



MARINE PROGRAM

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) designs and implements global innovative solutions for ocean conservation

WCS leads conservation field initiatives across 24 countries with a team of more than 200 marine experts. Our programs strengthen ocean protection, improve fisheries management, and conserve vital marine species. We work in waters that are home to 90% of the world's coral habitats, 75% of the world's shark and ray species, and 60% of the world's marine mammal diversity.

Expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

WCS aims to expand MPAs across the globe to help all nations protect 10% of the world's oceans. Our goal supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14.5 under which 195 Governments have agreed to dramatically expand marine protection.

Ending coastal overfishing

Coastal communities worldwide depend on sustainable fisheries for food and livelihoods. WCS addresses the multiple threats to small scale fisheries by working with communities and Governments on improved management, increased capacity and secure tenure rights.

Stewarding the recovery of marine mammals

While many species of marine mammals are recovering from exploitation, they face new threats from ship strikes, ocean noise, and bycatch. WCS works to reduce these threats, contributing to the identification and protection of priority sites for migration, feeding and reproduction for these iconic threatened marine species.

Reversing the decline of sharks and rays

With an estimated 100 million sharks killed each year in a billion-dollar trade, 25% of these species are threatened with extinction. WCS seeks to save key species in habitats globally by improving our scientific understanding, contributing to the management of direct and indirect catch, supporting trade regulation, and reducing demand.



WCS's Marine Program in Mozambique

The goal of the WCS's Marine Program in Mozambique is to support the protection and conservation of key marine species and habitats, while contributing to increased resilience to climate change and safeguarding community benefits from living resources. WCS prioritizes the protection of critical ocean environments and climate-resilient biodiversity hotspots, from coral reefs to key shark and ray habitats, through migration routes and breeding sites for whales and coastal dolphins. Our country program's goal is integrated in WCS's marine conservation strategy for the Western Indian Ocean.

WCS's conservation objectives for Mozambique

- By 2025 WCS will have worked with the Mozambican Government and conservation partners to **protect and manage priority coral reef ecosystems**, contributing to their ongoing resilience, biological diversity and richness, and provision of ecosystem services to local populations.
- By 2025 actions are being implemented to **support the ongoing viability of threatened species of sharks and rays**, the sustainable management of resilient species, and important areas for this group are identified and protected.
- By 2025 WCS has formed effective partnerships with the Government and conservation partners to **improve national technical capacity for studying and monitoring local populations of whales and coastal dolphins** and mapping high-risk areas of shipping for these species.



Priority activities agreed with the Government of Mozambique for joint collaboration

1. Reconciling development with marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, including ecosystem services, by i) providing customized guidance on the adequate application of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, restore, offset) in development plans, strategies and projects, and ii) aligning the offset policy with national biodiversity targets, to support its achievement
2. Creating the enabling conditions and capacity in local artisanal fishing communities to i) establish, legalize, manage and monitor sustainably Community-Managed Fishing Areas, protecting key biodiversity and improving food security, and ii) developing and implementing innovative financial mechanisms to guarantee its long-term sustainability.
3. Implementing activities to achieve the national targets and international commitments to integrate the Marine Ecosystems in the National Network of Protected Areas by 2025 and improve the management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas, focusing on areas that contain priority biodiversity.
4. Working with local conservation partners, academia and private sector on identifying Coastal and Marine Key Biodiversity Areas where i) harmful activities should be avoided, ii) restoration activities should be implemented (coastal and marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves), and iii) support on establishing a list of protected marine species.
5. Conducting biodiversity research and knowledge transfer, focusing on innovative scientific techniques to gather relevant information on priority species and ecosystems, that can contribute to their effective protection and management.
6. Providing training and share technical-scientific knowledge on: i) sampling and monitoring techniques; ii) visual identification of species (focusing on threatened species); iii) new regional scientific information.
7. Collaborating to counter wildlife trafficking, through training and technical support on the correct identification of CITES / threatened / priority species, including using innovative techniques such as genetics.
8. Fund raising to implement the above-mentioned activities.



WCS MOZAMBIQUE'S MARINE PROGRAM PORTFOLIO (as of June 2021)

Secured funding 2018-24: \$1,222,487 | Pipeline 2022-27: ~\$4,000,000 | Active grants: 6 | Closed grants: 7

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS



Reefs for the future

OBJECTIVES:

- Technical and financial support to the GovMZ to develop National Strategy and Action Plan for coral reefs
- Development of national monitoring plan
- Development of metric to assess coral reef condition
- Advisory to the GovMZ on review of coral reef relocation/restoration plans proposed by Oil & Gas companies
- Assessment of coral reefs
- Identification and mapping of KBAs overlapping coral reefs
- Promotion of potential MPAs on important coral reef areas.

PERIOD: 2020-21 (PHASE 1) | BUDGET: \$137,858 (PHASE 1)



Improving the Conservation Status of Sharks and Rays in the Southwest Indian Ocean

OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct fishery surveys to gain an improved understanding of shark and ray fisheries in Mozambique
- Identify species that require reduced fishing pressure or complete legal protection, conservation and management priorities and mitigation measures
- Conduct ecological surveys using baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) to gain information on population demographics of shark and ray species
- Collect genetic material from shark and ray species to enable population genetic analyses
- Assess movement patterns of selected shark species to identify important habitats and high use areas for improved conservation
- Work with MIMAIP, other government departments, and other stakeholders, to use the collected data to inform national and regional policy and management initiatives, including:
 - Prepare a list of shark and ray species requiring protection
 - Develop a national roadmap or action plan for shark and ray conservation in the country
 - Provide training and support capacity building to improve the capacity for conservation and management of sharks and rays in Mozambique (species identification, monitoring, etc).

PERIOD: 2020-22

DONORS: Shark Conservation Fund / MacArthur Foundation

BUDGET: \$238,505 (SCF) + \$35,757 (MacArthur)





Sustainable Seas

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop Ecological and Socio-Economic Monitoring Plans to be implemented in the LMMAs supported by Marine Megafauna Foundation (Tofo, Inhambane) based on regional experience
- Provide training and create capacity to Marine Megafauna Foundation local staff on implementing the monitoring plans
- Develop a Law Enforcement strategy to be implemented in the LMMAs.

PERIOD: 2020-21 | BUDGET: \$54,849

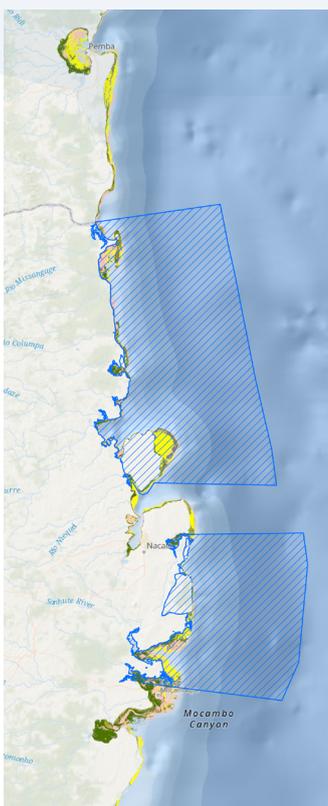


Supporting activities for the legalization process of LMMAs, management and law enforcement plans

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a standardized and replicable biodiversity and socio-economic monitoring plan, identifying which Key Performance Indicators should be used to monitor the effectiveness of the interventions
- Create capacity on Ocean Revolution Mozambique (Inhambane) to implement the plan above
- Support the Government developing clear guidance and procedures on how to legalize community-managed fishing areas according to the national legislation, standardize the content of the management and law enforcement plans and a procedure for its approval
- Support the Government in establishing clear communication and understanding between the national, provincial and district authorities of Inhambane in relation to the guidelines and procedures approved for legalization and development of management and law enforcement plans.

PERIOD: 2020-21 | BUDGET: \$60,436 | DONOR: Fondation Ensemble



Supporting the Government to develop the Marine Spatial Plan and expand the Marine Protected Area Network

OBJECTIVES:

- Create an adequate framework to collaborate with government towards a sound MPA expansion strategy integrated with the national marine spatial planning initiatives
- Provide capacity to the focal points of CBD and the High Ambition Coalition on the implementation of international conventions and negotiation process, contributing to increase capacity for MPA expansion
- Improve understanding of the state of knowledge on Coral Reef Ecosystems, Sharks and Rays and coastal Marine Mammals to map marine KBAs
- Support the establishment of a Coordination Group on the expansion of the Marine Protected Area Network
- Undertake preliminary identification of ecologically important areas, to inform a more comprehensive MSP process, as part of the MPA expansion process, including identifying areas containing critical ecosystems and key biodiversity in need of urgent protection.

PERIOD: 2020-21 | BUDGET: \$99,990 (MPA Fund) + \$17,107 (RLF)
DONOR: MPA Fund and Resources Legacy Fund