

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM



PROJECT: Strengthening the Conservation of Globally Threatened Species in Mozambique Through Improving Biodiversity Enforcement and Expanding Community



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OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Gorongosa National Park (Gorongosa-Marromeu Complex); Niassa Reserve; Pungue - DingueDingue Community Conservancy; Northern Rift Valley Community Conservancy; Cheringoma Sub-Complex of Conservancies

Species Focus: Elephants, rhinos, cheetahs and leopards

Total Project Cost: US\$15.8 million

Executing Partner: National Agency for Conservation Areas (ANAC), Gorongosa Restoration Project & Wildlife Conservation Society

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Contact: Lolita Hilario Fondo
lolita.hilario@undp.org



CONTEXT

Mozambique is a major repository of biodiversity with national and global importance. The rural population, which accounts for 70% of total population are highly dependent on the direct use of the country's natural resources. This often leads to overexploitation with few sustainable and economically viable alternatives. The uncontrolled use of natural resources has led to a loss of 4.3 million hectares of forest between 1990 and 2010 (Food and Agriculture Organization). In addition, there has been a significant increase in wildlife crime over the past five years. During this period, 48% of elephants were lost. This corresponds to nearly 2,000 elephants/year and over 45,000 lost due to poaching since the 1970's. WCS reports that 2,600 elephants were poached from the Niassa Reserve alone between in 2010 and 2011. Besides the impact on this amazing specie, this crime causes institutional instability and undermines the livelihoods of communities. In an effort to conserve its valuable wildlife, Mozambique developed a National Rhino and Ivory Action Plan (NRIAP) for 2015-2016. It passed the 2014 Conservation Act that includes criminalization of wildlife offences and established an Anti-poaching Taskforce to support implementation of the National Program for the protection of natural resources. Mozambique has created a police unit focused on environmental crimes, and has active collaboration with South Africa on joint actions on trans-boundary environmental protection.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Mozambique project aims to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around protected areas. The project's main components are:

- National strategy to promote the value of wildlife and combat illegal wildlife trafficking

PROJECT FOCUS

- Community conservancies, Wildlife and Forest Management plans (training, land, pilot projects, ranger succession management strategy)
- Development, consultation and implementation of Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation mechanisms
- Capacity building for enforcement capacity in key protected areas (training and equipment; establish law enforcement bases and ranger camps; develop & implement monitoring system for wildlife and forest crime enforcement)
- Develop and Strengthen National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (establish relevant institutions such National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit at Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas & Center for Biodiversity Assessment)

