

PROMOVE

BIODIVERSIDADE

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The mid-term evaluation of PROMOVE Biodiversidade analysed the programme's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, added value and impact on biodiversity conservation in Mozambique. The aim was to generate useful lessons and recommendations for the final phase of the intervention and for future initiatives, taking advantage of the pioneering nature of the programme in the country.

Programme objective

To protect biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of communities in three areas selected for their ecological importance and high population density, where natural resources are under heavy pressure from local communities.

Components

Governance

Institutional reinforcement and improvement of management (ANAC)

Community Conservation and Development (BIOFUND)

Focus Areas:


- Conservation actions
- Improving livelihoods
- Applied research and participatory studies


Areas of Implementation

- Gilé National Park (Zambézia) Monte Mabu
- (Lugela, Zambézia) APAIPS (Angoche, Larde)
- Moma – Nampula; Pebane

Partnerships

- **Institutional:** Ministry of Land and Environment, Provincial and Local Administrations
- **Implementing Partners:** ANAC, BIOFUND
- **Executing Partner Organisations:** IGF-FFS, RADEZA, WWF, ReGeCom, Kulima, AENA

 **Total Budget**
13.000.000 €

 **Duration December 2019 -**
October 2026



Evaluation methodology

- Evaluation carried out between October 2024 and January 2025, using a collaborative methodology guided by the Theory of Change
- Quantitative (progress indicators) + Qualitative
- **Supervision:** Reference group (DUE, ANAC, BIOFUND, GON)



3 FIELD VISITS

- Monte Mabu
- Gilé National Park
- APAIPS



100 DOCUMENTS

Including EU strategic and governmental reports, progress reports and other documentation, development partners



32 FOCUS GROUPS

- 14 in GNAIP
- 9 in Monte Mabu
- 9 in APAIPS



69 INTERVIEWS

RESULTS

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



- 881 people trained in key instruments such as CITES, NIRAP, MIKE and ETIS
- ANAC's active participation in regional and international conservation spaces
- Creation of 5 scientific committees in universities
- Legal progress such as Decree 52/2024 for collaborative management
- Limited integration between ANAC and BIOFUND affecting impact and flexibility

GILÉ NATIONAL PARK

- 200 buffalo reintroduced and monitored
- 30 new inspectors with real-time surveillance technology
- Structural improvements: 65 kilometres of road, radio system, solar energy and water
- Reduction in illegal activities: from 252 cases (2023) to 150 (2024)
- Confiscation of 235 traps and 77 snares
- Scientific studies, virtual library and sharing events
- CGRNs revitalised, but with little impact on livelihoods



MONTE MABU



- Community governance initiated with the creation of ConservaMabu (11 communities)
- Participatory demarcation of the area (9,300 ha) and mapping of 250 tourist attractions
- Basic facilities: campsite with solar power, water, and minimal infrastructure
- Vegetable gardens and beekeeping at an early stage; FFS established but with little reach

First and Second Islands Environmental Protection Area (APAIPS)

- 47 inspectors trained and equipped
- Multisectoral inspection strengthened
- Awareness campaigns and the use of community radios
- Mangroves restored, greenhouses installed and support for horticulture
- Community savings and credit associations with a focus on women
- Low progress in fish processing, essential for subsistence
- Long-term financial support for the area is guaranteed by the BIOFUND endowment funds and strategic partnerships with WWF and MCA
- Contributions from mining companies still pending



GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

C1. First intervention in biodiversity

The **PROMOVE Biodiversidade** programme represents a milestone for European Union cooperation in Mozambique, being the first major national intervention to support biodiversity conservation.

The dual approach stands out: a component dedicated to strengthening national conservation governance with ANAC and another component that supports three separate projects, allowing for learning from different ecosystems, approaches and levels of capacity.

C2. Balance between conservation and livelihoods

Each project addresses both the **conservation needs** and livelihoods local communities, which is a positive point in its design.

C3. Relevance and first positive results

The programme is **highly relevant** to national and local biodiversity conservation priorities in Mozambique and to the European Union's cooperation framework. The activities initiated tackle the loss of biodiversity and improve community livelihoods, showing significant results and good practices.

C4. Implementation challenges

The programme set ambitious objectives, but with **limited resources and a short deadline** in a particularly challenging context.

C5. Mixed results and sustainability challenges

Conservation activities show mixed results, with satisfactory performance in **GNAP** and **APAIPS**, as well as initial progress on Mount Mabu. However, livelihood support efforts do not generate significant benefits, have little impact on conservation and show limited opportunities for sustainability. The choice of non-strategic value chains, a subsidy-based, small scale approach with low coverage and limited performance, as well as insufficient attention to capacity building, reduce the effectiveness of this component.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening the Effectiveness of the ANAC Component

It is recommended to appoint a specific TA for ANAC, improve its governance and monitoring, strengthen ties with BIOFUND and implementing NGOs, establish learning mechanisms and strengthen the sustainability of the programme.



Recipients: EU Delegation, ANAC

Priority: High

Recommended timeframe: Medium term (12-18 months)

Improving the Management of Monte Mabu

It is recommended to improve the management of Monte Mabu, adjusting the approach to community participation and strengthening their role as decision-makers. It is essential to revise the infrastructure plan to transform the research centre into a management and visitation space, as well as developing a realistic plan for ecotourism. Funding should be sought for conservation and regional tourism, the comanagement of the consortium should be strengthened with well-defined roles and the basic conditions of the Centre should be urgently improved.



Recipients: EU Delegation, ANAC, BIOFUND, Consortium

Priority: High

Term: Medium term (12-18 months)

Improving the Effectiveness of Conservation in the GNAP

Despite some good practices, synergies between regional cooperation and other EU actions were weak. Mainly in terms of coordination and complementarity with other development programmes (national and thematic), the role of the EU Delegations and other bodies involved.



Recipients: EU Delegation, ANAC, BIOFUND, FFS-IGF

Priority: Medium

Term: Medium term (12-18 months)

Improving APAIPS Operations and Community Livelihoods

It is proposed to strengthen strategic agricultural value chains (cashew, coffee, horticulture), prioritise fish farming and beekeeping with a focus on training. In addition, it is recommended to create savings associations, improve the connection between subsistence and conservation, encourage the cultivation of nutritious food, strengthen female empowerment.



Recipients: EU Delegation, BIOFUND, ANAC

Priority: High

Recommended timeframe: Short term (6-12 months)

SUCCESS STORIES

Reintroduction of buffalo.

This was one of the largest wildlife translocation operations in the country, and it was successful, with less than 1% mortality.

Community delimitation of the conservation area.

9,300 hectares of tropical forest, covering the lands of four communities, have been demarcated for the creation of the Monte Mabu Community Conservation Area. The creation of this conservation area will increase the representation of Afromontane forests in Mozambique's current network of conservation areas.

Digitalization of ecological monitoring in the GNAP.

This system allows for informed and effective planning of anti-poaching patrols. It also makes it possible to monitor the movement of elephants and buffalo in real time, which makes it easier for GNAP inspectors to respond more quickly to cases of human-wildlife conflict in the surrounding communities.

Inventory and Participatory Mapping of Sites of Tourist Interest.

Around 250 sites of tourist, cultural and socio-economic interest, including waterfalls, springs, sacred sites and unique biodiversity zones were identified and mapped through a community-led participatory approach.

LESSONS LEARNT



The importance of integrated planning and synergies

The lack of integration between programme components reduces effectiveness. Aligning planning processes between conservation and livelihoods is crucial to maximising results, as shown in projects like GNAP and Monte Mabu.



Community participation strengthens sustainability

Local and community-driven approaches are essential for sustainability. Participatory projects promote engagement and ensure that interventions meet local needs, unlike top-down models.



Results-orientation, supported by clear and realistic targets, improves performance

Specific and measurable targets are key to guiding activities and assessing progress, especially in livelihood contracts, where delays and lack of scalability limit impact.



Technical assistance to fill capacity gaps

Technical assistance can support strategic visioning, capacity building and monitoring.



Long-term commitment to biodiversity conservation

Short-term interventions are not enough to solve the challenges of biodiversity conservation. Long-term investments and strategic partnerships are needed, in programmes such as APAIPS and as evidenced in Monte Mabu.



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