



WWF

FACTSHEET

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## WWF MDCO priority landscapes

# Northern Mozambique Channel Seascape

A hotspot of marine and coastal biodiversity and one of the last large marine sanctuaries in the Western Indian Ocean



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### AT A GLANCE

- **Size:** 800,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population:** 10 million
- **Ecosystems:** deep ocean, coral reefs, mangroves, coastal wetlands, seagrasses, islands and islets, coastal forests
- **Landscape features:** the second largest hard coral biodiversity hotspot in the world, Nosy Hara and Quirimbas National Parks, natural gas deposits
- **Key species:** corals, marine turtles, humphead wrasses, coelacanths, humpback whales, sharks

### Promoting integrated ocean management for sustainable development

The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region is one of world's outstanding marine and terrestrial biodiversity areas and a biological reservoir for coastal East Africa. The biological and conservation values of the NMC area are of global importance as confirmed by multiple reports including the 2012 assessment of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs).

The economic importance of the NMC has emerged as a future driver of national and regional development on a scale not previously realized in East Africa, due to the high fishery productivity of the Mozambique Channel, recent findings of globally significant natural gas deposits and a high potential for coastal tourism development. Accelerating population growth and demographic changes in the NMC region (growing to 30 million, by 2030) will increase demands for and pressures on resources, while at the same time providing opportunities for economic growth and building prosperity. Lackluster governance of marine resources, including low capacity, weak law enforcement (triggering expansion of illegal fishing), inappropriate public investment and political instability, characterize the region.

### Vision and Goals

**Vision:** *By 2050, the people, countries and economies of the Northern Mozambique Channel prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the region.*

**Goal 1:** By 2019, the NMC countries have endorsed, at the Heads of State level, a regional integrated management policy or plan of action centered on securing critical habitats for biodiversity and food security.

**Goal 2:** By 2020, the NMC countries are implementing regional integrated ocean management (IOM) policy frameworks or plans of action tackling marine spatial planning (MSP), fisheries, MPA networks, extractives, shipping and tourism.

**Goal 3:** By 2020, public-private partnerships or funding support the countries, institutions and partners in implementing the regional vision for NMC in a coherent manner.

## Key Results

WWF has been promoting integrated marine management in the NMC area since 2013. Here are a few of the key achievements:

- A Decision was issued at the Nairobi Convention COP 8 to support projects on the NMC
- Clear interests from Malagasy and Comorian governments for collaboration with WWF to fulfill their Sydney promises and to move towards implementing IOM
- Strong interest has been shown by donors to support integrated management and marine spatial planning for 2016
- Received commitment from 10 large NGO partners to be fully involved in reaching the current objectives
- Collection and analysis of baseline information to better understand ecosystem goods and services in the NMC area



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### CURRENT PROJECTS

- Initiating the scoping phase of the NMC integrated management programme to foster regional integration and MSP.
- Sustaining Life programme enhancing CSO capacity to manage and advocate for marine natural resources and create a CSO network.
- Mangrove and fisheries management and poverty reduction in Ambaro Bay, Madagascar to improve use of mangrove and shrimp resources.



## Main Activities and Partners

There are many partners acting to promote the integrated ocean management approach in the NMC as part of the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C). The WIO-C members are: Birdlife International, Blue Ventures, Conservation International, CORDIO, Fauna and Flora International, IUCN, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, Zoological Society of London.

In Comoros, two implementing partners work closely with the NMC team on strengthening the capacity of the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) in marine resource

management in Bimbini (Anjouan). These partners are local NGOs namely Dahari and UMAMA.

In the northern Madagascar, WWF works closely with LMMAs manager as well as with Madagascar National Parks and ROSEDA, a local NGO.

## People

The people who live in the NMC area vary greatly from one country to another as do their habits and customs. Many different languages are spoken in the region, with the main ones being English, French, Malagasy, Portuguese and Swahili. The populations of the countries have diverse origins coming from multiple African ethnic groups and from the Middle East, South East Asia and Europe.

The population of the NMC landscape is around ten million. Mozambique is the most populated while the Mayotte islands (France) are the least. The population growth rate is high. At the current rate the population will double every 24 years. Most of the people depend on marine resources. The education level is generally low.

## Funding Status

Total Funding Required (FY16)	Secured	Gap
573,000 USD	284,000 USD	289,000 USD



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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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