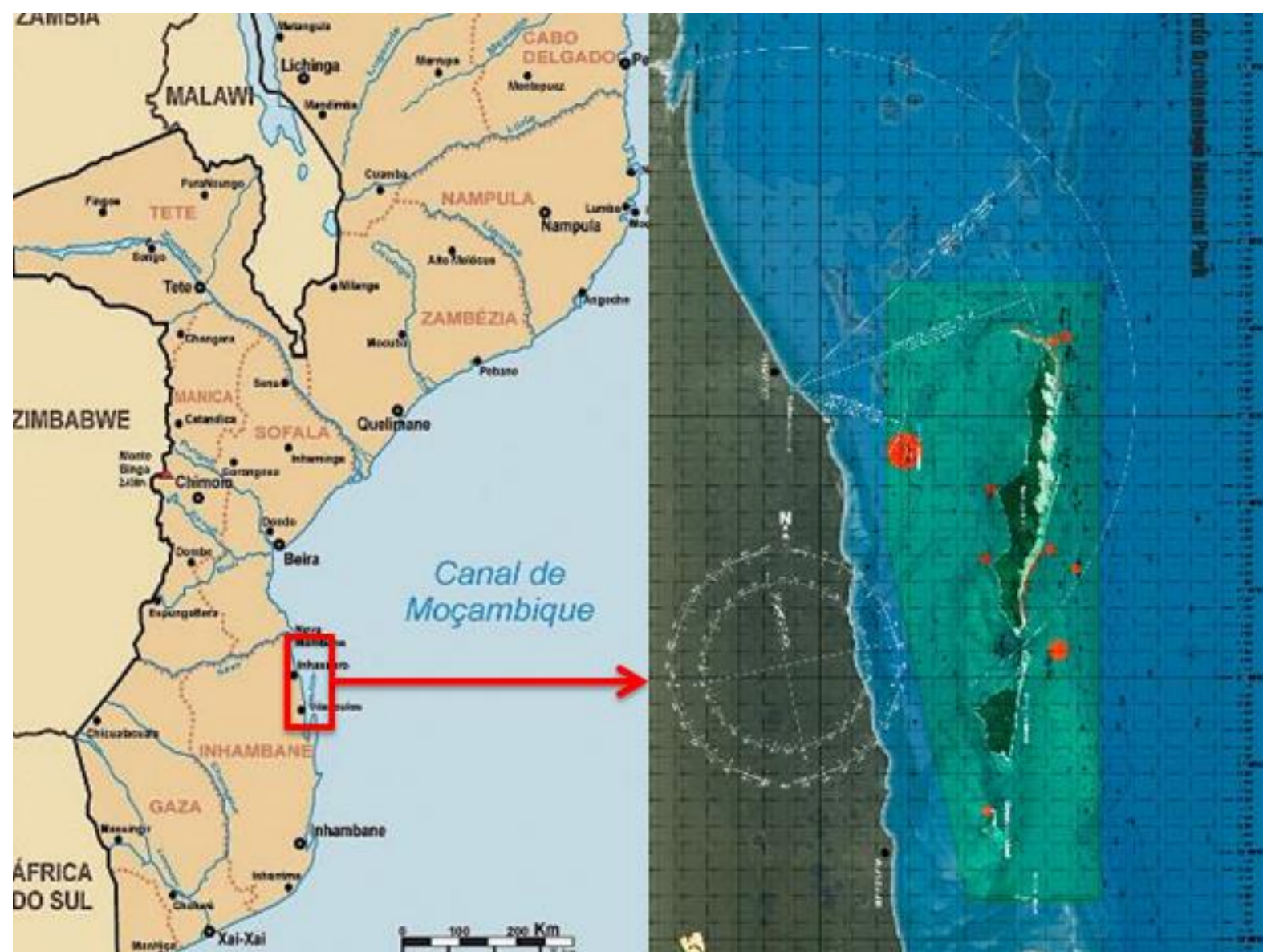
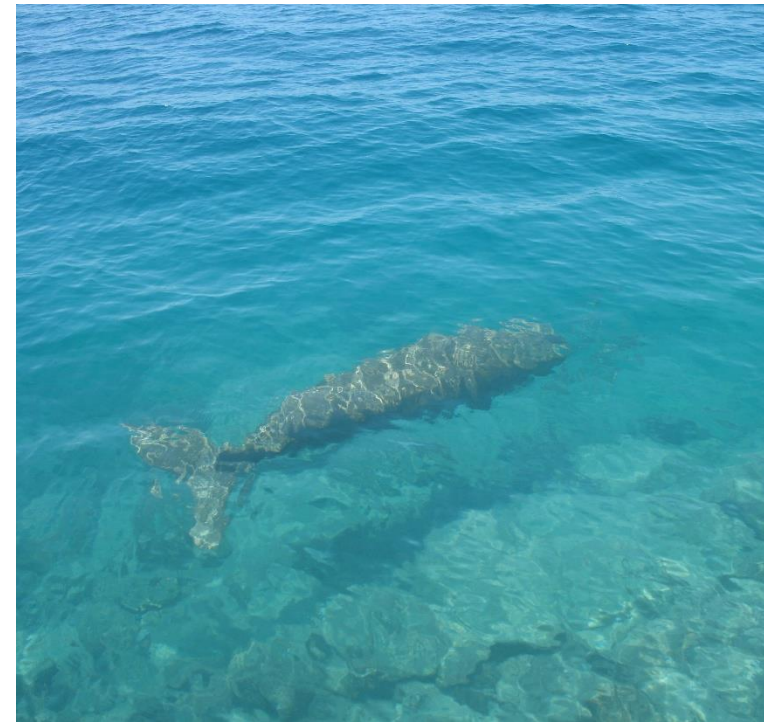
Dugong conservation and seagrass monitoring in the Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique



Project Summary

The Bazaruto Archipelago, which is made up of five islands, is a naturalist's haven. It is home to over 2000 fish species, the endangered dugong, four dolphin species (including the humpback, spinner, common and bottlenose dolphins), the giant manta ray, turtles (green, hawksbill, leatherback, loggerhead and olive Ridley) and numerous birds species – within a magnificent background of turquoise waters and white, rolling dunes.

Throughout the course of this project, the EWT has been working to develop a bottom-up approach to dugong and seagrass conservation on the islands. In collaboration with the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (BANP) and the University of Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), we have trialed an effective, non-invasive fish monitoring programme for the Park, with a focus on seagrass ecosystems.



About Organization

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a South African non-profit, non-governmental conservation organisation that was founded in 1973. The organisation operates throughout southern Africa and parts of East Africa. We conserve threatened species and ecosystems through identifying factors threatening biodiversity and initiate research and conservation action programmes based on innovative methodologies and best practice guidelines to reduce these. We also support natural resource management and sustainable development with a strong alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity targets.

The EWT is a member of IUCN and provides regular feedback to its members, supporters and the public through a range of media, including a publicly available Integrated Report.

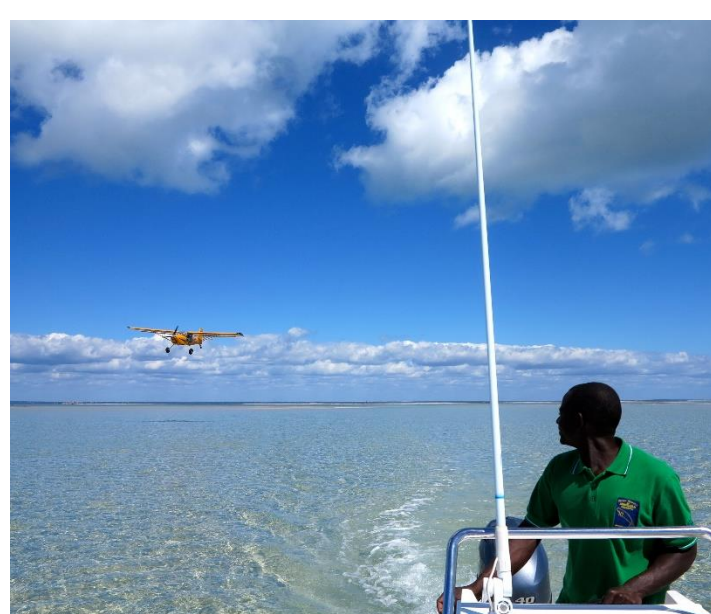
Results

The five most important contributions we believe this project has made to dugong and seagrass conservation are as follows:

1. Secured the long-term sustainability and increased effectiveness of park governance through the partnership with African Parks (which will mitigate the immediate threats to dugongs and seagrass within the park)
2. Provided an in-depth profile of the island communities, their motivations, socio-economic situation, health needs and their insights into the challenges they face
3. Established a baseline assessment of the status of seagrass species diversity and abundances in different resource-use zones and providing the methodology guideline for future use as a tool for fisheries monitoring and management
4. Developed and tested a site-specific ICT4Fishers toolkit that fishers can use to monitor and document the changes in their fishery
5. Produced high volumes of educational, audio-visual and photographic materials for use in profiling the Bazaruto archipelago, the dugong and the communities at a national and international level.



Underwater BRUV station



Aerial and boat-based surveillance teams



Fisher meetings



Community focus groups

Lessons Learned

During the course of the project, a number of lessons have been learnt. Sufficient research, human resources and capacity, clear communication between partners, clear and consistent communication with beneficiaries, long-term commitment and having realistic and focused objectives are important for the increased success of such a project. The challenges and nuances of small-scale and subsistence fisheries around the world are extensive and diverse. This lends itself to a complex problem, intertwining food security, culture, tradition, spirituality, economics and conservation – which are each in turn site-specific. There is no one generic solution to the problem, and this is an important point to keep in mind when designing a conservation and social change project.

Next Steps

- Implementing agents need to forge stronger bilateral alliances with the Mozambique government at the ministerial level to ensure political buy-in.
- Regulators can use the reports generated from this project to gain a better understanding of the seafood market and value-chain in Mozambique in order to promote more equitable access and benefit-sharing
- A full-scale Population Health Environment (PHE) programme should be implemented, initially on the islands of Bazaruto, with the view to scaling up to the mainland communities over time, with all the necessary human resources and expertise planned for.

