

**Introduction**

The Republic of Mozambique is bordered on the north by Tanzania, on the northwest by Zambia and Malawi, on the west by Zimbabwe, on the southwest by South Africa and Swaziland, and on the south and east by the Indian Ocean's Mozambique Channel.

The Mozambican coastline is characterized by a wide diversity of habitats including delta estuaries, sandy beaches, rocky shores, sea grass beds, mangroves, islands and coral reefs.

The Primeiras and Segundas Archipelago Marine Protected Area, Africa's largest coastal marine reserve, is an important area for aquatic birds and a breeding/nesting area for sea turtles, with seagrass beds, coral reefs, estuaries and mangroves. Bazaruto National Park hosts dugongs, sea turtles and waterbirds. There are also a number of protected areas are managed through Community Conservation Networks, which control fishing and other activities to ensure the viability of the area for wildlife and local communities.

The Mozambique Channel, located between Madagascar on the east and Mozambique on the west, forms an important shipping route round the southern tip of Africa into the Indian Ocean. Weather patterns during the cyclone season (December through April) are quite unpredictable, creating risks of shipping accidents and discharge of marine pollutants.

The discovery of natural gas sources has resulted in a significant amount of exploration in the Rovuma Basin near the Tanzania border and the Mozambique Basin just south of Beira, in the Mozambique Channel. Civil unrest in the north, particularly in Cabo Delgado, may have an impact on activities in this area.

**At Risk Wildlife**

In this section, some individual wildlife species are mentioned followed by a letter in parentheses. These are species included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species within the top three categories of risk - Vulnerable to extinction (V), Endangered (E) or Critically Endangered (CR).

Avian species – the islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago and the Primeiras and Segundas Archipelagos, as well as other islands are important for both migratory and resident birds. Species of special concern include Cape cormorant (E), Cape gannet (E), Madagascar pond-heron (E), yellow-nosed (E), Indian yellow-nosed (E), and wandering (V) albatross, African penguin (E), white-chinned petrel (V), and slaty egret (V).

Marine mammals – approximately 27 species of marine mammal are found in the waters around Mozambique, with many cetacean species found offshore in the Ponta do Ouro area. The largest population of dugong (V) in East Africa is found in Mozambique, largely restricted to the Bazaruto Archipelago.

Species of special concern include the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (V), and humpback (E), blue (E), fin (V), sei (E), and sperm (V) whales.

Although not marine mammals, hippopotamus are found along the coast within the Reserva Marinha de Maputo/Maputo Marine Reserve.

Marine reptiles – Loggerhead (V), green (E), leatherback (CR) and green (E) turtles nest on the Mozambique coast and Olive Ridley (V) turtles forage in the Mozambique Channel. Loggerhead and leatherback tend to nest in the south while greens nest along the central and northern coast. Many of the nesting sites are protected by the Community Conservation Networks, often in conjunction with international Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

The Ponta do Ouro Reserva Marinha Parcial (Partial Marine Reserve), a Marine Protected Area, extends from Ponta do Ouro to the Maputo River Mouth, and includes the most important leatherback and loggerhead turtle nesting areas (October to February) on the Mozambican coast. Vamizi Island is an important nesting site for greens from March to June.

Reserva Marinha Parcial da Ponta do Ouro/Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, near the South Africa border hosts Nile crocodiles.

**Regional Seas**

Indian Ocean

**Past experience**

The tanker KATINA P (1992) ran aground north of Maputo. The vessel finally broke apart and a total of 72,000 tonnes of heavy oil was spilt, contaminating a large stretch of coastline in the Bay of Maputo. No reports on oiled wildlife exist. However, great number of oil tars still remain in the beach (sand and rocks) in Maputo Bay, and greater numbers are being seen in the Inhaca Island, which is an important nesting site for seaturtles.

**Response: the role of the authorities**

Under the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP), which was under review as of 2018, the Instituto Nacional da Marinha (National Naval Authority or INAMAR), within the Ministério dos Transportes e Comunicações (Ministry of Transport and Communication or MTC), is the competent national authority for oil spill preparedness and response. The Instituto Nacional de Petroleo (National Petroleum Institute or INP) is the regulatory authority responsible for petroleum operations and works on response preparedness within the industry, and thus would likely be involved in any response.

It is likely that the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries would be involved in overall response and that the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development would be involved in wildlife response.

**Oiled wildlife response**Formal guidelines?

There are, at present no formal guidelines for oiled wildlife response, however, that may change when the NOSCP review finishes.

Response objectives and strategy

There is no reference to objectives or strategy for oiled wildlife response. This may also change with the updated NOSCP.

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?

No information exists as to whether rehabilitation would be allowed, but if allowed, there is no capacity in-country to rehabilitate oiled wildlife.

Impact assessment

There are a number of researchers and NGOs, both in Mozambique and in neighbouring South Africa who may be able to assist with impact assessment but there are no guidelines or plans in place for this process.

Notification and early response

There is no process for notification and early response to oiled wildlife at present.

**Wildlife responders**

There are no wildlife rehabilitation facilities, nor oiled wildlife response expertise in the country, however, there are efforts underway to provide some training on initial response to marine wildlife for Community Conservation Network personnel who perform monitoring and protection of sea turtles and dugongs. There are no groups active in marine waterbird conservation or care, however the Association for the Conservation of Birds and Bats in Mozambique is conducting avian surveys in various parts of the country, which should eventually include coastal areas and their avian species.

**Cooperation between stakeholders**

Centro Terra Viva (CTV), Nelson Mandela University (South Africa) and WWF collaborate on sea turtle monitoring and protection projects at various points along the coast. Eduardo Mondlane University's marine mammal scientist, also affiliated with Dugongs.org, collaborates with colleagues in South Africa and with commercial dolphin watch operations. A primary focus of that work is dugong monitoring and conservation.

Mozambique is a signatory to the Nairobi Convention together with the other States of the East African

Region and a Member State of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for cooperation on economic sectors, including fisheries, aquaculture and ocean energy, and protection of blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass beds.

### **Permanent facilities**

There are no permanent facilities for the care of any marine wildlife in the country.

### **Current processes**

At present, wildlife conservation efforts are concentrated on monitoring populations and protecting feeding and nesting areas of marine mammals and sea turtles, however no such activities are in place for marine birds to date.

### **Documentation and references**

General references

IOPF Country Profile (2006)

Birdlife International Country Profile

State of the World's Sea Turtles (SWOT) Special Report: Africa (2017)

Fernandes, R. S., G. E. Inteca, J. L. Williams, A. Taju, L. Muaves, & M. A. M. Pereira (2020). Monitoring, tagging and conservation of marine turtles in Mozambique: Annual report 2018/19. 36 pp. Maputo, CTV.

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