




biofund

Fundação para a Conservação da Biodiversidade



A vertical photograph of an underwater scene. In the foreground, there are several large, brown, cylindrical coral structures. A large school of small, silvery fish with blue-green tints is swimming in the middle ground. The background is a deep blue, slightly hazy water.

Tbo island
© Lars Witberg

THE EMERGENCE OF
BIOFUND
FOUNDATION FOR
THE CONSERVATION
OF BIODIVERSITY

CONSERVATION vs. DEVELOPMENT

Like many emerging countries, Mozambique is experiencing the apparent contradiction between conservation and development.

It is from this perspective that the defence of natural heritage is sometimes seen as preventing access to certain resources which are essential for the day-to-day life of the public or as an obstacle to undertaking profitable activity by those who do not possess large investments or technological capacity.

Furthermore, the attractiveness of the country to international capital is linked to activities with a high potential for causing negative impacts on the natural environment. The recent discoveries of important deposits of coal, natural gas and various minerals of high commercial value have led to the rapid expansion of the areas leased to companies, especially for mining, which ends up affecting the condition of many of the natural habitats.

The investments envisaged for large scale agriculture also contribute to increasing pressure on the flora and fauna, even in areas bordering national parks and reserves.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PEOPLE/WILDLIFE AND THE CONFLICT BETWEEN POVERTY/CONSERVATION

To this, one should add explosive population growth and the consequent demand for new areas to cultivate, which increases exponentially the occurrence of “human-wildlife conflict”, as well as increasing the demand for firewood and charcoal – the main domestic fuels of the population. The occurrence of uncontrolled bush fires, which destroy the native forest in an ever more acute manner, is essentially linked to the opening of new fields, to the making of charcoal, and to hunting bush rats.

The fruit of poverty, corruption and international crime, phenomena such as poaching, particularly linked to trafficking in ivory and rhinoceros horn, and illegal logging, are also a growing threat to the country's biodiversity.

MOZAMBIQUE: A COUNTRY WITH GREAT BIODIVERSITY

Mozambique is a country rich in natural resources, and it contains 14 important ecological regions, many of which are regarded as of global importance, such as: the Agulhas Current, the East African Coast, the Rift Valley Lakes, the East African mangroves, the Southern African mangroves, the Southern Rift Montane Forests, the Eastern and Southern Miombo woodlands and the Wetlands of the Zambezi Delta.

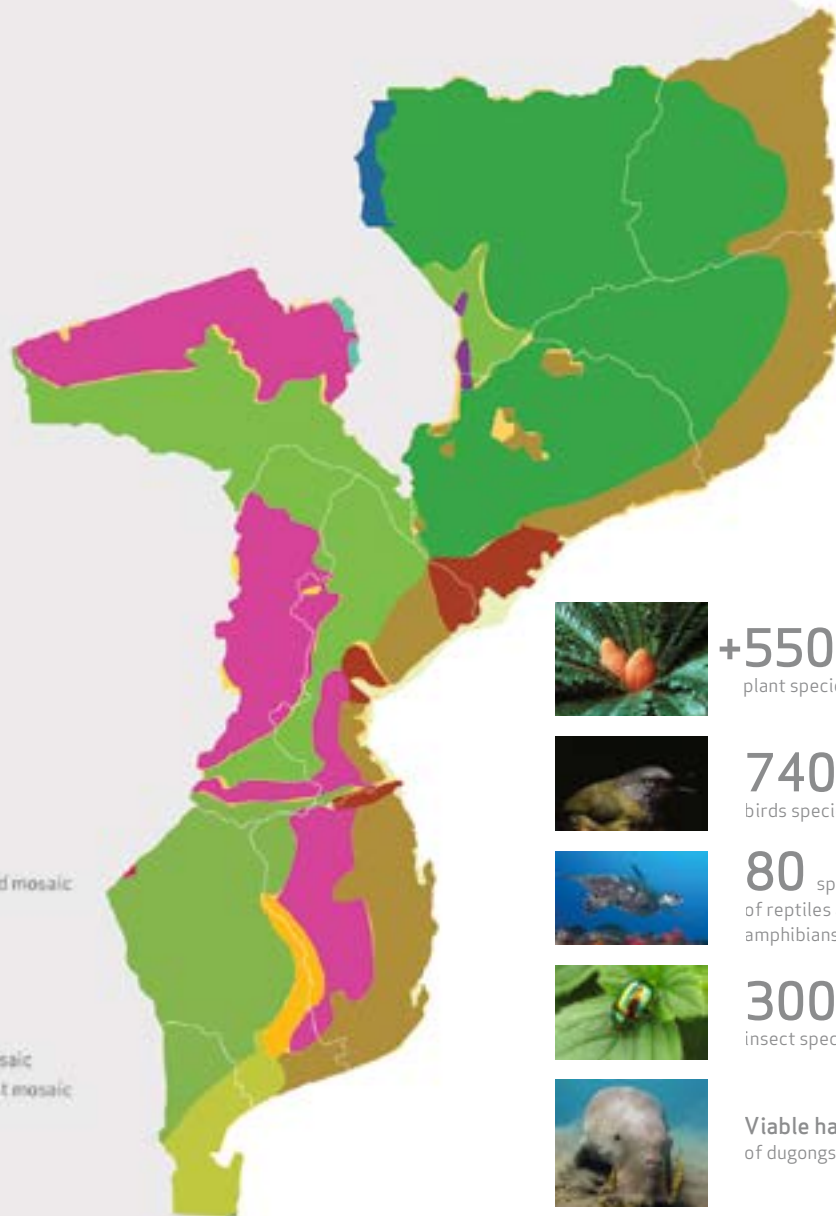
These ecological regions are the habitat of a rich flora, with 5,500 species of plants, of which 250 are endemic, a terrestrial fauna with 740 species of birds, at least 80 species of reptiles and amphibians, of which 28 are endemic, and 3,000 species of insects. Marine biodiversity is also rich and varied, including the only viable population of dugongs in the entire West Indian Ocean. New species of lepidoptera, fresh water crustaceans, reptiles, birds, microchiroptera and nudibranchs continue to be discovered every year, when scientific missions visit isolated and remote areas in Mozambique.

In the international experience, the conditions that Mozambique possesses – the rich and varied natural heritage which includes the beauty of the landscape and the marine and coastal resources – make for great tourist destinations.

The tourism industry is one of the areas where the country, and particularly the communities which live inside or near the conservation areas, can gain dividends from conservation. Only the sustainable exploitation of resources can allow their preservation for future generations and the permanent interest of visitors which are attracted by the rare and unique species which exist in the country.

Ecoregions

- East African mangroves
- Eastern Miombo woodlands
- Eastern zimbabwe montane forest-grassland mosaic
- Lake
- Maputeland coastal forest mosaic
- Southern Africa bushveld
- Southern Africa mangroves
- Southern Miombo woodlands
- Southern Rift montane forest-grassland mosaic
- Southern Zanzibar-inhambane coastal forest mosaic
- Zambezzian and Mopane woodlands
- Zambezzian coastal flooded savana
- Zambezzian flooded grasslands
- Zambezzian halophytics



+5500
plant species



740
birds species



80 species
of reptiles and
amphibians



3000
insect species



Viable habitat
of dugongs

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION AREAS AND THE DEFICIT IN ITS FUNDING

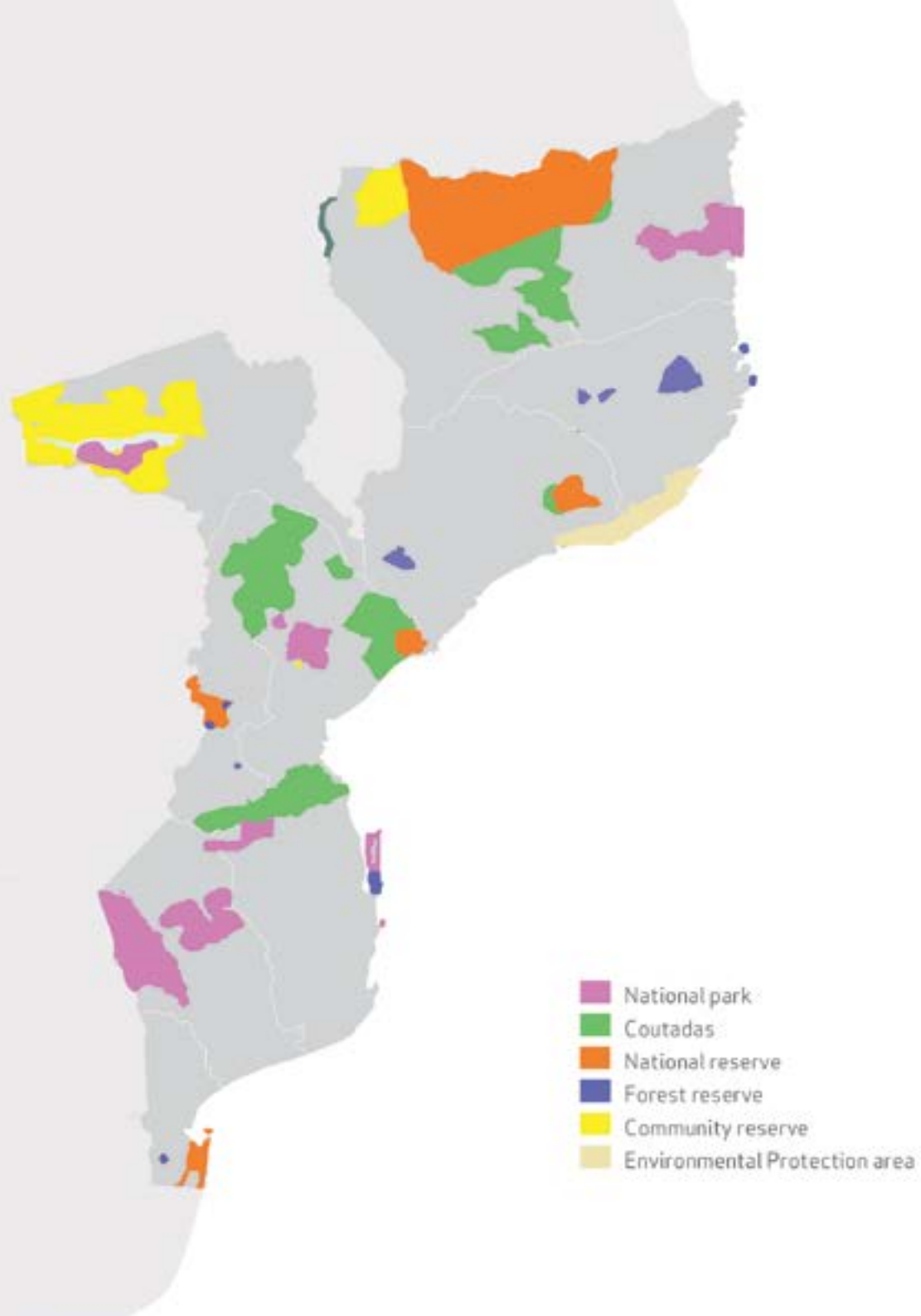
The national system of conservation areas covers 7 National Parks, 12 National Reserves, 20 Official Hunting Preserves, 51 game farms and 13 Forestry Reserves, among others.

Despite the constraints represented by population pressure and by the demand for land for the various economic projects, the percentage of the national territory dedicated to conservation is growing with the declaration of new parks and reserves, and currently represents almost 25% of the country. This noteworthy fact shows the awareness the country has of its responsibility in preserving the natural heritage with which it was endowed.

One of the great challenges that Mozambique faces in its efforts to consolidate its network of conservation areas – is lack of funding.

The income generated by the parks and reserves, including the income from tourist concessions, is still modest: the allocations from the State budget are manifestly insufficient.

It is calculated that in 2014 the contribution from the international community covered about 80% of the running costs of the national system of conservation areas, estimated at USD 18 million.



DEVELOPMENT WITH CONSERVATION AND INCLUSION

The Mozambican government has joined the main international conventions on the environment and the conservation of biodiversity. This has been expressed by passing a variety of legislation, in the creation of structures at the various levels of managing the natural heritage and in the effort to find lasting solutions to the problems that arise.

The background to the government's concerns over the correct solution to the problems of conservation and development is the debate taking place on the need to adopt development models which include the defence and valuing of the natural heritage, and which are inclusive with regard to the various strata of the population.

But while the possibilities offered by development strategies such as that of the "green economy" (to which the country has adhered) are explored, an urgent problem is posed of improving conservation policies and managing the national system of conservation areas. We cannot delay actions to preserve the

habitats which shelter many species threatened with extinction, or to prevent the extinction, by direct human action, of iconic species such as the rhinoceros or the elephant.

In this context the numbers given in the official list of threatened species (www.iucnredlist.org) are extremely worrying. In Mozambique, they include 3,186 threatened native species - 386 plants and 2,797 animals.

Likewise we cannot delay the interventions which might help consolidate, particularly among the communities which live around the conservation areas, the idea that the sustainable use of the resources is in their own interests.

BIOFUND: AN ARM OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION POLICIES

This entire problematic was revisited some months ago, at the international forum which marked the public launch of the Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity - BIOFUND.

BIOFUND is the first conservation fund set up in Mozambique according to the parameters of the CFA (Conservation Finance Alliance). At its origin is the joint effort of the Government, of the conservation community and of international partners to respond to the enormous challenge of financing conservation.

Apart from its specific action as a CTF, the Foundation brings to the conservation effort in Mozambique, the contribution of the private sector, of civil society and of the academic world. Most organisations, public or private, linked to the conservation of biodiversity in Mozambique are members of BIOFUND.

The mission of BIOFUND, according to its statutes, is “to support the conservation of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, including the consolidation of the national system of conservation areas”.

It is, by definition, the strategic partner of the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC).

The Government has recognised BIOFUND as an institution of “Public Utility” with the inherent facilities and tax exemptions.

O Governo reconheceu à BIOFUND o carácter de instituição de “Utilidade Pública”, com as inerentes facilidades de exercício e isenções fiscais.



CTFs AND THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF CONSERVATION

Conservation funds are financial instruments which arise in response to the need to guarantee long term sustainability in the financing of conservation.

Without replacing the responsibilities of states, they help ensure, in a regular fashion, the inflow of complementary resources necessary for achieving properly the management plans of the conservation areas. The conservation funds have, as their vocation, to invest part of their capital (endowment) on the international financial market, according to established prudential rules, so as to multiply the resources made available (by the State itself, by international organisations, by bilateral agencies and by private donors) and guarantee lasting funding for conservation.

Currently there are more than 80 CTFs worldwide.

The total of funds mobilized in 2014 by CTF's was \$559M (USD). Individually, CTF's were able to gather values between \$1.2M (USD) and about \$120M(USD). Figure 1 shows an estimate of the values of assets that were gathered by CTF's and what regions mobilized a greater percentage of the investment funds (endowment).

In 2014 BIOFUND mobilized \$10M(USD), a value that by the end of 2015 had ascended to \$22M(USD)

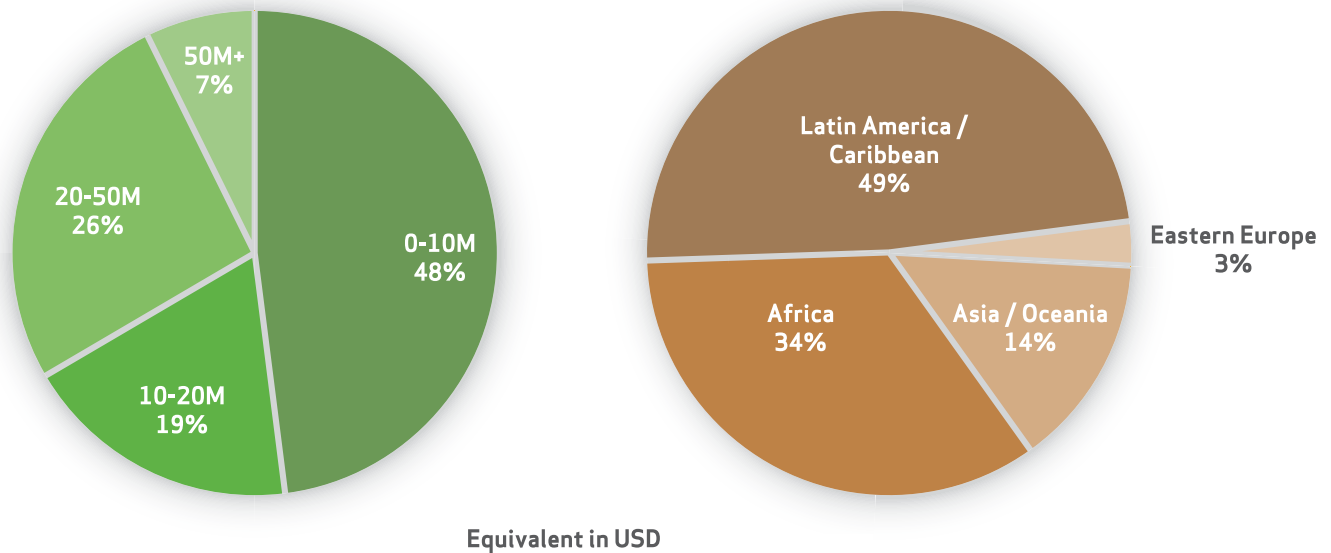


Figure 1- Endowment mobilized by the CTFs in 2014 and it's distribution by continente
(Source: Conservation Trust Investment Survey, 2014)

The standards of operation of these environmental funds are established and reviewed by the CFA (Conservation Finance Alliance), an international voluntary organisation which brings together NGOs, foundations, agencies, universities, governments and leading individuals.

Some of the main activists of the CFA have been collaborating with and supporting BIOFUND since its creation.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, environmental funds set up 18 years ago a regional federation, RedLac, which has become the

main international reference point for the sector. With the support of RedLac, of bilateral agencies and of private foundations, the African environmental funds in 2010 set up their continental organisation, CAFE (in French Consortium Africain des Fonds Environnementaux).

BIOFUND is a founder member of CAFE and has benefitted from its training seminars.

FINANCING OF BIOFUND

BIOFUND was set up in 2011 after two years of preparation conducted by the Founders Committee. This committee was selected by the Conservation Group - an informal body bringing together conservation activists, NGOs, representatives of cooperation partners and donors and also representatives of state departments that are relevant to conservation.

The activities of the Founders Committee were financed by the Global Conservation Fund managed by Conservation International (CI-GCF), by AFD, by German Cooperation via KfW, by WWF, and later by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), via UNDP, under the PROFIN project.

After it was legally established and consolidated as an institution, BIOFUND received contributions for setting up its investment fund from German Cooperation via KfW (EUR 16 million) from the GEF/World Bank (USD 3.2 million) and from CI/GCF (USD 1 million).

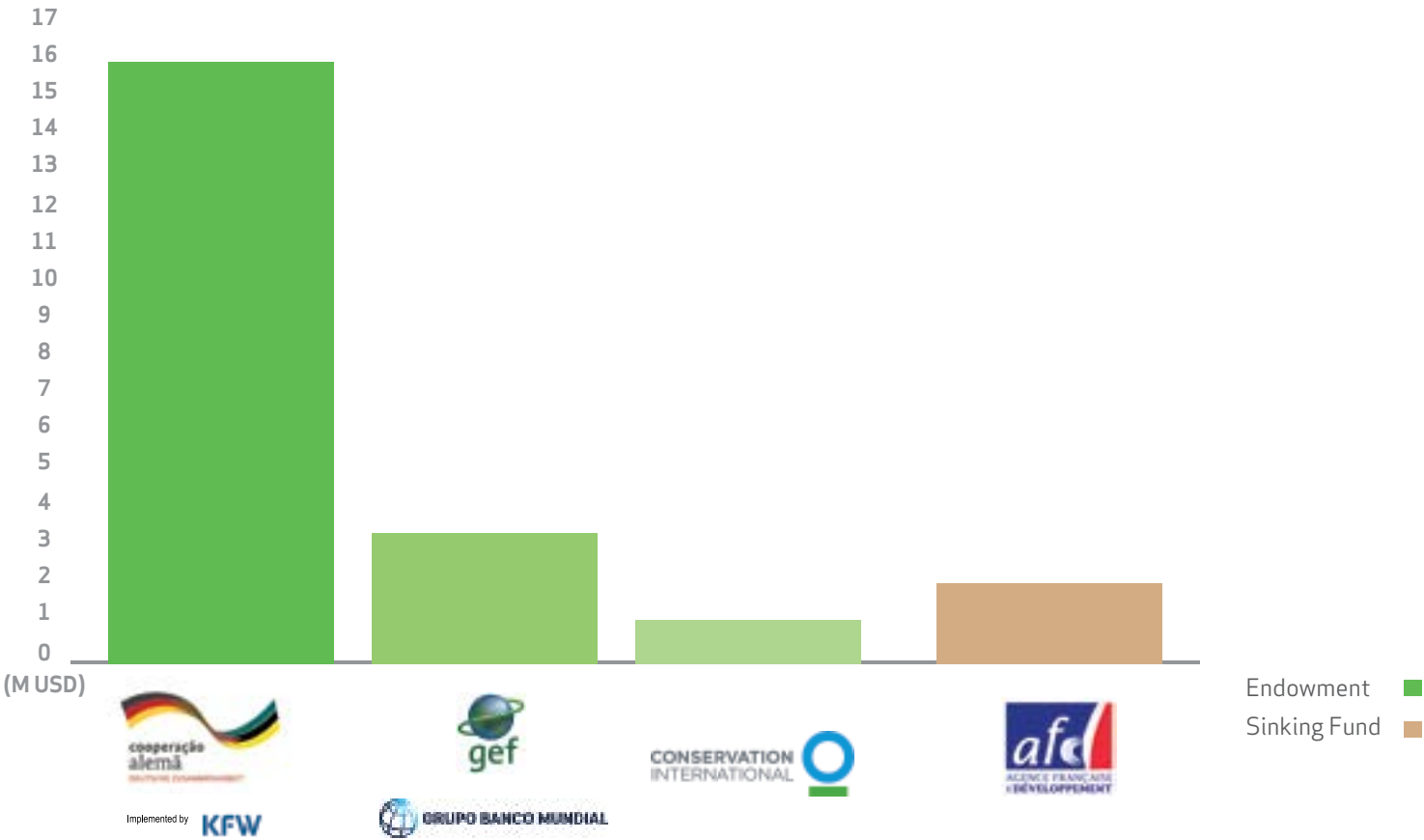
Other important contributions to the BIOFUND endowment are still being formalised.

It is calculated that, with its current level of capitalisation, BIOFUND will be able to disburse annually between USD 300,000 and USD 500,000, from the revenue from its endowment.

An important contribution to the disbursement capacity of BIOFUND will be the sinking fund of EUR 2 million that AFD is allocating to BIOFUND, under the project "Protected Areas and Preservation of Elephants in Mozambique".

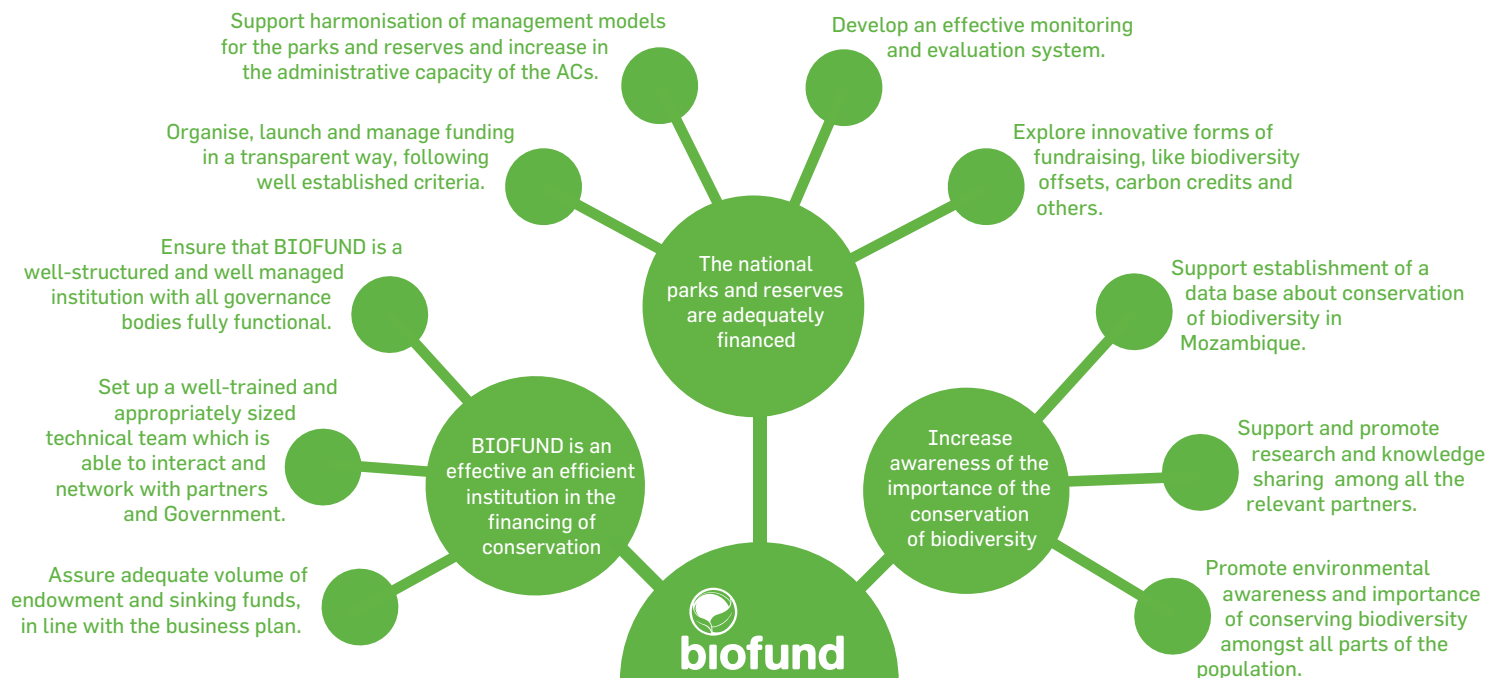
With this support BIOFUND could raise the level of its annual disbursements to USD 1 million.

CAPITALIZATION OF BIOFUND



THE BIOFUND STRATEGIC PLAN

The BIOFUND Strategic Plan, drawn up in a broadly participatory process which involved several ministries, the conservation community and cooperation partners defines clearly the main directions of BIOFUND's activities:



These strategic objectives are to be carried out permanently, during the period covered by the Strategic Plan but the effectiveness of each of them is linked to different phases of the institutional development of BIOFUND.

THE DIFFERENT PHASES IN THE EVOLUTION OF BIOFUND

In the first phase of the life of BIOFUND all efforts were directed at **Internal Organisation** in order to achieve its first strategic objective.

In fact the first step was to acquire the technical capacity necessary and the institutional solidity that would allow the Foundation to carry out correctly the functions of a CTF. The positive assessment of BIOFUND, at the end of this phase, led the various partners to sign the financial agreements which allowed the constitution of the endowment.

In the current phase, which we designate as the **Pilot Phase (2016)**, the main activity is to test and adjust all the normative instruments and instruments for action before embarking on the regular financing of the national parks and reserves, in compliance with the 2nd strategic objective.

There will follow the **Phase of Full Operation** in which the development of the Foundation, the expansion of its means of intervention and specific actions aimed at this will allow the attainment of the 3rd strategic objective, alongside the consolidation of the first two objectives.



*"If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth,
man would only have four years left to live."*

– Albert Einstein



PROJECT “ABELHA”

Project “Abelha” is the main activity to be undertaken by BIOFUND in the pilot phase.

Its general objective is to start the disbursement of funds for the Conservation Areas.

Beginning with just a single conservation area, in 2016, it is expected that in 2018 BIOFUND will be financing, under Project “Abelha”, 8 conservation areas.

Other outcomes expected from Project “Abelha” will be the updating of all the regulatory instruments of BIOFUND’s activity – especially the Disbursement Manual – detailing the established rules and procedures for all actors. A further objective of Project “Abelha” is the institutional upgrading of the areas which in this phase do not meet the conditions for applying for BIOFUND financing.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF BIOFUND

Even before the proper start of its financing activities, BIOFUND took the initiative, participated in advocacy actions or in projects to enrich the information base on conservation in Mozambique

Among them, stands out:

Dissemination and study of the Conservation Law (16/2014)

With the support of USAID/SPEED, BIOFUND translated the Conservation Law into English, analysed it and produced an interpretative document and an explanatory manual - instruments which seek to support the application of the Law and contribute to its regulation.

Data base on the Conservation Areas

With funding from AFD, BIOFUND in 2014 compiled the basic information on the situation of the conservation areas.

The data base on the Conservation Areas is available online and, judging from the number of visits, it is being heavily consulted.

More information

www.biofund.org.mz/en/base-de-dados/

Mapping and classification of habitats

With funding from WWF/UNDP and USAID/SPEED, BIOFUND awarded by public tender the study on the mapping and classification of habitats in Mozambique – a contribution to eventual decisions on biodiversity offsets.

The final report is available online

www.biofund.org.mz/en/habitats

Forum “Conservation as a pillar of Development”

With the support of its international partners and, for the first time, with local sponsorship, BIOFUND organised the event of its public launch. In the programme there stand out the solemn session chaired by the Head of State, and the international forum “Conservation as a Pillar of Development”, with important papers on the thematic of conservation and on what could be the role of BIOFUND in the Mozambican context.

Images of the event can be found here

www.biofund.org.mz/en/forum/

Exhibition “Partnerships for Conservation in Mozambique”

Also as part of its public launch programme, BIOFUND held a multimedia exhibition on biodiversity in Mozambique, identifying the most important projects in each zone of the country and the partners involved in these activities.

The exhibition was seen by thousands of visitors, particularly by students from Maputo schools. A programme is being prepared to take this exhibition round the country, aimed particularly at the teacher training institutes in various parts of Mozambique.



BIOFUND HAS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES OF OTHER BODIES. AMONG THESE, THE FOLLOWING PARTNERSHIPS STAND OUT:

Seminar on Conservation Science in Mozambique

On the initiative of USAID/SPEED, a Workshop seeking to discuss a National Conservation Research agenda was held in Maputo, in April 2014.

The seminar, which for the first time promoted interaction between scientists, teachers and students on graduate and post-graduate courses in the various disciplines involved, laid the foundations for the survey of scientific work on conservation and biodiversity in Mozambique.

Under study, with the participation of BIOFUND, is the resumption of this project in a more permanent shape.

More details

www.conservationmozambique.com/

Biodiversity offsets

Biodiversity offsets are compensation mechanism for the negative impacts which may result from development projects, notably the exploitation of natural resources, after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been taken. "The purpose of the biodiversity offsets is to reach a situation without net losses –

or, preferably, with net gains – of biodiversity, based on respect for the species composition, habitat structure, function of the ecosystem and human use and cultural values associated with biodiversity" – states the Handbook on biodiversity offsets published by BBOP.

BIOFUND is part of the working group set up by the project "Roadmap of biodiversity offsets in Mozambique".

BIOFUND has also collaborated in the pilot project for the establishment of biodiversity offsets which involves the FFEM, the AFD, the WCS, the BBOP (Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme) Secretariat and Forest Trends. The countries where this programme is being developed are Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda and Guinea-Conakry.



GOVERNING BODIES OF BIOFUND

The **General Assembly**, the highest governing body of BIOFUND, meets every year to approve the plans and activity reports of BIOFUND and to elect the members of the Board of Directors and of the Oversight Committee. The General Assembly consists of prominent figures, both Mozambican and foreign, from the public sector, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and representatives of the donors.

The **Oversight Committee** consists of three members. The Oversight Committee is responsible for inspecting annually all the administrative and financial activities of BIOFUND, including its accounts and reports, and to draw up a report on activities which lead to an increase or decline in revenue.

BIOFUND is managed by a **Board of Directors** of 7-9 members, from the various sectors represented at its General Assembly Meeting (Government, NGOs, financial management, academia world, Civil Society, Donors), which is responsible for the organisation, implements the strategic plans and the annual

plans, defines general guidelines, and approves the investment policy and the plan of subventions to be granted.

The Board of Directors sets up consultative bodies and working committees for various purposes. Among them stands out the **Investment Committee** which supervises the financial applications of the Foundation made by professional asset managers.

For the conduct of day-to-day matters of the Foundation, the Board of Directors delegates the necessary powers to the Executive Director who works with an executive secretariat.

General Assembly



Lourenço de Rosário
Chairperson



Mateus Muthemba
Deputy Chairperson
(Gorongosa Restoration Project)



Luís Dinís
Secretary
(LUPA – Local Association for
the Community Development)

Oversight Committee



Narciso Matos
Chairperson



Carla Rombe
Member
(Ministry of Fisheries, the Sea and
Internal Waters)

Board of Directors



Abdul Magid Osman
Chairperson



Rui Monteiro
Secretary



Natasha Ribeiro



Anabela Rodrigues
Deputy Chairperson



Aguiar Mazula



Bruno Nhancale



José Óscar Monteiro



Felismina Langa
(Ministry of Land, Environment
and Rural Development)



Thomas Wollenzien
(KfW)





Dry forest canopy in the morning mist.
Nhica do Rovuma, Cabo Delgado.
© Xavier Desmier / MNHN / PNI



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