# Ocean Country Partnership Programme

# Mozambique

## Achievement Report

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## Programme:

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a 5 year (2021-2026) technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy, management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. OCPP was delivered by three British Government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Other components of OCPP were delivered by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and the Friends of Ocean Action (FOA) and those elements are not covered in this report. More information on OCPP can be found at: DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents

## Document Purpose:

This Achievement Report presents a summary of the activities undertaken and the achievements obtained as a result of cooperation between countries for this partnership. This document does not cover the multilateral components of the programme and this report only covers achievements by the end of the programme. A range of further achievements are expected as recommendations from the OCPP are adopted by partner countries in the preceding period post-programme closure.

All OCPP Achievement Reports have been authored by the ALBs and therefore key achievements and impacts of collaboration reflects individuals own perspectives. Independent evaluation by the OCPP MEL provider verifies outputs and outcomes against the programme logframe, the findings of which can be viewed in the programme's annual reviews and closure report on Dev Tracker.

## Funding Acknowledgement:

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The authors would like to thank and acknowledge Defra on behalf of the UK Government for the funding: project number GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP has funded this work.

# Contents

# Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| ADNAP | Provincial Fisheries Directorate and Maritime Administration |
| ANAC | The National Administration for Conservation Areas |
| BHC | British High Commission |
| BPF | Blue Planet Fund |
| Cefas | Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species |
| COAST | Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition |
| Defra | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| DINAB | National Directorate of Environment |
| DIPOL | National Directorate for Sea Policies |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| FAD | Fish Aggregation Device |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| GBF | Global Biodiversity Framework |
| GEDSI | Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems |
| HNS | Hazardous and Noxious Substances |
| IDEPA | National Institute for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| INAMAR | National Institute of the Sea |
| INIP | National Fish Inspection Institute |
| InOM | Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique |
| IUU | Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated |
| JNCC | Joint Nature Conservation Committee |
| LMMA | Locally Managed Marine Area |
| LNG | Liquefied Natural Gas |
| MAAP | Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, and Fisheries |
| MIMAIP | Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries |
| MMO | Marine Management Organisation |
| MPA | Marine Protected Area |
| MSY | Maximum Sustainable Yield |
| MTA | Ministry of Land and Environment |
| NCP | National Contingency Plan |
| NGO | Non-Government Organisation |
| OCPP | Ocean Country Partnership Programme |
| POEM | Marine Spatial Plan (Planeamento Espacial Maritimo) |
| POLMAR | Policy and Strategy of the Sea |
| RCP | Regional Contingency Plan |
| SEAH | Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment |
| SeyCCAT | Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust |
| UEM | Universidade Eduardo Mondlane |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| WCS | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| WIO | Western Indian Ocean |
| WIOMPAN | Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Area Management Network |
| WIOMSA | Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association |

# Executive Summary

The OCPP Mozambique partnership has delivered a focused and impactful programme that strengthened national capability, advanced key marine policy reforms, and supported Mozambique's ambition for a sustainable and resilient blue economy. Through collaboration with government, national NGOs, universities and regional bodies, the programme responded to Mozambique's priorities and created meaningful improvements in marine governance, scientific capacity and coastal resilience.

A major success of the programme has been the establishment of the Marine Conservation Leadership Academy, which provides Mozambique with a long-term pathway for developing skilled MPA practitioners and has already supported the country's first Portuguese language Western Indian Ocean – Certification of Marine Protected Areas Professionals (WIO-COMPAS) certifications. OCPP also played an important role in progressing the National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays and the national MPA Network Expansion Strategy, strengthening Mozambique's ability to meet its biodiversity commitments.

At the same time, the programme expanded Mozambique's capacity in aquaculture governance and aquatic animal health, including hands on biosecurity and Geographic Information System (GIS) training delivered through UK and in-country exchanges. This work strengthens future opportunities for sustainable aquaculture growth, supporting both livelihoods and food security.

Regionally, Mozambique's active participation in finalising the Western Indian Ocean Regional Contingency Plan, supported by accredited Highly Noxious Substances (HNS) and pollution response training, has strengthened the country's readiness for cross border marine pollution events and reinforced its collaboration within the Western Indian Ocean community.

A further legacy is OCPP's investment in 18 postgraduate scholars whose research across blue carbon, fisheries, coral reefs and marine pollution is building Mozambique's next generation of ocean scientists and creating evidence that will inform national policy for years to come.

Through strengthened institutions, improved technical skills and deepened regional cooperation, OCPP leaves Mozambique better equipped to safeguard its marine ecosystems and support the communities that rely on them. This report reflects a partnership rooted in national leadership and shared commitment to a sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient ocean future.

# Context

Mozambique is situated in southeast Africa and boasts the third longest coastline within the African continent, extending 2,500 km with a marine and coastal area of 574,410 km2. Mozambique supports a wide range of ecosystems, making it a hotspot for marine biodiversity, with over 900 species of reef-associated fishes; 400 species of molluscs; 70 species of hard and soft corals; 122 species of sharks and rays; 5 turtle species; the last viable population of dugongs in the Western Indian Ocean; 740 species of sea and coastal birds; and 2,910 km2 of mangroves. Yet, despite such natural riches, Mozambique is consistently ranked as one of the five poorest countries in the world, with 65% of the population living in poverty. Two thirds of the population live in the coastal regions, where marine resources play a key role in food security, job creation and economic growth, meaning a sustainable blue economy is critical for the country and its people.

# Coastal and Marine Pressures

The main threats to Mozambique's marine ecosystems include overfishing and illegal fishing, climate change, unsustainable industrial development, exploitation of natural resources (oil and gas), pollution, commercial shipping, fertiliser/pesticide runoff and extreme weather events.

Environmental challenges and the impacts of climate change are particularly detrimental given such high dependency on natural resources and Mozambique's vulnerability to extreme weather events. Large areas of the country are exposed to tropical cyclones, droughts (every three to four years) and river/coastal storm surge flooding. Due to the high percentage of Mozambique's population who live in low-lying coastal areas, intense storms and sea level rise put infrastructure, coastal agriculture, key ecosystems and fisheries at risk. Increased frequency and severity of intense storms, droughts, floods will exacerbate challenges such as poverty and food security.

**Overexploitation and destructive resources extraction** from the marine environment is undermining Mozambique's natural resources base which is critical to the nation's food security. Coastal communities in Mozambique are heavily reliant on **artisanal and subsistence fishing,** and the fisheries landscape is diverse and complex. As shown in Figure 1, artisanal fishing accounts for approximately 90% of fish catch, and is therefore critical for providing food security and livelihoods for coastal communities, particularly for women, who play a crucial role in processing and marketing the catch. The lack of effective restrictions has led to declining fish stocks that support Mozambique's small-scale fisheries.

**Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing** represents a threat to the sustainable management of fisheries in Mozambique. Mozambique's commercial fisheries, largely focused on long-line fishing, trawling for prawns/shrimp, and tuna fishing, are estimated to be losing $60 million annually due to IUU fishing (Figure 1). The identification and demonstration of new technologies alongside the provision of training, could help enhance surveillance and technical capacity to tackle IUU in Mozambique. Challenges also exist in the monitoring and regulation of small-scale fisheries. Currently there is limited enforcement of conservation areas and current maritime policy, and the links between national legislation and local management could be strengthened.

There are few alternative livelihoods to fishing in coastal communities. The aquaculture industry is currently emerging, though some sectors have experienced issues around aquatic animal health. There is significant potential to expand the aquaculture industry (both mariculture and freshwater), but challenges exist around obtaining licences, feed and juvenile supply, securing investment, and establishing a market for produce, due to custom tariffs and tax legislation.

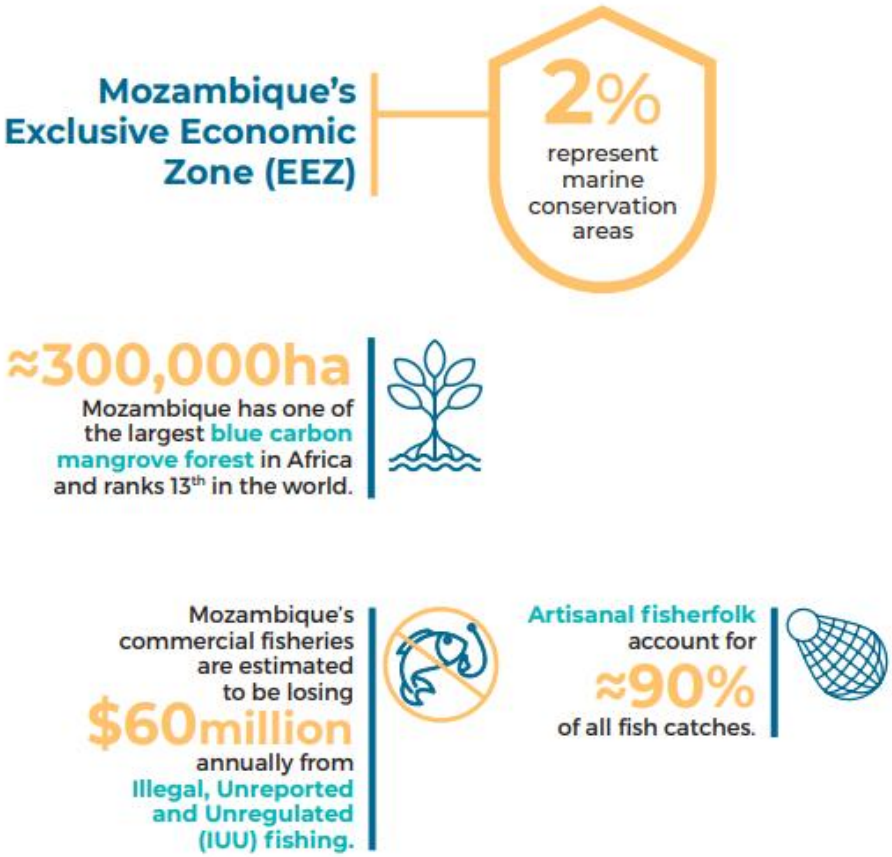




Figure 1: Mozambique facts taken from NIRAS interim evaluation report

Pollution in Mozambique is a problem mainly from terrestrial activities, particularly agriculture, caused by sediment, pesticide and fertiliser runoffs and from industrial activities, such as discharges of untreated effluents and sewage and domestic waste, most of which are released directly to the rivers or sea with no treatment. In addition to the chronic pollution pressures, Mozambique faces significant vulnerability to marine pollution incidents, particularly oil spills. This vulnerability is driven in part by the high-density shipping traffic that passes through narrow and heavily used sea routes, including the Mozambique Channel, resulting in elevated risks from large numbers of oil tanks and commercial vessels.

Furthermore, the risk of marine pollution is further heightened by at sea impacts from the oil and gas industry in Mozambique, which are currently poorly understood. Support to monitor impacts and establish oil spill response plans would help to regulate this industry. Solid waste entering the marine environment through poor waste collection and processing also poses a threat. Mining in Mozambique causes extensive erosion and silting and commercial operations in ports and harbours also poses a pollution threat.

The emerging threat of heavy sand mining along the Mozambique coastline is contributing to habitat degradation, which is impacting directly on the health and productively of marine resources and ecosystem services. Mozambique's current Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) cover 2.15% of the country's waters.

There are five main MPAs, several terrestrial protected areas that encompass coastal habitats, and locally managed Marine Community Conservation Areas.

## Poverty, Development and Climate Change

More than 60% of the population lives in low-lying coastal areas with 45% of the population living below the poverty line and 70% dependent on climate sensitive agricultural production for their food and livelihoods. Thirty percent of the population are reported as being food insecure. Mozambique is regularly reported within the 10 lowest ranking countries of the UN Human Development Index, and in 2022, Mozambique ranked 183 out of 193 countries. The Human Opportunity Index, a measure that summarises the level of basic opportunities in a society and how equitably they are distributed, reveals that the chances of Mozambican children later in life are largely influenced by their location and family background, chiefly household income and school attainment of the household head.

Poverty in Mozambique is driven by a number of factors including:

- **Limited access:** Many people in Mozambique lack access to basic services, markets, and economic opportunities. This limits their ability to contribute to and benefit from economic growth.
- **Natural disasters:** Mozambique is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as the 2019 cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which have had a devastating impact on the lives of the most vulnerable.
- **Conflict:** Conflict in the north and centre of Mozambique has contributed to an increase in poverty rates.
- **Decreased foreign direct investment**: A decrease in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has contributed to a crisis that has increased poverty rates. The private sector is typically the main engine for broad based growth through job creation.
- **Unequal growth**: Mozambique has experienced a long-term process of unequal growth, which has limited policy reforms in key sectors that benefit the poor.
- **Economics:** Limited opportunities for economic diversification, job growth in productive, labour-intensive production.
- **Low agricultural productivity**: Mozambique's main staple crop is maize, but production levels have not changed in the past decade. The poorest 20 percent of rural people produce only 1 percent of the country's maize, while the top 20 percent produces more than half.

# OCPP Contribution to Identified Challenges

The demand for OCPP was to focus on strengthening durable technical capability, improving evidence-to-policy pathways, and supporting coherent, inclusive governance that connects national frameworks with day-to-day decision making, to ultimately reduce threats and strengthen Mozambique's journey towards a sustainable blue economy.

These points led to identifying several overarching needs that shaped OCPP Mozambique country-level design:

1. **Strengthening ecosystem resilience and MPA management effectiveness** including expanding and operationalising Mozambique's MPA network, building practitioner capability (e.g. technical, operational and leadership skills), and establishing standardised and inclusive monitoring systems to inform national policy and site level decision making.
2. **Enhancing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods**, by improving scientific, regulatory and operational capacity for bycatch mitigation, species identification, aquatic animal health, inspection systems and value chain governance, while building the analytical and institutional foundations for future community level interventions.
3. **Improving pollution management, water quality monitoring and emergency preparedness**, through clearer institutional roles, practical monitoring protocols, stronger cross-government coordination, and increased readiness for oil and hazardous and noxious substance (HNS) spill response, aligned with Western Indian Ocean regional mechanisms.
4. **Supporting integrated "One System" governance and donor coordination**, using structures such as the Blue Planet Fund Technical Working Group and Blue Economy Working Group to align marine policy and programming with Mozambique's Policy and Strategy of the Sea (POLMAR), Planeamento Espacial Maritimo (POEM) and Blue Economy Strategy, reduce duplication, and increase coherence across national, regional and donor funded efforts.
5. **Embedding GEDSI and safeguarding across all workstreams**, ensuring equitable access to opportunities, strengthening inclusive and community informed decision making, and integrating national expertise into the design and implementation of activities across

**75%**
Outputs developed including inclusive consultation processes.

These needs collectively justify the programme's emphasis across the three OCPP pillars of Marine Biodiversity, Sustainable Seafood and Marine Pollution; supported by cross-cutting investment in capacity, governance, data systems and inclusive engagement to translate scientific evidence into sustained policy and management change.

## Stakeholders

Mozambique has a busy and complex stakeholder landscape, with multiple government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and donors active in marine conservation, fisheries management and Blue Economy development. From the outset, OCPP engaged through the national Blue Economy Working Group to deconflict activities and ensure alignment with ongoing programmes, an essential step given the number of partners operating in the sector.

Government leadership in the partnership initially sat with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) and the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA). Following the 2025 government restructuring, both Ministries were consolidated under the Ministério da Agricultura, Ambiente e Pescas (MAAP). Across these institutions, OCPP worked closely with key technical departments (including ANAC, DINAB, InOM, ADNAP, INIP, DIPOL, and INAMAR) to co-design activities, validate priorities, and ensure endorsement through the Government's Technical Working Group responsible for Blue Planet Fund programmes.

Delivery relied on strong collaboration with national and regional partners. NGOs such as Nautilus Conservation, Fundação Likhulu, WCS, MUVA, and BIOFUND contributed to capacity building, MPA management, seagrass and coastal ecosystem initiatives, gender and social inclusion, and sustainable finance. Academic collaboration, particularly with Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), supported research training, coastal ecosystem assessments and integration of new analytical methods into university teaching.

OCPP also worked with regional bodies including WIOMSA and WIO-COMPAS, enabling Mozambique to participate in Western Indian Ocean training, certification and practitioner networks. These partnerships strengthened national capacity for MPA management, leadership development and knowledge exchange across the region.

In addition to OCPP, Mozambique hosts a wide donor presence - including UNDP, NORAD, GIZ, the World Bank, and multiple conservation NGOs - reinforcing the value of OCPP's coordinated approach and alignment with national priorities. Through collaborative planning with government, NGOs and regional partners, the programme contributed to a more coherent and technically grounded foundation for marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable seafood development and the wider Blue Economy. A full list of stakeholders can be seen in Annex 1.

# Case Study

## Shark and Ray National Action Plan:

Mozambique is recognised as a global hotspot for shark and ray biodiversity, yet heavy fishing pressure is resulting in their decline. OCPP supported the Wildlife Conservation Society to host a workshop to harmonise the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays (2025–2029). The workshop brought together 65 participants from 32 central and local institutions. The Action Plan is progressing towards gazettement and official launch, formalising policy for shark and ray conservation and management.


# Impact

The OCPP's overall impact statement is: partner countries better address the challenges to their marine environments and biodiversity, enhance marine dependent livelihoods, and the wellbeing of those that depend on them, sustainably, equitably, and inclusively. Progressing towards this impact, the Mozambique partnership key achievements are summarised below:

## Built capacity to respond to regional pollution threats

OCPP assessed each country's baseline preparedness for pollution emergencies at the start of programme delivery, reviewing capability across policy, governance, delivery systems, trained personnel, and available equipment, tools and laboratories. In Mozambique, stakeholders noted that the Norway Ocean for Development programme had already supported strengthening and exercising the National Contingency Plan (NCP). OCPP therefore targeted its support towards strengthening regional readiness by facilitating Mozambique's participation in the Western Indian Ocean Symposium on Marine Pollution Emergency Response in January 2026, where the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) was finalised ahead of presentation at the Nairobi Convention COP12. Complementary Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) training ensured Mozambique's focal points gained practical skills relevant to cross-border incidents.

Through this focused support enabling direct engagement in the development and launch of the RCP, and building technical capability through HNS training, OCPP has enhanced Mozambique's preparedness to respond to marine pollution events. The programme has helped clarify Mozambique's operational role in regional incidents, strengthened alignment between the NCP and the emerging RCP, and positioned national authorities to contribute effectively to coordinated regional responses.

## Strengthening the management of a newly awarded National Park

Following the award of UNESCO status to Maputo National Park in 2025, OCPP delivered targeted MPA monitoring and enforcement training to strengthen day-to-day park management and operational readiness. Capacity-building sessions in recreational and artisanal fisheries management, boat maintenance, and search-and-rescue procedures were provided to park managers, rangers, and community monitors.

Park teams have already applied this training in practice: law enforcement staff are now more effectively controlling and monitoring recreational and artisanal fishing activity; field staff have developed and implemented a sustainable maintenance plan to improve the reliability and lifespan of boats and vehicles; and search-and-rescue training has enhanced the safety of field operations, with rangers successfully assisting tourists in several emergency incidents.

Through these targeted interventions, OCPP has strengthened the Park's operational capability and contributed to more effective protection of this newly designated National Park.

# Built capacity to conserve and manage Sharks and Rays and Marine Protected Areas

OCPP supported the development of Mozambique's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays (2025–2029), working with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to convene a harmonisation workshop attended by 65 participants from 32 institutions, followed by a technical workshop with five key organisations to finalise the draft. The Action Plan is now progressing towards gazettement, positioning Mozambique to formalise a national policy framework for the protection and sustainable management of sharks and rays.

In parallel, OCPP worked with WCS to advance Mozambique's Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of the Network of Marine Protected Areas and OECMs. Three regional consultation workshops engaged 191 stakeholders across government, academia, NGOs, and coastal communities, resulting in a more robust, inclusive, and evidence-based Strategy. The final draft has been submitted to the Council of Ministers, increasing the likelihood of successful expansion of marine protection in Mozambique.

OCPP has also invested in strengthening institutional capacity for effective MPA management and fish health inspectorate techniques. Training in sustainable finance, MPA management planning, and coastal ecosystem protection has equipped ANAC staff and partners with practical skills they are already applying in their work. The establishment of the Marine Conservation Leadership Academy provides a sustainable mechanism for continued capacity development beyond the lifetime of the programme.

To support more equitable and effective marine resource management, OCPP commissioned MUVA to undertake research on gender in Mozambique's MPAs. This work has advanced the mainstreaming of GEDSI principles within Blue Economy programming, with MUVA expanding its engagement in women's empowerment initiatives and upcoming donor programmes incorporating the report's recommendations into their activity design.

***Feedback from OCPP and Fundação Likhulu refresher training following Maputo National Park's recent UNESCO heritage status award:***

*Overall, participants praised and gave a very positive evaluation of the training methodology was, highlighting the following as the main gains: i) the simplest and most effective technique for washing boat engines; and ii) Proper use and efficient management of equipment. They committed to carrying out periodic maintenance of the boats and to sharing the knowledge acquired with their colleagues.*


# Case Study

## MPA Leadership Academy

In partnership with Nautilus Conservation, one of the OCPP delivery partners, JNCC supported the development of a Marine Conservation Leadership Academy which delivers accredited professional vocational training for Mozambique's MPA staff. The Academy will enhance MPA practitioner skillsets and improve management effectiveness across Mozambique. By establishing a formal collaboration between Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), Nautilus Conservation, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), OCPP has provided a long-term training initiative to support the professional development of MPA managers, aiming to equip managers

The established Academy is framed by a capacity building strategy, aligned with ANAC and WIOMSA strategies, and includes ten training modules delivered by expert lecturers from across the WIO, covering topics from MPA regulatory frameworks and essential operating requirements to human dimensions of MPAs and sustainable fisheries management. The Academy was officially launched at an event in December 2025, where the MoU between ANAC, WIOMSA, and Nautilus Conservation was signed.

*The ceremony concluded with an address by **ANAC's Director General, Pejul Calenga**, who stressed the importance of this partnership in addressing the professional and institutional capacity challenges faced by Mozambique's conservation sector. He emphasized that the programme is grounded in the country's local realities and field-level needs, while ensuring alignment with national, regional and international conservation commitments — including Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3.*

# Workstreams and Delivery

The OCPP started engaging with Mozambique at the end of 2022, but MoU agreements were delayed, so delivery started in 2024 and concluded at the close of OCPP in early 2026. Figure 2 provides an overview of the timeline for the Mozambique partnership.

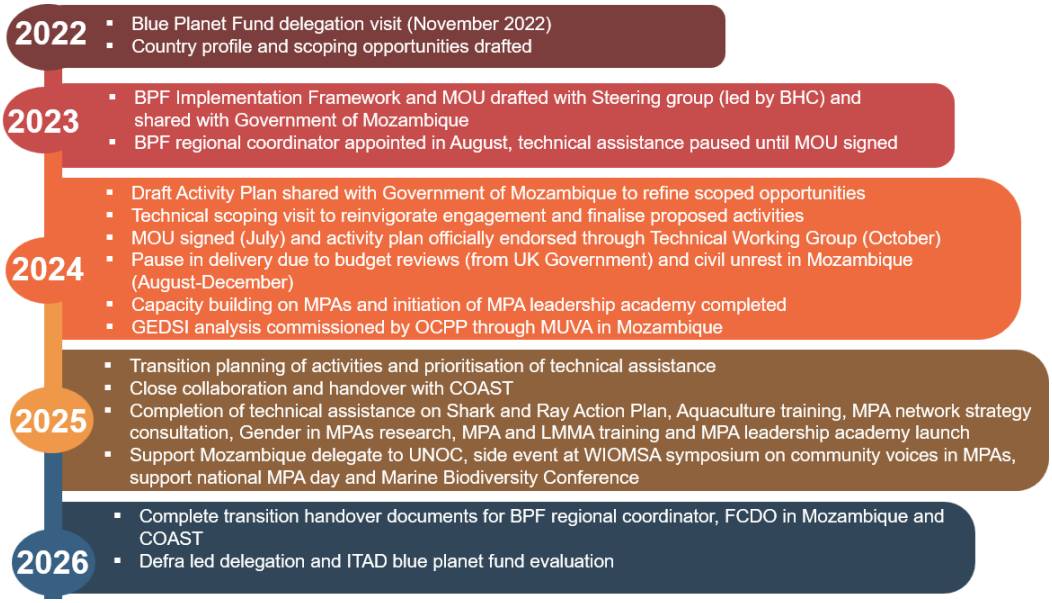



Figure 2: Timeline of Delivery throughout the Mozambique OCPP partnership

## Marine Protected Areas

The marine biodiversity theme in Mozambique focused on enhancing capacity for MPA practitioners, including through regional networking opportunities, and supporting progress towards expanding the MPA network. During scoping discussions with focal points, ANAC identified their priorities as providing training opportunities to existing MPA staff, improving their marine knowledge (as many are from a terrestrial conservation background) and enhancing the MPA management skills in the ANAC workforce. InOM requested support for the MPA network expansion strategy and action plan, and DINAB requested support in assessing impact of human activities on coastal and marine ecosystems.

Marine biodiversity activities are driven by Mozambique Government's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 30x30 target, and fall within the following pillars of Mozambique's Blue Economy Strategy.

Pillar 3: Natural Capital, Environment and Circular Economy:

- Priority initiative: Create a specific regulation of good practices for activities that use coastal, maritime spaces and inland water, particularly those related to interaction with wildlife (fauna observation) and resource extraction

- Priority initiative: Expand and strengthen the network of marine conservation areas, with the support of NGOs and emerging industries at sea, strengthening enforcement in areas with the highest levels of protection and involving coastal communities and local public participation in the decision-making process

- Objective: Ensure funding capable of improving the management, inspection and effectiveness of marine conservation areas and other sensitive ecosystems

- Objective: Promote the restoration of coastal ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrasses) capable of minimising coastal erosion and the negative impacts of the growing number of extreme weather events

Contributing to building capacity for effective MPA management OCPP has completed several exercises:

- The **development of an MPA Leadership Academy** framework, including 10 training modules, accreditation pathways with the department of education (vocational credits will be awarded to trainees), and expert lecturers from the WIO and site facilities secured, with the aim of training commencing for ANAC staff in 2026. The Academy development also included a capacity building strategy and sustainable financing plan, and the official launch of the Academy took place in December 2025 (with an MoU signing between ANAC, WIOMSA, and Nautilus Conservation to sustain progress beyond the lifetime of OCPP).

- **Hosting a workshop on Integrating Sustainable Financing into MPA Management Planning i**n April 2025, delivered in partnership with BIOFUND. This event also covered proposal writing training and guidance materials have been shared with the 35 participants of this event. In August and September 2025, OCPP continued to build on this training by supporting the pilot phase of a WIOMPAN Exchange programme, with 2 Mozambican delegates travelling to the Seychelles for a 10-day WIO-wide exchange (10 participants from across the WIO in total) to learn about the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority's use of park fees and innovative finance.

- OCPP has worked closely with WIOMSA to develop an LMMA competency assessment tool, trialling the approach in 5 pilot LMMA sites early in 2025. This assessment allows LMMA managers to understand competency gaps, to seek tailored training opportunities.

- OCPP commissioned MUVA, a Mozambican women empowerment NGO, to undertake a research piece into **Gender in Marine Protected Areas in Mozambique**. The research report has been widely distributed and is being used by other donor programmes to inform their activities to better capture community considerations in MPA-related support. OCPP supported MUVA in hosting a special session at the WIOMSA Symposium to present their findings, generating regional interest and commitment to integrate the research into MPA activities.

- Following Maputo National Park's recent UNESCO heritage status award, OCPP worked with Fundação Likhulu to **host refresher training** to cover artisanal fishing monitoring, recreational fisheries monitoring, boat care and maintenance, search and rescue operations. This training supports

future fisheries monitoring efforts and ensures field activities are carried out safely and efficiently.

- OCPP supported the first **Introductory Course on LMMAs and Local Exchange Visit**, held in October/November 2025. The introductory course and exchange visit took place at the facilities of the Associação de Gestão dos Recursos Naturais de Nhangau (AGRN) located in Sofala Province, Mozambique using modules develop by WIOMSA adapted into Portuguese by the trainers. This training and learning exchange event supported community conservation initiatives, facilitating the sharing of challenges and opportunities among LMMA practitioners.

- **Supporting MPA management certification.** Only one Mozambican has ever been certified (at Level 1) by WIO-COMPAS (a prestigious regional MPA management accreditation programme), due to the WIO-COMPAS programme materials and assessors not being in Portuguese and limited promotion of the certification programme with ANAC. To address this, OCPP has supported WIOMSA to translate all WIO-COMPAS assessment materials to Portuguese and train 3 Mozambican assessors to support future certification events. We supported the first ever Portuguese-speaking certification event in April 2025, with 2 MPA practitioners certified at Level 2 (MPA manager level). OCPP also supported WIOMSA to host a workshop (with 28 participants) to raise awareness of WIO-COMPAS, and we have been supporting planning for a Level 1 event hopefully scheduled for 2026.

- OCPP held a week-long coastal ecosystem research and restoration workshop in late March 2025, with 52 participants trained. This session facilitated knowledge exchange and included training sessions from Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Fundação Likhulu, and Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), and also included a QGIS mapping tutorial to support mangrove restoration efforts.

> "There's not much room for improvement, as the programme is very well organised. I just appreciate the invitation and the opportunity for those present to share about coastal ecosystems, and the experience of the different speakers present."

OCPP worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to **support the development of a national strategy to expand MPA network**. OCPP supported WCS to host three regional consultation meetings on the MPA Network Expansion Strategy and Action Plan in March 2025: in Maputo (covering Southern region), in Beira (covering Central region) and in Nampula (covering the northern region). The aim of these meetings was to present the draft Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of the Network of Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Marine Conservation Measures in Mozambique to a wider audience, and to gather input from various stakeholders. A total of 191 people took part in the meetings. The contributions gathered during these public consultations were integrated to improve the draft Strategy and Action Plan document, with the aim of ensuring that the final document reflects the needs and perspectives of the various stakeholders.

To ensure regional opportunities in MPA capacity building and networking remain open to Mozambican delegates, OCPP partnered with WIOMSA to

support Mozambican attendance at WIO events, including WIOMPAN meetings, training events in MPA sustainable financing and MPA enforcement, and the WIOMSA Symposium.

Supporting national events, OCPP partnered with Fundação Likhulu to host the first national MPA Celebration Event in August 2025, showcasing the inspiring MPA initiatives across the country through an engaging video commissioned by OCPP, and also contributed to the national Marine Biodiversity Conference series. A summary of the impact of the MPA workstream is provided in Figure 3.

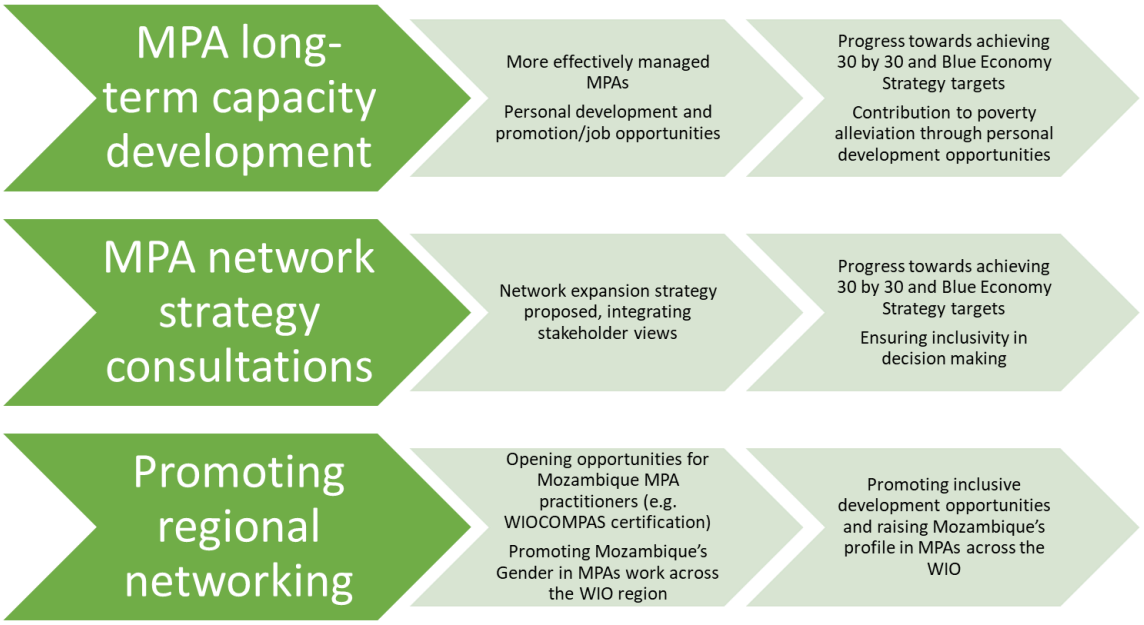



Figure 3: Summary of the impact delivered through the MPA workstream.

## Sustainable Aquaculture

Aquaculture activities fall within the following pillars of Mozambique's Blue Economy Strategy:

Pillar 1: Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Objective: Ensure the supply and consumption of fish at national level, promoting food and nutritional security.
- Objective: Improve the level of training of fishing professionals, namely in terms of innovation and technology transfer, and technical and scientific knowledge in the field of fishing and related activities
- Objective: Promote the bio-economically sustainable exploitation of fishing and aquaculture resources, improving inter-institutional communication, coordination, and inspection, minimizing conflicts with other activities, and reducing the risk of diseases

Pillar 5: Good Governance and maritime security.

- Objective: Develop mechanisms that guarantee inspection, monitoring and control of all activities that occur in the maritime, coastal, and inland waters.

Discussions held during scoping helped to refine the priorities expressed by governments down to areas where OCPP had the necessary resource, previous experience and materials to be able to develop training programmes.

The key areas developed and delivered were:

- Training in aquatic animal health management and biosecurity.
- Training in the use of GIS for use in aquaculture governance and planning.

Training was delivered via an in-depth 2-week training session in the UK, held in September 2025 for 3 delegates from ADNAP and 3 from INIP. This visit provided an opportunity for knowledge transfer from the UK Fish Health Inspectorate, focused on understanding the role of GIS and spatial mapping in aquaculture planning and licencing, and laboratory techniques to assess fish health and biosecurity.

OCPP translated a widely accepted *E. coli* protocol from English to Portuguese and shared this with INIP for future use. A training video titled 'Enumeration of Escherichia coli (*E.coli*) in bivalve molluscan shellfish by the Most Probable Number (MPN) technique' accompanied this protocol to provide further support and clarity in implementing the Most Probable Number (MPN) method.

A summary of the impact of the Aquaculture workstream is provided in Figure 4.

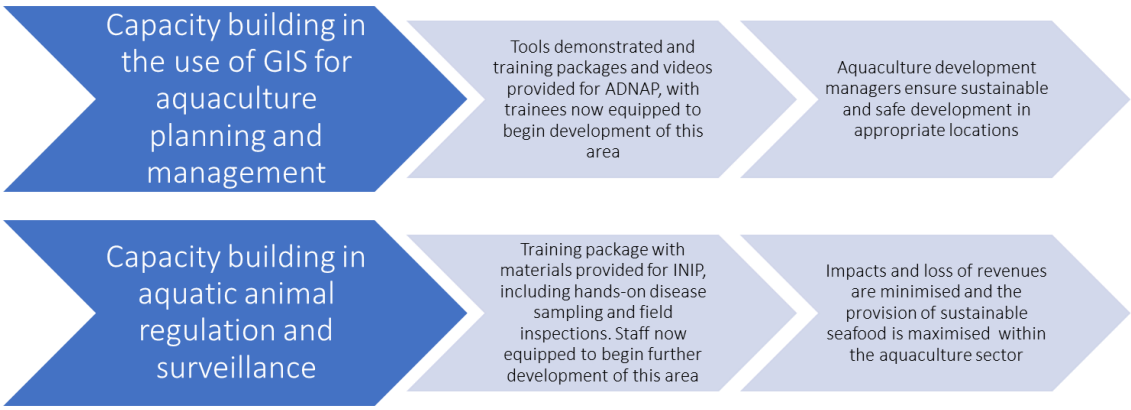



Figure 4: Summary of the impact delivered through the Aquaculture workstream

## Fisheries

During scoping discussions with focal points from ADNAP, InOM, and IDEPA, a number of priority areas were identified, reflecting the specific mandates of each organisation.

ADNAP highlighted three main priorities:

1. Fisheries data collection, including support to develop a recreational fisheries monitoring programme, and the development and application of technological tools to improve and streamline data collection, bycatch monitoring, and mitigation measures;
2. Capacity building, through training opportunities to strengthen expertise in stock assessment methods and fisheries modelling; and
3. Fisheries management, with support to finalise and implement the National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays.

InOM requested support to enhance national capacity in fish tagging methodologies, with a particular focus on shark and tuna species, to improve understanding of movement patterns and stock structure.

IDEPA identified a need for increased use of technology in fisheries, specifically to improve data collection and fishing efficiency, including the application of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).

Fisheries activities fall within the following pillars of Mozambique's Blue Economy Strategy:

Pillar 1: Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Objective: Update and/or increase the knowledge of fishing resources under exploitation or with potential for exploitation, namely the identification of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and its spatial distribution and adopt a code of conduct for sustainable fishing and the precautionary principle where uncertainty prevails over the resource state.

Pillar 3: Natural Capital, Environment and Circular Economy

- Objective: Improve the conservation status of natural capital so that it continues to provide relevant ecosystem services.

To support shark bycatch data collection and bycatch mitigation, OCPP worked closely with WCS to support the finalising, printing and launching the National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays. Specifically, OCPP supported the realisation of a national consultation workshop and a technical working group to complete the document. The official launch of the action plan is progressing, as well as its publication in "Boletim da Republica".

OCPP supported 4 Mozambican attendees at a genetic barcoding training at Stellenbosch University, building national capacity in this essential tool for identifying shark and ray species, trade monitoring, and enforcement. This technique helps verify whether products originate from CITES-listed species. In Mozambique, where shark fisheries are significant but often underreported, barcoding provides valuable insights into species diversity and fishing pressure, supporting the effective implementation of the NPOA.

A summary of the impact of the Fisheries workstream is provided in Figure 5.

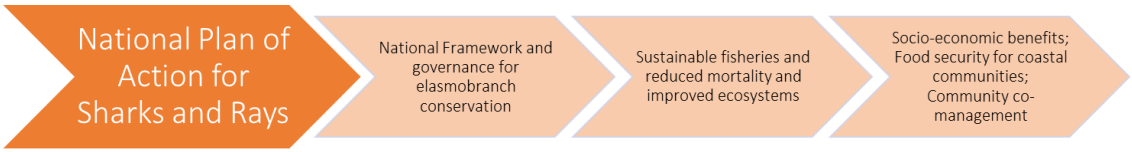



Figure 5: Summary of the impact delivered through the Fisheries workstream

## Emergency Response

The marine pollution theme was not active in the Mozambique partnership. However, OCPP facilitated Mozambican participation (from 4 nominated delegates) in the WIO Regional Symposium on Marine Pollution Emergency Response held in January 2026 in Zanzibar. OCPP collaborated with the Nairobi Convention and the Indian Ocean Commission to support technical endorsement of the WIO Regional Contingency Plan (RCP).

The Symposium resulted in the WIO countries reaching an agreement on the RCP, which will be presented to Contracting Parties for potential adoption at the Nairobi Convention COP 12 in 2026. The Symposium also provided the opportunity for countries to identify both national and regional gaps and priorities, which have been integrated into the RCP implementation plan and for scoping onward opportunities to build on the momentum from the symposium. As an output to support the dialogue, a sub-regional Vessel Traffic Analysis was produced for Mozambique and Madagascar, providing an evidence-based overview of ship movements and associated marine pollution risks in the region.

In addition, OCPP supported essential capacity building for Mozambique, with accredited regional training delivered on Hazardous and Noxious Substances, as well as technical training on dispersants, claims and compensations, and oiled wildlife response. The capacity building and knowledge sharing were specifically highlighted as valuable outcomes of the event, particularly the accredited Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) training.

Another key outcome of the event was improved coordination in the WIO region, which is crucial to align marine pollution response, identify sustainable funding sources, and undertake a regional risk assessment (all identified as key next steps). The Symposium also provided the opportunity for the application of marine pollution emergency response into other critical themes, including GEDSI and disaster resilience, recognising the need for integrated approaches to address multi-hazard preparedness and safeguard coastal livelihoods.

As part of the capacity building programme, OCPP has also supported remote training outside of the Symposium, including training on Oiled Wildlife Response (delivered by The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) and HNS Convention/Claims and Compensation (delivered by The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds). Ensuring Mozambique's participation in the launch of the RCP, and providing complementary capacity building, OCPP has enhanced Mozambique's preparedness to respond to emergencies, clarifying their role in regional events and ensuring alignment of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to the RCP. Mozambique's priorities to increase preparedness included updating the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and related legislation and identifying financial lines to implement the NCP

(including running exercises and training). In the long-term, Mozambique aims to undertake sub-regional collaboration with Madagascar to align NCPs.

Figure 6 outlines the impact of the Emergency Response workstream.

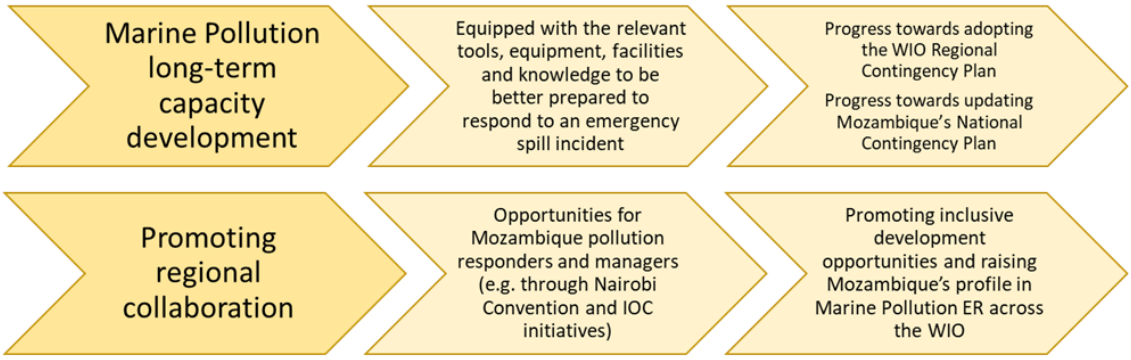



Figure 6: Summary of the impact delivered through the Emergency Response workstream

# Education

There are eighteen OCPP Mozambique scholars, studying at two universities in Mozambique, with eight scholars studying at Universidade Lúrio (UL) and nine scholars studying at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM). Scholars studied for MPhils under the following,

- MPhil in Aquatic Animal Health
- MPhil in Wetland Restoration/Ecosystem Restoration
- MPhil in Inland Water Resource Management
- MPhil in Fisheries Management

The scholarships were established to address a critical shortage of nationally trained marine scientists and to strengthen Mozambique's long-term research and technical capacity in marine biodiversity, fisheries, aquaculture, ocean governance and climate resilience. This mirrors priorities repeatedly raised by government counterparts including ANAC, InOM, DINAB and ADNAP, as well as findings from the NIRAS evaluation identifying marine education as a major capacity gap in the country.

Scholars are progressing through coursework, research design, fieldwork and analysis stages, with some facing delays linked to the 2024–25 civil unrest and temporary suspension of in-person university activities. Two UEM scholars received exceptional extensions to complete their theses, reflecting the programme's flexibility in supporting students affected by national disruptions. The remaining cohort at both UEM and UniLúrio is now undertaking approved fieldwork or writing up results.

Topics selected by the students for their research projects covered:

- Aquaculture Health, Disease, and Biosecurity
- Aquatic Pollution, Water Quality, and Plastics
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Fisheries Sustainability

- Coastal Habitats, Ecosystem Mapping, and Environmental Management

These research topics align strongly with OCPP's pillars of marine biodiversity, sustainable seafood systems and marine pollution, while simultaneously reinforcing Mozambique's Blue Economy Strategy and future Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) programming. A full list of the research titles is available in Annex 2. The focus on data-poor systems such as artisanal fisheries, coral reef health and pollution impacts, responds directly to Mozambique's need for improved evidence to inform policy, spatial planning and management.

The scholarship programme is also expanding Mozambique's future leadership pipeline. Scholars are building connections with national agencies and contributing to wider marine initiatives, including coral restoration pilots, ecosystem monitoring programmes and community fisheries work. Their research outputs will provide new datasets, baseline assessments and management insights of lasting value to government, universities and NGOs engaged in coastal and marine governance.

Together, these eighteen research projects represent a significant investment in Mozambique's long-term scientific capability and will help underpin future decision-making on ecosystem conservation, fisheries governance, climate adaptation and blue-economy development. They form a core part of OCPP's legacy in Mozambique, complementing capacity-building investments in MPAs, fisheries and aquaculture, and ensuring continuity of national expertise long after the programme's closure.

***Mozambique student (Luis) from UEM:***

*It is with great satisfaction that I can share my success in the first module, Advanced Research Methods (Statistics), which is part of my Masters in Biology and Conservation of Biodiversity at University Eduardo Mondlane. I performed well, achieving the highest mark in the class, largely thanks to the opportunity offered by the scholarship, which is has changed my life and, without a doubt, will have a positive effect on the lives of millions of Mozambicans.*

# GEDSI and SEAH

In the Mozambique partnership, OCPP has been working closely with MUVA, a Mozambican female empowerment NGO, to review the activity plan and provide recommendations to integrate Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) into delivery. The report includes the following key recommendations to strengthen OCPP's GEDSI and SEAH approach:

1. Ensure that MPA policies are inclusive and human-centric, embedding GEDSI principles into both policy texts and implementation frameworks.
2. Ensure that all evidence includes a gender perspective and at the minimum has gender-disaggregated data to inform gender-sensitive strategies, addressing gaps in areas such as marine pollution and aquaculture.
3. Promote equitable access to training, fostering a pipeline of women researchers and leaders in marine conservation.
4. Implement robust protocols to prevent SEAH, supported by comprehensive training for stakeholders.
5. Invest in generating relevant baseline data in terms of GEDSI and SEAH, including to support the design of the next potential phases and programmes with this perspective from the outset and the necessary information to set realistic targets.
6. Ensuring GEDSI and SEAH are considered from the start in the project design and be realistic about the level of GEDSI and SEAH that are relevant and possible

By following these recommendations, and seeking MUVA's input and advice in activity delivery, OCPP achieved a "GEDSI Sensitive" rating in the Mozambique partnership.

OCPP also commissioned MUVA to undertake a key research piece into Gender in Marine Protected Areas, providing recommendations for future programming in the marine space to consider GEDSI in implementation. The report is published online in English and Portuguese and OCPP supported the submission of the report to the WIO Journal of Marine Science to be included in a specialised gender issue.

OCPP have developed a toolkit to support mainstreaming Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) to support all those working in the blue economy, including marine biodiversity, sustainable seafood and marine pollution to mainstream and monitor GEDSI within their work. The toolkit is in two parts including practical guidance and tools and templates. This has been translated into Portuguese.

# Conclusion

The OCPP–Mozambique partnership has demonstrated the power of coordinated, evidence driven, and nationally led collaboration in strengthening the foundations of a sustainable blue economy. Across OCPP workstreams of marine protected areas, sustainable aquaculture, fisheries, emergency response and education the programme has delivered high value, demand-led support that has enhanced technical capability, improved governance, and expanded opportunities for inclusive, long-term impact.

The achievements showcased throughout this report highlight the depth and breadth of this work: more than 190 stakeholders consulted on the national MPA expansion strategy; 52 practitioners trained in coastal ecosystem research; the first Portuguese language WIO-COMPAS certification event producing two nationally certified MPA managers; and 18 postgraduate scholars building Mozambique's next generation of marine scientists.

These results were possible because OCPP in Mozambique has been grounded in partnership, co-design, and local ownership. Government leadership through MAAP, ANAC, DINAB, InOM, ADNAP, INIP, DIPOL, and INAMAR ensured that activities aligned with national policy frameworks, including the Blue Economy Strategy, POLMAR, POEM, and Mozambique's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework. Collaboration with NGOs such as WCS, Nautilus Conservation, Fundação Likhulu, MUVA, and regional bodies like WIOMSA, strengthened practitioner networks, facilitated regional learning, and ensured that local priorities shaped the programme's technical direction. Academic partnerships with UEM and UniLúrio have deepened the country's research capacity and created a pipeline of Mozambican scholars contributing directly to national marine governance.

The programme also helped bring greater coherence to a busy donor landscape by aligning with existing initiatives and reducing duplication, particularly through the Blue Economy Working Group and the Technical Working Group for Blue Planet Fund programmes. This has created clearer pathways for future investment, whether in MPA expansion, ecosystem restoration, aquaculture development, emergency response readiness, or gender inclusive approaches to coastal governance.

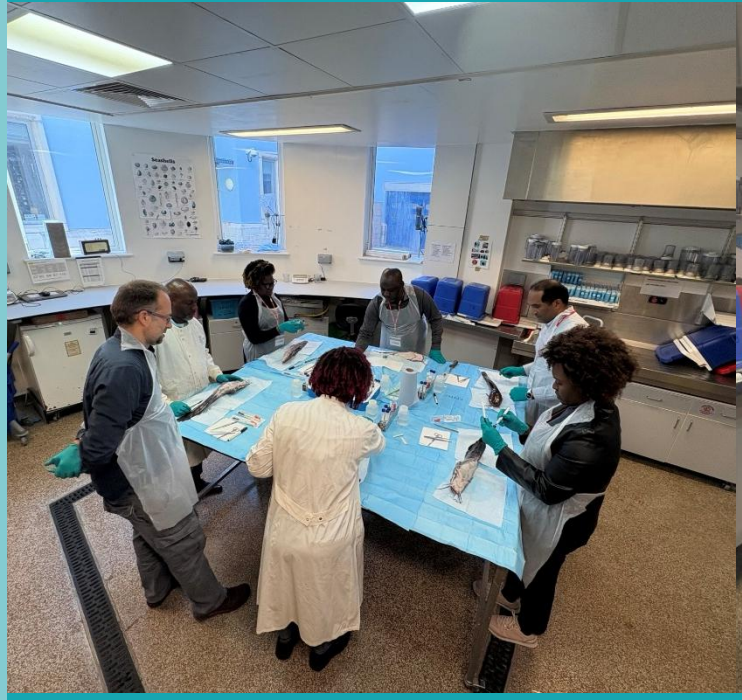
While delivery began later than initially planned, the partnership achieved notable progress within a short timeframe; laying strong foundations that national partners can continue to build upon. The OCPP legacy in Mozambique includes strengthened MPA management systems, enhanced aquatic animal health capability, new tools and protocols made available in Portuguese, improved readiness for marine pollution events, evidence-based fisheries management frameworks, and a growing community of trained practitioners and researchers equipped to advance national marine priorities.

Above all, the Mozambique partnership reflects what OCPP was designed to achieve: collaborative, country driven progress that empowers nations to steward their marine environments sustainably, equitably, and effectively. The momentum generated through this programme and across institutions, communities, and regions provides a strong platform for continued blue economy development and long-term resilience for Mozambique's people, ecosystems, and coastal livelihoods.

## Case Study: Gender in MPAs Research

OCPP commissioned MUVA, a Mozambican female empowerment NGO, to undertake research into the role of gender in MPAs. MUVA completed field research in February-March 2025, gathering community insights into life within MPAs. The Gender in Marine Protected Areas in Mozambique report presents the findings from MUVA's research on women's roles within MPAs, exploring the challenges and opportunities women face in these areas, where environmental, socio-economic, and governance factors intersect. Through a gender lens, the research investigates how gender, geography, and social hierarchies shape women's access to economic opportunities, agency, and participation in marine conservation efforts.

The research aims to inform inclusive policies and programming for blue economy stakeholders, including government institutions, NGOs, and international development partners. The research report has been widely distributed in both English and Portuguese and is being used by Mozambique donor programmes to inform their activities to better capture community considerations in MPA-related support.



# Case Study

## Sustainable Seafood Training

Aquaculture in Africa is experiencing rapid growth, expanding more than fivefold from 2000 to 2022, driven by urbanisation, dietary shifts, and increasing demand for fish. In September 2025, a two-week training course was provided at the Cefas Weymouth, UK laboratory for 6 delegates from two departments within Mozambique Government: INIP and ADNAP.  Subjects included the use of GIS for aquaculture planning and management, training from the Fish Health Inspectorate in regulation, biosecurity, surveillance and sampling for aquatic animal diseases and an introduction to the Weymouth laboratory and its designations.

The courses had a high level of engagement and very positive feedback, including suggested priority areas for future support, including the development of systems for mapping and monitoring aquaculture, and advice and training on disease diagnosis and control.

# Annex 1 – full stakeholder list

| Organisation | Type of Stakeholder |
|---|---|
| The National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC) | Government |
| Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique (InOM) | Government |
| National Directorate of Environment (DINAB) | Government |
| National Fisheries Directorate and Maritime Administration (ADNAP) | Government |
| National Administration for Fish Inspection (INIP) | Government |
| National Directorate for Sea Policies (DIPOL) | Government |
| National Institute of the Sea (INAMAR) | Government |
| Nautilus Conservation | NGO |
| Fundação Likhulu | NGO |
| WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) | NGO |
| MUVA | NGO |
| UEM (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane) | Academic |
| WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) | Regional body |
| BIOFUND | NGO |
| The Nairobi Convention | Regional body |

# Annex 2 – full list of OCPP scholar research titles

1. Assessment of Blue Carbon Storage Potential in Mozambique's Marine Ecosystems: Implications for Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation in Northern Mozambique
2. Carbon structure and stock in mangrove forests in Maputo Bay using remote sensing, southern Mozambique.
3. Latitudinal Variability in the Reproductive Periodicity of *Acropora* Corals in Northern Mozambique.
4. Evaluation of the Performance of the Macroalga *Kappaphycus alvarezii* in an Integrated Cultivation System with the Mussel *Perna perna* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Maputo Bay – Inhaca Island
5. Assessment of Coral Restoration Using Direct and Indirect Transplantation via Photogrammetry
6. A comparative analysis of the survival rates of corals of the genus *Acropora*, transplanted directly and indirectly onto restoration structures, in Pemba Bay.
7. Fishing in mining areas contaminated with methylmercury: an analysis of the ecological and toxicological risks to *Oreochromis niloticus* caught in the Chicamba-Manica reservoir.
8. Taxonomy and systematics of fish-hosted digeneric trematodes based on morphological, genetic and ecological evidence, collected from the coast of Inhaca Island, Maputo Bay.
9. Mapping of Fish Spawning Grounds in Collaboration with Community Fisheries Councils in the Districts of Nacala-Porto and Nacala Velha
10. Assessment of the Effectiveness of Mangrove Restoration Techniques for the Recovery of Degraded Ecosystems and the Promotion of Coastal Biodiversity in the Provinces of Zambézia and Nampula
11. Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Critical Ecosystems
12. Exploring the Diversity of *Scleractinian* Corals on Inhaca Island: An Integrative Approach
13. Isolation of Bioactive Compounds with Anti-inflammatory Potential from *Sargassum binderi* and *Padina boryana* – Brown Macroalgae (*Ochrophyta*)
14. Assessment of Small-scale Fisheries for the Main Fish Species on Inhaca Island, Maputo Bay, Southern Mozambique, and Proposals for Sustainable Use
15. Application of Remote Sensing Techniques and Machine Learning Algorithms to Assess the Influence of Environmental Factors on Semi-Industrial Kapenta Fish Production in the Cahora Bassa Reservoir
16. Assessment of Microplastic Contamination in Commercial Shrimp Species in Maputo Bay: *Fenneropenaeus indicus, Metapenaeus monoceros* and *Metapenaeus dobsoni*
17. Assessment of plant diversity and the conservation status of coastal dunes in northern Mozambique
18. Development of protocols to understand the sources and impacts of pollution in the coastal and marine environment of Mozambique.