

National Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) Forum 2026

Pretoria, September 14-15

Natural Capital Overview - Mozambique

Opportunities and challenges

Eleuterio Duarte, WCS-Mozambique



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism



Ministério da Agricultura, Ambiente e Pescas



Wildlife Conservation Society



Environmental Affairs Department



Malawi University of
Science and Technology



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



WCS overview



- Founded: 1895 (as the New York Zoological Society)
- **Mission:** Save wildlife and wild places worldwide **through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature**

Operating in Mozambique since 2012 in collaboration with Mozambique government: MoUs

Key areas of work:

Protected area co-management



Biodiversity policy and planning, and conservation across terrestrial and marine ecosystems



WCS Impact Around the World

20 million+ km²
of land and sea

protected and restored across 55+ countries



Conserves habitat for more than
40% of the world's biodiversity



440+ local partners

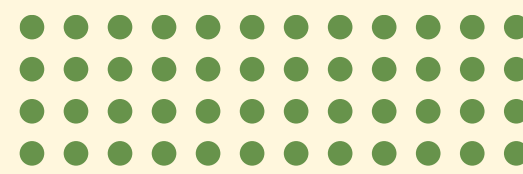
including local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and national government agencies

430+ protected areas

WCS helped create since
our founding

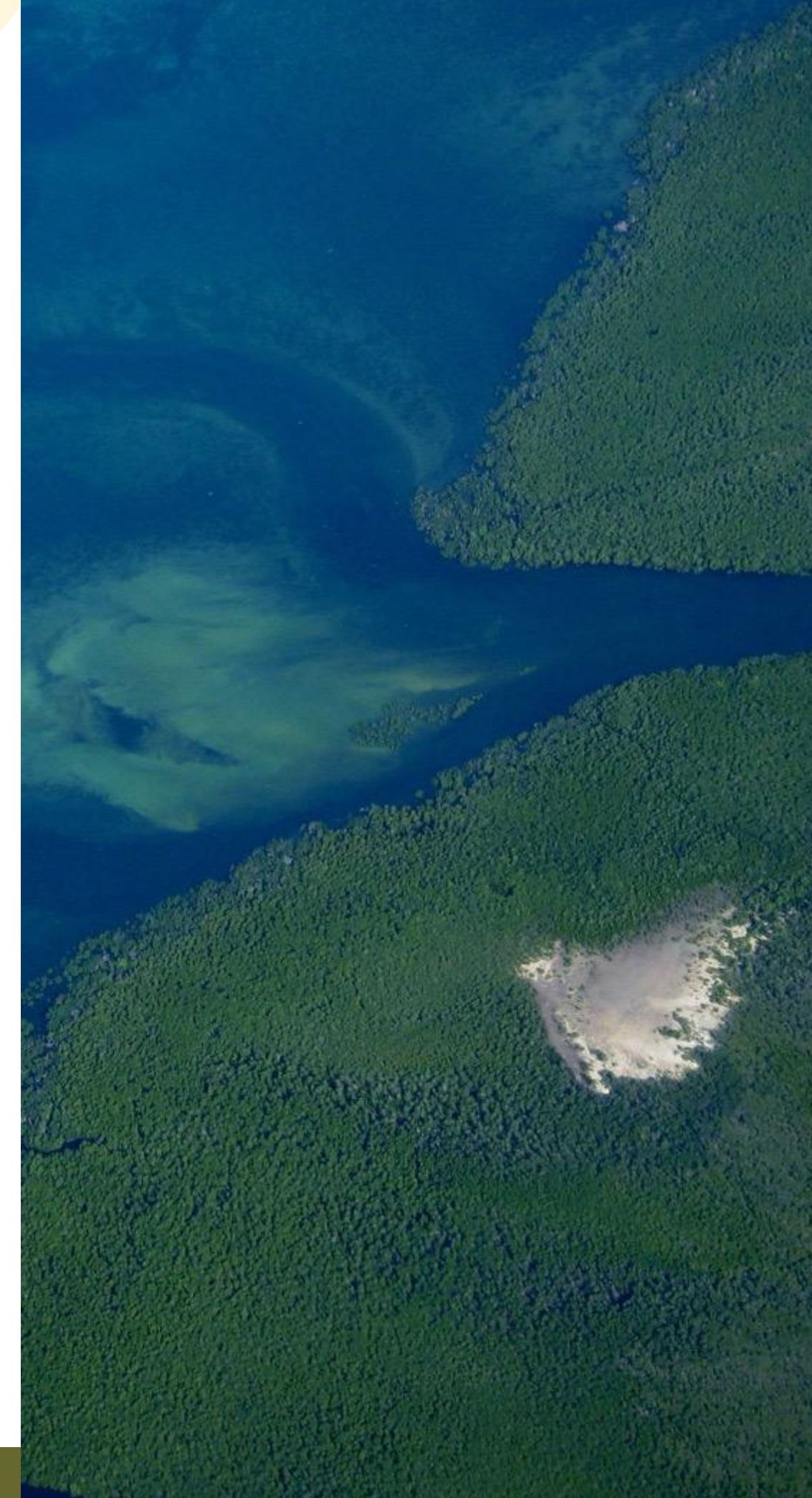


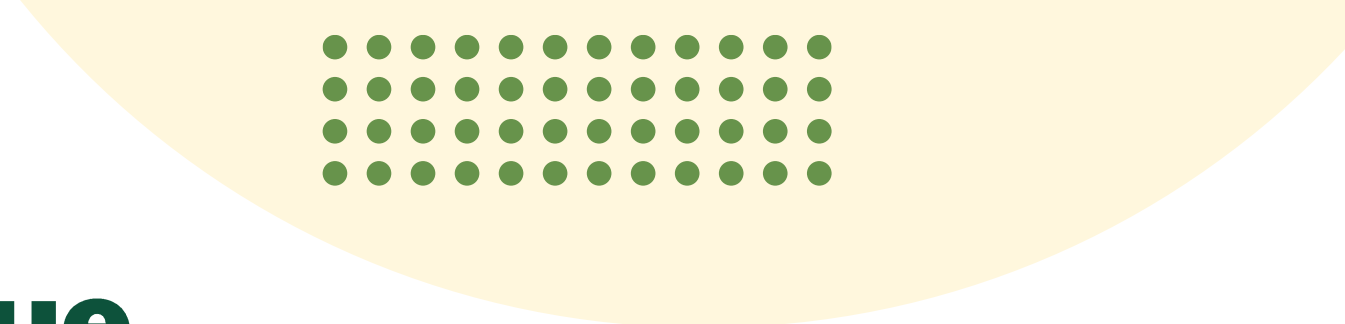
1. Natural Capital Overview -Mozambique



The Government of Mozambique has been committed to a Natural Capital and Green Economy (NC/GE) agenda since 2012.

- At the **Rio+20 Conference on 21 June 2012**, the Government of Mozambique committed to pursuing a transition towards a **Green Economy**.
- It developed a strategy for transitioning to a Green Economy, or **greening the country**, through the document “**Roadmap for a Green Economy**”, with a vision extending to **2030**.
- An **Interministerial Green Economy/Natural Capital Group** was established, led by the **Ministry of Land and Environment** and the **Ministry of Economy and Finance**.





1. Natural Capital Overview-Mozambique

Green Economy Action Plan (PAEV)

PAEV Vision 2030: *“An inclusive, middle-income country based on the protection, restoration, and sustainable **use of natural capital and ecosystem services**, ensuring inclusive and efficient development within planetary boundaries.”*

Moz is member Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA)

The GDSA aims to:
*“Ensure that the **contributions of natural capital** to sustainable economic growth, the maintenance and enhancement of social capital, and human well-being **are quantified and integrated into development and business practices.**”*

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) System and Accounts Implementation

Mozambique is a member of the Natural Capital Accounting Community, supporting the integration of **Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)** into the National Accounts System. This helps **incorporate natural capital and ecosystem-service** values into **official statistics, economic planning, and decision-making.**

1. Natural Capital Overview-Mozambique

In 2024, the President of the Republic of Mozambique approved the Blue Economy Development Strategy 2024–2033.

Mission:

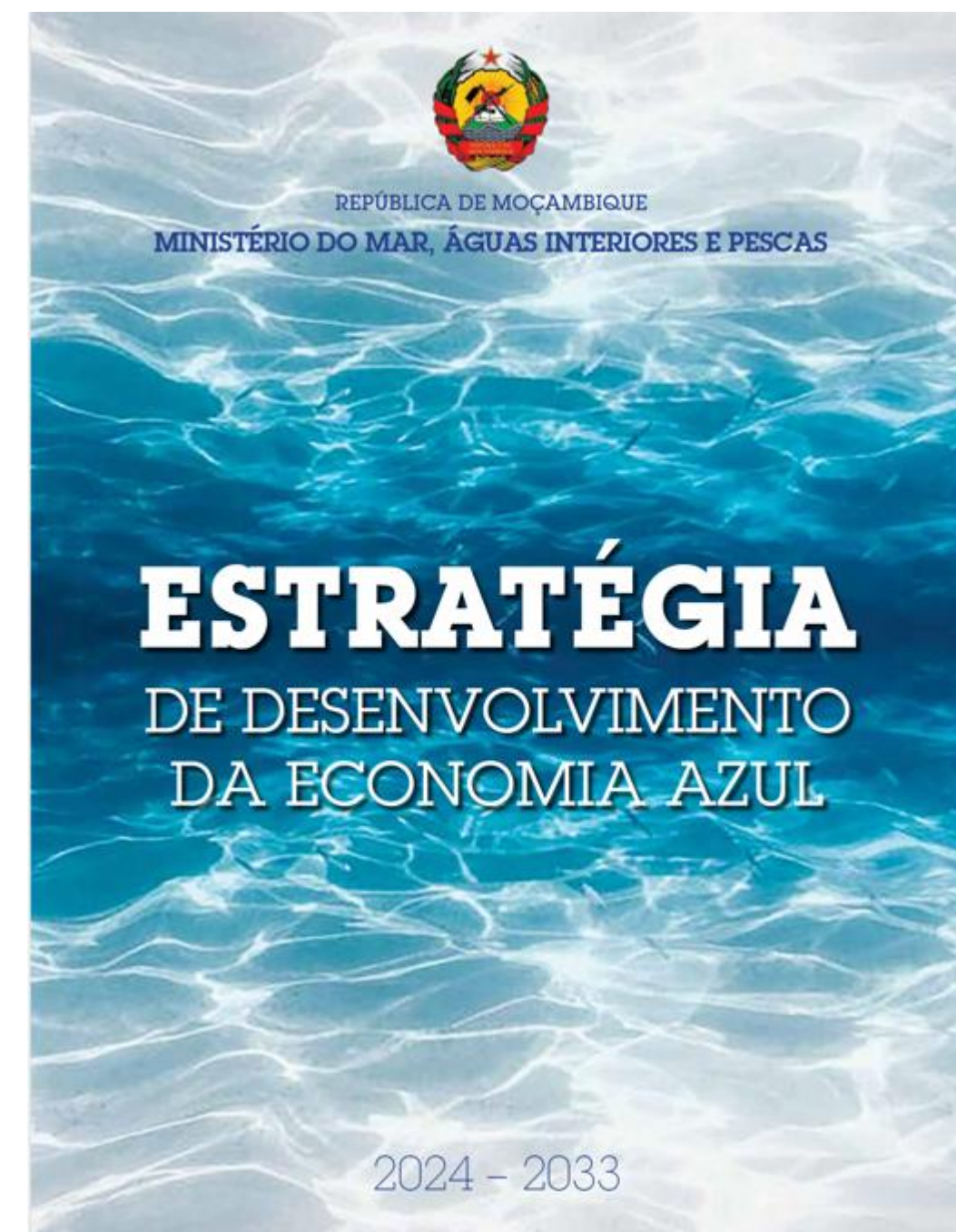
*“To promote the sustainable use of **marine, coastal, and inland-water natural capital**, meeting present needs while ensuring its conservation and creating value for future generations.”*

Strategic Pillar 3 - Natural Capital, Environment
and Circular Economy.

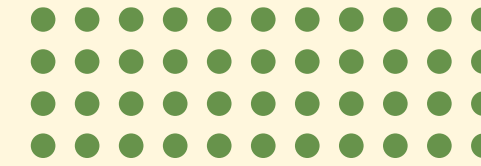


Strategic Actions

*i. **Map, economically assess, and communicate the value of ecosystems** and their associated services, including those that contribute to local communities (by reducing poverty), tourism, and coastal resilience.*



3. Some Previous Initiatives on Natural Capital Accounting in Mozambique

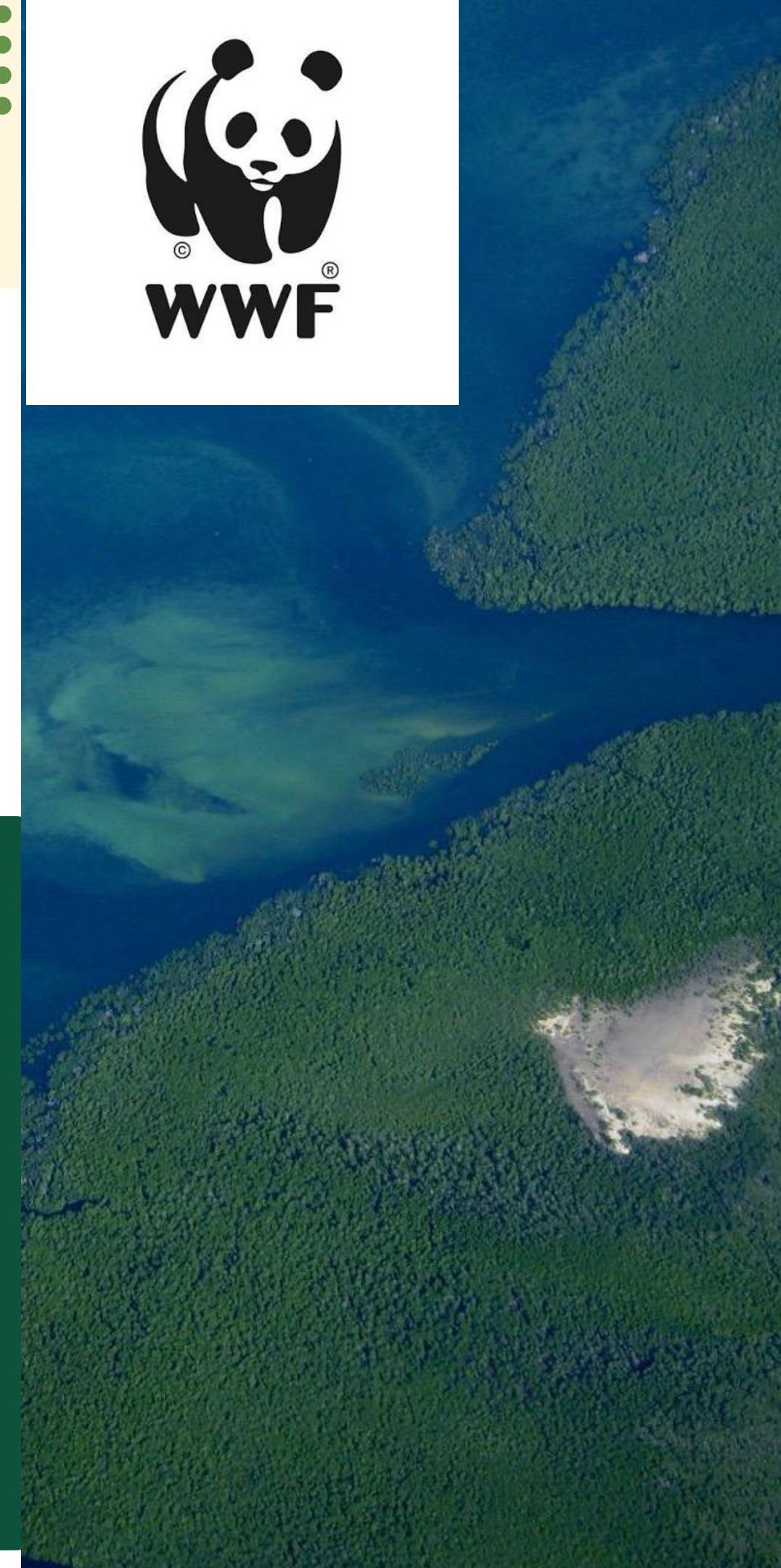


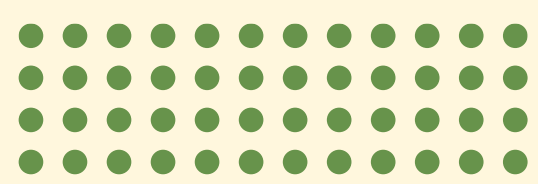
In Mozambique, **WWF** has been one of the main organizations supporting the country's Natural Capital agenda.

Project: Technical Support to the Government's Natural Capital Programme
2017–2022 | 5 years

Key areas of support included?

- **Support to the Government's Interministerial Group** on Natural Capital and Green Economy.
- **Provincial-level engagement** to raise awareness and build understanding of Natural Capital and Green Economy concepts.
- **Capacity building** in Natural Capital valuation and accounting.
- **Preliminary pilot studies** on: Freshwater, Forests , Biodiversity and Identification of ecosystem services provided by coastal natural capital.

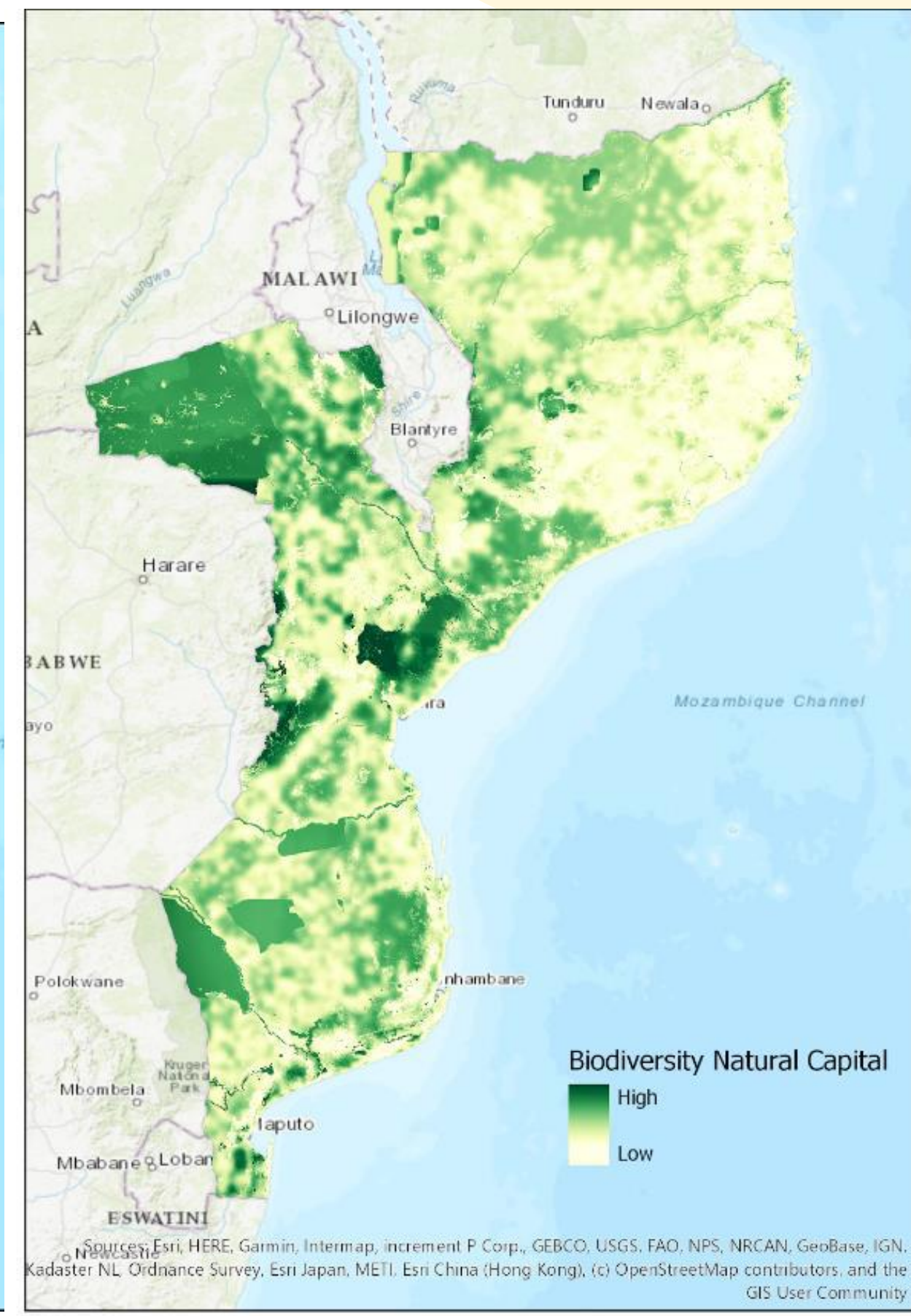
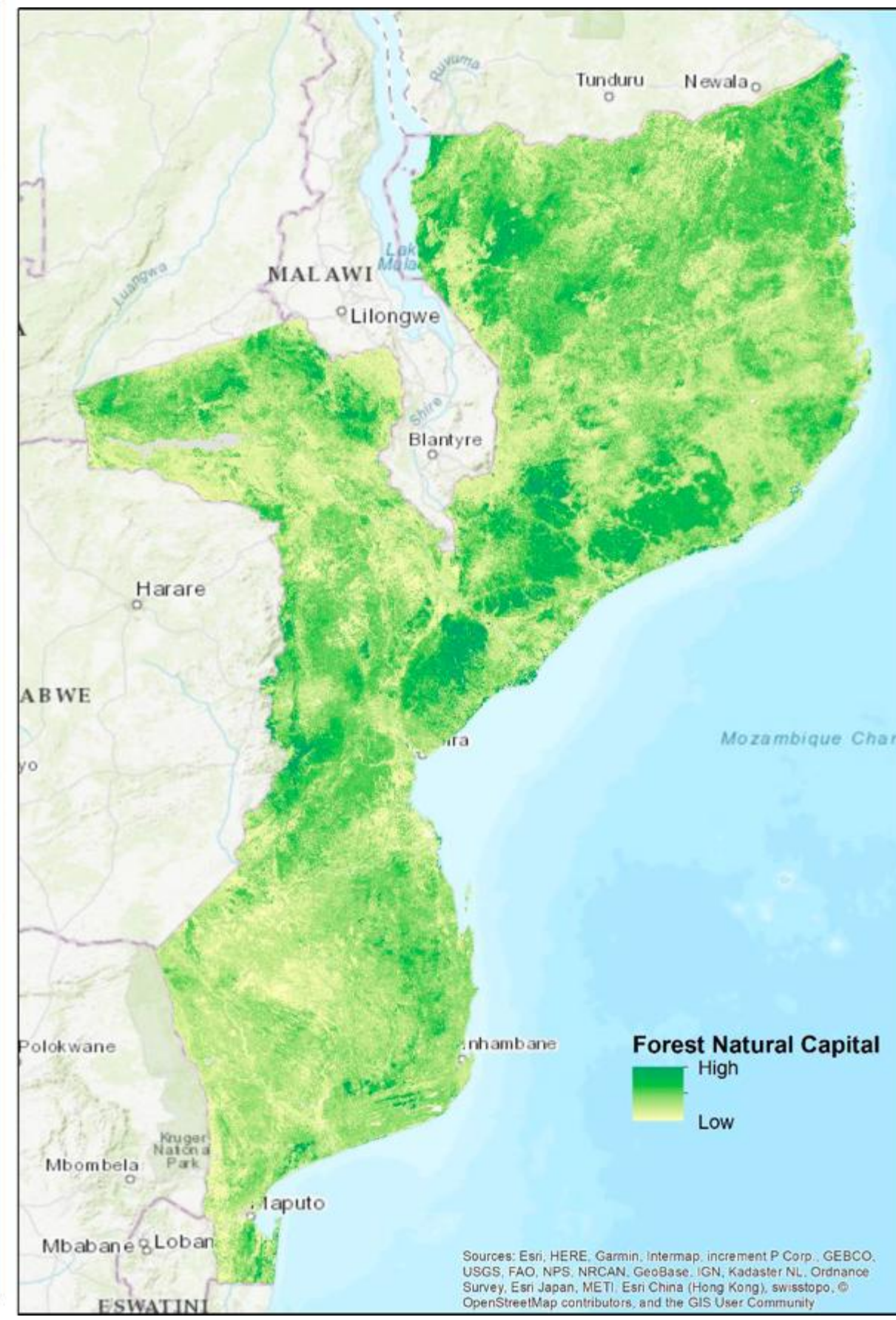
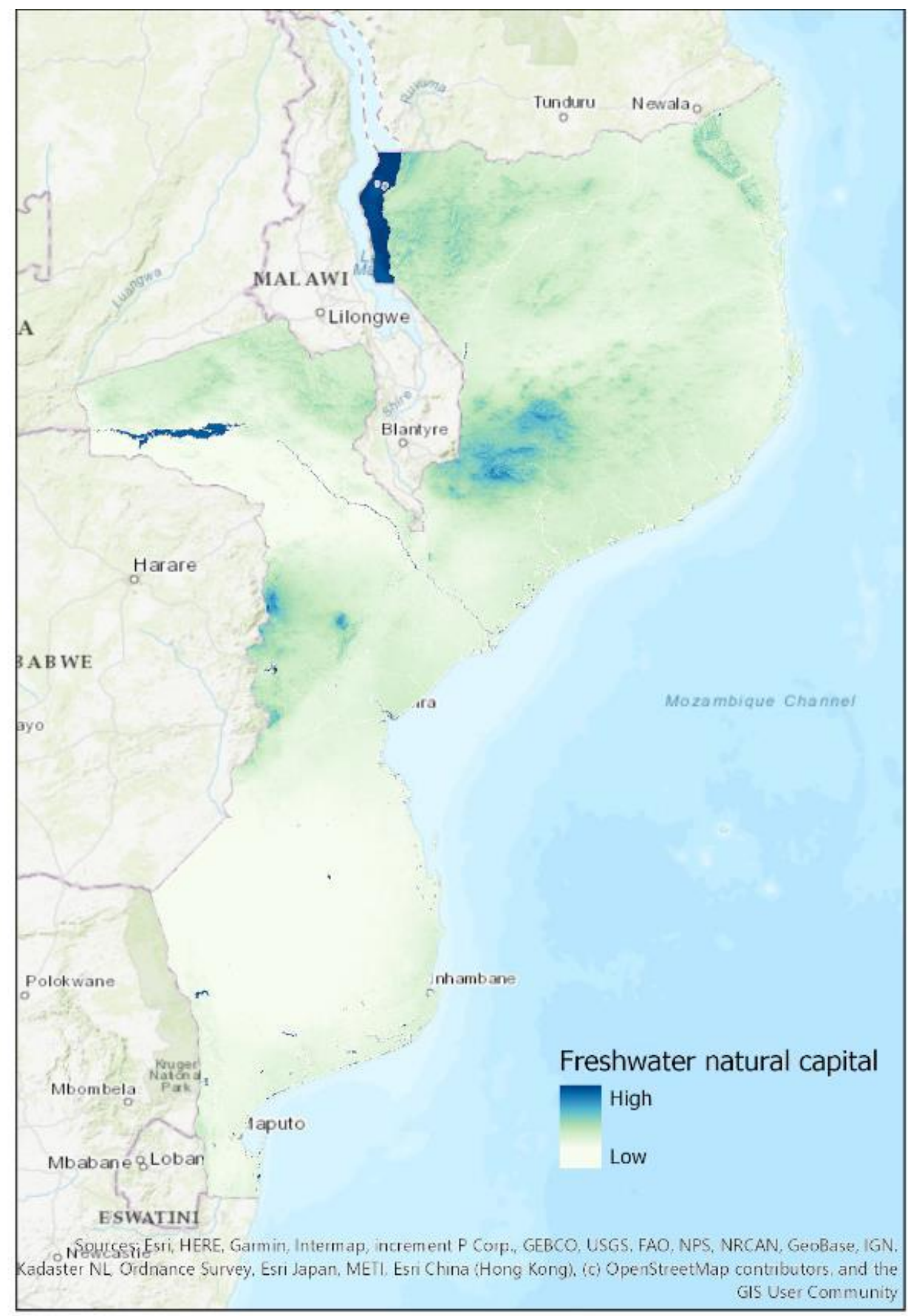




> **Freshwater**

> **Forest**

> **Biodiversity**



ESTIMATED POTENTIAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION VALUE BY PROVINCE

(USD PER YEAR*)

Cabo Delgado



US\$ 39,863,901



Nampula



US\$ 15,945,589



Zambézia



US\$ 7,187,019



Maputo



US\$ 5,295,692



Sofala



US\$ 2,865,009



Inhambane



US\$ 2,261,012



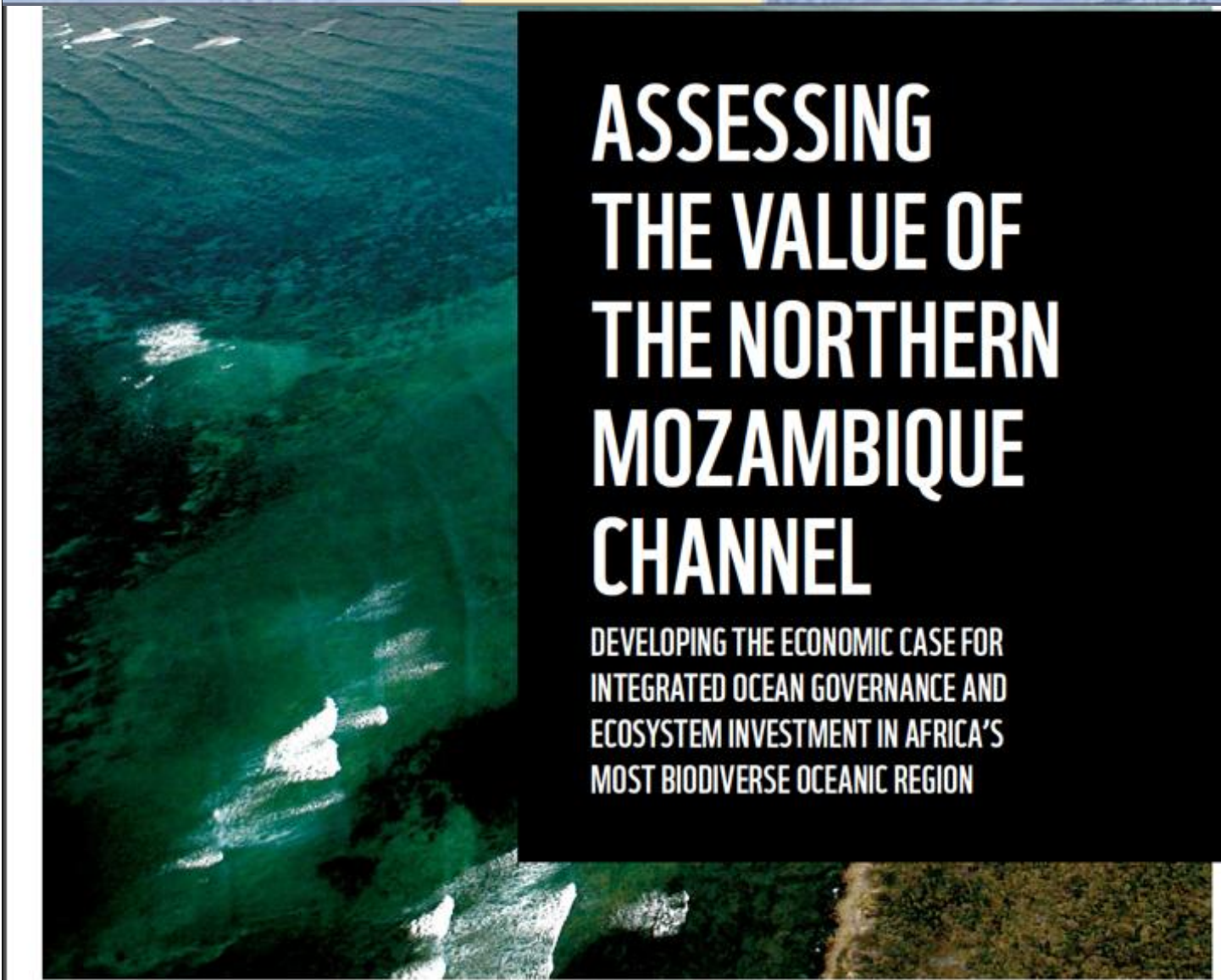
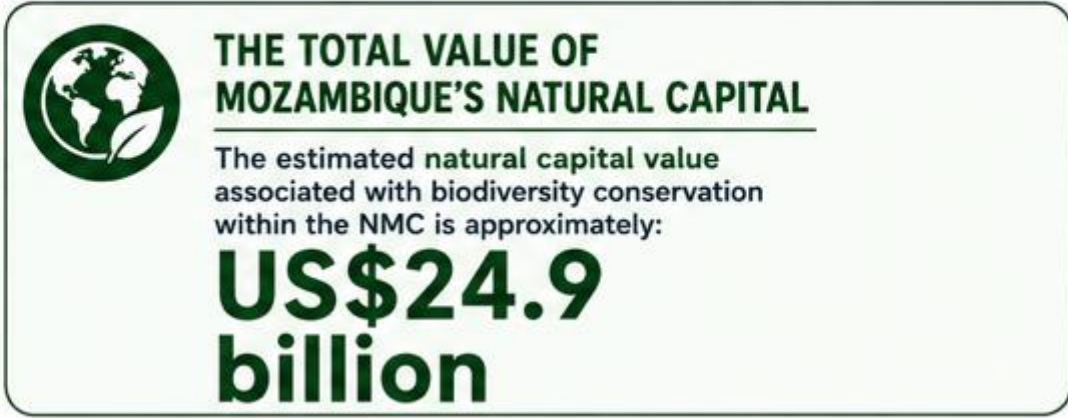
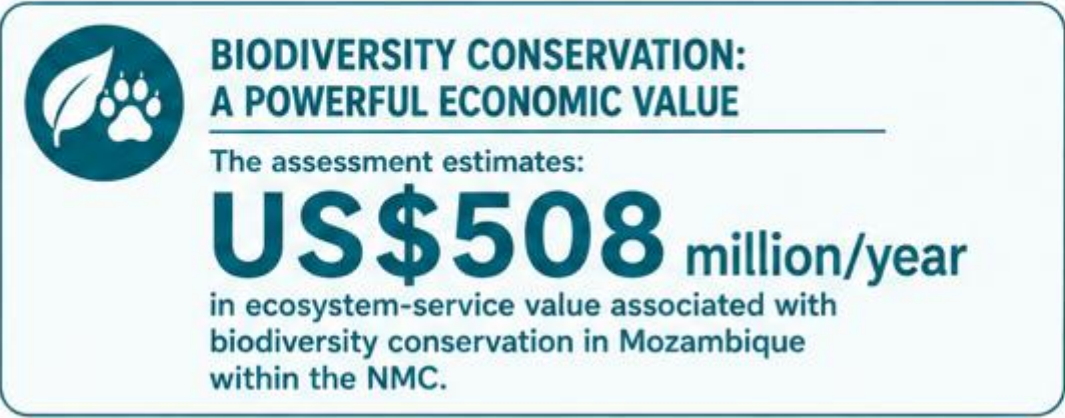
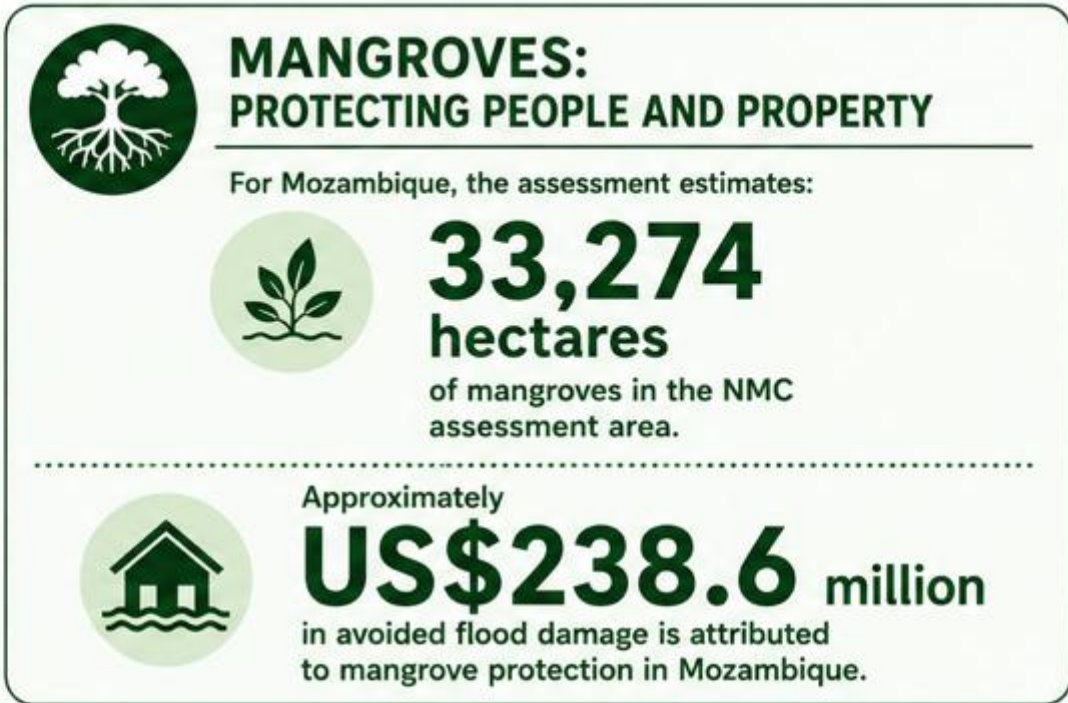
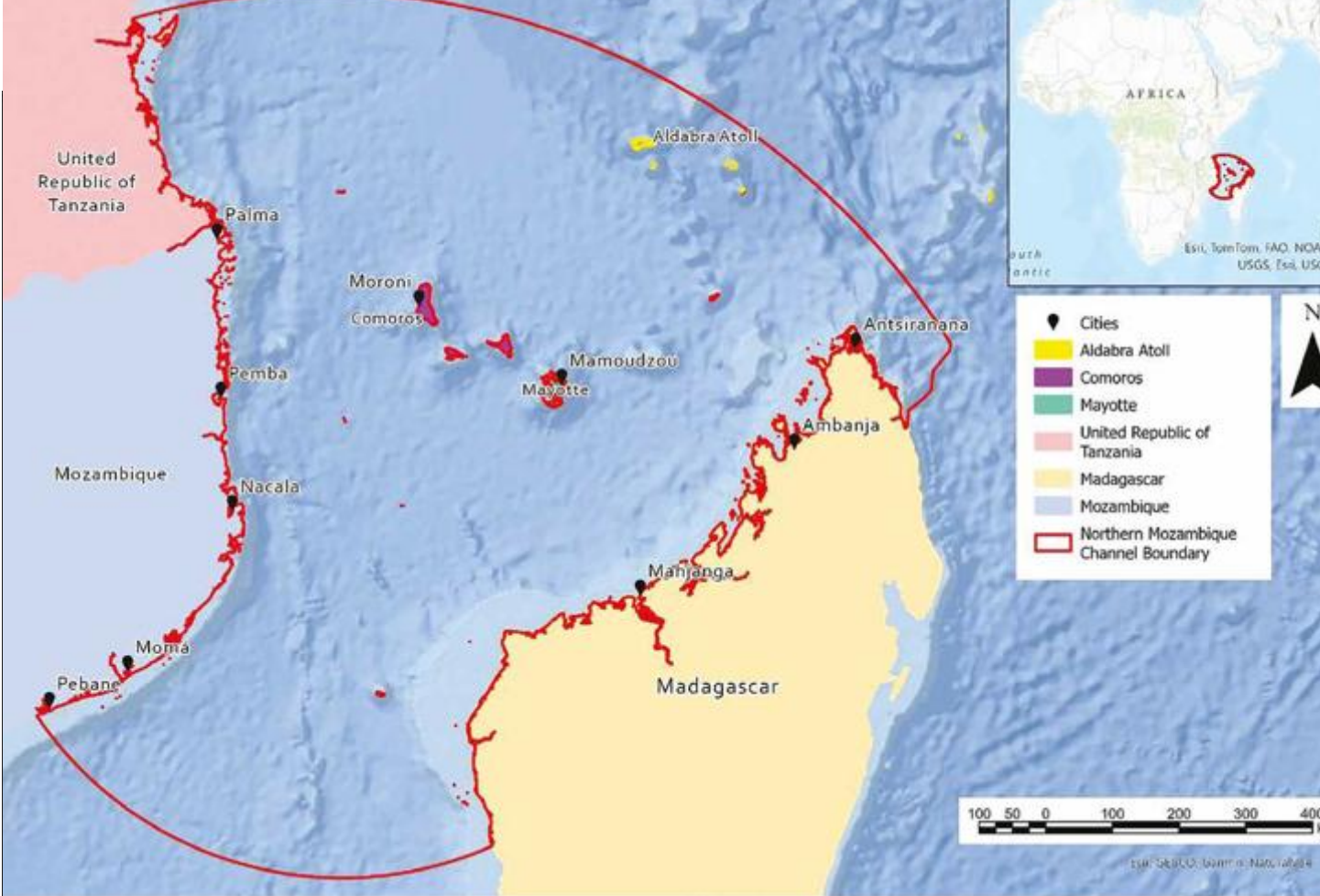
Gaza



US\$ 25,263



WWF – Recent Northern Mozambique Channel Study (2025)



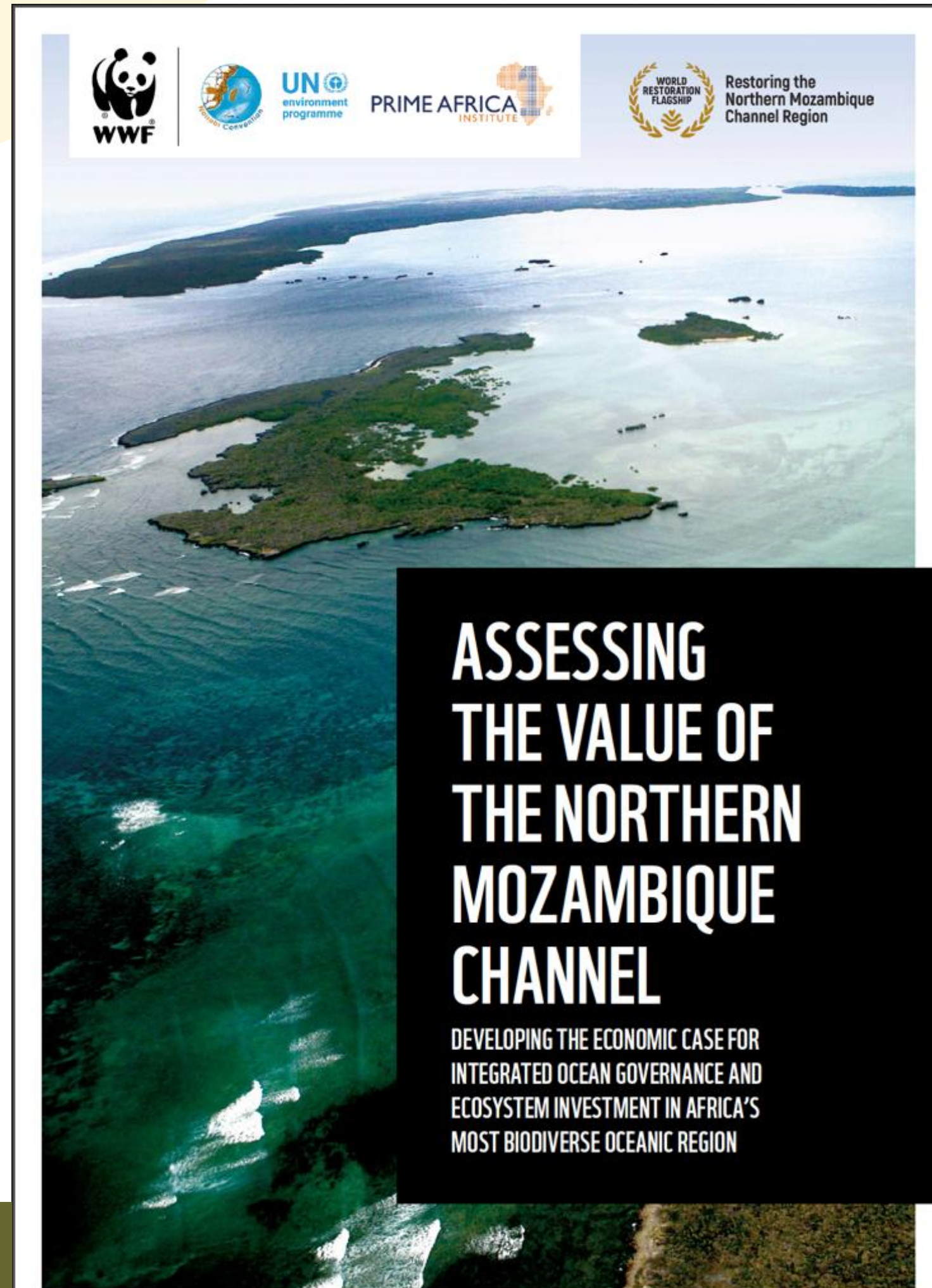
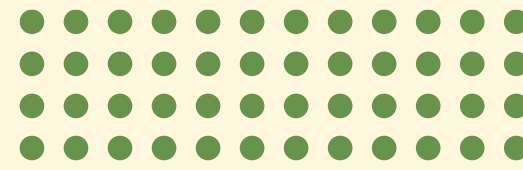
WWF – Recent Northern Mozambique Channel Study (2025)

The report identifies more than **US\$6 billion** in potential blue-economy investment opportunities across the NMC.

These include:

- Community-based mariculture
- Ecotourism
- Fisheries cold chains
- Agroforestry and woodlots
- **Carbon markets**
- **Biodiversity markets etc**

For Mozambique, this creates an opportunity to link **conservation, livelihoods and economic development.**



> **Implementation period:** October 2026 – September 2029.

> **Overall goal:** Improve the integration of Natural Capital into development planning.

> **Key areas of focus:**

- **Policy** – strengthen policy-making systems to incorporate Natural Capital.
- **Statistics** – improve statistical systems for assessing and accounting for Natural Capital.
- **Institutions** – strengthen institutional frameworks and capacities.
- **Knowledge** – improve knowledge generation and access to information on Natural Capital.

> **Expected outcome:** Enable governments and institutions to **assess Natural Capital and integrate its value into public policy and development decision-making.**

African Development Fund grants \$4.3 million to strengthen integration of Natural Capital into decision-making in 13 African Countries

49 Shares  20  14   

04-Aug-2026



The African Development Fund is increasing its financial support for this project to help better integrate natural capital into decision-making in thirteen African countries.

13 countries: Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, **Mozambique**, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

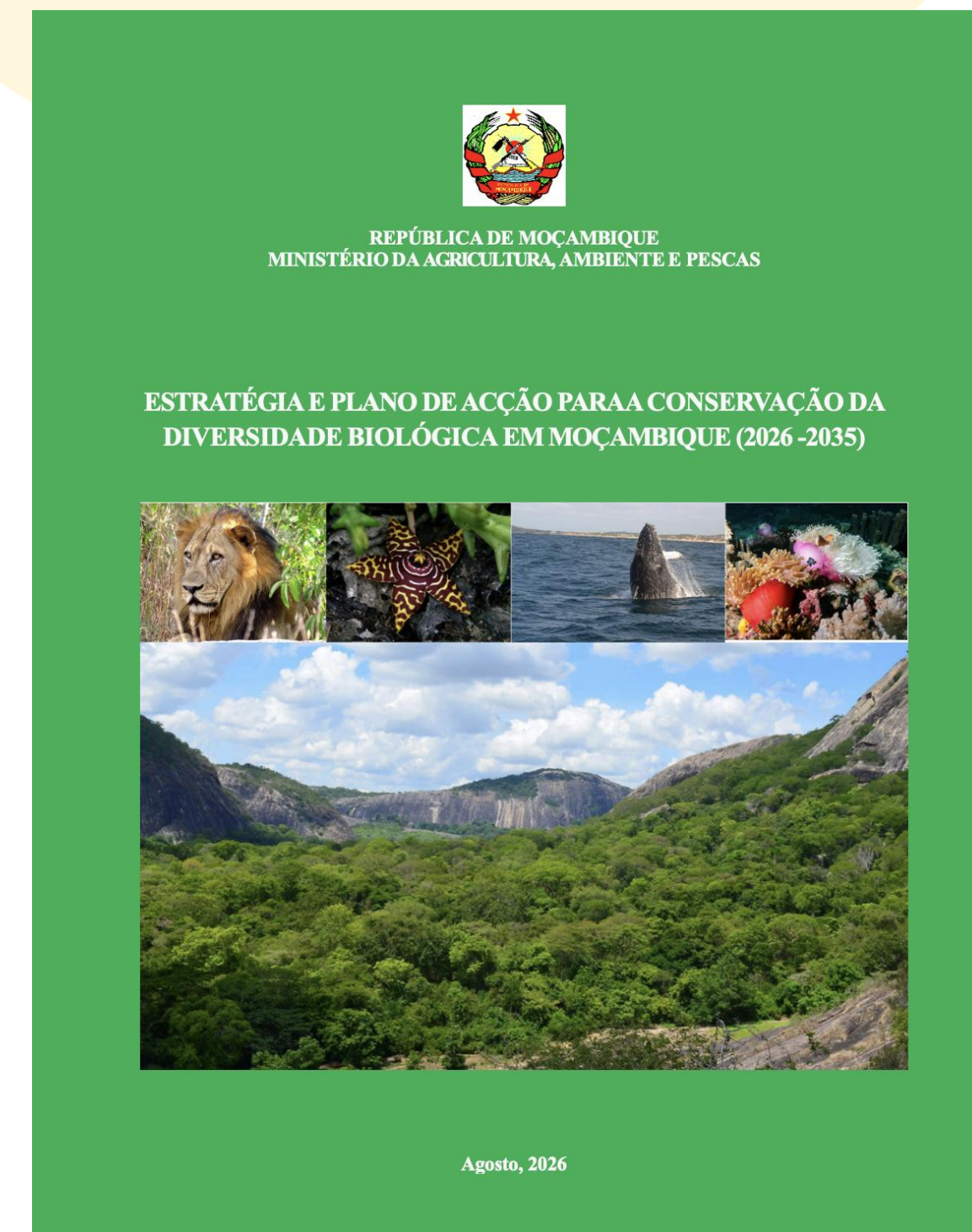
Reviewing Policy and Legal Instruments

Opportunities to Integrate Natural Capital

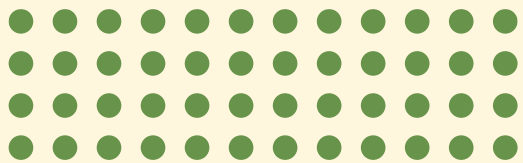
1. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Moz is currently updating its NBSAP to align with new GBF With support from the **SBAPP Project**,

New Target 14: By 2035, ensure that all public and private sectors whose activities have direct or indirect impacts on biodiversity **fully integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into planning processes, policy and legal frameworks, and development strategies, including ecosystem valuation, natural capital, and strategic environmental assessment, in alignment with all relevant activities and fiscal and financial flows.**



1. NBSAP Update Process-Actions defined on Target 14



Action



Indicator

A1



Define and adopt national criteria and guidelines for integrating biodiversity, ecosystem services, and natural capital into public and private planning, budgeting, and investment.



By 2029, 100% of the planned instrument has been developed, consulted on, approved, and published.

A8



Build the capacity of public and private entities and financial institutions to integrate biodiversity, ecosystem services, and natural capital into their decision-making.



By 2035, conduct 1,540 capacity-building activities in the districts per year. Number of participants/beneficiaries.

A12



Develop a national natural capital accounting system and ecosystem services valuation framework.

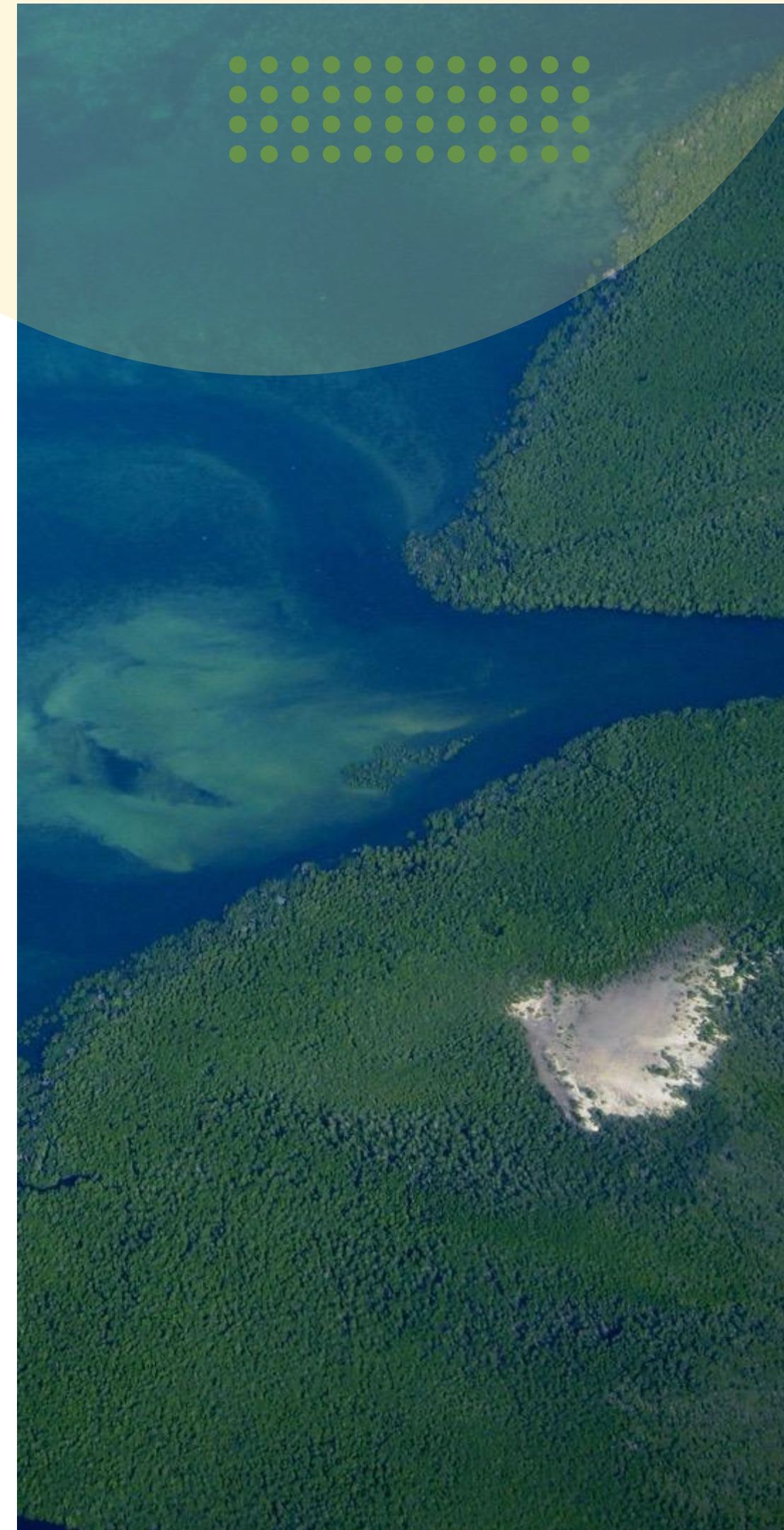


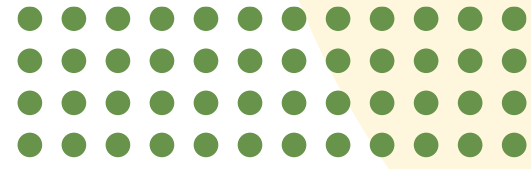
By 2029, operationalize the system or mechanism in the priority units.

Reviewing Policy and Legal Instruments Opportunities to Integrate Natural Capital

2. Environmental Law Under Review

- Mozambique's Environmental Law is currently under revision.
- The proposed revision introduces 22 principles, including the principle of **valuing environmental goods and services**.
- This principle seeks to assign socio-economic value to natural resources and ecosystem services, recognizing **natural capital as a driver of sustainable development**.



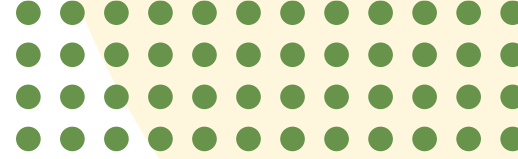


Key Challenge

Is possible to achieve economic development while maintaining our natural capital and ecosystem services?

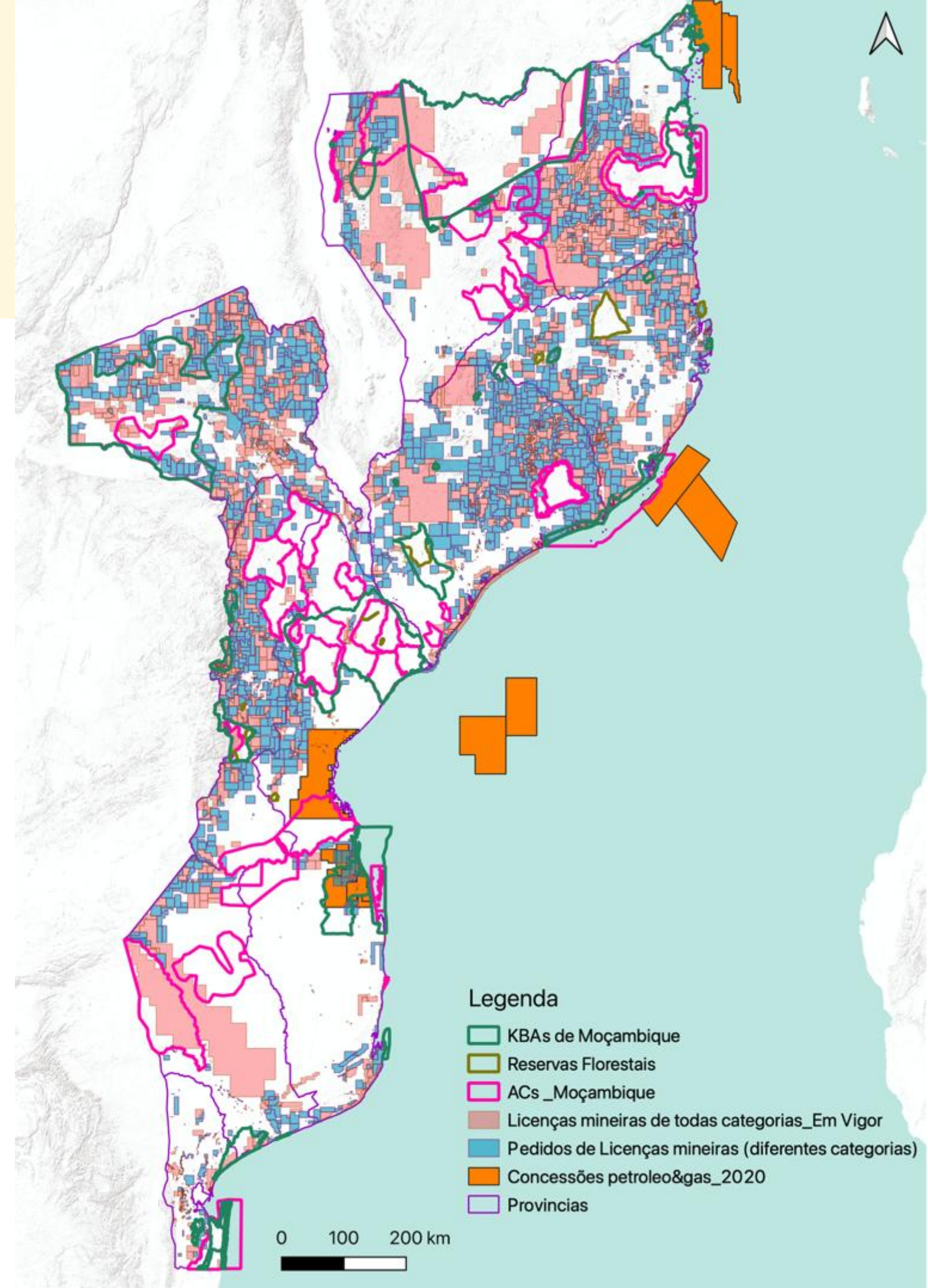


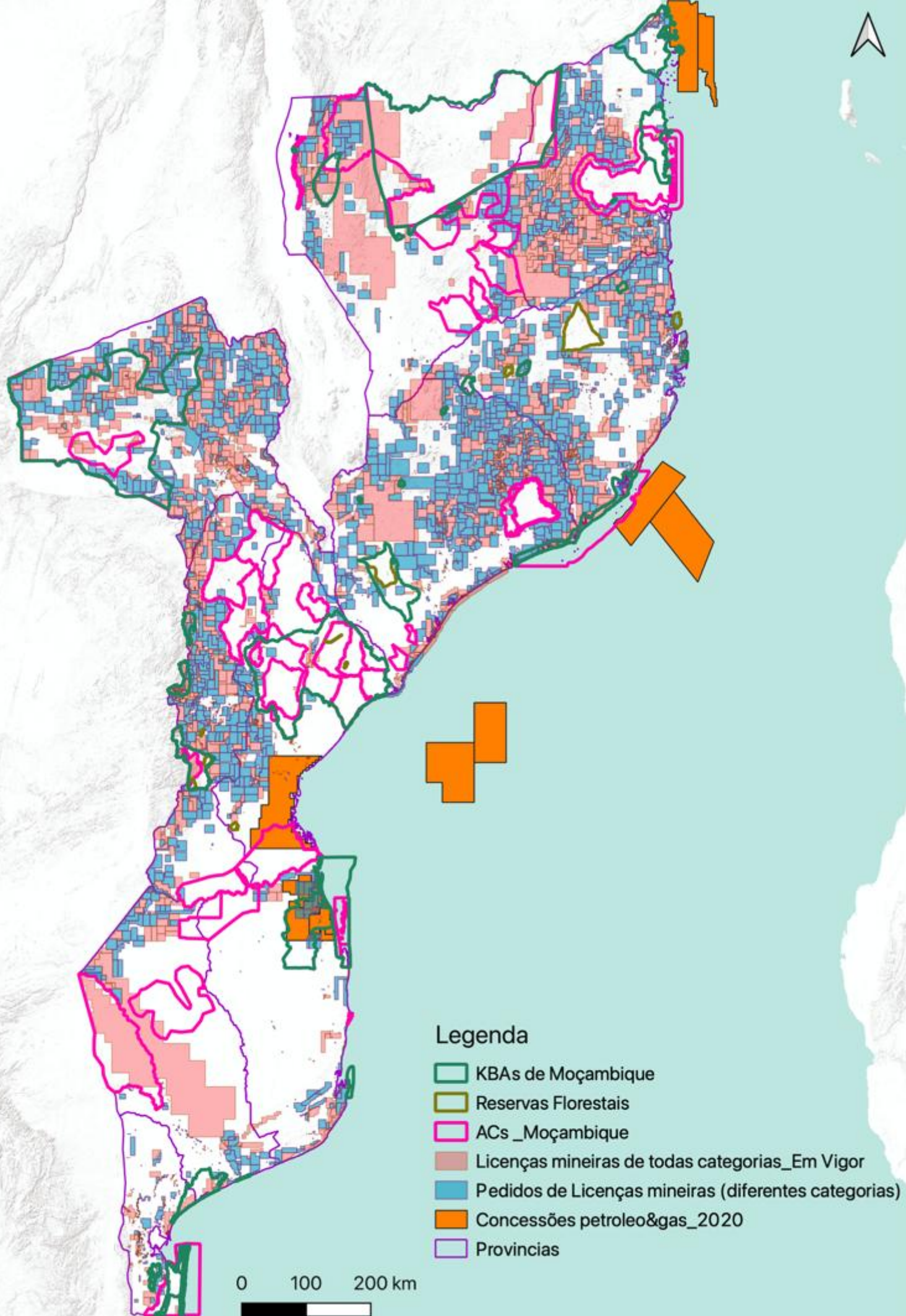
Development Challenges and Priorities



- > In addition to its **rich ecological and cultural heritage**, Mozambique is also recognized as having **some of Africa's largest deposits of oil and natural gas**.
- > **Regional development is expected to accelerate**, driven by the construction of **large-scale infrastructure**, expansion of industry, and rapid urban growth in the coming years.
- > **Mining and extractive resource development often receive greater priority** than the conservation and sustainable management of **forests, biodiversity, and ecosystem services**.

> This creates a key challenge: ***how can Mozambique pursue economic development while maintaining the natural capital that underpins long-term prosperity and human well-being?***





Case Study: Sensitive Areas vs Mining Licenses and Oil & Gas

- % Area covered by licenses in force (all categories incl. Oil & Gas)
- % Area covered by license applications (all categories)
- % Total area under current and potential influence

TOTAL SENSITIVE AREA
(PAs*, KBAs, RFs)

19.2%

11.8%

31.0%

FOREST RESERVES

0.9%

7.2%

8.2%

ACs* (CONSERVATION AREAS /
PAs*)

18.9%

11.5%

30.3%

KBAs

19.9%

13.4%

33.3%

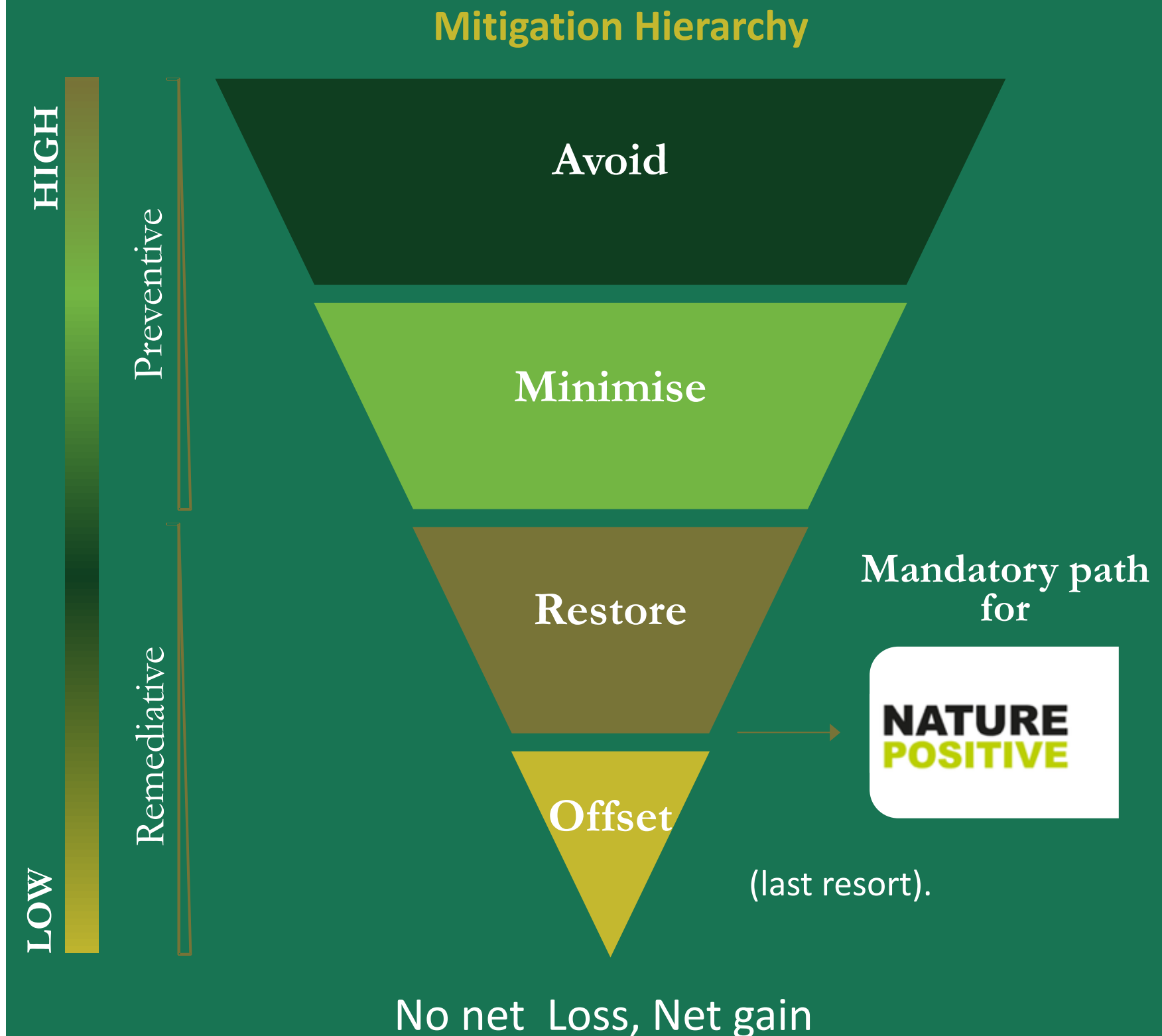
Biodiversity Offsets Mechanism in Mozambique

Ministerial Diploma No. 55/2022

- > Emphasizes the **avoidance and minimization of impacts** on biodiversity before offsets are considered. → **reinforce avoidance of sensitive ecosystems by developers**, encouraging them to identify and avoid high-value or highly sensitive areas at the planning and project-design stage.
- > Developers with **residual impacts** are responsible for implementing biodiversity offsets or through qualified **third-party implementers**.
- > Implementation of the required biodiversity offsets is linked to the **renewal of the Environmental License**.
- > The mechanism also creates opportunities for **innovative conservation financing**, including **investment in restoration and biodiversity conservation**.

Ministerial Diploma 55/2022

What Legislation Says:



Other Challenges

1



Inter-institutional coordination and cooperation

among relevant government institutions and stakeholders.



Need to revitalize the Natural Capital interministerial group.

2



Institutional capacity building

to generate data that can support Environmental and Natural Capital Accounting, including:



Production of relevant information;



Data collection and processing;



Standardization and integration of datasets.

3



Strengthening technical expertise and institutional capacity

will be essential for translating these concepts into practical tools for **planning, policy-making, and decision-making.**





THANK YOU