



# **“STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION OF GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES IN MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY ENFORCEMENT AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES AROUND PROTECTED AREAS”**

**(GEF ID 9158 – MOZAMBIQUE)**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AQUA</b>	Environmental Quality Control Agency
<b>ANAC</b>	National Administration of Conservation Areas
<b>AWP</b>	Annual Work Plan
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CBNRM</b>	Community-based natural resource management
<b>CBWM</b>	Community based wildlife management
<b>CCA</b>	Community Conservation Area
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CTA</b>	Chief Technical Advisor
<b>CWC</b>	Combat to Wildlife Crime
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Facility
<b>GNP</b>	Gorongosa National Park
<b>GRP</b>	Gorongosa Restoration Project
<b>GWP</b>	Global Wildlife Programme
<b>HWC</b>	Human Wildlife Conflict
<b>IPs</b>	Implementing Partners
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>IWT</b>	Illegal Wildlife Trade
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>LE</b>	Law Enforcement
<b>LTA</b>	Long Term Agreement
<b>METT</b>	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
<b>MTA</b>	Ministry of Land and Environment
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
<b>NIM</b>	National Implementation Modality
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NP</b>	National Park
<b>NPC</b>	National Project Coordinator
<b>NRMCS</b>	Natural Resource Management Committees
<b>OVI</b>	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>PGR</b>	General Attorney
<b>PIRs</b>	Project Implementation Reports
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit
<b>PPRNMA</b>	Police for the Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment
<b>RTA</b>	Regional Technical Advisor
<b>SDAE</b>	District Services of Economic Activities
<b>SDPI</b>	District Services of Planning and Infrastructure
<b>SERNIC</b>	Nacional Service of Crime Investigation
<b>SPA</b>	Province Environmental Services
<b>SR</b>	Special Reserve
<b>TFCA</b>	Transfrontier Conservation Area
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>W &amp; FC</b>	Wildlife and Forest Crime
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WCU</b>	Wildlife Crime Unit



**MOZAMBIQUE MID TERM REVIEW REPORT “STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION OF GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES IN MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY ENFORCEMENT AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES AROUND PROTECTED AREAS”**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The UNDP-GEF funded project entitled “Strengthening the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around protected areas” was approved by GEF on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1:** The project summary table

<b>Title of the project : Strengthening the Conservation of Globally Threatened Species in Mozambique through Improving Biodiversity Enforcement and Expanding Community Conservancies around Protected Areas</b>				
GEF ID	9158	Type of funding	At project’s approval (millions of USD)	At the end of project (millions of USD)
PIMS ID	5474	GEF funding	USD 15,750,000	N/A
Country	Mozambique	UNDP TRAC resources	USD 700,000	N/A
Region	Africa	<b>Total:</b>	USD 16,450,000	N/A
Zone	Africa	National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), under the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA)	USD 22,000,000	N/A
Area(s) of intervention	Gorongosa National Park, Niassa Special Reserve	Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP)	USD 37,000,000	N/A
Objectives of area of intervention	Biodiversity conservation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	USD 5,100,000	N/A
Implementing agency of the project	UNDP	Other:	N/A	N/A
Project approved for implementation	June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Total co-funding	USD 64,100,000	N/A
Planned end date	February 2025	Grand-Total Project Financing	USD 80,550,000	N/A

The project aims to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around Niassa and Gorongosa protected areas (PA). The project is implemented by UNDP and executed nationally by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC by its acronym in Portuguese), located under the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA by its acronym in Portuguese) of Mozambique and locally by Non-Governmental Organizations: Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) responsible for activities in Gorongosa and Niassa, respectively, following National implementation Modality (NIM) and NGO Implementation Modalities. The project started on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2018. The preliminary completion date is foreseen for February 2025.

**Overview of objective and methodology for Mid-Term Review**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9158>

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project was carried out during the months of October – December 2022 and adhered fully to the UNDP/GEF guidelines and Terms of Reference. Its goal was to evaluate the extent of the activities implemented so far and to give recommendations for the second phase of the project. The methodology included a detailed review of all relevant project documentation; field missions, follow-up phone and email discussions; careful analysis of the findings; and preparation of the draft report.

The MTR field mission took place in October and November and consisted of two parts: October 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 conducted by National Consultant and from November 1<sup>st</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 conducted by both National and International Consultants. The mission entailed: Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), visits to project sites and was concluded by debriefing meeting with UNDP Country Office (CO). The full list of interviewed stakeholders can be found in Annex IV.

### **Main Findings**

The MTR enabled to assess in the field the project's progress and make recommendations for the second period of the project. Its evaluation concludes that the project is relevant given the importance of wildlife biodiversity in Mozambique and the need to strengthen its protection from illegal wildlife trade. The project design is appropriate to address the issues of threatened endangered species in relation to wildlife poaching, and it mobilizes all the necessary infrastructure, legal tools, technical solutions, communication tools and dissemination of good practices. Still, some improvement of institutional capacities and institutional memory have been done. However high personnel turn-over and gaps in decision making personnel nominations (specifically in ANAC) adversely affect project implementation.

The main achievements of the project are the development and approval of the national strategy to combat wildlife and forest crime, the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination in the combat to wildlife crime through the establishment of Antipoaching unit (APCOC), the training of judiciary institutions on the conservation law, the expansion of law enforcement infrastructure to remote areas, the improvement of technology to plan, coordinate and monitor law enforcement operations, the strengthening of intelligence in the CWC, the creation of community conservancies and establishment of management structure and management plans, the introduction of human-wildlife coexistence strategies, the raising of awareness of local communities about biodiversity conservation, and the expansion of reforestation to restore degraded areas.

Despite the overall good progress, there are still some challenges to be addressed by the project, including the following: the incidence of human-wildlife conflicts remains high and the number of beneficiaries from mitigation strategies are a small segment of the local community, initiatives to develop livelihoods and meet the expectation that community conservancies contribute to both biodiversity conservation and livelihoods are still in an initial stage due to lack of investments, the approved fundamental documents such as the national strategy to combat wildlife crime and the management plan of community conservancies are yet to be implemented, the APCOC is effective in coordinating antipoaching operations but only in a small geographical scale.

The evaluation mission found that the capitalization on the activities launched by the project at the national level to strengthen the role of local communities is an essential point. It consists, for instance, in the National W&FC and IWT strategy, the inclusion of female scout and ranger staff in Protected Areas zones or the setting up of planning tools with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Furthermore, the importance of preparing the exit strategy as early as 2023 in order to ensure the sustainability of the project has to be notified.

Finally, it is highly recommended to launch a prospective study on the evolution of the land and forest ecosystems in the two intervention zones (Gorongosa and Niassa), to continue cooperation efforts by signing agreements with other government departments and institutions, particularly with the research community, to increase capacity building and awareness-raising activities.

MTR also developed and conducted an assessment according to the evaluation criteria of GEF.



**Table 2:** Rating according to the evaluation criteria of the GEF

1. Monitoring and Evaluation	Rating	2. Implementation and Execution	Rating
Design of M&E plan	S	Quality of the project implementation by UNDP	HS
Implementation M&E Plan	MS	Quality of execution by the institutional partners	S
Quality of M&E plan	S	General quality of implementation/execution	S
3. Assessment of Outcomes	Rating	4. Sustainability	Rating
Relevance	R	Financial resources	ML
Effectiveness	S	Socio-political	ML
Efficiency	S	Governance and institutional framework	L
General grade of outcomes	S	Environmental	L
		Probability for the project to be sustainable	ML

Legend:

HS – Highly Satisfactory, S – Satisfactory, MS - Moderately Satisfactory, MU – Moderately Unsatisfactory, U – Unsatisfactory, HU- Highly Unsatisfactory, R – Relevant, NR – Non relevant L – Likely; ML - Moderately Likely, MU – Moderately unlikely, U – Unlikely.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Design of M&E plan: well designed. However, for some indicators there was no reference baseline to guide the setting of targets.

Implementation M&E Plan: Inception meeting, annual workplans and budget, quarterly reports, project implementation reports (PIRs) and the management effectiveness tracking tool (METT) for Niassa SR and Gorongosa NP were timely delivered. However, the financial sustainability of a protected area system and the capacity development scorecard to assess capacities of the protected area agency were not available. Collection of data on some of the indicators in the Niassa SR was not possible, for example, no animal census was conducted since the start of the project. At the time of the MTR, some indicators had no baseline established. Lessons learned from project implementation are yet to be shared within the national system of protected areas and beyond.

### Assessment of Outcomes

Relevance: The project is of high relevance as it addresses a key threat to biodiversity, which is Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). It is coherent with national policies and strategies. The project complements the effort of the Government of Mozambique and other partners in reducing IWT. It is also aligned with social and economic plans at district, province and national levels. It has created the foundation for inter-institutional coordination in the combat to IWT and contributes to the alignment of Mozambique to regional and international efforts to curb IWT. At a local level, it is strengthening partnerships between protected area managers, local communities and local governments in biodiversity conservation and development of sustainable livelihoods. The time lag between design and implementation, to some extent, reduced the initially planned activities, because other donor funded projects implemented some of these activities. The projects that emerged after the design of GEF-6 Programming Directions, include the Khetha project (WWF CO Mozambique) aiming to combat wildlife crime and the MozNorte project (World Bank) to be implemented in the buffer zone of the Niassa SR (Mecula-Marrupa corridor) focusing on community conservation.

Effectiveness: Despite some delays caused by obstacles such as changes in ANAC leadership, terrorist attacks that temporarily interrupted project activities in Niassa SR, attack to ranger outposts by armed men in the Gorongosa NP and the impact of the COVID pandemic, the project has made very significant progress. Most of the planned activities are being implemented and the project is on track to achieve the target for each of the set indicators.

Efficiency: By the time of the MTR the delivery/expenditure rate of the project was 58% of the approval amount. The number of vacant positions at ANAC contributes to a low delivery rate because less funds are used to pay

salaries. In the Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP), the low delivery rate can be attributed to the co-financing by the GRP and other projects that are being implemented and cover some expenses that could be covered by the GEF-6 project, and also by the delay in the construction of the community conservation centre in Inhaminga. In the Niassa SR the payment of salaries to staff and the high costs of constructions due to the remoteness of the area contributed to a relatively high delivery rate. The work plans were result-oriented and easy to monitor the achievement of the annual targets. The planned activities are directly linked with outputs and indicators described in the Project Document. However, the disbursement of funds was not always timely, i.e. there were delays. In compliance with UNDP financial procedures, the Implementing Partners (IPs) had to return unused funds at the end of each year. To prevent this, IPs had to accelerate the expenditures, which to some extent affected efficiency, because there was no time for a more cautious cost-benefit analysis. However, overall, based on the results already achieved and the delivery rate, the implementation of the project is considered cost effective.

## **Implementation and Execution**

Quality of the project implementation by UNDP. The UNDP CO provided support to IPs through monitoring visits and guidance on financial procedures. The Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) provided continuous and strong support. The technical guidance provided by the RTA helped to overcome the constraints faced by IP's due to the lack of Chief Technical Advisor (CTA). Monthly meetings are organized with WCS and Gorongosa National Park (GNP), with participation from UNDP CO project team, CO project manager and RTA to continuously monitor the quality and progress of implementation of project activities. These meetings are instrumental to discuss bottlenecks and to seek solutions for activities experiencing challenges under the different components of project.

Quality of execution by the institutional partner: It is rated as MS because the project had problems in hiring staff, particularly the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the project. This created a gap in the quality of the technical team. In 2020, a new RTA was appointed for the project to overcome the lack of technical staff in the country. It was agreed that the CTA position would be replaced by three national level positions managed by ANAC. However, these positions are still vacant, which maintains low the human resource capacity at ANAC. This slows the rate of implementation by WCS and GRP, because some of the decisions are taken by ANAC. There also changes in the top management positions at ANAC.<sup>2</sup> These changes weakened the capacity of the institution to lead the implementation of the project and provide guidance to other IPs (GRP and WCS). This also contributed to delays in the recruitment of national staff to replace the CTA position. There was also high staff turnover in all implementing partners, which in turn impedes effective building of institutional memory and capacities.

WCS has also experienced high staff turnover with the appointment of a new Niassa SR warden in Q2 2022 and the departure, in Q3 2022, of the Operation manager, who was the lead in project implementation. This position is still vacant, which increases the work load to other Niassa SR staff, who have to ensure that project activities are implemented. At the GRP a new Programme manager for the GEF6 project was appointed in Q4 of 2021 and a new impact manager for GEF 6 was appointed in Q2 2022. However, the changes in staff at GRP were smooth transitions and did not cause constraints in project implementation.

## **Sustainability**

Financial resources. The Government of Mozambique, through ANAC, Environmental Quality Control Agency (AQUA) and other law enforcement agencies will continue raising funds to strengthen and expand law enforcement capacities to combat wildlife and forest crime, including through advocacy to increase the State budget allocated to law enforcement. In the Gorongosa NP the sustainability is assured by the Long Term Agreement (LTA) between the Government of Mozambique and the GRP for the management and development of the Gorongosa NP (valid until 2043), which will provide additional financial resources to maintain activities to combat IWT, engage local communities in conservation and improve livelihoods. Income generation activities

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<sup>2</sup> In November 2021 the ANAC General Director ceased functions and a new General Director, who was only appointed in February 2022, which means that the institution had no official manager for about 3 months. The Director of the Law Enforcement Services left ANAC in Q1 2022 due to retirement and one Head of department at law enforcement Services left in Q2 2022 due to appointment for a new position. A new director of planning services was nominated at ANAC in Q1 2022 and a new director of Law enforcement was nominated at ANAC in Q2 2022

should be given priority for the second phase of the project, to ensure that biodiversity conservation and improvement of life standards of local communities are simultaneously achieved.

Socio-political. Good progress has been made in recent years to stabilize the security in central Mozambique, which has a history of instability. However, the project was affected by attacks to ranger outposts by armed men and some areas of the Gorongosa NP remain not accessible to rangers and park managers due to the presence of armed men. The northern Mozambique has been peaceful, but in recent years experienced the emergence of terrorism, which creates some uncertainties for the social and political sustainability of project results as local communities might abandon the community conservancies and other initiatives implemented by the project in search for safe places to settle.

Environmental. The basis for environmental sustainability is established, mainly through the expansion of law enforcement capacity, community awareness campaigns and improved coordination with the judiciary institutions. This will ensure that wildlife populations are protected from poaching and their habitats are protected from degradation caused by unsustainable use of land and natural resources. The results of the project can be replicated in other protected areas.

Governance and institutional framework: The combat to IWT is a top priority for the Government. The ownership of the project by the institutions at national, province and district/local level is high. Activities that complement project interventions are included in annual plans and budgets of the institutions.

In conclusion, the MTR mission has found that the first phase of the project was successful. Technical solutions to address illegal poaching and conservation of endangered species were moderately successfully implemented in both project sites: Gorongosa National Park and Niassa Special Reserve. Furthermore, raising public awareness about the need for such work is in progress. However, the substantial objectives related to the improvement of institutional capacities to plan and address the increasing risks due to illegal poaching, as well as the development of innovative economical tools to strengthen the communities' economic resilience, are still not fully achieved.

## **Recommendations**

- **Continue cooperation efforts through the mutualization of lessons learnt and experience sharing between Gorongosa NP, Niassa SR and the wider national system of conservation areas**

It is proposed to organize a common working session between GNP, WCS and ANAC (both in GNP, NSR and ANAC/Maputo), to share experience about the implementation of the activities of the project and capitalize on lessons learned, particularly on issues related to the engagement of local communities and other stakeholders in sustainable natural resource management, livelihood development, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and gender mainstreaming. For example, this could take the form of a three days events, on management aspects, but also academic and research items could be added. This will contribute to the upscaling of project outcomes and will assist the implementation of the conservation law countrywide. This will require an improved engagement of the Services of Conservation and Community Development of ANAC, which currently plays a minor role in project implementation.

- **Start preparing the exit strategy**

It is recommended to start preparing the exit strategy, to end the project with the highest chances for sustainability and long-term impacts. This could include considering new activities to be planned or existing ones extended. For instance, there are significant needs and expectations that community conservancies contribute to income generation and improvement of livelihoods, environmental education and gender mainstreaming, particularly girls education. District Governments should be involved in the planning of these activities.

### *Recommendations for the implementation project partner*

- **Dissemination and implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime**

The dissemination and implementation of the recently approved National strategy to combat IWT, which provides

guidelines for an effective law enforcement, not only on strengthening law enforcement operations but also through environmental education and engagement of local communities.

➤ **Development and implementation of the ranger succession plan**

The lack of opportunities and guidance to recruit new rangers is a bottleneck for effective law enforcement expansion. Therefore, the development, approval and implementation of the rangers' succession strategy is crucial for the renewal of law enforcement staff and for implementation of the ranger statutes, which will increase the motivation of the rangers.

➤ **Staff recruitment and retention**

Difficulties in recruiting staff to support the implementation of the project and the high staff turnover has constrained project implementation at ANAC and Niassa SR. Given the short period left before the closure of the project, it is recommended to recruit staff for the vacant positions and create incentive for retention, to speed up the implementation of project activities.

➤ **Replication of Antipoaching Centers (APCOC)**

The APCOC is a functional mechanism of coordination among institutions to tackle WC on the ground. However, its scope is geographically limited. It is recommended that similar structures are established in other hotspots of IWT, with priority to the TFCAs.

➤ **Combat domestic illegal wildlife trade**

Efforts to halt wildlife crime has been focused on the combat to poaching and trafficking of wildlife products to international markets, mainly through control in the main terrestrial borders, airports and ports of the country. However, illegal exports are supplied by domestic traffic. Therefore, ANAC should strengthen the mechanisms to combat domestic traffic of wildlife products.

➤ **Operationalization of community conservancies and other mechanisms to engage local communities in conservation**

Community conservancies have been successfully established in the buffer zone of the GNP. Management plans were designed with participation of local communities and set priority actions to increase human-wildlife coexistence, to increase income/revenue for local communities from natural resources (for example: rural economy based on wildlife through ecotourism or trophy hunting) and protect the environment. The implementation of the management plan is crucial to strengthen trust between protected area managers, local communities and local governments and demonstrate how local communities can benefit from biodiversity conservation.

Local communities live in areas rich in natural resources, but the level of poverty is high. Restrictions in the use of natural resources and human-wildlife conflicts exacerbate poverty and creates the perception that conservation causes poverty. During the second phase, the project should develop activities aimed at supporting the development of value chains according to the potential of each community conservancy (Gorongosa NP) or areas of community land tenure (Niassa SR). This could include the development of basic infrastructure (lodge, camping site and access roads or paths to tourism attractions) to unlock the potential for ecotourism development in Khodzué (Cheringoma-GNP buffer zone), wildlife based economy in the Southern conservancy of Nhamatanda (GNP buffer zone) and Mecula-Marrupa corridor (Niassa SR) either through ecotourism or trophy hunting, expansion of beekeeping in the northern conservancy (Cheringoma - GNP) due to high potential, agroforestry and other conservation agriculture, cashew nut production, crafting etc.

➤ **Create or reactivate Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCM) in the Niassa SR**

Reactivate and or create new NRMCM in the Niassa SR, provide training on environmental education and awareness campaigns, training on mechanisms of patrolling against illegal activities, and provide basic work conditions (transport, communication and rations) for the NRMCM to work with the community to slow down the rate of deforestation, poaching, fishing using destructive methods, and other threats to biodiversity and natural resource-based livelihoods. Subsequently, introduce reforestation activities and agroforestry systems in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor to be led by NRMCM under the guidance and supervision of Niassa SR staff.

➤ **Construction of community conservation infrastructures**

The strengthening of interaction between protected area managers and local communities is crucial to build trust and engage local communities in conservation. There is a need to speed up the construction of community conservation centers in Inhalinga (Gorongosa NP) and in Mecula (Niassa SR), so that these facilities can be opened on time to improve the implementation of project activities such as environmental education, training on nature-based business opportunities, participatory land use planning, among others.

➤ **Increase the availability of equipment**

The implementation of project activities in the Niassa SR is constrained by the large size of the reserve, hence long distance between project implementation sites, between target communities and between areas of potential occurrence of wildlife crime. This is further exacerbated by the bad condition of the roads. This affects the effectiveness of law enforcement operations and of activities to engage local communities in conservation. Niassa SR patrolling teams also face shortage of patrolling equipment such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and data loggers, which have to be shared among teams. Therefore, it is recommended to purchase additional vehicles, GPSs, data loggers and to add funds to increase the number of hours for aerial patrolling.

➤ **Provide a better visibility in the pace at which activities are launched in Gorongosa**

In view of the current disbursement rate, it is recommended to provide a better visibility of the future rate at which the remaining activities are launched and thereby explain the path of the disbursement rate progression, having in mind that the most significant expenses are planned for 2023 through the construction of the community education center in Inhalinga. At the same time, accelerating the implementation of the various project activities, especially for component 3, has to be well thought out. It is important to have a balance between increased spending and wise disbursement.

➤ **Consider an extension of the duration of the project in Niassa, depending on the security situation**

In the Niassa SR, the security situation is uncertain and has disrupted the implementation of activities in component 3 of the project, causing delays. The MTR is in principle favorable to an unfunded extension of 6 to 9 months for the Niassa site. However, the decision about an extension request should be made at a later date depending on the progress to be made in 2023 and 2024.

#### *Recommendations for the executing project partners*

##### ➤ **Increase capacity building and awareness raising activities**

In connection with the previous point, it is recommended to increase capacity building and awareness-raising activities, both at the level of ANAC executives and other ministries interacting with ANAC and at the local level (in particular by organizing training sessions in the intervention zones). This should also be thought in the long-term (to avoid for instance to have to systematically train new judges on IWT, but instead, making sure it is part of their courses).

##### ➤ **Continue investing in activities with the communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts**

It is recommended to keep supporting activities in Nhamatanda (Gorongosa NP) and Mecula (Niassa SR) districts, to mitigate the conflicts between humans and animals, which cause the destruction of smallholdings and crops, threat human lives and cause revenge killing of wildlife. The activities implemented by the project to promote human-wildlife coexistence need to be diversified and expanded and have to show their effectiveness in the long-term.

#### *For the project management team*

##### ➤ **Capitalize on the results obtained**

Given the strategic nature of the project, it is recommended to capitalize on the activities launched by the project at national level to strengthen the role of ANAC. Still on the strategic level, the mission of reflection on the organization of ANAC could be followed by the General Management with the support of the Steering Committee of the project.

##### ➤ **Beyond the seven-year period of the project**

It is strongly recommended to already prepare both the sustainability aspects and the geographical extension of the project activities (e.g. in the Cheringoma district). This can be done by identifying the complementary activities and target areas where an extension project could be implemented. It is possible to mobilize all the stakeholders potentially involved by the geographical extension of the project. They are well acquainted with the challenges posed by the project activities, and geographic extension of the project will be made easier.

#### *For the UNDP*

##### ➤ **Continue supporting the structure and implementation of the project**

The role of the UNDP is significant to guarantee the cohesion between the different stakeholders of the project (e.g. with the regular meetings with the partners). It is recommended to capitalize on the experience of the first phase of the project and increase the momentum during the second phase of the project.

##### ➤ **Make sure the security risks in Niassa are taken into account in the risk log**

As part of UNDP's procedures, a project risk register is in place, with a risk log. This includes various data and information such as a brief description of the risk with a probability (impact and likelihood). It is recommended to make sure this risk log is up-to-date, especially given the security risks in the Northern part of Mozambique (e.g. Niassa).

##### ➤ **Take advantage of the possible synergies with other projects**

The project should share its high value impact and take also advantage of the synergies with other projects. It is recommended to anticipate the development of new biodiversity conservation projects, especially IWT, to establish links and long-term common actions, not only in Mozambique but also in Southern Africa.

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

### 1.1. *Biodiversity in Mozambique*

Located on the southeastern seaboard of Africa, Mozambique possesses five phytogeographical regions with Miombo, Mopane, undifferentiated woodlands and coastal mosaics being the most common. Sites of high importance in regard to biodiversity include the Gorongosa Mountains, the Great Inselberg Archipelago of Quirimbas and the Chimanimani Massif. Three biodiversity hotspots are found in Mozambique: the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa, the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and the Eastern Afromontane. In addition, the Zambebian Coastal Flooded Savannah is an ecoregion unique to Mozambique. According to national estimates, Mozambique is home to over 6000 plant species and 4,271 species of terrestrial wildlife, of which 72% are insects, 17% birds, 5% mammals and 4% reptiles. Of these species, several are endemic to Mozambique, including 2 species of mammal, 7 reptiles, 11 freshwater fish and 5 vascular plant species. The forest ecosystems consisting of native forests and woodlands cover about 43% of the total area of Mozambique, of which 67% are semi-deciduous forests, 20% are evergreen forests, mangrove forests account for about 1% and other forest types make up 12% of forest habitats.

With a coastline 2,770 km long, Mozambique has several marine and coastal habitats, the most important of which are the coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass meadows. The coral reefs cover about 1,860 km<sup>2</sup> and there are about 400,000 ha of mangroves. There are no species lists for individual countries, however, along the Indian Ocean Coast, 11,257 marine species have been recorded and 17 marine fish are endemic to Mozambique. Notable species that have been recorded along the coast of Mozambique include the dugong, 7 species of dolphin, humpback whales, 77 hermatypic species of coral and 5 species of turtle, all of which contribute significantly to tourism.

There are extensive benefits and ecosystem services arising from biodiversity in Mozambique. These include the provision of timber for firewood, furniture, sculpture, etc., water supply/purification, soil fertility and flood protection. In addition, most of the important traditional and modern medicines within Mozambique are derived from wild plants, animals, fungi and bacteria. Medicinal plants are used by an estimated 80% of the population and the importance of the role of traditional healers is increasingly recognized. Biodiversity also provides significant benefits to Mozambique's economy through the generation of revenue from ecotourism.

The major threats to Mozambique's biodiversity are human population increase, extreme rural poverty which results in dependence on the extraction of natural resources, social and economic development and past political instability which have both led to habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as to great changes in the number and distribution of large terrestrial mammals. During the civil war period (1976 – 1992), terrestrial fauna suffered a decline of more than 90%. However, since 1992, the Government has been directing efforts towards the recovery of lost populations, especially within conservation areas. There are a total of 300 species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List in Mozambique, of which 120 are threatened<sup>3</sup>. The main threats to fauna are poaching and illegal wildlife trade, uncontrolled fires and the destruction of habitats, whereas the main threats to flora are vegetation clearing, slash-and-burn agriculture, increased human settlement and uncontrolled fires. The main threats to mangrove forests are deforestation, aquaculture and construction of salt pans. Coral reefs are mainly under pressure from coral bleaching and increased activities in coral reefs (fishing, tourism, etc.). Seagrasses are being threatened by siltation due to floods, revolving of seagrass to collect invertebrates, trampling and destructive fishing techniques. Due to population pressure, there have also been increased reports of human-animal conflicts, especially involving crocodiles, lions, elephants, hippos, and buffalos, with 265 people killed and 82 people injured between 2006 and 2008, and of damage to agriculture caused by hippos and elephants<sup>4</sup>.

To safeguard the country's rich biodiversity, Mozambique has established a national network of conservation areas, which covers about 25% of the country's surface<sup>5</sup> (terrestrial PAs covers 22.59% and 2.41% for the marine

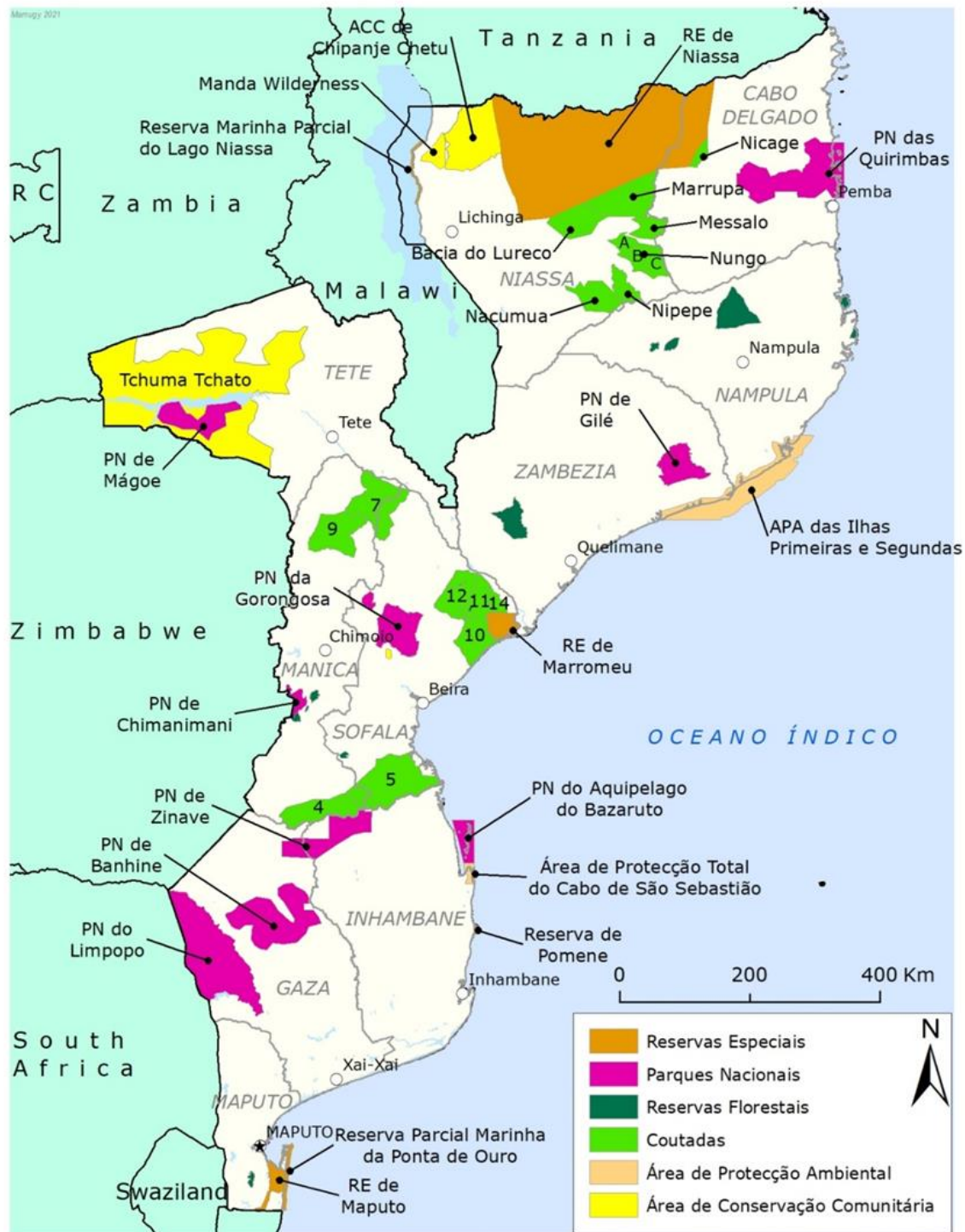
<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/humanwildlife-conflict-in-mozambique-a-national-perspective-with-emphasis-on-wildlife-attacks-on-humans/434EEAF88F3C10E9FA6B55F2C3ACE39>

<sup>5</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/881051531337811300-0120022018/original/FicharioENGLOW.pdf>



PAs) - encompassing 10 categories, including: 1. areas of total conservation: (i) national integral reserves; (ii) national parks and (iii) cultural and natural monuments; and 2. conservation areas of sustainable use: (iv) special reserves; (v) areas of environmental protection; (vi) hunting concessions, (vii) areas of community conservancies; (viii) sanctuaries; (ix) game farms; and (x) municipal ecological parks (Conservation Law no 16/2014 of 20th June, revised and republished as Law nº 5/2017, of 11<sup>th</sup> May). The country's conservation areas' network contains ten national parks, 1 sanctuary, 2 national reserves, 2 special reserves, 2 areas of environmental protection, 13 forest reserves, 27 hunting concessions, five community conservancies and over 50 game farms (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Map of the conservation areas network of Mozambique

## 1.2. Objectives and context of the mid-term review

### 1.2.1. Context of the Mid-Term Review

The project aims to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action. The MTR of the project is focused on two project areas: central and northern Mozambique with site-level efforts in the Greater Gorongosa - Marromeu Landscape with a focus on Gorongosa National Park and its buffer zone and the Niassa National Reserve. The total project area of direct influence is approximately 4,637,600 ha.

The implementing agency of the project is UNDP CO Mozambique. The implementing partners are the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), as part of the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA), Gorongosa Restoration Project at Gorongosa National Park and Wildlife Conservation Society at Niassa Special Reserve.

### 1.2.2. Objectives of the Mid-Term Review

The objective of this mid-term review are as follows:

- a) Assess progress towards achievement of the project objectives and outcomes at mid-point (completed fourth year of implementation, project started in March 2018), and in particular assess the implementation of the project planned outputs and project performance against actual results. The risks of achievement of project outcomes and objectives will also be considered;
- b) Identify the factors that helped or hindered implementation of the project;
- c) Identify changes that need to be made to set the project on-track to achieve maximum impact. The findings of the MTR will feed back into project management processes through specific recommendations;
- d) Review the project's risks to sustainability and the 'exit strategy'.

The MTR analyzes the progress made towards the mid-term achievement of the general and specific objectives. The MTR draws lessons learned and provide recommendations on the next steps and second phase of the project, that focus on key components to improve the sustainability of benefits from the project and also guide future programming. It is important to analyze the intermediary results and experiences of stakeholders in order to bring out relevant lessons learned and eventual adjustments, with a view to consolidate gains made and propose effective strategies for the sustainability of results. In addition, the documentation of project's experiences and mid-term achievements, as well as challenges will be excellent tools for the government and the development partners, who will be able to draw inspiration for the implementation of the second phase of the project, and other programs and projects related to biodiversity conservation, in particular related to the combat to IWT.

## 1.3. Applied methodology for the Mid-Term Review

### 1.3.1. Methodological approach

The methodological approach for the MTR was structured around GEF and UNDP key criteria in order to fully assess the performance of the design and implementation of project activities.

The questions that guided the MTR work were as follow:

- Do the objectives of the project correspond to the expectations of the beneficiaries, the needs of the rural populations of Mozambique and the priorities of the partners? This is to assess at mid-term, the relevance of the intervention. Are they also in harmony with the interventions of other donors?
- In order to assess the effectiveness of the project, which targets have been partially, potentially or fully achieved at mid-term, taking into account their relative importance?
- Is the implementation of the project efficient? Have the first impacts especially been obtained with the fewest resources?

- In terms of results, programming, monitoring and evaluation, are they oriented in the right direction?
- Does the project appear to be sustainable? Thus, will the local communities' involvement efforts continue after the project ends? If yes, how long? Is there, for example, mutual responsibility and good ownership of the project in anticipation of the future?
- At mid-term, do we see already positive long-term effects and/or negative ones, due to the intervention, directly or indirectly, expected or unexpected? Are the first effects visible?
- In terms of coherence and alignment, do project activities enable the achievement of the objectives of the national policy?
- Finally, are the cross-cutting themes taken into account?

The MTR applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria that focus on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, partnership and addresses some cross-cutting issues such as gender equality. The consulting team developed questions to guide data collection (see Annex), which were embedded within the framework of the evaluation criteria.

The focus of data collection for each of the evaluation criteria was as follows:

- **Relevance:** the extent to which the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels,
- **Effectiveness:** to what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved or are expected/ likely to be achieved,
- **Efficiency:** a measure of how economically resources / inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results,
- **Impact:** indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status? Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the project directly or indirectly, intended or unintended,
- **Sustainability:** the likelihood of a continuation of benefits from a development intervention after the intervention is completed. To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?
- **Partnership:** an extent to which coordination, collaboration and synergy are developed and achieved among stakeholders, beneficiaries to produced desired results of the project,
- **Gender equality:** an extent to which gender main streaming has been factored into the project.

The MTR was conducted following the guideline provided by the terms of reference, focusing on: (A) Project Strategy (design, results framework/log frame, assumptions and risks), (B) Progress towards results, (C) Project Implementation and Adaptive Management, (D) Sustainability and (E) Conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned.

The MTR methodology included a detailed review of all relevant project documentation and data collection; field missions, follow-up phone discussions and correspondence; careful analysis of the findings; and preparation of the draft report.

For data collection included extensive desk review of available documents and sources was undertaken to allow triangulation and cross validation. The documents that have been reviewed include but not limited to: PIF, the Project Document, Annual Work Plans, Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Review (PIRs), project budget revisions, the baseline and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools, and documents produced by the project (strategies, plans, reports, management plans of community conservancies, among others).

MTR Mission was organised in October and November 2022 and consisted of two parts: October 23d – October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was conducted by National Consultant and from November 1<sup>st</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was conducted jointly by National and International Consultants. Its goal was to assess the project's progress and make recommendations for the second half of the project.

The mission entailed: Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), visits to project sites and was concluded by debriefing meeting with UNDP Country Office (CO).

KIIs and FGDs were organised during the mission. KIIs were conducted with staff of project implementing agency (UNDP CO Mozambique), implementing partner (ANAC), Government authorities at province, district and locality level, senior protected area managers, project impact managers, conservation and community development officers and field rangers at Gorongosa NP and Niassa SR.

FGDs were organised in different groups participating in Natural Resource Management Communities (NRMCS), such as: community rangers, community animators, Human-Wildlife Coexistence collaborators, community forest restoration and agroforestry teams, community tourist guides, community members who benefitted from income generation activities (e.g. beekeeper and horticultural producers) and/or human-wildlife coexistence activities both in the buffer zone of the Gorongosa NP and in the Mecula-Marupa corridor (Niassa SR). Separate questionnaires were designed for KIIs and FGDs. The participants of FGDs were allowed to express their opinion on the implementation of the project, perceptions of project's results, through a comparative analysis of the pre and post-project situation as well as their opinions about desirable change in the project, in the absence of project implementing partners. The information collected was analyzed with the focus of determining the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and gender nuances of project design and implementation. The questionnaires can be found in the Annex II. In total 79 people were interviewed in the GNP, 19 in the NSR/WCS and 5 at ANAC. The full list of interviewed stakeholders can be found in Annex IV.

In addition, site visits were organised, with the objective to document the ownership of project activities by local communities and local Government, the community participation in project implementation, and the project implementation challenges. During site visits, data collection tools, containing both qualitative and quantitative elements were used to cross-check findings from KIIs, FGDs. The visits allowed the evaluator to collect additional information through interviews to individuals or groups of beneficiaries. The visits included law enforcement infrastructure, community livelihood initiatives, nurseries for forest restoration and strategies implemented to enhance human-wildlife coexistence at Gorongosa NP and Niassa SR.

Triangulation was used through cross verification by combining multiple sources of information, theories, methods, and experience. The evaluation aims to overcome any biases and problems that might otherwise arise from dependence on any single method or single observation or data point, while paying particular attention to the UNDP principles of independence, impartiality, transparency, disclosure, ethical, partnership, competencies, capacities, credibility and utility.

At the end of the field mission, the findings of the field mission were presented in a debriefing meeting held at the UNDO CO Mozambique on the 8th November 2022 attended by the UNDP Country Office Programme Officer, Project manager and financial and administrative officers. Preliminary results of the MTR were presented in an online meeting held on the 7th December, attended by the UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser, project manager, financial and administrative officer and implementing partners in the two sites (GNP and NSR). Participants were able to attend the presentation of the preliminary findings of the project, ask questions to the evaluator or give clarification and viewpoints if necessary. This proved to be a fruitful and helpful exchange in order to compose this MTR. The draft report was electronically circulated for comments by all relevant project stakeholders, before the production of the final MTR report.

### 1.3.2. Timetable of the mission

The agenda of the MTR mission has been submitted during a preliminary meeting with the project manager at UNDP CO Mozambique, discussed with the implementing partners and refined to ensure maximum efficiency of the field mission.

A summary of the agenda is presented below. The full agenda can be found in the annexes to this report.

**Table 3:** Summary of the MTR agenda

MTR Activity	Description	Timeline
Desk review	Collection and reading and analysis of all project related documents (reports, proposal/contract, meeting minutes and presentations, etc.)	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
Inception Report	Otherwise known as the inception report, the startup report for Mozambique provides roadmap for the evaluation mission and provides detailed description of the entire work	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2022 (Draft) 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Field Mission	Data collection, meetings and other forms evaluation information gathering within communities	10 <sup>th</sup> October - 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
First findings	Presentation capturing the first findings of the two field missions with Data entry, preliminary analysis, interpretation leads to development of provisional report.	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
Additional interviews	Interview with ANAC	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Draft report	Data entry, preliminary analysis, interpretation with Draft/provisional report for comments	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2022
Validation of report	Draft/provisional report is validated after incorporation of project stakeholders comments	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

### 1.3.3. The evaluation team

The MTR was conducted by two Consultants:

- Team Leader, Dr. Alexandre Borde
- National Senior Expert, Dr. Valerio Macandza.

## 2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Development context

Mozambique is a signatory and has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In compliance with its obligations has prepared the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2003 - 2010 and 2015 - 2035 to the CBD<sup>6</sup>. This project follows from the findings and key recommendations of these two national strategies that set strategic objectives, targets and priority actions to reduce the causes of biodiversity loss, improve the status of biodiversity and improve the sharing of benefits obtained from biodiversity. The Five-Year Government Plan 2015 – 2019 and 2020 – 2024 established that ensuring a sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment is a priority of the Government, and one of the strategic objectives under this priority is to ensure the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Priority actions include the need to strengthen measures to combat poaching and illegal trade of flora and fauna, to strengthen the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, combat uncontrolled fires, disseminate environmental education, restore degraded areas and support the participation of local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Among the strategic objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) 2015 – 2024 is biodiversity conservation and community development, which call for the urgency of strengthening law enforcement to combat poaching and illegal logging, improve the livelihoods of local communities and their participation in biodiversity conservation.

It is important to underline that the project “Strengthening the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around protected areas” is consistent with the priorities of the Government of Mozambique as expressed in its policies, strategies and action plans, and will strengthen the capacity of national institutions and local communities to combat wildlife crime.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Mozambique (UNDAF) 2017 – 2020 is aligned with national and international development instruments, notably the Government’s Five Year Programme, 2015-2019 and the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2015-2030). UNDAF 2017-2020 strives towards a situation where “The population of Mozambique, especially those living in the most vulnerable conditions, enjoy prosperity through equitable access to resources and quality services in a peaceful and sustainable environment”. The project fits into UNDAF result area 4 (planet), which focuses on the protection of the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations. Natural resource management allows the conservation of biodiversity, the creation of employment and livelihoods, it ensures vulnerable groups equitable access to natural resources. The Outcome of UNDAF result area 4 is that most vulnerable people in Mozambique benefit from inclusive, equitable and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

The project contributes to meeting objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as follows: **Goal 1 ending poverty:** through rural development opportunities provided by community-engagement and livelihood improvement interventions at two project sites in Gorongosa and Niassa e.g. application of conservation agriculture, ecotourism opportunities, wildlife ranching, but also through facilitating learning and engagement opportunities. Furthermore the project touches on **Goal 2 - food security, Goal 6 - access to water, and Goal 8 - decent work and economic growth. Goals 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns** will address both, reducing demand for illegal wildlife products and improvement of natural resource and agricultural production in PA buffer and usage zones. **Goal 15 Life on land:** numerous efforts will be made through the project to improve terrestrial ecosystem management via Conservancy and community co-management development. **Goal 16 Peaceful and inclusive development:** is especially embedded into project Component 3, which also entails specific Human Wildlife Conflict resolution interventions. It also is addressed through Component 1 and 2, which aim to support domestic law enforcement and reducing the level of crime and security risk to communities

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>

associated with wildlife and forest crime and IWT. **Goal 17 Means of implementation and partnerships:** bringing Mozambique as a critical player into a 19-country strong global \$131 million Global Wildlife Programme (GWP)<sup>7</sup> that is expected to leverage \$704 million in additional co-financing over seven years.

## 2.2. Problems that the project sought to address

The high international demand for wildlife products, poverty of local communities, and insufficient national awareness on sustainable use of natural resources are key **root causes** of poaching, Wildlife and Forest Crime, Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and habitat degradation in Mozambique. The obstacles targeted by the project are listed below. These have been identified as the main barriers for Mozambique's Protected Areas that are to be strengthened:

1. National level action on Wildlife and Forest Crime (to realize the long-term solution) is not sufficiently coordinated. Mozambique is a signatory of CITES but badly needs institutional and technical capacity as well as strong international collaboration on IWT issues. Capacity for complex enforcement, including the necessary equipment, training and manpower, are a core constraint at all levels and a dedicated unit dealing with wildlife crimes is absent in ANAC.
2. Gaps in establishing a motivated and reliable work force, lack of adequate housing, infrastructure, equipment, means of transport, communication, coordination and training to address poaching and IWT. There are several critical gaps that need to be addressed related to strengthening the biodiversity and law enforcement chains, including on community outreach and engagement, collaboration, staff motivation, equipment, infrastructure and means of transport.
3. Lack of relevant structures, capacities and economic incentives for involvement of local communities in wildlife conservation and sustainable natural resource management. In order to sustain the long-term benefits of wildlife and forest crime enforcement at the level of affected local communities, there have to be alternative, sustainable economic activities that (along with strong enforcement) make poaching a highly unattractive and risky activity. Further, local communities need to improve their living conditions and see benefits in conservation. A key legal barrier has been overcome by the enactment of the Conservation Law of 2014, which creates enabling conditions for setting up of conservancies and community managed PAs, yet, the planning, physical investments and capacity constraints for an effective implementation of the law needs to be supported and addressed.

Other threats that Mozambique's vulnerable Protected Areas face are the blocking of the movement and migration corridors of big animals, the conflict of farming along animal corridors and animal poaching.

Hence, the project addresses Mozambique's necessity to establish a national system that can effectively address the adverse impacts of wildlife poaching and generate a strategic shift towards a community-based conservation approach, where wildlife conservation becomes one of the primary assets to the economic development of these rural communities.

## 2.3. Project description and strategy

While conservation efforts have been significantly up-scaled in Mozambique since the end of the civil war in 1992, there are several threats affecting biodiversity. Significant increase in wildlife crime has taken place, adding to the pressures caused by uncontrolled subsistence hunting by poor communities. Since 2014 the poaching has increased, targeting not only elephants but additional threatened species, such as lions, pangolins and others. The international market for wildlife products is still of low risk and highly profitable. Subsistence poaching also threatens a wide variety of globally endangered species. With local communities expanding further into conservation areas and growing populations in need of food and income, the threats to wildlife and forest resources accelerate at alarming rates, nullifying conservation gains of recent years. The main proposed project

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GWPBrochureWEB.pdf>



Objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action.

The proposed project is carefully designed to achieve following Long-Term Impact: Populations of threatened wildlife in Mozambique are stable or increasing. Elephant, cheetah, lion, and leopard were selected as GWP flagship species to measure success of the programme over the long term (10-15 years). Thus, 20% of increase of target species populations is projected in the project sites by the end of the project (Baseline - Elephants: 4900, Big cats: 4500). This Long-Term Impact is going to be achieved via decreasing of key threats for the wildlife: Decreased IWT, Reduced Poaching, Decreased Human-Wildlife Conflicts, Sustainable Logging and Sustainable Agriculture. By the end of the project, expected decrease of poaching for elephants and lions is at least 80% in comparison with 2016; 80% decrease of annual number of Human Wildlife Conflicts (HWCs) is projected in the conservancy areas (baseline – 150 cases).

The expected results of the project were formulated along four main components:

- i. National strategy to promote the value of wildlife and combat illegal wildlife trafficking;
- ii. Strengthening enforcement capacity in key protected areas to combat wildlife crime on the ground;
- iii. Establishing conservancies to expand the Gorongosa PA complex and establishment of community-management arrangements in Niassa NR, bringing sustainable land and forest management benefits, restoring degraded ecosystems and generating livelihoods;
- iv. Gender mainstreaming, Knowledge Management & M&E.

#### **General indicators, assumptions and risks**

The indicators in place to achieve the project goals are presented in the following. Within the logical framework, Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) are proposed, hereafter analyzed. The log frame proposes two general indicators:

- Amount of public funds mobilized to support wildlife protection.
- Niassa: Percentage of local communities working in cooperation with local municipalities to implement wildlife conservation and protection.

**ASSUMPTION:** National W&FC and IWT Strategy prepared and adopted, including a multi-institutional coordination mechanism.

**ASSUMPTION:** National Wildlife Crime Unit will be established by the Government. Collaboration among enforcement agencies will be established. Enforcement officers will use new skills and equipment to control IWT more effectively with adequate support from the Government.

**RISK:** Mozambique is still grappling with insecurity and tensions, particularly around Gorongosa Mountain and in border areas, which may compromise some project's ability to carry out some activities as well as project outputs and outcomes.

**RISK:** Insufficient resources capacity allocated to each institution to successfully execute their role in the national strategy on wildlife crime.

**RISK:** The interests of profit-making groups along the wildlife crime supply chain are stronger than the will to fight the issue from a supply side, undermining the project strategy.

**Outcome 1. National strategy implemented to promote the value of wildlife and biodiversity for Mozambique's national development and to combat illegal wildlife trafficking through a coordinated approach.**

The section below presents the outputs for Outcome 1:



- **Output 1.1.** National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking developed jointly with all national and international role-players.
- **Output 1.2.** Coordination mechanism for implementation of the National Strategy is developed and implemented.
- **Output 1.3.** National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit at ANAC is established and provided with necessary training and equipment.
- **Output 1.4.** ANAC strategy for ranger succession management and IWT control is implemented.
- **Output 1.5.** Center for biodiversity assessment, identification of CITES specimens, and capacity building of customs, police and other relevant institutions is established and supported.

The following indicators are developed:

- Presence of operational coordination mechanism to implement W&FC Strategy.
- Capacity of ANAC on IWT control as indicated by customized UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard.

**ASSUMPTION:** New ranger bases and camps will be used by the PAs to organize permanent and effective control over the area. Wildlife crime monitoring system provides sufficient information for enforcement to implement successful operations and progressively discouraging poaching. Therefore also the end of project targets are reduced.

**ASSUMPTION:** Improved infrastructure and surveillance investments will add significantly to improving METT.

**RISK:** Government agencies unwilling to collaborate and coordinate WC & anti-poaching activities

**RISK:** Earmarked state investments are not made to improve government capacity at central, provincial and local levels to combat wildlife illegal exploitation due to national financial crisis.

**Outcome 2. Wildlife crime is combated on the ground through strengthening enforcement operations in targeted protected area complexes.**

The outputs for Outcome 2 are presented hereafter:

- **Output 2.1.** Law enforcement bases and ranger camps to support permanent protection of wildlife are built in Gorongosa NP and Niassa NR.
- **Output 2.2.** Monitoring system for wildlife and forest crime enforcement is developed, presented to Gorongosa NP and Niassa NR and implemented.

The following indicators are developed:

- Results of law enforcement on poaching and IWT in the project areas (site level):
  - a. # of law enforcement staff/km;
  - b. # of patrol person-days/month;
  - c. # of arrests/patrol month;
  - f. # of wildlife/wildlife product seizures at program sites/year;
  - g. # of investigations that lead to arrests of wildlife/wildlife / products smugglers/ a year;
  - h. # of prosecutions of wildlife/wildlife product smugglers / year;
- Level of management effectiveness at site level as measured by METT score.

**ASSUMPTION:** Relevant government agencies will approve establishment of new community conservancies based on new legislation. Local people are interested to establish conservancies and other relevant co-management

arrangements to improve livelihood.

**ASSUMPTION:** Prevention measure suggested by the project are implemented by local communities to decrease number of HWC.

**ASSUMPTION:** The existing integrated landscape management plan at Gorongosa will be updated.

**ASSUMPTION:** Gorongosa plan further implemented; Niassa work in Mecula-Marrupa corridor added. Specifications for ha extent of area under SLM/SFM for NNR TBD.

**ASSUMPTION:** Local people are actively engaging in Conservation Agriculture (SLM) and SFM activities as a source of additional income.

**RISK:** The capacity needed to operate community conservancies (component 3) and the feasibility of proposed economic activities is underestimated.

**RISK:** The significant project investments into conservancies and community-management in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor could potentially become a magnet for influx of people into the PAs and surrounding areas.

**Outcome 3.** Three new Community Conservancies are created in accordance with the Conservation Act, effectively expanding Gorongosa National Park as well as relevant community-management arrangements are officially established in the Niassa National Reserve.

The section below presents the outputs for Outcome 3:

- **Output 3.1.** Establishment and governance community conservancies is supported.
- **Output 3.2.** Wildlife and Forest Management plans are developed for three conservancies around Gorongosa NP and the Mecula-Marrupa Corridor in Niassa NR.
- **Output 3.3.** Members of conservancies and relevant co-management entities are trained in wildlife management, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and alternative income generation.
- **Output 3.4.** Pilot projects on community based wildlife managements, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration and small business are developed and implemented in two project areas, and lesson learnt from the process documented and shared.
- **Output 3.5.** Human-wildlife conflict prevention and mitigation mechanisms are developed and presented to local communities for implementation.

The following indicators are developed:

- Total number/area of new conservancies officially established in the project areas (ha);
- Annual number of HWC in conservancy area;
- # of integrated landscape management plans implemented;
- Area (ha) under SLM/SFM.

**ASSUMPTION:** Other stakeholders are interested in the lessons learned by this project.

**ASSUMPTION:** Other stakeholders are interested to participate in the project M&E. Government of Mozambique welcomes broad participation of organizations in M&E activities. Women are interested to participate in the project directly.

**Outcome 4:** Lessons learned by the project through gender mainstreaming, participatory M&E are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community based conservation nationally and internationally

The section below presents the outputs for Outcome 4:

- **Output 4.1.** Gender mainstreaming strategy implemented;
- **Output 4.2.** M&E provides sufficient information for adaptive management and learning via active participation of key stakeholders in the project implementation;
- **Output 4.3.** Lessons learned from law enforcement strategies and community based conservation are shared on national and international levels.

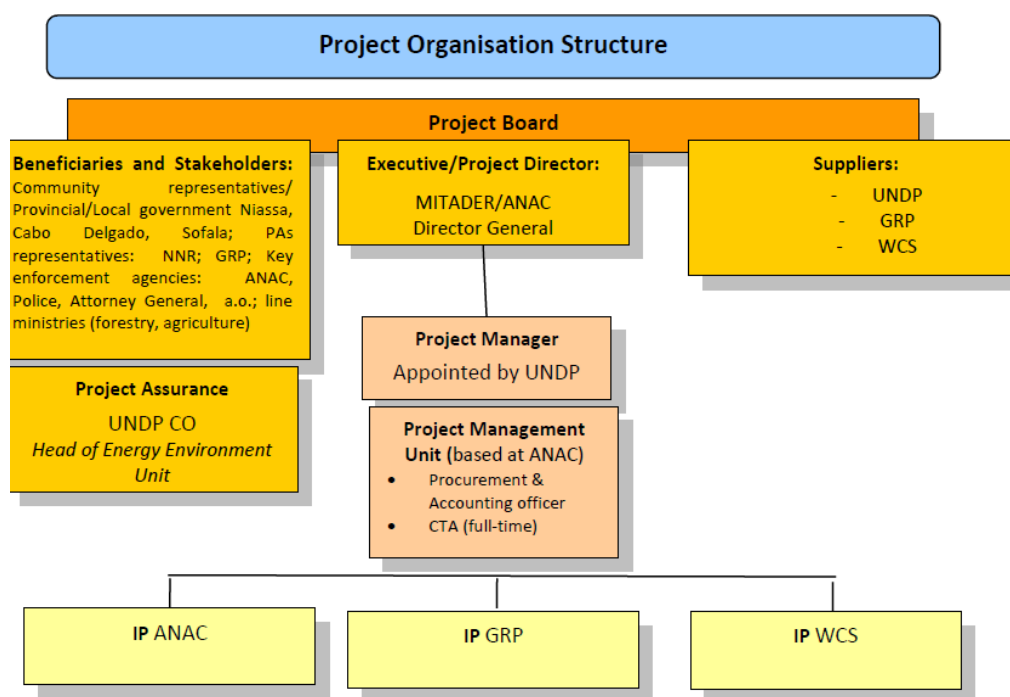
The following indicators are developed:

- Number of project lessons on IWT control and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) used in development and implementation of other conservation projects, with at least one lesson on gender mainstreaming.
- Number of national and international organizations that participate in the project M&E and provide feedback to the Management Team; (b) % of women among all participants of the project activities, including M&E

## 2.4 Project Implementation Arrangements

The project implementation arrangements are summarized in Figure 2.

**Figure 2:** Project Organisational chart



The organizational chart above shows the structure of the project.

As of November 8, 2022, the project coordination and the project management team consist of the following persons:

- UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser: Mr. Goetz SCHROTH (goetz.schroth@undp.org)
- Project Manager/Coordinator: Ms. Lolita Fondo (lolita.hilario@undp.org)
- UNDP Country Office Programme Officer: Ms. Eunice MUCACHE (eunice.mucache@undp.org)
- GEF Operational Focal Point: Ms. Cidalia Mahumane (cidalia.mahumane@anac.gov.mz) and
- Claudio Afonso (claudio.afonso@mta.gov.mz)

- Project Implementing Partners: Ms. Celmira da Silva (Director General – ANAC), Mr. Mike Marchington GRP (mikem@gorongosa.net) and Mr. Afonso Madope (amadope@wcs.org).

The project is implemented by UNDP under the National Implementation Modality (NIM), which focus on a gradual building of national capacity and ownership of the project. It is the national government, through its designated agency (the executing agency) that assumes responsibility for project execution and delivery of programme activities to achieve project outputs and outcomes. The implementing agency, UNDP should be responsible for: (i) providing financial and audit services to the project; (ii) recruitment and contracting of project staff; (iii) overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC); (iv) appointment of independent financial auditors and evaluators; and (v) ensuring that all activities, including procurement and financial services, are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP/GEF procedures. NIM is successfully used when there is satisfactory technical and administrative capacity in national institutions to assume the responsibility for mobilizing and applying effectively the required inputs to reach the expected outputs. However, on the other hand, it is also expected that NIM will contribute to the building of national technical expertise, strengthen institution capacities and build national ownership of the project.

The implementing partners are the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) at central level, (project component 1 and 4), Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for the implementation of activities on the ground (component 2, 3 and 4). At ANAC two Directorates of Services are engaged in project implementation, namely Protection and Law Enforcement, and Planning and Studies (responsible for planning, reporting, including monitoring and evaluation). The implementing partner is accountable to UNDP CO. The UNDP CO provides technical and administrative support and monitors the implementation of the project according to the UNDP regulations and procedures.

## 2.5 Project Timing and Milestones

The Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting took place in July 20, 2017 It was highlighted that the official launch of the implementation of the project would take place as soon as the members of the Project Management Unit (PMU) were recruited.

The project implementation officially started in March 2018 with the project document signature.

Other key project dates are listed below:

- Submission Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014
- Concept approval by the GEF: 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2015
- CEO Endorsement / Project approved for Implementation: 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017
- Date of mid-term review: October to December 2022
- Expected date of terminal evaluation: January 2024
- Original Planned closing date: December 2023.

### 3. FINDINGS

#### 3.1. Project strategy

##### **Project design**

In this part, the design of the project as outlined in the Project Document is analyzed in order to identify whether the strategy is proving to be effective in reaching the desired results.

The proposed project Objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action. The project Objective will be achieved through the implementation of three project Components that address three key barriers for effective reduction of poaching, IWT and unsustainable natural resource management.

To respond to the growing wildlife crisis and international call for action, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2015 launched the GWP<sup>8</sup>. Led by the World Bank, the GWP is a \$131 million grant program designed to address wildlife crime across 19 countries in Africa and Asia. The GWP serves as a platform for international coordination, knowledge exchange, and delivering action on the ground. The GWP builds and strengthens partnerships by supporting collaboration amongst national projects, captures and disseminates lessons learned, and coordinates with implementing agencies and international donors to combat IWT globally. National projects within the GWP form an integral part of a community of practice that promotes the sharing of best practices and technical resources. Mozambique is a national project under the GWP and during the first year of implementation of the global program, Mozambique already benefited from participation in two in person knowledge exchange events that were held in Kenya and Vietnam. These events brought the GWP countries together to exchange experiences on various anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, and demand reduction issues. During project execution, Mozambique will also have access to the documentation and materials produced during other virtual- and in-person meetings of relevance to the activities to be carried out in the country, especially those on effective anti-poaching and IWT control, Community based wildlife management (CBWM) and PA management. Mozambique is committed to engaging with GWP partners on joint efforts that will help with the project implementation, including issues related to human wildlife conflict and other technical areas. The project was designed to align and complement priority activities implemented by the central, provincial and district government authorities, which fosters country ownership of the project. The project also complements and was designed considering the lessons learnt from projects implemented by other multilateral and bilateral partners as well as NGOs investments in the combat to W & FC, both at central level (ANAC) and in the implementation sites (e.g. funded by USAID, AFD, European Union, among other donors).

##### **Analysis of the risks**

The risks were identified, their probability and impact correctly ranked and adequate measures were implemented to mitigate the impact on project activities. However, the deterioration of security in Niassa SR associated with terrorist attacks in November and December 2021 had not been anticipated and severely impacted project activities and results as this caused dispersion of the households and reserve staff in search for security. Reserve staff and District government focused attention to humanitarian assistance to households rather than to promote community based natural resource management. The implementation of the project was also affected by attacks to ranger outposts by armed men and by the blockage of access to some areas of the Gorongosa NP by rangers and park managers due to the presence of armed men. The anticipated climate change related risks were restricted to the probability of occurrence of drought. However, floods and heavy winds associated with cyclone Idai caused severe destruction of infrastructure, local economy and need of humanitarian assistance to local communities in the buffer zone of the Gorongosa NP in March 2019. The emergence of the covid-19 pandemic had not been foreseen and affected project activities at national and protected area level as travel and meetings were all restricted.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GWPBrochureWEB.pdf>

## Results framework / log frame

The logical framework is structured along the general objective, and broken down into specific objectives. The evaluation team analyzed each specific objective and planned intervention further below.

The project is carefully designed to achieve the following Long-Term Impact (or GEB): Populations of threatened wildlife in Mozambique are stable or increasing. Elephant, cheetah, lion, and leopard were selected as GWP flagship species to measure success of the programme over the long term (10-15 years). Thus, 20% of increase of target species populations is projected in the project sites by the end of the project (Baseline - Elephants: 4,900, Big cats: 4,500).

This Long-Term Impact is going to be achieved via decreasing of key threats for the wildlife: Decreased IWT, Reduced Poaching, Decreased Human-Wildlife Conflicts, Sustainable Logging and Sustainable Agriculture. By the end of the project expected decrease of poaching for elephants and lions is at least 80% in comparison with 2016; 80% decrease of annual number of HWCs is projected in the conservancy areas (baseline – 150 cases).

Threat reduction for wildlife and its habitat will be achieved via achievement of following Objective Outcomes:

1. Increased number of inspections/patrols, seizures, arrests and prosecutions of poachers and IW traders on national and regional level (project areas). By the end of the project 50% increase in wildlife product seizures (60 cases/year) (baseline – 30 cases/year) and 800% increase in the successful prosecution of poachers and traders in the project sites (baseline – 1 case a year) are projected.
2. Increased area of conservancies and increased benefits for local communities from CBWM and CBNRM. Projected increase by the end of the project is 62% increase in number of local communities benefiting from CBNRM (68 communities) (baseline – 42) and 40% increase in number of people benefiting from CBNRM (127,705; 53% - females) (baseline – 91,705; 52% females). MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women, MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability).

### 3.2. Progress towards results

A key objective of the MTR is to review progress toward results. This has been assessed based on data from the Project Document, project work plans, GEF Tracking Tools, PIRs and the findings of the MTR mission (observations, FGDs, KII and interviews with project beneficiaries). The progress towards the objective and each outcome was assessed qualitatively as follows: the end-of-project target has already been achieved (colour green), it is partially achieved or on track to be achieved by the end of the project (colour yellow); or is at high risk of not being achieved by the end of the project and needs attention (colour red). Then an “Achievement Rating” was assigned for the project objective and each outcome, based on the achievement towards the midterm targets and the end-of-projects targets shown under the relevant indicators and using the 6-point Progress Towards Results (Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU) (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Global status report of the project

Project strategy	Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
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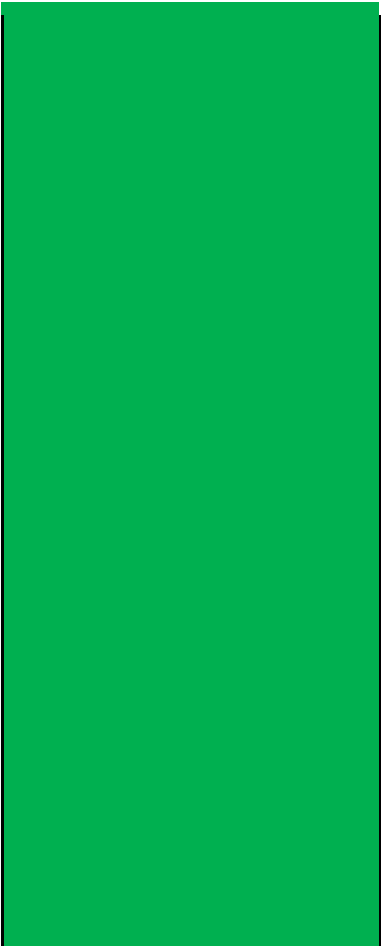
<p><b>Objective:</b> To strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action</p>	<p>Indicator 1. IRR Output 2.5 indicator 2.5.1: Extent to which national legal, policy, and institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>	<p>No National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy adopted No WCU exists</p>	<p>National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy adopted by GoM (received the endorsement of the Council of Ministers)</p> <p>WCU is established with at least 3 technical staff</p>	<p>National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy implemented</p> <p>WCU fully staffed and operational</p>			MS	<p>National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy approved. It still needs wide dissemination and implementation</p> <p>Development and approval of security plans for protected areas</p> <p>The WCU was created in the form of an Anti-Poaching Coordination Center (APCOC) in Magude district. It is led by ANAC and includes representatives from Policy for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment - PPRNMA, General Attorney, National Services for Crime Investigation - SERNIC; and Game Farm Scouts (private sector). The creation of APCOC is part of the implementation of the National W &amp; FC and IWT Strategy The conservation law (No. 16/2014 of 20 June) was revised and republished as Law no 5/2017 of 11 May and its Regulation approved (Decree no 89/2017, 31<sup>st</sup> December), which</p>
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						<p>includes heavy penalties for perpetrators of WC. Prosecutors and judges were trained in conservation law to improve the prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases. This increased the number of convictions and weight of the penalties</p> <p>The customs have been trained by ANAC CITES unit in the identification of parts of wildlife species to improve their capacity to deter illegal cross border traffickers</p> <p>Some key structural documents are still being developed such as the ranger succession plan and the gender strategy</p>
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	Indicator 2. Number of direct project beneficiaries: - (UNDAF indicator 9.4.2): Nº. of communities benefiting from NRM related revenues - Number of local people in project areas benefiting from engagement in conservation activities and/or improved livelihoods attributable to the project (male/female)	42 (2014)  44,263 (male) 47,442 (female)	52  50,263 (male) 57,442 (female)	68  60,263 (male) 57,442 (female)		MS	GRP 143 communities (povoados) 4,894 males/2,777 females (7,671 is the total number of people benefiting from conservation activities) NSR - 14 communities have been identified along the Mussoma–Mecula corridor as well as another 11 communities indirectly influenced by the corridor, totalizing 25 communities. The GRP has already reached and exceeded the expected MTR and end of project target for number of communities benefiting from the project, while Niassa still working in this process, after the identification of priority communities to benefit from the project. The low density of people in the Niassa province and the nomadism of the population contributed to the low progress
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	Indicator 3. Number of individuals of IWT flagship species (e.g. lion, cheetah, leopard, rhino, elephant) at the project sites (site level)	<i>Elephants: 4900</i> <i>Big cats: 4500</i>	<i>Elephants: 5300</i> <i>Big cats: 4865</i>	<i>Elephants: 5961</i> <i>Big cats: 5475</i>		MS		<u>GRP</u> Elephants: 800 - 1000 individual in 2022 Big cats: 180 lions, 123 wild dogs and 5 leopards in 2022 <u>NSR:</u> Elephants: 3238 Big cats: Lions (800 – 1000), wild dog 325; leopard 1260) The target for the population of elephants and big cats at MTR are lower than the baseline value. The incidence of threats to big cats such as snaring remains high in both GNP and Niassa SR Despite a decline in mortality caused by poaching for IWT, the target elephant numbers has not been achieved yet. There is no elephant census done in the Niassa SR since the National wildlife census conducted in 2018
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<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> National strategy implemented to promote the value of wildlife and biodiversity for Mozambique's national development and to combat illegal wildlife trafficking through a coordinated approach</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.</b> Presence of operational coordination mechanism to implement W&amp;FC Strategy</p>	<p>No coordination mechanism in place</p>	<p><i>Coordination mechanism set up</i></p>	<p>Coordination mechanism fully operational, with at least quarterly meetings taking place, and at least 10 major institutions/players represented</p>		<p>S</p>	<p>Established and operationalized an Anti-Poaching Coordination Center (APCOC). APCOC was created as a modification of the WCU, which had been planned to be based in Maputo city, which would potentially not be effective in coordinating operations to combat wildlife crime in critical areas. APCOC focuses on coordination of law enforcement operations on the ground, including transboundary coordination with antipoaching teams in South Africa</p>
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<b>Indicator 2.</b> Capacity of ANAC on IWT control as indicated by customized UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Score of 43	Score of 65	Score of 80		MS	The ranger succession plan is still under preparation. The lack of this plan is a major constraint to strengthen law enforcement capacity at protected areas level. The plan would also create the basis for the implementation of the ranger statutes, which provides guidelines for the promotion and training of scouts, which would increase their motivation
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<b>Outcome 2:</b> Wildlife crime is combated on the ground through strengthening enforcement operations in targeted protected area complexes	<b>Indicator 1.</b> Results of law enforcement on poaching and IWT in the project areas (site level): a. # of law enforcement staff/km²[1] b. # of patrol person-days/month c. # of arrests/patrol month f. # of wildlife/wildlife product seizures at program sites / year g. # of investigations that lead to arrests of wildlife/wildlife / products smugglers/ a year h. # of prosecutions of wildlife/wildlife product smugglers / year Indicator	a.0.0053  b. 1800  c .0.4  f. 30  g. 2 h. 1	a. 0.006 b. 2000 c. 2 f. 60 g. 10 h. 8	a. 0.008 b. 2400 c. 1 f. 30 g. 8 h. 8			MS	<u>GRP</u> a. 0.045 b. 2159 c. 0.2 f. 11 g. 7 h. 19 <u>NSR</u> a. 0.0023 (NSR only/38041km²); 0.0054 (if combined NSR and private operators scouts/38041 km²) b. 1392 c. 4 f. 19 ivory, 1 elephant tail; 40 nails, 60 lion teeth; bushmeat (1564 kg) g. 9 h. 23 (No. of Processes Judged) More than 80% of planned law enforcement infrastructure has been built or upgraded to expand the coverage of law enforcement to remote areas. The GRP has been able to recruit and equip scouts and has already surpassed the target for almost all indicators of law enforcement. However, in the Niassa SR the level at Midterm is lower than the baseline
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Indicator 2. Level of management effectiveness at site level as measured by METT score	GRP: 69 Niassa: 43	GRP: 72 <i>Niassa: 50</i>	GRP: 78 Niassa: 60		MS	GRP: 79 Niassa: 46  GNP has reached the target for the end of the project METT score. However, Niassa SR has not reached the target at Midterm and is unlikely to reach the target set for the end of project
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<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Three new Community Conservancies are created in terms of the Conservation Act, effectively expanding Gorongosa National Park as well as relevant community-management arrangements are officially established in the Niassa National Reserve.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.</b> Total number/area of new conservancies officially established in the project areas (ha)</p>	<p>GRP: 0/0 Niassa: Ha of Mecula-Marrupa corridor (TBD at inception): 0/0 under conservation agreement</p>	<p>GRP: 1/35,000 Niassa: Area (ha) (TBD at inception) /20% of corridor under conservation / SLM/sust. NRM Agreement</p>	<p>GRP: 3/130,000 (fully gazetted) Niassa: Area (ha) (TBD at inception) / 70% of corridor under conservation / SLM/sust. NRM agreement</p>		<p>MS</p>	<p>GRP: 3 conservancies covering 13102 ha were officially gazetted, namely CCA of Nhamacuenguere (5400 ha), Bebedo CCA (3028 ha) and Nhampoca CCA (4674 ha) NSR: No community-management arrangements are officially established in the Niassa SR. The GNP achieved the number of community conservancies targeted. However, to reach the target area covered by the conservancies, proposals to create two more conservancies await approval by the Council of Ministers/Central Government No areas established under conservation agreement in the NSR. However, work is in progress, the proposed Community Management Unit area covering 962 km<sup>2</sup> (9,620,000 ha) has been defined, included in the</p>
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								Niassa SR Management Plan and presented to community, district and provincial authorities. ANAC has recently declared that L4E will become a community concession.
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	<p><b>Indicator 2.</b> Annual number of HWC in conservancy area</p>	<p>GNP: 150 NNR: baseline will be established in the first year of the project that)</p>	<p>GNP: 80 NNR: 30% decrease</p>	<p>GNP: 30 NNR: 50% decrease</p>		MS	<p>GRP: The number of HWC has been increasing in the southern conservancy, involving mainly the following species: elephants, buffalos and crocodiles, despite the strategies implemented to mitigate the conflict and promote human-wildlife coexistence. NSR: The number of HWC events has fluctuated over the years, without a clear and consistent trend. Elephant and buffalo are the species most involved in incidents. The GRP and Niassa SR implement a combination of various methods to promote the coexistence between humans and wildlife. However, these cover a low % of beneficiaries. The frequency and severity of HWC remains high and threatens human lives and livelihoods</p>
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	Indicator 3. # of integrated landscape management plans implemented	1	2	2		S	<p>There are two plans being implemented:</p> <p>(i) The plan for the Gorongosa National Park and Buffer Zone, that was published in the Boletim da República in 2016;</p> <p>(ii) The “Phase 1 Management Plan - Coutada 12 (GNP)” that completed in May 2019.</p> <p>Management Plans were developed for the CCA (Bebedo, Nhampoca, Nhamacuenguere, Piro and Catemo/Cheringoma), which include guidelines for sustainable forest management, restoration of degraded areas, agroforestry, conservation agriculture. The plans are being implemented in the context of operationalization of the CCA</p> <p>NSR:</p> <p>Draft Management Plan for Niassa SR was developed and submitted to ANAC in 2022, currently awaiting approval</p>
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	<b>Indicator 4.</b> Area (ha) under SLM/SFM	361,900	450,000	600,000		MS	Currently, an area of about 15,000 ha is being zoned for conservation agriculture activities. The GRP is managing the former CMM forest concession and there are other forest concessions such as LevasFlor, which contribute to sustainable and integrated landscape management and connectivity of wildlife habitats in the Gorongosa-Marromeu corridor
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Lessons learned by the project through gender mainstreaming, participatory M&E are used to fight poaching and IWT and promote community based conservation nationally and internationally	<b>Indicator 1.</b> Number of project lessons on IWT control and CBNRM used in development and implementation of other conservation projects, with at least one lesson on gender mainstreaming	0	2	5		MS	None. There are no projects developed on the basis of lessons learned on IWT and CBNRM. The lessons learnt have not been shared in a documented format. However, GRP staff with CBNRM experience consolidated during the implementation of the project contributed with comments during the development of the national strategy for community development in



							remoteness of the area, which causes social challenges
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### **Analysis of Progress Towards Results (including barriers to achieving results)**

As indicated in the table above, several expected outcomes have been achieved or are in a process of being achieved, in particular those related to component 2 (law enforcement). Nevertheless, as the project ends its 5<sup>th</sup> year of implementation (out of seven years planned), there are still some gaps, with some expected outcomes needing acceleration of activities or adjustments of the project in order to be achieved, particularly those related to the engagement of communities in natural resource management in the Niassa SR.

#### **1. Progress towards objective**

The expectation was that, as the result of implementation of the National Strategy to Combat W and FC, and of activities under component 2 (law enforcement) and component 3 (community engagement), the populations of species targeted (elephants and big cats) by IWT would increase. This is being achieved, as revealed by the results of aerial wildlife counts, ground counts and other wildlife monitoring methods taking place in the GNP. However, the Niassa SR faces lack of updated data on population sizes of target species due to lack of regular wildlife counts. The collaboration of partners such as the Niassa Carnivore project has contributed to the availability of updated data on big cats.

#### **2. Progress towards outcome 1**

This is the umbrella outcome for the strengthening of institutional capacity and coordination to CWC. Key documents to structure and guide the development of the law enforcement (LE) sector were planned to be developed and implemented to contribute to the achievement of this outcome.

A remarkable achievement was that the national strategy to combat wildlife crime was prepared and approved. The strategy was developed using a participatory approach, involving consultations of relevant stakeholders (National services for crime investigation - SERNIC, General attorney - PGR, environmental NGOs, national agency for the control of environmental quality - AQUA, protected area managers and donors). A functional analysis of the law enforcement sector was conducted to create the basis for the development of the strategy. The strategy provides guidelines for ANAC and other law enforcement agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective response to tackle wildlife crime, and protect wildlife populations in the country. Apart from the traditional focus of strengthening the law enforcement corps, it also includes an approach of community engagement and environmental education. The National Strategy is aligned with the SADC Wildlife Law Enforcement and Antipoaching (LEAP) and international efforts to curb IWT (e.g. CITES).

The Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) was created in the form of an Antipoaching Coordination Center (APCOC) located in Magde district, a strategic location for the combat of WC, including transboundary WC, rather than a WCU based in Maputo. The APCOC is staffed, equipped and functional. It is represented by the leading institution ANAC, PPRNMA, PGR, SERNIC and private sector (game farms). The inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination improved the access to police rifles and ammunition for use in law enforcement. The shortage of rifles and ammunition is a constraint for expansion of law enforcement capacity in all conservation areas of Mozambique. APCOC has proven to be a mechanism of successful coordination of operations to combat poaching and IWT at local level. However, its potential for countrywide inter-institutional coordination is weak due to being geographically of limited scope. This suggests the need of creating APCOC in other critical sites for the combat to poaching and IWT, with priority to transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs). The lessons learnt from the Magde APCOC can be used to improve the structure and functional mechanisms of future APCOCs.

The conservation law (No. 16/2014 of 20 June) was revised and republished as Law n° 5/2017 of 11 May. This revision has stiffened penalties for poaching and trafficking of endangered wildlife species' products, expanded

ANAC's mandate to also be responsible for the management and protection of wildlife outside protected areas. The role of ANAC in the investigation of IWT was heightened by its assignment of the role of assistant to the general attorney in the investigation and prosecution of WC. Prosecutors and judges were trained in conservation law to improve the prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases. This interaction improved the relationship between ANAC and the judiciary institutions in the prosecution of wildlife crime cases, which increased the motivation of scouts. Important to note that both Gorongosa NP and Niassa SR Law Enforcement departments have lawyers as part of their full time staff, specifically to assist in the prosecution of wildlife and forestry crime cases. The current challenge is that trained prosecutors and judges are transferred to other districts, which creates the need of continuous training programs to staff of justice administration institutions.

Through the project, ANAC has improved its human resource capacity and is still in the process of acquiring equipment for the law enforcement operations room at ANAC. This room to be equipped with platforms such as Earth Ranger and Smart will enable permanent communication, coordination and monitoring of law enforcement operations in each conservation area by ANAC.

Nevertheless, the implementation of activities related to the achievement of this outcome is to some extent behind schedule as some tools such as the ranger succession plan and the gender mainstreaming strategy are still being prepared, not yet approved, which means that there will be probably little time to implement them as part of this project. The ranger succession plan is a fundamental document to lay off incapacitated staff and recruit and train younger, healthy and motivated new field staff for improved anti-poaching action on the ground. The lack of a succession plan and opportunity to recruit new rangers is a serious bottleneck for the strengthening of law enforcement in all protected areas of the country, with the exception of Gorongosa NP, which has been able to recruit and train new rangers using GRP funds. The GRP has been authorized and approved by ANAC to recruit and train new rangers.

### **3. Progress towards outcome 2**

The focus of project intervention under this outcome is the expansion and strengthening of law enforcement in the Gorongosa NP and Niassa SR to combat direct causes of decline of target wildlife species, mainly elephants and big cats. More than 80% of planned LE infrastructure has been built or upgraded to expand the coverage of LE to remote areas. LE operations are supported by GIS platforms and by intelligence units, to increase efficiency and effectiveness. The GRP has been able to recruit and equip scouts and has already surpassed the target for almost all indicators of LE. However, in the Niassa SR the level of achievement at Midterm is lower than the baseline, which means that despite the expansion of infrastructure, LE has not been effectively expanded due to lack of recruitment of scouts, death or retirement of scouts, shortage of vehicles, large size of the reserve, among other reasons. In Niassa SR private hunting operators contribute with staff and equipment for law enforcement.

The GEF-6 project completed the building of LE offices in Chitengo and 9 ranger outposts to expand the coverage of LE to remote areas, each consisting of dormitories for 4 rangers, ablutions and kitchen, solar panel and water supply system. The infrastructure will improve the work conditions and increase the motivation of the rangers. Despite the comfortable lodging conditions at outposts, to expand the LE coverage and its effectiveness in the combat to wildlife crime, a mobile approach will remain the main patrolling strategy. In applying this strategy, patrolling teams use temporary camps during 7 days and return to the outposts for 1 day for washing clothes and rest in a comfortable place.

The GNP has 300 rangers, out of which 12 are female (4%). New rangers are recruited and trained annually by Conservation Outcomes (a private company based in South Africa), except in 2020 due to restrictions caused



by the covid-19 pandemic and in 2021 due to lack of rifles to provide to the new rangers. The GNP has 4 instructors who provide refresher training to rangers. The training of rangers include topics on conservation law, wildlife crime, organized crime, among other topics. 90% of the rangers are recruited in the communities/villages in the buffer zone of the park to create jobs and improve livelihoods. On the contrary, the Niassa SR has not been able to recruit scouts in the last 5 years, because it relies on ANAC's opening of vacancies. As a consequence, the number of scouts involved in patrolling has been declining due to death, retirement and deterioration of physical capacity due to old age or chronic diseases.

In both protected areas, LE is supported by an intelligence unit composed by rangers connected to a network of informants who inform the park on the movements of poachers and traffickers, including indications of crimes outside protected areas. To enhance the efficacy/effectiveness of the intelligence units there is a need to invest in advanced technology to collect data and robust evidences, e.g. recorders, tactical cameras, etc. because the perpetrators of wildlife crime are constantly upgrading the technology used for crime.

Both protected areas, have law enforcement operation rooms equipped with a GIS based Earth ranger platform. Selected staff were trained for effective use of the Earth ranger platform. Data obtained from collars fitted on some key wildlife species (elephants, lions, vultures, leopard and some antelope species) supports the planning and monitoring of law enforcement operations (e.g. deployment of ground patrolling teams, deployment of aerial means to areas of difficult access by ground teams, among other uses). In the GNP the Earth ranger platform is also used to monitor elephant movements and deploy rangers for intervention to support human-wildlife coexistence. This platform is also used by LE managers to monitor the effort of patrolling teams (for example, distances travelled, locations patrolled, among other data). Similar platforms will be installed at ANAC to improve communication and coordination between ANAC and protected areas on LE operations.

In the Niassa SR, the project covers the costs of aerial patrolling and monitoring, particularly during the wet season months when most of the area is not accessible by vehicles. This improves the effectiveness of law enforcement against poaching and illegal logging, and also contributes in the collection of ecological monitoring data in areas not accessible by road. The limitation is the low number of flight hours and unavailability of the aerial means during most of the dry season. An effective LE should have a proactive approach to prevent wildlife crime from taking place, rather than a reactive approach, which consists of mobilization of patrolling resources after the crime has happened. Due to limited resource, most LE operations are reactive.

There are no opportunities to study and increase the academic qualifications of the scouts. Training (e.g. distance learning) would create the basis for promotion of scouts, and increase their motivation. It would also increase the quality of wildlife crime instruction processes (*auto de notícia*) and improve the overall prosecution process. The training of scouts requires guidance from ANAC. The awards are limited to the position of best scout of the year. The improvement of LE incentives (for examples, awards and recognition associated with important arrests) would increase the motivation of the scouts and reduce the vulnerability of them for being bribed by the perpetrators of W & FC.

Overall, the GRP is on track to achieve the target of all the indicators by the end of the project. It was anticipated that the number of arrests/patrol/month, number of wildlife/wildlife product seizures at program sites / year and number of investigations that lead to arrests, would reduce with the implementation of the projects. The results show that the target at the end of the project has already been achieved. This result, combined with an increase in the populations of target species, is an evidence of an effective law enforcement and reduction of WC in the GNP and its buffer zone. The number of prosecutions of wildlife/wildlife product smugglers / year seems to have increased. This could be an indication of an improvement of patrolling efficiency and in the preparation of the prosecution processes, as a result of training of rangers in conservation law. It could also mean that due to the training of staff of the judiciary institution, which increased their sensitivity to wildlife

conservation issues, pending cases from previous year where judged and sentenced. This successful LE operations is the result of a combination of methods, including patrolling by park scouts (ground, air, boat), collaboration with local communities and the use of intelligence. The intelligence unit needs strengthening in terms of provision of updated technology and equipment, and funds for operation costs. The lack of rifles and ammunition is a constraint for the recruitment of new scouts. The engagement of community rangers integrated in NRMCS created in the buffer zone contributes to the effectiveness of LE mainly through sharing of information on the movements of potential crime perpetrators. Despite this progress, it is relevant to mention that the expansion of LE to remote areas of the GNP has been to some extent constrained by attacks to ranger outposts by armed men and some areas of the park remain not accessible to the rangers and park managers due to the presence of the armed men.

In the Niassa SR, despite the expansion of LE infrastructure to remote areas, the actual LE effort has not been expanded because the reserve has not been able to recruit and increase the number/density of scouts, and thereby increase the number of patrol person-days/month. On the contrary, the number of scouts has been reducing due to death, retirement, deterioration of physical capacity for foot patrolling due to old age or chronic diseases. Even with the contribution of private sector hunting operators in LE, the achievements at MTR are below the baseline. The number of arrests is increasing, which in one hand might indicate an effective patrolling in detecting and arresting perpetrators, but also an indication that the level of W & FC is high and that the project has not yet contributed to its halting. The expansion of LE in the Niassa SR is still constrained by: low number of scouts, lack of rifles and ammunition, shortage of vehicles for rapid and effective operations in a protected area of large size and bad road, low number of flight hours for patrolling, low number of equipment such as GPS and data loggers which are shared among patrolling teams, lack of opportunities for scouts to continue their education or to improve their LE skills. The low number of scouts should be compensated by an improvement of equipment and technology. There are only two natural resource management committees (NRMCS) that were reactivated. However, these had been created mainly to receive and manage the 20% share of the revenue generated from the use of natural resources. The focus of the Niassa SR community conservation strategy is to work with communities to build up their own capacity for sustainable natural resource management. The NRMCS undertake awareness campaigns in the communities, to reduce threats to biodiversity, mainly poaching, uncontrolled fires and use of destructive fishing methods.

METT score: management effectiveness of the Niassa SR as indicated by the METT score has not improved significantly since the start of the project. The METT score at Midterm is 46. The Niassa SR is unlikely able to achieve the target of 60 by the end of the project. There are chronic challenges related to protected area context and design that will not be overcome in the next few years, such as the unclear boundary, which contributes to its progressive invasion by local communities, habitat conversion and fragmentation. The lack of an approved management plan, the lack of land use plans in the surrounding landscape, lack of initiatives to protect wildlife corridors, the shortage of funds for biodiversity monitoring and the weak interaction and engagement of communities and other stakeholders are other weaknesses for an effective management of the reserve. The GNP METT score at Midterm has surpassed the target for the end of the project.

#### **4. Progress towards outcome 3**

The focus of the project under component 3 is to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation and improvement of livelihoods through the creation of community conservancies and promotion of sustainable use natural resource management in the buffer zone of the GNP and in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor.

In the buffer zone of the GNP, three community conservancies (CCA) have been officially created covering about 130000 hectares, and two are in an advanced stage of creation, awaiting for final approval by the Council of

Ministers. Several activities are ongoing in the conservancies to manage or restore wildlife and their habitats, develop livelihoods and increase human-wildlife coexistence. These activities are carried out by different groups created and trained by the project. The activities include restoration activities in the Bebedo conservancy, where more than 3,000 seedlings were planted in about 14 hectares to restore areas degraded by slash and burn shifting cultivation, charcoal production and logging. Reforestation and agroforestry activities are led by a group of 15 community members trained by the project on seed collection, nursery establishment and maintenance, and seedling planting. A forestry nursery was established in the Bebedo community, but there is a need to increase the diversity of species and the size of the nursery to supply community members the seedlings of tree species that increase soil fertility in agroforestry systems. Overall, the GRP supports reforestation in 10 communities of the buffer zone, each with a reforestation team.

The project created or increased the number of community animators in the buffer zone of the GNP, provided training in environmental education and provided them with a manual of environmental education. The animators disseminate the message of environmental conservation. The project also created or increased the number of community rangers and provided training, to support the community in the control of natural resource use, to ensure it is sustainable in the long term, and arrest the perpetrators of environmental crime, in collaboration with GNP rangers. Community animators and rangers were recruited in each village to create opportunity for local people to work with park staff, demonstrate the role community members can play in biodiversity conservation and also prevent long travel distances to conduct environmental awareness campaigns or patrolling. Rangers and animators have uniforms, bicycle for transport and rations to support their activities. Due to the combined actions of animators and rangers, community members are aware of the importance of environmental conservation and of the need to combat poaching and IWT. As a result, illegal activities such as poaching and IWT, uncontrolled fires, slash and burn agriculture reduced considerably in the buffer zone of the GNP. The project supports the construction and operationalization of community education centers in Muanza, to increase the number of community members who benefit from environmental education and training on sustainable livelihood activities such as beekeeping, crafting, among others. The construction of the community education centre in Inhaminga is behind schedule.

The communities understand the concept of community conservancies and contribute to its operationalization by combating different threats to biodiversity. The expectation of the community is that these contribute to the improvement and diversification of livelihoods. The GEF project introduced or strengthened livelihood activities in the buffer zone. However, the potential for significant contribution to livelihoods depends on the natural features of each conservancy. In the southern conservancy, in the Pungue and Urema river catchment, agriculture has high potential for development due to good soils and water availability. The current support by the GRP of a diversified agricultural system including the dissemination of agroforestry and the expansion of strategies to protect crops and harvests from destruction by wildlife are key activities to develop livelihoods of local communities, to ensure that community conservancies have the dual objective of biodiversity conservation and human development. The project introduced or promoted beekeeping as a source of income in Vinho community since 2019. Currently there are 35 beneficiaries. The income generated is used to cover school costs for their children. The beneficiaries were trained in beekeeping and provided with equipment, which creates basis for sustainability. The market is assured, the park buys all the honey produced. However, there is limited opportunity to expand this activity in the southern conservancy because most of the area is degraded by frequent uncontrolled fires and the cutting of trees, hence the potential for honey production is low. On the contrary, the potential for honey production in the Cheringoma conservancy is high due to the prevalence of large areas covered by intact miombo woodlands. A Small Grant Project was granted to the GRP as a seed grant for the development of income generation activities in the Cheringoma conservancy.

The conservancies are still in an initial stage of identifying investment opportunities and development of value chains of priority products. These include the high potential to develop sustainable agriculture and ecotourism

in the southern conservancy; beekeeping, ecotourism, cashew nut production and crafting in the Cheringoma conservancy. The lack of basic infrastructure (access roads, accommodation facilities, clean, among others) and marketing of the attractions, including biodiversity features, caves, sites of historic and cultural value, among others, are key constraints for livelihood development. The potential to develop a local economy based on wildlife (ecotourism or trophy hunting) is high in the southern/Pungue River conservancy. However, it is yet to be developed. The accruing of benefits from wildlife to local communities would demonstrate the value of wildlife to livelihoods, hence increase the tolerance of local communities to human-wildlife conflicts.

To reduce mitigate the impacts of wild animals on livelihoods and promote human-wildlife coexistence, the project built elephant-proof silos to store agricultural harvests, mainly maize. Priority is given to households whose traditional storages facilities have been destroyed by elephants, and to economically vulnerable households such as those headed by widows and the elderly. To protect crop fields from invasion and destruction by wildlife, a mixed fence was built, comprising beehives, steal sheets and ropes painted with creosote. The beehives have a dual objective: human-wildlife coexistence and income generation through the selling of beehive products. A total of 947 beehives (612 colonized) corresponding to 28 beehives per beneficiaries form a mixed fence of 44 km in 7 communities of the buffer zone. The section with beehives seems to be the most effective in deterring elephants from entering crop fields, followed by the steal sheet when there are still new and shiny. However, the overall effectiveness of the fence is limited by its short length, as elephants go through unfenced areas. The fence needs to be expanded and combined with other methods, such as the burn of elephant dung mixed with piripiri (chilli pepper).

These preventive/proactive measures are supported and complemented by a team of rangers in alert to chase away elephants invading community areas (reactive approach). However, the effectiveness of this method is limited by the late arrival of the rangers in the affected areas.

In the GNP the management plans for the conservancies were prepared following a participatory approach. The objective of management plan is to guide the management of the CCA to protect, conserve and use forest and wildlife resources in a sustainable manner. The management plan is structured mainly in three components, namely zoning plan, conservation program and community development program. The focus of the next two years of project implementation should be the implementation of the management plan.

In the Niassa SR, the plan to build a community education center at Mbatamila HQ was changed in favour of building the center near Mecula district village, to allow closer and more frequent interaction between staff of the community conservation department of the Niassa SR with local communities in the Mecula-Marupa corridor and with district Government authorities. The architectural design of the center was finalized, the tender for the construction launched and the construction is planned to start in April 2023. The building will host the whole department of community conservation, including offices, staff accommodation, water supply, meeting room for the community, among other spaces.

No community conservation initiative was established and there are neither management plans nor land use plans developed in the Mecula-Marupa corridor. However, the zoning of the Niassa SR, which is part of the draft Niassa SR management plan indicates potential areas for community concessions for community based natural resource management (for example in bloc L4E, which will be used as a pilot initiative). Some of these delayed interventions of the GEF-6 project will be integrated in the World bank funded MozNorte project, which has a strong focus on strengthening community participation in biodiversity conservation and development of livelihoods. The achievement of indicators related to outcome 3 in the NSR was affected by several factors such as the high staff turnover and the insecurity caused by terrorist attacks. Niassa SR has experienced difficulties in attracting and retaining staff due to remoteness and work regime (shifting schedule), which results in high staff turnover and limited consolidation of plans for the development of the reserve. The remoteness of the

Niassa SR is also a constraint for the increase of number of women in the staff. The community conservation department has been the most affected by staff turnover. As a consequence, the department is still being re-structured and staff being recruited. The Mecula-Marupa corridor was affected by terrorist attacks in November/December 2021. This disrupted the plans for community engagement in different ways. Niassa SR staff fled to safer places and the activities stopped. Households lost their houses (houses were burnt) and other goods and fled to safer places. This resulted in loss of contacts and communication between Niassa SR staff and communities. Niassa SR and district Government invested time and financial resources in humanitarian assistance, rather than on activities planned to strengthen community participation in natural resource management. When security improved, the households returned to their villages but psychologically affected and focused on rebuilding their lives (rebuilding houses and means of livelihood). Other households established settlements in new areas and needed provision of basic services from the Government and partners, including food because they did not produce due to lack of security. This made intervention related to natural resource management not a priority for these communities throughout 2022.

The incidence of human wildlife conflict in the Niassa SR remains high. The project supports the use of several methods to mitigate HWC including a mobile electric fence, use of chili pepper and use of reflective plates, and established a unit to chase away wild animals from organized cultivated fields in the Lugenda river and near Mecula village (*machambas em bloco*). The number of beneficiaries is low due to the dispersed distribution of cultivated fields and human settlements. No land use plans were developed to reduce the negative impacts of human-wildlife conflicts.

Community engagement in conservation requires a long process of interaction to explain concepts and the required changes in the way natural resources are used and the implications for households, to build trust and reach consensus. In the buffer zone of the GNP the targets for most of the indicators have been achieved or are in good track for achievement, not solely due to the activities of this GEF project, but because an enabling environment had already been created by previous GRP activities, which created the conditions for collaboration from local communities and local governments. The process in the Niassa SR is delayed due to issues such as lack of infrastructure and equipment (e.g. vehicles) to support the interaction between Niassa SR staff and local communities, insufficient staff partly associated with high staff turnover, nomadism of communities, low density of people and unforeseen risks such as terrorist attacks.

In both protected areas HWC conflicts remain a threat to human lives and livelihoods, and create negative perceptions about wildlife. Although some methods such as beehive fences seems to deter wild animals from invading areas of settlements and cultivations, and generated income through honey sale, the number of beneficiaries is still a small proportion of the local population.

The development of livelihood is a critical issue for the sustainability of the community conservancies. Local communities might engage in conservation activities in the initial stage of the operationalization of the conservancies, with the expectation that these will contribute to the improvement of their livelihoods. Failure to develop livelihoods can result in failure of the conservancies.

- 3.4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

#### 3.4.1. Finance/co-finance

To date (December 21<sup>th</sup>, 2022), the project has spent 9,464,893.12 USD, which corresponds to 58% of the total budget. Although this level is not abnormally low at mid-term, it is important to reach a rate of 75 to 85 % by the end of the year 2023 in order to achieve all the objectives of the project on time.

The table below summarizes the financing and co-financing, only related to project activities:

*Table 7: Financing and co-financing*

GEF ID	9158		Budget (USD)
Login of the project UNDP	PIMS 5474	Co-financing: ANAC	22,000,000
Country	Mozambique	Co-financing: Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP)	37,000,000
Zone	Africa	Co-financing: Wildlife Conservation society (WCS)	5,100,000
Area of intervention	Biodiversity, Land Degradation	Total Co-financing	64,100,000
Objectives of area of intervention	LDCF	GEF Agency Fee	550,000
Executive Partner	MITADER/ANAC	GEF Trust Fund or LDCF or other vertical fund	15,750,000
Executing Agencies	ANAC	UNDP TRAC resources	700,000
Implementing Agencies	UNDP	Total	80,550,000

The second table below summarizes the funding status of the project on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022:

*Table 8: Disbursement according to the AWP, by partner and year*

Project ID	Implementing Partner	Source of funds	Budget 2018-2024	Expenses 2018-2022	Disbursement rate as of Dec 2022	Balance
103502	ANAC	GEF	3 641 500,00	1 791 417,67	49%	1 850 082,33
103502	ANAC	UNDP TRAC	700 000,00	477 278,04	68%	200 000,00
107169	GRP	GEF	7 026 000,00	3 322 135,83	47%	3 703 864,17
107170	WCS	GEF	5 082 500,00	3 874 061,58	76%	1 208 438,42
<b>Total (USD)</b>			<b>16 450 000,00</b>	<b>9 464 893,12</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>6 962 384,92</b>

### **3.4.2. IA and EA execution**

The implementing agency (IA), UNDP, manages its tasks very well.

The executing agencies (EAs) are ANAC, WCS and GRP. They implement the activities very well, even if, for a few activities, it can still be improved, but the efforts made are to be commended.

The project management is efficient but the project management team is facing a high turnover in Niassa RP given the fact that the area is isolated and is experiencing security issues. The results obtained are satisfactory.

The Steering Committee is not meeting as often as planned and it should play a more important role in the project. This can be increased by inviting the Steering Committee to anticipate the exit strategy, and by allowing to meet with local beneficiaries (for example by organizing a meeting of the Committee in Gorongosa or Niassa).

### **3.4.3. Monitoring and evaluation**

According to the project document, monitoring and evaluation of the project should be on the basis of the logframe matrix in the project document itself, Annual Reviews, Annual Project Reports (and then the PIR process), and Mid-Term and Final Project Evaluations.

The monitoring and evaluation reports are in most of the cases complete. For example, according to the Project Document, the "Annual Project Review" and the "Project Implementation Reports" include a qualitative description of progress toward goals, an estimate of each of the indicators, reports detailing expenditures, and ATLAS reports at our disposal contain most of the information necessary for the assessment of the efficiency.

### **3.4.4. Stakeholder involvement**

Throughout the project's development, close contacts are maintained with stakeholders at the national and local levels. All affected national and local government institutions are directly involved in project development, as well as key donor agencies (e.g. USAID). Numerous consultations occur with all several stakeholders to discuss different aspects of the project implementation.

## **3.3. Projects results**

According to the objectives that have been achieved, or that are in the process of being achieved, the horizon of the project should not be revised, apart in Niassa SR, where a 6 months no cost extension can be considered. The granting of an extension of 6 months of the project duration (i.e. 84 months) is dependent on the acceleration of the implementation rate of the remaining activities leading to an increase in the disbursement rate.

In Niassa, when the planned disbursements are achieved and reach the suggested total of 85% by the end of 2023, it is reasonable to assume that the important results and impacts of the project can be achieved within an additional time of 6 months, despite the current delays due to insecurity in the area, as they enable to accelerate the pace at which activities are being launched. This is also based on the current trend that the

project is progressing well and the chance that good progress will be made in the near future on the attainment of project objectives and results.

In addition to that, the extension is justified on the basis of the fact that the start of the project was delayed by 6 months in Niassa (because the local communities had to flee the area from November 2021 to April 2022 approximately), and that with the realization of the disbursement, the project activities can be attained within the extended project duration.

As of December 31, 2022, the disbursement rate is of 58% (GRP – 47%, ANAC – 49%, and WCS – 76%). Even if it is not abnormally low at mid-point, it is important to reach a total disbursement rate of 75% to 85% by the end of the year 2023 by assuring to realize the planned disbursements.

The MTR suggests that the project strategy should be applied to a larger scale: indeed, because of the first positive impacts of the project, there is an increasing demand from the population nearby the project intervention sites to scale up the activities.

For instance, the *Administradora* in Inhaminga, Senhora Maria Waite Nhama Juliasse Tito shared her wishes to see more young girls enrolled in colleges and among others environmental education programmes, to have access to education, and avoid early marriage. It is hence recommended to plan and extend activities in the future in the North-Eastern part of GNP, in the Cheringoma district (Sofala Province), in Inhaminga and nearby, to benefit from the dynamic of the construction of a center in Inhaminga and from the activities in Kodze for ecotourism. It is also essential to capitalize on the results of the project to move from the communities conservancies in Gorongosa and Niassa to an action plan to intervene in different parts of Mozambique.

### **Relevance**

The relevance examines the adequacy of the project's objectives with the specifics of the situation on which it proposes to act (the elements of the context of action). In this case, it is clear that the project is very relevant both at a national level and at a local level with the choice of the two sites, in terms of IWT, law enforcement and interactions with the communities in the buffer zones.

The mission was able to see that the progress made to tackle the issues related to IWT, and human-wildlife conflicts are substantial, because the needs and the communities' expectations are increasing.

#### **Relevance to the concerns of the targeted communities**

Interviews with project beneficiaries revealed that human-wildlife conflicts are major concerns, especially when there is a high population density (Southern part of GNP). The population present in the areas where the project is active is on one hand very satisfied with the project and the development of the "co-existence" approach to avoid human-wildlife conflicts, and on the other hand, always preoccupied by the risks of herds of elephants destroying their crops. On the ground, the beneficiary populations confirmed that the project met their expectations. The evaluation concludes that the project is relevant to the local and national concerns.

#### **Consistency between the project and the national policies and strategies**

The project document was consistent with policy documents and national strategies at the time of its preparation. It was especially consistent with the 2015-2045 National Strategy and Action Plan of Biological Diversity that was drawn up in 2015. This national policy document covered, as one of its topic, IWT, HWC and PAs.



The project is also consistent with the expected effects of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan<sup>9</sup> as it aims to “ensure the conservation of biodiversity through the integration, training, financing and the strengthening of partnerships between the different sectors of society”.

The second half of the project will continue delivering policy-related interventions, e.g. in terms of law enforcement, which should enable the achievement of this objective.

### **Consistency with the strategies of financial partners (UNDP and GEF)**

Project consistency with the policies and strategy of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is obvious because the targeted concerns are the very reason why this global funding mechanism was created. In particular, the project is aligned with the strategy developed by the GEF concerning the GWP.

For the financial partner UNDP, both the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Mozambique (UNSDCF) 2022-2026<sup>10</sup> and the Country Programme Document (CPD) 2022-2026<sup>11</sup> provide the framework document signed with the Government of Mozambique for the implementation of a national biodiversity conservation strategy. The project is consistent with UNDP’s Strategic Plan, which puts special emphasis on biodiversity conservation.

#### *3.3.1. Efficiency*

Mobilizing of co-finance, not only in-kind but also in cash, is high. The EAs will continue actively collaborate with a number of on-going projects and programs to leverage funding, avoid thematic intersections and double-funding, share lessons learned and increase overall positive impact on wildlife in Mozambique. In other words, the rate of co-financing is higher than usual, contributing to the efficiency of the project.

Cost effectiveness of the project is achieved: a) using best experience in the project design; b) through strong collaboration with on-going projects and donors via leveraging resources for all project components. Component 1 benefits from investments ongoing or planned by USAID, KfW and the EU on strengthening PA management incl. law enforcement i.e. in the Limpopo TCFA, as well as targeted support to the judiciary and the Prosecutor General’s office on W&FC and IWT. Coordination with UNODC’s initial work on applying the ICCWC Analytical Toolkit and Assessment has been particularly strong during the project preparatory phase, and will be continued during project implementation, depending on the further engagement of UNODC and partners. For Component 2 and 3 several site specific baseline investments especially focusing on anti-poaching investments are in place (see Annex O for details) are in place or are emerging, and this project specifically addresses identified gaps to a successful law enforcement and community engagement response at the two target sites; c) using existing government structures and staff for implementation of National Strategy; d) full government support of WCU and its activities after establishment in the project framework; e) leveraging additional resources (like human, time, and labor) from local communities and establishment of independent governance system for conservancy management; and f) standard GEF measures for cost effectiveness.

### **Financial aspects**

Assessing the efficiency with regard to financial aspects is easy, because data is available in the AWP, particularly annual expenditures depending on activities and donors. According to this data, the current state of expenditures is within budget.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-06/2022-2026%20UNSDCF-moz.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-06/undp-mz-cpd-final-version-fev-2022.pdf>

### *3.3.2. Effectiveness*

#### **Social and environmental safeguard**

Overall, the nature of the project does not pose any significant risk environmentally. It rather promotes environmental safety by ensuring continued existence of environmental resources including wildlife habitats and species. It is expected by the evaluators that the project will pursue implementation of human rights based approach by ensuring of full participation of national level stakeholders, local and indigenous communities, including civil society and elected representatives at appropriate level. The project is implementing measures on the ground that positively affect local communities and ensure that human rights approaches are embedded and Aarhus Convention principles are enforced at the local level.

In line with UNDP standard procedures, the project does set up and manage a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) as recommended by UNDP (2014) that addresses project affected persons' (PAP) grievances, complaints, and suggestions.

#### **Relevance and effectiveness of the implemented management structures**

The evaluators observed that the project adopts a set of measures required for GEF-funded projects to achieve cost-effectiveness and maximise the financial resources available to project intervention activities while decreasing management costs (as already planned in this project document). All activities are included in the Annual Work Plans (access was given to the AWP for the periods 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022), which are discussed and approved to ensure that proposed actions are relevant and necessary. When the activities are to be implemented and project outputs monitored and evaluated, cost-effectiveness appears to be taken into account by all partners, without compromising the quality of the outputs.

### *3.3.3. Sustainability*

Sustainability focuses on long-term effects of the project and the durability of results and impacts. It assesses the extent to which benefits are likely to continue, after the project has come to an end.

#### **Project institutional anchorage**

The project invests resources in the institutional sustainability of the project results via the improvement of legal and enforcement frameworks, long-term protection of two project areas critical for wildlife conservation in Mozambique, establishment of sustainable conservancies managed by local communities and other relevant co-management arrangements, and development of long-term partnerships at national and regional level to control poaching and IWT. These first achieved results appear to have effects, and it is expected to last for at least 5-15 years after project completion. There seems to be a high probability of prolonged government and community support.

In addition, the project has been designed in a participatory manner with ANAC, GRP and WCS as the Responsible Parties. All entities are well established entities and have engaged in long-term contracts for the management of the two key project areas. By working closely with these entities, a strong degree of sustainability in the project area management is considered as likely, as long-term commitments for continued support and collaboration are in place. In terms of an effective W&FC and IWT National Strategy, the project invests into critical strategic support areas such as the: establishment of National Wildlife Crime Unit, development of collaboration among law enforcement agencies and capacity building of enforcement staff that are critical for long-term and effective control of W&FC and IWT in the country. While some degree of the investments are taken on behalf of the currently cash-strapped Government, the design of the project builds in

sustainability component by investing into technical support at ANAC – national coordination center of wildlife conservation with a certain degree of influence within Government.

### **Financial sustainability**

The implementation of the project is satisfactory as it catalyses greater interest among other donors, enhancing financial sustainability of project outcomes. By building capacity of stakeholders (law enforcement officers and local communities), the project ensures continued implementation of project outcomes, and replication of successful models at national, international, and regional levels. Increased government and public attention to wildlife conservation and serious IWT issue through the building of partnerships among key national stakeholders should also ensure that wildlife protection and restoration remains a high national and regional priority into the future.

### **Capacity to secure and to sustain the project achievements**

The lessons learned from the project via participatory M&E system are expected to be made available nationally, regionally and globally for replication through the dissemination of project results, recommendations and experiences including demonstration of best practices. This is expected to be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner, but more efforts should be given to issue the project quarterly bulletins, publications, and website; through GWP, UNDP, and GEF Programme Frameworks, as well as through participation in international fora including CBD events.

The project also takes steps towards scaling up the on-site enforcement activities piloted through the project across the whole national protected area system. It also lays the groundwork for expansion of conservancies across the country, building on the experience of the pilot community conservancies to be established around Gorongosa, as well as through piloting the implementation of the Conservation Act of 2014 in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor in Niassa NR. The upscaling potential of the project in the country is significant. It is recommended that specific lessons learnt are already shared to be derived for upscaling and integration into the National Strategy on IWT.

#### *3.3.4. Impacts*

Measuring the impacts of the project during the MTR (e.g. objectively responding to questions such as “Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?”, or “2. What socio-economic impact has the project had on the local economy?” has turned out to be uneasy, because it is still too early to assess them. However, the first positive signs can be seen in the field.

The first impacts are observed on the local capacity building in order to be able to effectively mitigate human wildlife conflicts and enforce laws to fight IWT. This impact is expected to increase with the project implementation.

It can also be pointed out that the representatives in the districts showed their satisfaction to benefit from the project, thus demonstrating the merits of the project and country ownership. To strengthen the impacts, it is important to prepare the exit strategy while capitalizing on the results of the project to amplify the impacts around the intervention sites and at national level.

In addition, it can be observed that the project is useful in meeting the country's SDG and commitments under the CBD with the Aichi Biodiversity targets. To increase this impact even more, the project's achievements could

be capitalized on to learn from them at the national level, in relation to the results of COP-15 in Montreal which took place in December 2022.

### *3.3.5. Cross-Cutting Themes*

#### **Gender Equality**

Gender screening has been undertaken during project preparation using UNDP methodology. Responding to the key findings from the consultations, the project will focus on gender in a number of ways: (i) empower local women by positioning them and promoting a greater involvement in intelligence networks, attitude shaping and law enforcement, (ii) advocating for inclusion of female scout and ranger staff, adding diversity and new values to the professions and workplace. It is noted that logistical problems may need to be overcome, such as through a need for separate housing, avoidance of sexual exploitation and other, which will need to be appropriately addressed and managed. A strategy may be pursued which will incorporate female law enforcement staff mostly for office-based opportunities and community conservancies' law enforcement teams, at an early stage. (iii) All community-engagement and outreach activities will be designed and implemented considering gender dimensions, including on household power relationships. The predominant amount of work relating to agriculture, food and firewood gathering, traditional medicine are currently conducted by women, both in Niassa and Gorongosa, although no detailed studies of gender roles are available at this point. Such analysis will be undertaken as part of component 3 for both sites. (iv) The national W&FC and IWT Strategy should be reviewed with a gender lens in mind, to identify specific opportunities that will strengthen the national response to these threats by specifically addressing gender mainstreaming.

Project interventions seek a greater and more even gender representation with the potential Gender mainstreaming related activities are included in the multi-year workplan accordingly. Furthermore, relevant gender representation on various levels of project governance will be pursued, i.e. through including rules for gender balance in conservancy governance, as well as adequate women representation on the project board. All project staff recruitment shall be specifically undertaken inviting and encouraging women applicants. The TORs for key project staff all incorporate gender mainstreaming related responsibilities.

The project promotes gender mainstreaming and capacity building within its project staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues, and appointed a designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally. This includes facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities. For instance, the project works on gender issues in the communities and recruited women among the rangers.

Gender screening has been undertaken during project preparation using UNDP methodology. Key issues emerging from the screening emerged, as follows: (i) few women are formally employed in the law enforcement chain, esp. focusing on anti-poaching, W&FC and IWT. While the judiciary and prosecutors/ magistrates have some female staff, rangers and scouts on the site level are entirely male; (ii) community-led law enforcement strategies are currently mostly thought of as male-led, while intelligence work on the site level clearly indicates that women are more reliable information bearers than men, and children more reliable than adults; (iii) community enforcement in Mozambique is still anchored strongly in family and community values and exuded through existing structures. The role of the mother is generally very strong, and mothers hold significant powers in ensuring that young people do not engage in unlawful activities – this is an attribute not currently much exploited in community engagement work, including on anti-poaching efforts; (iv) gender considerations are critical to sustainability as well as empowerment in Mozambique. Community work, including on sustainable agriculture, forestry, wildlife management and alternative livelihoods must include specific gender

considerations; (v) existing staff complement at ANAC and the two CSO IPs includes more female staff in the fields of community engagement, outreach and education, compared to law enforcement. During the PPG phase, a community engagement specialist was part of the project team, also leading work on gender mainstreaming. Results and recommendations from the gender screening are incorporated into the consultation reports. The PPG list of stakeholder consultations include a gender differentiated listing of individuals (Annex L).

Responding to the key findings from the consultations, the project focuses on gender in a number of ways: (i) empower local women by positioning them and promoting a greater involvement in intelligence networks, attitude shaping and law enforcement, (ii) advocating for inclusion of female scout and ranger staff, adding diversity and new values to the professions and workplace.

While some logistical problems are already overcome, such as separate housing, other still need progress such as providing proper shoes for women rangers (and not men sizes). The strategy should be pursued to continue incorporate female law enforcement staff mostly for office-based opportunities and community conservancies' law enforcement teams, at an early stage.

It is important to continue designing and implementing all community-engagement and outreach activities by considering gender dimensions, including on household power relationships. The predominant amount of work relating to agriculture, food and firewood gathering, traditional medicine are currently conducted by women, both in Niassa and Gorongosa, although no detailed studies of gender roles are available at this point (but it was observed that girls do not continue college e.g. in Cheringoma district, while this is highly recommended to avoid forced marriage). The national W&FC and IWT Strategy should be better reviewed with a gender lens in mind, to identify specific opportunities that could strengthen the national response to these threats by specifically addressing gender mainstreaming.

The project falls within the Gender Targeted (GEN 2) ranking: The result focus on the number or equity (50/50) of women, men or marginalized populations that were targeted. The project recognizes that culture and local customs play an important role in the self-governance of the local communities and potential change to the status quo will require ongoing work for gradual change to occur which is likely to be beyond the project's life. The evaluators could observe that the project interventions generally lead to a greater and more even gender representation with Gender mainstreaming related activities that are included in the multi-year workplan accordingly. Furthermore, relevant gender representation on various levels of project governance are pursued, i.e. through including rules for gender balance in conservancy governance, as well as adequate women representation on the project board. All project staff recruitment are specifically undertaken inviting and encouraging women applicants. The TORs for key project staff all incorporate gender mainstreaming related responsibilities.

The project hence promotes gender mainstreaming and capacity building within its project staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues. It is not clear if a designated focal point for gender issues is appointed to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally. This would include facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities. The project also works with UNDP experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects. The evaluators have no information about a monitoring by the UNDP Gender Focal Point during project implementation.

## **Social economy**

Other cross-cutting issues are indirectly addressed by the project, including the strengthening of the social economy, as the beneficiaries of the project in the target areas are farmers, local communities and more broadly inhabitants of the areas in the buffer zones on GNP and Niassa Special Reserve.

The MTR mission found that the cross-cutting themes are treated appropriately by the project.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS

### 4.1. Conclusions

This section presents the main findings of the mission of mid-term on the basis of criteria defined in the methodology. It is likely that the project will meet its objective and outcomes. It has begun to address key challenges that affect protected areas of Mozambique and will hopefully provide some improvements soon. Local communities and other stakeholders are engaged in project activities, with expectations matching the defined work plan and the needs from the local communities and other stakeholders.

The main achievements of the project are the development and approval of the national strategy to combat wildlife and forest crime, the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination in the combat to wildlife crime through the establishment of Antipoaching coordination center (APCOC) and through the training of judiciary institutions on the conservation law, the expansion of law enforcement infrastructure to remote areas, the improvement of technology to plan, coordinate and monitor law enforcement operations, the strengthening of intelligence in the CWC, the creation of community conservancies and establishment of management structure and management plans, the introduction of human-wildlife coexistence strategies, the raising of awareness of local communities about biodiversity conservation, and the expansion of reforestation to restore degraded areas.

Despite the overall good progress, there are still some challenges to be addressed by the project, including the following: delays in the construction of community education centers at both GNP and Niassa SR, the incidence of human-wildlife conflicts remains high and the number of beneficiaries from mitigation strategies are a small segment of the local community, initiatives to develop livelihoods and meet the expectation that community conservancies contribute to both biodiversity conservation and livelihoods are still in an initial stage due to lack of investments, the approved fundamental documents such as the national strategy to combat wildlife and crime and the management plan of community conservancies are yet to be implemented, the APCOC is effective in coordinating antipoaching operations but only in a small geographical scale.

### 4.2. Recommendations

The project has generated a significant amount of information, experience and lessons, for the reduction of Protected Areas vulnerabilities and the development of adaptive practices. However, there are some aspects of the project which could be improved and obstacles which need to be overcome.

#### 4.1.1. General recommendations

- **Continue cooperation efforts through the mutualization of lessons learnt and experience sharing between Gorongosa, Niassa and the wider national system of conservation areas**

It is proposed to organize a common working session between GNP, WCS and ANAC (both in GNP, NSR and ANAC/Maputo), to share experience about the implementation of the activities of the project and capitalize on lessons learned, particularly on issues related to the engagement of local communities and other stakeholders in sustainable natural resource management, livelihood development, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and gender mainstreaming. For example, this could take the form of a three days events, on management aspects, but also academic and research items could be added. This will contribute to the upscaling of project outcomes and will assist the implementation of the conservation law countrywide. This will require an improved engagement of the Services of Conservation and Community Development of ANAC, which currently plays a minor role in project implementation.

➤ **Start preparing the exit strategy**

It is recommended to start preparing the exit strategy, to end the project with the highest chances for sustainability and long-term impacts. This could include considering new activities to be planned or existing ones extended. For instance, there are significant needs and expectations that community conservancies contribute to income generation and improvement of livelihoods, environmental education and gender mainstreaming, particularly girls education. District Governments should be involved in the planning of these activities.

*4.1.2. Recommendations for the implementation project partner*

➤ **Dissemination and implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime**

The dissemination and implementation of the recently approved National strategy to combat IWT, which provides guidelines for an effective law enforcement, not only on strengthening law enforcement operations but also through environmental education and engagement of local communities.

➤ **Development and implementation of the ranger succession plan**

The lack of opportunities and guidance to recruit new rangers is a bottleneck for effective law enforcement expansion. Therefore, the development, approval and implementation of the rangers' succession strategy is crucial for the renewal of law enforcement staff and for implementation of the ranger statutes, which will increase the motivation of the rangers.

➤ **Staff recruitment and retention**

Difficulties in recruiting staff to support the implementation of the project and the high staff turnover has constrained project implementation at ANAC and Niassa SR. Given the short period left before the closure of the project, it is recommended to recruit staff for the vacant positions and create incentive for retention, to speed up the implementation of project activities.

➤ **Replication of Antipoaching Centers (APCOC)**

The APCOC is a functional mechanism of coordination among institutions to tackle WC on the ground. However, its scope is geographically limited. It is recommended that similar structures are established in other hotspots of IWT, with priority to the TFCAs.

➤ **Combat domestic illegal wildlife trade**

Efforts to halt wildlife crime has been focused on the combat to poaching and trafficking of wildlife products to international markets, mainly through control in the main terrestrial borders, airports and ports of the country. However, illegal exports are supplied by domestic traffic. Therefore, ANAC should strengthen the mechanisms to combat domestic traffic of wildlife products.



➤ **Operationalization of community conservancies and other mechanisms to engage local communities in conservation**

Community conservancies have been successfully established in the buffer zone of the GNP. Management plans were designed with participation of local communities, and set priority actions to increase human-wildlife coexistence, to increase income/revenue for local communities from natural resources (for example: rural economy based on wildlife through ecotourism or trophy hunting) and protect the environment. The implementation of the management plan is crucial to strengthen trust between protected area managers, local communities and local governments and demonstrate how local communities can benefit from biodiversity conservation.

Local communities live in areas rich in natural resources but the level of poverty is high. Restrictions in the use of natural resources and human-wildlife conflicts exacerbate poverty and creates the perception that conservation causes poverty. During the second phase, the project should develop activities aimed at supporting the development of value chains according to the potential of each community conservancy (Gorongosa NP) or area of community land tenure (Niassa SR). This could include the development of basic infrastructure (lodge, camping site and access roads or paths to tourism attractions) to unlock the potential for ecotourism development in Khodzué (Cheringoma), wildlife based economy in the Southern conservancy in Nhamatanda (Gorongosa NP) and Mecula-Marrupa corridor (Niassa SR) either through ecotourism or trophy hunting, expansion of beekeeping in the northern conservancy (Cheringoma) due to high potential, agroforestry and other conservation agriculture, cashew nut production, crafting, etc.

➤ **Create or reactivate Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCM) in the Niassa SR**

Reactivate and or create new NRMCM in the Niassa SR, provide training on environmental education and awareness campaigns, training on mechanisms of patrolling against illegal activities, and provide basic work conditions (transport, communication and rations) for the NRMCM to work with the community to slow down the rate of deforestation, poaching, fishing using destructive methods, and other threats to biodiversity and natural resource based livelihoods. Subsequently, introduce reforestation activities and agroforestry systems in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor to be led by NRMCM under the guidance and supervision of Niassa SR staff.

➤ **Construction of community conservation infrastructures**

The strengthening of interaction between protected area managers and local communities is crucial to build trust and engage local communities in conservation. There is a need to speed up the construction of community conservation centers in Inhalinga (Gorongosa NP) and in Mecula (Niassa SR), so that these facilities can be opened on time to improve the implementation of project activities such as environmental education, training on nature-based business opportunities, participatory land use planning, among others.

➤ **Increase the availability of equipment**

The implementation of project activities in the Niassa SR is constrained by the large size of the reserve, hence long distance between project implementation sites, between target communities and between areas of potential occurrence of wildlife crime. This is further exacerbated by the bad condition of the roads. This affects the effectiveness of law enforcement operations and of activities to engage local communities in conservation. Niassa SR patrolling teams also face shortage of patrolling equipment such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and data loggers, which have to be shared among teams. Therefore, it is recommended to purchase additional vehicles, GPSs, data loggers and to add funds to increase the number of hours for aerial patrolling.

➤ **Provide a better visibility in the pace at which activities are launched in Gorongosa**

In view of the current disbursement rate, it is recommended to provide a better visibility of the future rate at which the remaining activities are launched and thereby explain the path of the disbursement rate progression, having in mind that the most significant expenses are planned for 2023 through the construction of the community conservation center in Inhaminga (Gorongosa NP). At the same time, accelerating the implementation of the various project activities, especially for component 3, has to be well thought out. It is important to have a balance between increased spending and wise disbursement.

➤ **Consider an extension of the duration of the project in Niassa, depending of the security situation**

In the Niassa SR, the security situation is uncertain and has disrupted the implementation of activities in component 3 of the project, causing delays. The MTR is in principle favorable to an unfunded extension of 6 to 9 months for the Niassa site. However, the decision about an extension request should be made at a later date depending on the progress to be made in 2023 and 2024.

*4.1.3. Recommendations for the executing project partners*

➤ **Increase capacity building and awareness raising activities**

In connection with the previous point, it is recommended to increase capacity building and awareness-raising activities, both at the level of ANAC executives and other ministries interacting with ANAC and at the local level (in particular by organizing training sessions in the intervention zones). This should also be thought in the long-term (to avoid for instance to have to systematically train new judges on IWT, but instead, making sure it is part of their courses).

➤ **Continue investing in activities with the communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts**

It is recommended to keep supporting activities in Nhamatanda (Gorongosa NP) and Mecula (Niassa SR) districts, to mitigate the conflicts between humans and animals, which cause the destruction of smallholdings and crops, threat human lives and cause revenge killing of wildlife. The activities implemented by the project to promote human-wildlife coexistence need to be diversified and expanded and have to show their effectiveness in the long-term.

*4.1.4. For the project management team*

➤ **Capitalize on the results obtained**

Given the strategic nature of the project, it is recommended to capitalize on the activities launched by the project at national level to strengthen the role of ANAC. Still on the strategic level, the mission of reflection on the organization of ANAC could be followed by the General Management with the support of the Steering Committee of the project.

➤ **Beyond the seven-year period of the project**

It is strongly recommended to already prepare both the sustainability aspects and the geographical extension of the project activities (e.g. in the Cheringoma district). This can be done by identifying the complementary activities and target areas where an extension project could be implemented. It is possible to mobilize all the stakeholders potentially involved by the geographical extension of the project. They are well acquainted with the challenges posed by the project activities, and geographic extension of the project will be made easier.

*4.1.5. For the UNDP*

➤ **Continue supporting the structure and implementation of the project**

The role of the UNDP is significant to guarantee the cohesion between the different stakeholders of the project (e.g. with the regular meetings with the partners). It is recommended to capitalize on the experience of the first phase of the project and increase the momentum during the second phase of the project.

➤ **Make sure the security risks in Niassa are taken into account in the risk log**

As part of UNDP's procedures, a project risk register is in place, with a risk log. This includes various data and information such as a brief description of the risk with a probability (impact and likelihood). It is recommended to make sure this risk log is up-to-date, especially given the security risks in the Northern part of Mozambique (e.g. Niassa).

➤ **Take advantage of the possible synergies with other projects**

The project should share its high value impact and take also advantage of the synergies with other projects. It is recommended to anticipate the development of new biodiversity conservation projects, especially IWT, to establish links and long-term common actions, not only in Mozambique but also in Southern Africa.

*4.2. Performance rating*

The following table concisely summarizes the conclusions of the mid-term review on the basis of GEF criteria.

*Table 9 Performance Rating Project<sup>[2]</sup>*

1. Monitoring and Evaluation	Rating	2. Implementation and Execution	Rating
Design of M&E plan	S	Quality of the project implementation by UNDP	HS
Implementation M&E Plan	MS	Quality of execution by the institutional partners	S
Quality of M&E plan	S	General quality of implementation/execution	S
3. Assessment of Outcomes	Rating	4. Sustainability	Rating
Relevance	R	Financial resources	ML

Effectiveness	S	Socio-political	ML
Efficiency	S	Governance and institutional framework	L
General grade of outcomes	S	Environmental	L
		Probability for the project to be sustainable	ML

## 5. ANNEXES

### Annex I – Terms of Reference for MTR

#### Project Midterm Review - International Consultant

**Location :** Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE

**Application Deadline :** 15-Apr-22 (Midnight New York, USA)

**Additional Category :** Climate & Disaster Resilience

**Type of Contract :** Individual Contract

**Post Level :** International Consultant

**Languages Required :** English Spanish Portuguese

**Starting Date :** (date when the selected candidate is expected to start) 21-Apr-2022

**Duration of Initial Contract :** 45 working days

**Expected Duration of Assignment :** 45 working days

**UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence. UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.**

#### Background

While conservation efforts have been significantly up scaled in Mozambique since the end of the civil war in 1992, there are several **threats affecting biodiversity**. Significant increase in **wildlife crime** has taken place, adding to the pressures caused by **uncontrolled subsistence hunting** by poor communities. Since 2014 the poaching has increased, targeting not only elephants but additional threatened species, such as lions, pangolins and other. The international market for wildlife products is still of low risk and highly profitable. Subsistence poaching also threatens a wide variety of globally endangered species. With local communities expanding further into conservation areas and growing populations in need of food and income, the threats to wildlife and forest resources accelerate at alarming rates, nullifying conservation gains of recent years.

The proposed project Objective is **to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action**. This are Terms of Reference for the UNDP-GEF Midterm Review (MTR) of the full -sized project with the title: *“Strengthening the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding community conservancies around protected areas”- (PIMS5474#)*, implemented through an Executing Agency, the National Administration for Conservancy Areas (ANAC), and the following Implementing Partners: Carr Foundation for Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) and Wildlife Conservation Society for Niassa Special Reserve (WCS\_NSR). The project started on March 2018 and is in its third year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR. The MTR process follows the guidance outlined in the document *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*). The project was designed to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Mozambique through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act – improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action.

The project Objective will be achieved through implementation of three project Components that address three key barriers for effective reduction of poaching, IWT and unsustainable natural resource management.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The MTR report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The MTR team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the Project Document, project reports including Annual Project Review/PIRs, project budget revisions, national

strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review. The MTR team will review the baseline GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), the Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries, and other key stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful MTR. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- UNDP RR/DRR; Task team (RTA, HoU, PMU, M&E officer), GRP; WCS; ANAC; MOZBIO; AFD; ANAC-CITS; IUCN; MINEC; SDAE's; WWF; USAID; UNDOC; Private operator's; GEF-Focal Point; Universities (Eduardo Mondlane, Lúrio, Save); NRM; Hunting and Tourism Concession's, local government and CSOs.
- Additionally, the MTR team (comprised of one international and one local consultant) is expected to conduct field missions to *Mozambique*, including the following project sites (*Sofala- Gorongosa Restoration Park and Niassa Special Reserve*).
- **Bebedo community- Nhamatanda:** Interaction with the Community leaders, Community Committee represented by the Natural Resources Management Committee, community animators, community rangers, Human-wildlife Coexistence collaborators, beneficiaries of improved silos and corrals; Visits to the Community Conservation Area and receive explanations about the process followed for their establishment, community projects identified, economic feasibility and business plans; Presentation of the Community Development Agenda and Benefit Sharing Plan; Visits to the community nursery and discussions about the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plans; Visits to the Human- wildlife coexistence strategies: beehives fences, Zinc fences, creosote fences, improved silos and corrals; Depending on time, we can have in place the piloting of at least one community project: Integrated Community Tourism project; Horticulture integrated with peri-peri production and beekeeping as part of the HWC strategies; Cashew and native species production, and others.
- **Nhamopoca- Nhamatanda** –(depending on road accessibility)-Interaction with the Community leaders, Community Committee represented by the Natural Resources Management Committee, community animators, community rangers, Human-wildlife coexistence collaborators (fogueteiros); Visits to the Community Conservation Area and receive explanations about the process followed during the CCA establishment, community projects identified, economic feasibility and business plans; Visits to the community nursery and discussions about the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plans; Presentation of the Community Development Agenda and Benefit Sharing Plan; Interacting with the District Administrators of Nhamatanda and the Provincial Services of Environment as important stakeholder on the process of establishing CCAs.
- **Catemo and Nhabáua- Cheringoma** District-Interaction with the Community leaders, Community Committee represented by the Natural Resources Management Committee, community animators, community rangers and Women's Development Committees; Visits to the Community Conservation Area and receive explanations about the process followed for their establishment, community projects identified, economic feasibility and business plans; Presentation of the Community Development Agenda and Benefit sharing Plan. Visiting District Administrators of Cheringoma and the Provincial Services of Environment as important stakeholder on the process of establishing CCAs. Visit to the Kodzue caves as part of the potential community tourism for the north conservancy and probably CMM for potential carbon market, as part of sources of incomes for the communities; Visits to the community nurseries and discussions about the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plans and groups established for the implementation; Probably a visit to the piloting community project: Community Tourism project; Horticulture integrated with peri-peri production and beekeeping as part of the HWC strategies; Cashew and native species production, and others.
- **Inhaminga- Cheringoma** district; Possible visit to the future GNP headquarters (ongoing building process).
- **Vila de Gorongosa and Nhamatanda;** Meetings with Judges and Prosecutors to assess the degree of relationship and improvement in coordination, after the various training sessions and visit the GRP activities

- **Visits to the Law Enforcement** (offices and dormitories in Chitengo) and Outposts – Zebra and Bunga (new buildings and water supply systems).
- **Mbatamila Headquarters**, interact with all NSR staff.
- **Msawise Gate site**, the gate was constructed with the GEF project funds and technical assistance. Mecula Community office/HWC centre visits to the Human- wildlife coexistence strategies: Zinc fences, creosote fences, local communities' income generation activities; visit the the community pilot programs in Mecula / Marrupa corridor- visit the community and see the progress that have been made since the project start, also discuss with the community the natural resources management plans and forest management plans.

### Competencies

- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and (fill in GEF Focal Area)
- Experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis; Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills;
- **Language** Fluency in written and spoken English; Knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish will be considered an asset.

### Required Skills and Experience

#### Education

A Master's degree in (conservation, environmental science, or other closely related field;

#### Experience

- Proven experience in the implementation and/ or assessment of projects related to biodiversity and conservation governance, protected areas and links (integration with) to sustainable livelihoods.
- Recent experience in supporting project evaluation and/or implementation experience in result- based management frameworks and result-based management evaluation methodologies
- Experience applying SMART targets and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to biodiversity; demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and biodiversity; experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis. Excellent communication skills; demonstrable analytical skills Experience in evaluating projects;
- Experience working in Africa;
- Work experience in relevant technical areas for at least 10 years;

### APPLICATION PROCESS

#### Recommended Presentation of Offer

1. **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided by UNDP;
2. **CV** and a **Personal History Form** (P11 form [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11\\_Personal\\_history\\_form.doc](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc));
3. **Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)
4. **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11\\_Personal\\_history\\_form.doc](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc)



## Annex II – List of questions used during MTR mission

Interview questions	Project Staff	Partners	External Stakeholders
1. How was the project formulated? To what extent was it participatory and inclusive?	X	X	X
2. To what extent have social, economic and political dynamics been taken into consideration? Which groups or areas in Mozambique have not been included?	X	X	X
3. Are there gaps between the E&E Project, national policies and strategies? As compared with international standards?	X	X	X
4. To what extent are the project's monitoring mechanisms in place effective for measuring and informing management	X	X	X
5. How was the prioritization undertaken, including the selection of counties? To what extent have the most relevant activities and outputs selected to achieve the objectives?	X	X	X
6. What needs could not be covered? Have some activities been rejected at the inception stage?	X	X	X
7. How and to what extent was the gender dimension included in the E&E project? Ethnic minorities?	X	X	X
8. How was gender factored in the programme and in the results? How have cultural constraints related to gender been addressed? To what extent do the results differ between male and female?	X	X	X
9. To what extent did the M&E process identify results and limitations of the process across the various implementing partners and participants? How would you suggest improvements in the M&E to enable documenting results at outcome and impact level in the future?	X	X	X
10. How have lessons learned been identified and included in the projects?	X	X	X
11. How was cost efficiency included in the project? Were some of the costs paid by the government and why? To what extent have local resources been maximized?	X	X	X
12. Which activities could not be implemented as planned and why? What were the difficulties? To what extent can they be anticipated and planned?	X	X	X
13. How were beneficiaries, trainers and trainees selected? Did these change over the years?	X	X	X
14. To what extent were coordination and the partnership strategy relevant and effective? How have partnerships affected the progress towards achieving the outputs	X	X	X
15. To what extent were civil society and private sector involved? Are there further opportunities in that respect?	X	X	X
16. To what extent were the trainees / beneficiaries able to use the knowledge/practices taught during the trainings? How has this been documented?	X	X	X
17. What were the potential limitations to put into practice the learnings of the activities	X	X	X
18. To what extent did you try to overcome potential limitations and difficulties during the projects' implementation?	X	X	X
19. Which changes can be identified by the beneficiary, organizations and to what extent can they be attributed to the project work?	X	X	X
20. To what extent did those changes lead to potential impacts?	X	X	X
21. Can any unexpected positive or negative effects be identified?	X	X	X
22. What would be your recommendations for the potential future of the E&E project operations in Mozambique, particularly at the local level?	X	X	X
23. Has the project built synergies with other similar projects being implemented at country level with the United Nations and the Government of Mozambique?	X	X	X

### Annex III - Timetable of the MTR Mission

Date	MTR activity	Consultant involved
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022	Travel from Maputo to Niassa SR	National Consultant
October 24, 2022	Interview with the representative of Niassa SR warden and tourism manager Common meeting with human resources, procurement, finance, infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation officers Interview with Law Enforcement Department (operation manager, lawyer, police commander, ecological monitoring officer) Visit law enforcement operation room, including wildlife monitoring platforms and equipment Visit ranger out post in Mbatamila Visit senior house accommodation	National Consultant
October 25, 2022	Visit the Nsawisi ranger out post	National Consultant
October 26, 2022	Interview the community conservation manager Interview Mecula district Government (SDAE and SDPI) Interview president of Natural Resource Management Council in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor Visit the site selected for the construction of the community development center in the Mecula-Marrupa corridor Visit human-wildlife mitigation strategies and interview the beneficiaries	National Consultant
October 27, 2022	Debriefing meeting	National Consultant
October 28, 2022	Travel from Niassa SR to Maputo	National Consultant
November 2, 2022	Arrival of International consultant to Maputo, from Paris Interview with WCS National Director	International Consultant
November 3, 2022	Travel to Gorongosa Meet Gorongosa NP Warden Interviews key informants (Director of Operations/Finance and Director of Human Development)	International Consultant
November 4, 2022	Courtesy meeting Nhamantanda District Administrator, District Services of Economic Activities Courtesy meeting with the Bebedo locality Chief Visit the Southern/Pungoe Conservancy in Nhamatanda: focus group discussions with natural resource management committees (different existing groups, including community rangers, community animators, governing body of the NRMCS), community leaders, visit community forest nurseries and interview the community members involved, visit human-wildlife coexistence strategies (silos and mixed fence) and interview the GRP staff involved and the beneficiaries, visit livelihood activities (e.g. beekeeping) and interview the beneficiaries	International and National Consultants

November 5, 2022	Visit the E.O. Wilson biodiversity center Interview the Director of Scientific Services Visit the conservation department (offices, operations room and pangolin rehabilitation center) Interview the Director of Conservation Focus group discussion with the Special Unit to Combat Wildlife Crime Visit the civet range out post Interview with program manager and GEF project impact manager	International and National Consultants
November 6, 2022	Visit Muanza Community Education Centre Visit the Cheringoma Conservancies (Catemo Regulado): visit the Khodzué caves, focus group discussion with community tourist guides Visit the site selected for the construction of the Cheringoma Community Conservancy Centre Interview the GRP Senior Manager for Community Relations	International and National Consultants
November 7, 2022	Courtesy meeting with Cheringoma District Administrator Interview with the District Services of Economic Activities Visit the Cheringoma conservancy: focus group discussions with natural resource management committees (different existing groups, including community rangers, community animators, governing body of the NRMCS) and community leaders) Travel from Cheringoma to Beira	International and National Consultants
November 8, 2022	Travel from Beira to Maputo Debriefing meeting with UNDP CO	International and National Consultants
November 9, 2022	Travel from Maputo to Paris	International and National Consultants
November 11, 2022	Meeting with Advisor to the Minister of Land and Environment (former senior staff of Law Enforcement at ANAC)	National Consultant

Detailed timetable from November 3rd, 2022 to November 9th, 2022

Time	Activity	Responsible
<b>November 3 – Thursday</b>		
TBC	Arrival in Chitengo	
20 mins	Welcome meeting/ mission details with Impact managers	Thais, Hilario, Richard

1 hour	Meet Gorongosa NP Warden	
<b>First interviews with key informants</b>		
1 hour	Director Mike Marchington (Adm and Finance)	
1 hour	Director Angelo Levi (Conservation)	
1 hour	Director Simião Mahumana (Head of the Programme Office)	
1 hour	Director Elisa Langa (Human Development)	
1 hour	Senior Manager Hercília Chipanga (Community Relations)	
	Safari	Thais, Carol
19:00	Dinner at Chikalango	Thais, Hilário
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 4 Thursday</b>		
07:00 – 08:00	Breakfast at the refectory	Thais
06:00 – 08:00	Trip from Chitengo to Nhamatanda Village	Feli, Thaís
8:10 – 08:40	Courtesy meeting with the Nhamatanda District Administrator + District Services of Economic Activities+ SDPI	Hercília/ Piano

08:45- 08:50	Travel from the Administrator Office to SDAE Office	Hercília/ Piano
08:50 – 09:20	Interview with SDAE Nhamatanda	Hercília/ Piano
09:25 – 09:55	Interview with SDPI Nhamatanda	Hercília/ Piano
10:00 -10:45	Travel from Nhamatanda Village to Mutondo	Hercília/ Piano
10:45 -11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit the community nursery</li> <li>- Focus group with Reforestation Facilitators</li> </ul>	Rui / Reforestation Facilitator
11:15 -11:35	Travel from Mutondo to Bebedo-sede	Hercília/ Piano
11:35 – 11:50	Courtesy and interview with the Chief of Bebedo Locality	Chico
12:00 – 14:00	<p>Focus groups interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NRMCS</li> <li>- Community Rangers</li> <li>- Community Animators</li> </ul> <p>Community leaders</p>	Chico
14:10 – 14:40	Lunch at the NRMCS centre	Chico/ President of NRMCS
14:45 – 15:10	Travel from Bebedo- sede to Vinho	Hercília/ Piano

15:10- 15:50	Visit to the HWC mitigation strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit to the Elephant proof silos</li> <li>- Beneficiaries focus group</li> </ul> Visit to the apiary	Maibeque/ Piano
16:00 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zinc fence</li> <li>- Creosote Fence</li> <li>- Beehives Fences</li> </ul> Focus group with the fences beneficiaries (proprietors of fields and beehives)	Maibeque/ Piano
17:00 – 17:30	Travel from Vinho to Chitengo	Thaís, Feli
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner at Chikalango	Thaís, Hilário
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 5 – Saturday</b>		
07:00	Breakfast at Refectory	Thais, Hilário
08:00 – 09:00	Interview with Marc Stalmans - Director of Scientific Department	
09:00 – 09:30	Visit the E.O. Wilson biodiversity center	Marc
09:30 – 10:30	Interview with	Mike
10:30 – 11:00	Visit law enforcement infrastructure and equipment in Chitengo	Tsuere

11:00 – 12:00	Focus group discuss with field rangers in Chitengo	Tsuere
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch at the Refectory	Thais, Hilário
13:30 – 16:30	Visit range outposts (Zebra and Civita)	Tsuere, Anibal
16:30	Back to Chitengo	Feli, Thais
19:00	Dinner at Chikalango	Thais, Hilario
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 6 – Sunday</b>		
07:00 – 08:00	Breakfast at Chikalango	Thais, Hilário
8:00 – 10:30	Travel from Chitengo to Muanza	Thaís, Feli
10:30 – 11:10	Visit to the Muanza Community Conservancy Centre	Thais
11:10 – 14:00	Travel from Muanza to Kodzue	Thais
14:00 – 15:00	Visit to the Kodzue Caves Focus group with Community Tourist Guides	Alberto/Daglasse/Serrote
15:00 – 16:00	Travel from Kodzue to Inhaminga	

16:00 – 17:00	Visit to the Inhaminga Community Conservancy Centre site area	
18:30 -19:30	Dinner at Sol Nascente	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 7 – Monday</b>		
06:30 – 07:30	Breakfast	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
07:45 – 08:15	Courtesy meeting with District Administrator	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
08:20 – 08:50	Interview with SP Cheringoma	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
09:00 – 09:30	Interview with SDPI Cheringoma	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
10:30 – 11:30	Travel from Inhaminga to Kodzue	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
11:30– 13:30	Focus groups meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NRMCS</li> <li>- Community Rangers</li> <li>- Community Animators</li> <li>- Community leaders</li> </ul>	Alberto/Daglasse/Serrote
13:30 – 13:50	Interview with the Mazamba Chief of Locality	Alberto/ Daglasse/ Serrote
13:50 – 14:30	Lunch	Daglasse/ Serrote



14:30	Travel from Inhaminga to Beira	Thaís, Hilário, Feli
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 8 – Tuesday</b>		
	Travel from Beira to Maputo	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>November 9 – Wednesday</b>		
TBC - (virtual)	Debriefing meeting	Hercília, Levi, Simião, Hilário, Richard, Thais

Annex IV – List of interviewed stakeholders during the MTR mission

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Gorongosa Restoration Project

List of interviewed people

Name	Position/role
Pedro Muagura	Park Warden
Mike Marchington	Director of Operations/Finance
Elisa Langa	Director of Community Development Department
Angelo Levi	Director of Conservation Department
Marc Stalmans	Director of Scientific Services
Simião Mahumane	Program Director
Alfredo Matavele	Deputy-head of Law Enforcement
Hercília Chipanga Martins	Senior Manager – Community Relations
Thais Glowacki	GEF Project Impact Manager
Hilário Patrício	GEF Project Impact Manager
Ermelinda Maquenze	Director of Province Services of Environment
Adamo Ossumane	Administrator of Nhamatanda District
Maria Waite Juliasse Nhama	Administrator of Cheringoma District
Fernando Chimbuia	Director of SDAE-Nhamatanda
Ângelo Caetano Jone	Director of SDAE – Cheringoma
José Simão Saize	Bebedo Locality Leader
Alberto Albazino	Community-Based Natural Resource management and Governance Program Manager
Daglasse Muassinar	Community-Based Natural Resource management-Supervisor
Chico Fagema	Community-Based Natural Resource management-Supervisor
Lucas do Rosário	Forest officer
José Amanze	Forest officer
Arnaldo Victor	Community forest nursery
Lucinda Gueza	Community forest nursery
Wizimani Mairosse	Community forest nursery
Maria Castro	Community forest nursery
Bonifacio Hapandua	Community forest nursery
Ana Assomani	Community forest nursery
Domingas Domingos	Community forest nursery
Maria Vasco	Community forest nursery
Luisa Fernando	Community forest nursery
Julio Levene	Community forest nursery
Manuena Maibeque	Human-Wildlife Coexistence supervisors
Joao Gofuro	Human-Wildlife Coexistence supervisors
Domingos Inacio	Human-Wildlife Coexistence supervisors
Tecla David	Beekeeping supervisor
Augusto Zacarias	President of NRM – Bebedo
Rosa Cerveja	Vice-president of NRM – Bebedo
Antónia Catemo	Queen of Catemo Regulado
Elisa Mortar	Community animators - Bebedo
Albino Moiseis Camisola	Community animators - Bebedo
Alexandre Fernando	Community animators - Bebedo
Cerida Antonio	Community animators - Bebedo
Joana Manenca	Community animators - Bebedo
Lucas Felix Micajo	Community animators - Bebedo

Daniel Pedro	Community animators - Bebedo
Baltazr Americo	Community animators - Bebedo
Alexandre Vasco	Community animators - Bebedo
António Carlos Camisa	Community animators – Nhabawa
Marcos Simbe Nkondiza	Community animators – Nhabawa
Lencastro Artur Briate	Community animators – Nhabawa
Joana Florindo Nhama	Community animators – Nhabawa
Domingos Araújo Anovo	Community animators – Catemo
Mpelmo José Caetano	Community animators – Catemo
Rainha Mário Minesis	Community animators – Catemo
Chica Arnaldo Francisco Campira	Community animators – Catemo
Keni Gatia	Community rangers – Bebedo
Joao Nhama	Community rangers – Bebedo
Maria Chapepa	Community rangers – Bebedo
Sara Catiqui	Community rangers – Bebedo
Marta Fernando	Community rangers – Bebedo
Amade Marques	Community rangers – Bebedo
Joviao Francisco	Community rangers – Bebedo
Paulina Martinho	Community rangers – Bebedo
Julieta Jossefa	Community rangers – Bebedo
Albertino Daero	Community rangers – Bebedo
Mateus Andre	Community rangers – Bebedo
João Luís Francisco	Community rangers – Catemo
Manuel Raúl Hale	Community rangers – Catemo
Querida Jequessene Caetano	Community rangers – Catemo
Ofesse Manuel Armando	Community rangers – Catemo
Paulo João	Community rangers – Catemo
Zesta Guezane Nfundisse	Community rangers – Catemo
Fazenda Chico Fazenda	Community rangers – Catemo
Baptista Soares Francisco	Community tourist guide
Jeremias Soares Francisco	Community tourist guide
Reis Domingos Sande	Community tourist guide
António Eduardo Felipe	Community tourist guide
Araújo Maibeque Chimbuia	President of NRM – Catemo/Nhabawa)

### Mid Term Review of the GEF project

#### Niassa Special Reserve

#### List of interviewed people

Name	Position/role
Mr Mark	WCS Regional Director – East and Southern Africa
Afonso Madope	WCS National Director
Nilton Cunha	Tourism manager
Tiago Nhazilo	Community Conservation manager
João Zimaima	Commander of the Police Unit based at Niassa SR
Valdemar Jonasse	Ecological monitoring officer
Angelo Francisco	Monitoring and Evaluation officer

Americo Sarmento	Human resource manager
Chabane Rajabo	Procurement officer
Sebastião Saize	Head of law enforcement operations
António Sithole	Lawyer
Sonia Manjate	Finance officer
Elsa Lodge	Finance officer
João Alfaica	Infrastructure officer
João Vasco	Fleet manager
Samuel Bilério	Human-wildlife conflict mitigation manager
Prosperino Abel	Director of Mecula district service of planning and infrastructure
Julio Afonso	Director of Mecula district service of economic activities
Alberto Siabo Bonomar	President of the Mungano Natural Resource Management Committee - Mecula

### Mid Term Review of the GEF project

#### National Administration of Conservation Areas

List of interviewed people

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/role</b>
Celmira da Silva	Director General
Mr Chissano	Advisor to Director General
Arlete Macuacua	Department of Community Development at ANAC
Jorge Fernando	Director of Services of Protection and Law Enforcement at ANAC
Pejul Sebastião	Advisor to the Minister of Environment Former Head of Department at Services of Protection and Law Enforcement - ANAC

## Annex V – Overview of Key Stakeholders in the project

STAKEHOLDER	DESCRIPTION	ROLE IN THE PROJECT
Forestry Division	Division within MITADER responsible for sustainable management of forest resources including community participation in managing the resources sustainably. Main objectives involve the elaboration and implementation of norms and procedures regarding the sustainable use of forest resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On project board, responsible for forest resource management</li> <li>- Responsible for Forests (W&amp;FC), part of component 1 coordination mechanism led by ANAC</li> <li>- Expertise in SFM – linked to components 2 &amp; 3; esp. provincial and district level technical field staff will collaborate with IPs in delivery of work on the ground</li> </ul>
Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (MASA)	This entity defines, plans and execution of regulation concerning in five specific areas: agriculture, animal husbandry, farming water, agro-forestry and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On project board, responsible for sustainable agriculture development (Component 3)</li> <li>- Expertise in CA – linked to component 3; esp. provincial and district level technical field staff will collaborate with IPs in delivery of work on the ground</li> </ul>
The Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries	Central organ which directs, coordinates, organizes and ensures the implementation of the policies, strategies relating to the sea areas, inland waters and fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible for Fisheries/ Marine Crimes (as part of W&amp;FC)</li> <li>- Be part of W&amp;FC/IWT coordination group led by ANAC (Component 1)</li> </ul>

<p>Provincial/ District Governments</p> <p>Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Sofala</p>	<p>Responsibility for general administration, planning and development at district level. Districts are responsible for the conservation of the environment, management of natural resources and wildlife, and local socio-economic development. It also promotes awareness concerning the controlled burning, supports alternative energy to charcoal and promotes participatory district planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On project board, represent provincial / local government</li> <li>- Overarching role in community planning and development issues (Component 3) in the respective provinces in the coordination of conservancy management planning, establishment of conservancy government structure and regional planning development affecting the long term vision for the Niassa Reserve</li> </ul>
<p>Ministry of the Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police</li> <li>- Immigration</li> </ul>	<p>Has the responsibility for ensuring the public law, order and security, identification of national and foreign citizens, control over migration, fires and natural disasters. The Ministry controls the main police forces including the Criminal Investigation (PIC) and the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) and part of the prison system including pre-trial detentions and maximum security prisons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be leading partner of W&amp;FC/IWT coordination group led by ANAC (Component 1)</li> <li>- The role of PIC in the investigation of organized crime. Key stakeholder for the project strategy to deliver results for Component 1 and 2.</li> <li>- Key partner in delivery/ implementation of National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy (Component 1)</li> <li>- Key partner of IPs on site-level law enforcement C8(Component 2)</li> </ul>
<p>Autoridade Tributaria – Customs</p>	<p>Autoridade Tributaria controls the movement of goods, including wildlife, in and out of the country and application of duties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member of IWT coordination group led by ANAC (Component 1)</li> <li>- Partner in delivery/ implementation of National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy (Component 1)</li> </ul>

Ministry for National Defense and the Military	<p>The three services of the armed defense forces of Mozambique (Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique -FADM) the army, the air force and the navy, form the core of the military sector. The Ministry of National Defense is responsible for the</p> <p>implementing the national defense policies and is responsible for the enforcement and administration of the armed forces and its associated institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member of W&amp;FC/IWT coordination group led by ANAC (Component 1)</li> <li>- Key partner in delivery/ implementation of National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy (Component 1)</li> <li>- Key partner of IPs on site-level law enforcement</li> <li>- Support of anti-poaching operations</li> </ul>
General Attorney's Office	<p>The Attorney General's Office is the highest authority of the public ministries. One of the key objectives is to monitor conformity with the laws and principles of law by local and national state bodies, institutions, firms and cooperatives, civil</p> <p>servants and citizens. Able to target border security, investigate and prosecute in corruption cases. Within General Attorney's office, an environmental crime section has been set up to</p> <p>facilitate joint and coordinated actions to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary in preventing and combating environmental crimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member of W&amp;FC/IWT coordination group led by ANAC (Component 1)</li> <li>- Key partner in delivery/ implementation of National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy (Component 1)</li> <li>- Key partner of IPs on site-level law enforcement (Component 2)</li> <li>- General Attorney's office critical to ensuring the conformity of the judiciary and government institutions</li> <li>- Coordination of planned USAID and EU-led IWT support to judiciary – to be harmonized with National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy</li> </ul>

Ministry of Justice	Provides legal advice to the government, guaranteeing citizens right to legal defense and promoting respect for legality. The Ministry established coordination mechanisms with the Supreme Court, provincial, district & municipal courts and the Attorney General's Office.	
NGOs/CBOs		
The Carnivore Niassa Project	NGO focused on conserving lions and other large carnivores in the Niassa National Reserve where they thrive with the full participation and support of the people who live alongside them in the NNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Niassa Reserve stakeholders with a community conservancy project within the Niassa Reserve; strategic partner for implementation of community work in Mecula-Marrupa Corridor; utilization of Mariri Conservation and Education Centre (Component 3)</li><li>- Share regular Carnivore survey data, co-sharing</li></ul>
		Niassa law enforcement efforts, and knowledge transfer (Component 2)
Other NGOs incl. e.g. IUCN, Traffic, WWF Mozambique, RARE, Ocean Revolution, Marine Megafauna Foundation, Endangered Wildlife Trust	A number of national and international NGOs work in the conservation sector in Mozambique, focusing both on the terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Some of their work focuses on W&FC and IWT issues, and most NGOs will be keen to engage as supporting partners in the implementation of the National W&FC and IWT Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement esp. with a view to implementing the National W&amp;FC and IWT Strategy will target NGOs</li><li>- Lessons learnt from NGO led projects including on community engagement will be considered by the IPs and possibly considered for implementation B17support</li></ul>
CBOS'- communities		



Mecula - Marrupa Corridor	Local communities, organized through CBOs and an umbrella organization that is still to emerge with project support, will be both the protagonist and the beneficiaries of proposed activities. An estimated 77.229 people live in along the corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beneficiaries of Component 3, represented on the Project Board</li> <li>- Participation in the project development</li> <li>- Participation in establishment of conservancies (Component 3)</li> <li>- Implementation of pilot project on sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, alternative livelihoods incl. on ecotourism potential (Component 3)</li> </ul>
GNP conservancy complexes	Local communities, organized through CBOs and an umbrella organization and some already benefiting from project support in the areas of health, conservation agriculture, children education and environmental awareness and sustainable living practices and other. An estimated 56.705 people live in the conservancy complexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beneficiaries of component 3</li> <li>- Participation in the project development</li> <li>- Lead partners in the establishment of conservancies</li> <li>- Implementation of pilot projects on sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, wildlife ranching, alternative livelihoods incl. on ecotourism potential, human-wildlife conflict management</li> </ul>
<b>DONORS</b>		
Various donor investing into W&FC and IWT i.e. USAID, KfW, EU, UNODC and relevant GEF projects (i.e. MOZBIO)	<p>A number of donors and agencies engage with the Government of Mozambique in strengthening the national response on W&amp;FC and IWT. Investments in law enforcement, intelligence gathering,</p> <p>monitoring and also work with judiciary, customs officers, police, and lawyers all is part of this. USAID leads currently donor coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USAID as lead of the donor coordination group on W&amp;FC and IWT will be invited as a Board member</li> <li>- Critical baseline investments for all project A22components</li> </ul>

mechanisms on these thematic issues.

#### Responsible Parties

Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP)	The result of a 20 year Public-Private partnership between the Government of Mozambique and a U.S. non-profit organization- the Carr Foundation. GRP's mission is to restore Gorongosa NP, adopting a conservation model balancing wildlife and community needs focusing on core areas: four Tourism, conservation, science and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible Party</li> <li>- It is expected that GRP will implement outputs 1.6, and Gorongosa NP specific activities of outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3., 3.4 and 3.5.</li> </ul>
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	A US-based global conservation organization with a country chapter in Mozambique – has been co-managing Niassa Reserve with Government of Mozambique strengthening the national protected area system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible Party</li> <li>- It is expected that WCS will implement Niassa NR specific activities of outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3., 3.4 and 3.5.</li> <li>- Part of IWT coordination group (component 1)</li> </ul>

## Annex VI - Photos