



© Xerinda Maurício, young boy playing with water along the shore of the Indian ocean, Mozambique

8.13 Mozambique

Protected and conserved areas in Mozambique⁷⁰

Mozambique has 44 protected areas covering 170,662 km² of the land and 12,821 km² of the ocean (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019n). The terrestrial coverage of protected areas in the country has been increasing over the last 10 years. Recognising the national and global value of biodiversity, the Government of Mozambique has focused on ensuring the inclusion of ecosystems that were not previously represented, such as the country's only protected freshwater ecosystem, the Partial Reserve of Lake Niassa.

Marine protected areas were also expanded with the creation of the Environmental Protection Area of the Primeiras and Segundas Islands and the Partial Marine Reserve Maputo–Ponta do Ouro. Some marine sanctuaries were also declared.

The Government of Mozambique has undertaken a review of the various different co-management models and has embraced public private partnerships to improve the management of its protected area estate. This includes the Carr Foundation for Gorongosa National Park and the African Parks for Bazaruto Archipelago National Parks, among others.

Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Mozambique is a part of seven transboundary conservation areas, namely Chimanimani TFCA, Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and

Conservation Area (GLTP) TFCA, Lubombo TFCA, Conservancy Area Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCA, Niassa-Selous TFCA, Ponta de Ouro Marine Reserve-Cosibay TFCA, REM-Tembe_Ndumo TFCA and ZIMOZA TFCA.

Policy context

A comprehensive report on legislation and policy related to protected area management, governance, and equity was undertaken by the BIOPAMA programme. It identified 80 relevant laws and policies in Mozambique (Tessema, 2019).

Key species⁷¹

The knowledge of Mozambique's biodiversity remains low, but is improving. 4,271 terrestrial animal species have been recorded, 72% of which are represented by insects, birds by 17%, with only 5% mammals and amphibians remaining 2%. The most recent assessment of plants indicates the occurrence of close to 6,000 species. Studies of endemic species are scarce, although there are two centres of plant endemism - in the Maputaland area and the Chimanimani.

Of the number of plant species recorded in Mozambique, about 800 species are endemic and nearly endemic. The mountainous areas of Mozambique are relatively rich in endemic species with at least 45 species of plants that are only found in Chimanimani.

70 The section draws on information contained in Mozambique's Fifth National Report to the CBD and the National Strategy and Action Plan Of Biological Diversity of Mozambique (2015–2035) (Republic of Mozambique, 2014; 2015).

71 The section draws on information contained in Mozambique's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Republic of Mozambique, 2014).

Figure 8.25 Mozambique Summary



Total Population (millions)
29.50



Population growth (annual %)
2.90



Surface area (km²) (thousands)
786.40



GDP (current US\$) (billions)
14.46



GDP growth (annual %)
3.30

Source: The World Bank Group, 2018.

Area Protected:

44 protected areas



covering **170 662 km²** of land



covering **12 821 km²** of ocean

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019n

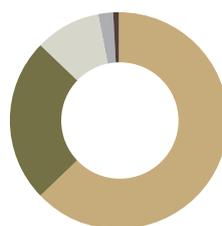


4 271 terrestrial animal species



6 000 plant species

Protected and conserved areas in Mozambique in IUCN Management Categories



- Not Assigned (No. 2)
- Not Reported (No. 29)
- VI. Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (No. 3)
- IV. Habitat/Species Management (No. 4)
- II. National Park (No. 6)

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019n).

Coverage of protected areas in Mozambique

| Type of protected area | Area protected or conserved* | Area protected or conserved** |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Terrestrial and inland water | 21.57% | 26.00% |
| Coastal and marine | 2.23% | Not found |

* WDPA dataset

** From National Report on Biodiversity

Source: Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Republic of Mozambique (2014); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019n)

Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in Mozambique

| Global designation | No. of sites |
|---|--------------|
| Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) | 2 |

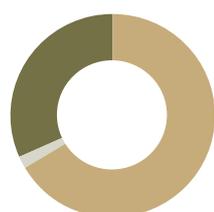
Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b)

National designations of protected and conserved areas in Mozambique

| National designation | No. | Area (km ²) |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| National Park | 6 | 33 569 |
| Game Reserve | 2 | 1 683 |
| National Reserve | 2 | 44 981 |
| Special Reserve | 1 | 1 040 |
| Hunting Reserve | 14 | 38 887 |
| Natural Reserve | 1 | 1 |
| Faunal Reserve | 1 | 20 |
| Forest Reserve | 13 | 5 286 |
| Environmental Protection Area | 1 | 24 589 |
| Not Reported | 1 | 1 148 |

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019n).

Protected and conserved areas in Mozambique in IUCN Governance Types



- Not Reported (No. 14)
- D. Governance by Indigenous peoples and Local Communities (No. 1)
- B. Shared Governance (No. 1)
- A. Governance by Government (No. 28)

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019n).

Priority areas for conservation



4 sites
Alliance for Zero Extinction sites



16 sites
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas



11 sites
Key Biodiversity Areas

Source: AZE Secretariat (2019); BirdLife International (2019b, 2019c).

New species were discovered in Mozambique as a result of new scientific studies and expeditions in previously inaccessible locations. Some of the species have been identified e.g. in Monte Inago and these include: pygmy chameleon (*Rhampholeon sp.*), butterfly (*Cymothoe sp.*), carrangueijo freshwater (*Potamonautes sp.*) and possibly a new species (*Encephalartos sp.*).

The number of threatened species shows a tendency to increase in Mozambique. More than 300 species of plants are on the IUCN Red List, 22% of which are confirmed as being endemic. Some species of the Encefalartos that deserve attention include the Munch's cycad (*Encephalartos munchii*) and cycad (*E. pterogonus*). On the other hand, Jozini cycad (*E. senticosus*) is critically endangered and Lebombo cycad (*E. lebomboensis*), Umbeluzi cycad (*E. umbeluziensis*) and Chimanimani cycad (*E. chimanimaniensis*) are threatened.

The most endangered mammals in Mozambique include the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*), common tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*), sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*), black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), the giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula*) and the cheetah (*Acinomyx jutabus*). The white rhino,

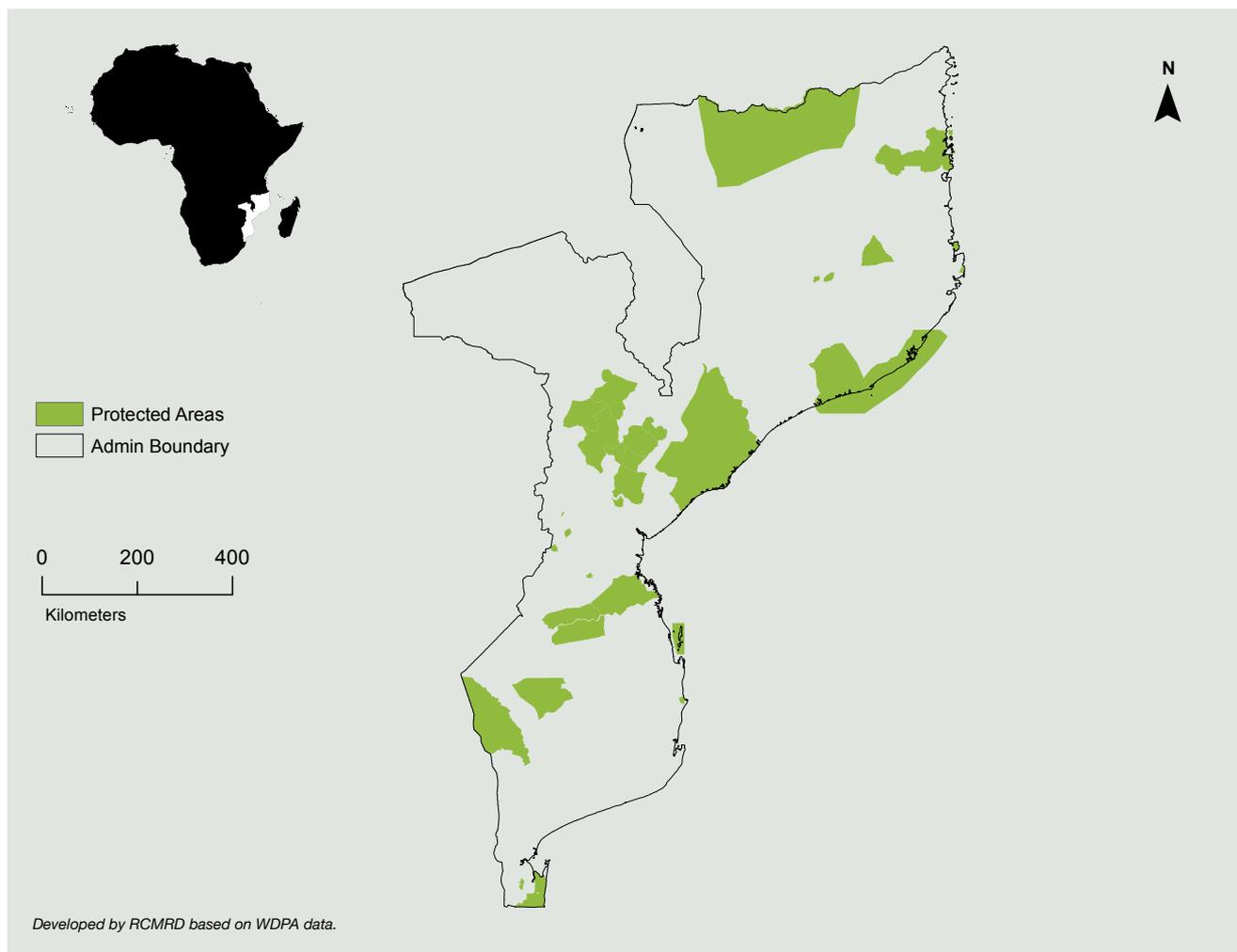
giraffe and grey-palapala were re-introduced in the Limpopo National Park and giraffes were re-introduced in the National Reserve of Maputo.

Mozambique is also home to many species of endangered birds as well as sea turtles and dugongs. Nature Science magazine is currently conducting research in marine ecosystems in Inhambane, Zambezia and Nampula provinces that will help ANAC to establish a database on marine species occurrence in Mozambique.

Pressures and threats⁷²

The main proximal threats to biodiversity are: land conversion, loss and fragmentation of natural ecosystems, habitats and species by anthropogenic factors; overexploitation of certain species; invasion by non-native species that damage ecosystems and native species; pollution or contamination by chemical products of natural ecosystems habitats or species; uncontrolled forest burnings and climate change that damages natural habitats or species, development and natural disasters.

Figure 8.26 Mozambique protected areas



⁷² The section draws on information contained in Mozambique's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Republic of Mozambique, 2014).