

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Strengthening the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around protected areas



Image : UNDP Mozambique

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Gorongosa National Park (Gorongosa-Marromeu Complex) and the Niassa National Reserve

Species Focus: Elephants, leopards, lions, and wild dogs

Total Project Cost: US\$15.8 million

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

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Mozambique is a major repository of biodiversity with regional 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 during 2010 and 2011. Besides the impact on this amazing species, this crime causes institutional instability and undermines the livelihoods of communities. To conserve its valuable wildlife, Mozambique passed an amendment to the Conservation Act- Lei no. 5/2017 of 11 May that invokes much harsher penalties for wildlife crime. The government subsequently passed the Conservation Regulations - Decree to 89/2017 of 27 December to assist the implementation of the amended Conservation Act. 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
- Strengthening enforcement capacity in key protected areas to combat wildlife crime on the ground
- Establishing conservancies to expand the Gorongosa PA complex and more sustainably manage the Mecula - Marrupa Corridor within the Niassa Reserve, bringing sustainable land and forest management benefits to local communities

PROJECT FOCUS

- Community conservancies, Wildlife and Forest Management plans (training, land, pilot projects)
- Development, consultation and implementation of Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation mechanisms
- Capacity building for enforcement 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).

