



Ministry of Land and Environment
National Directorate for the Environment



COMBO+ Program

Updated summary diagnosis of relevant policies, international commitments, platforms, and internal capacity to support efforts to reconcile project development with biodiversity conservation of nature



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Contents

1. Background.....	5
2. Objectives.....	5
3. Methodology.....	6
4. Summary update.....	7
4.1. Policies, laws and strategic documents.....	7
4.2. International commitments (Conventions).....	11
4.3. Platforms, databases, planning and management tools.....	12
4.4. Internal capacity.....	14
5. Main conclusions.....	15
6. Annexes.....	17

Abbreviations & Acronyms

MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
AMAIA	Mozambican Association for Environmental Impact Assessment
ANAC	National Administration of Conservation Areas
BIOFUND	Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
DINAB	National Directorate of Environment
DINAF	National Directorate of Forests
DIPOL	National Directorate of Maritime and Fisheries Policies
DNDT	National Directorate of Land and Territorial Development
DNGM	National Directorate of Geology and Mining
DPC	Directorate of Planning and Cooperation - MTA
EDEA	Mozambique's Blue Economy Development Strategy
EIS	Environmental Impact Study
NG	Net Biodiversity Gain
InOM	Mozambique Oceanographic Institute
INP	National Petroleum Institute
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MCTES	Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education
MIMAIP	Ministry of the Sea Inland Waters and Fisheries
MTA	Ministry of Land and Environment
NNL	No Net Loss of Biodiversity
MSP (POEM)	Marine Spatial Planning
COMBO+ Program	Conservation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets
SGLA	Environmental licensing management system
SIBMOZ	Mozambique Biodiversity Information System
UEM	Eduardo Mondlane University
UP	Pedagogical University
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

1. Background

In 2016, the Government of Mozambique, represented by the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA), in partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation (BIOFUND), began implementing the COMBO project (Conservation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets in Africa) in Mozambique¹. The main goal of COMBO is promoting a best practice approach to reconciling economic development with the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, mitigating the impacts generated by development projects, resulting in the improvement of the political, legal and technical framework to enable the proper implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, with emphasis on the introduction of the new ministerial diploma on biodiversity offsets in Mozambique (Ministerial Diploma no. 55/2022 of 19 May 2022).

The first phase of the COMBO project was implemented between 2016 and 2020. In 2018, two gap analyses were conducted, namely:

- (1) Gap analysis on policies, laws, capacity and experience, to achieve No Net Loss (or Net Gain) (NPL/GL) of biodiversity in Mozambique (available [here](#))
- (2) Review and Gap Analysis to Improve the Availability and Use of Data for Mitigation Planning Activities and Development Projects (available [here](#))

A group of key institutions were involved in the elaboration of these analyses and, whenever possible, potential recommendations for improving the gaps identified were proposed.

Given the success of the first phase, the project was extended to a new phase, renamed the COMBO+ Program, which started in July 2021 and will run until 2025. It follows an approach that aims to continue the work carried out in the previous phase (2016-2020), ensuring support for the National Directorate for the Environment (DINAB) in the proper application of the mitigation hierarchy in the country and the implementation of Ministerial Diploma No. 55/2022, including the development of pilot projects to test and demonstrate how the implementation of biodiversity offsets works on the ground while training all involved stakeholders.

One of the key activities of the new phase of COMBO+ is to conduct a summary diagnosis to understand what may have changed in the country (e.g. legal framework, tools, technical platforms and capacity) between the end of the first phase of COMBO, which took place in 2020, and the current phase of COMBO+ (early 2023). This document summarizes the main results of this analysis.

2. Objectives

The purpose of this work was to make a summary diagnosis to understand the main updates over the last 4 years (2019-2023) in terms of policies, international commitments, platforms and relevant internal capacity or critical aspects for making development projects compatible with environmental issues, in particular biodiversity.

¹ COMBO is funded by the Agence Francaise de Developpement and the Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (AFD and FFEM). It has been implemented across four African countries since 2016 (Guinea, Uganda, Mozambique and Madagascar), and in its second phase (COMBO+) it was expanded to include two Asian countries (Laos and Myanmar). The first 4-year phase of COMBO was also supported by the MAVA Foundation.

3. Methodology

Data collection for the diagnosis was based on two complementary approaches to generally analyze whether the country has improved its approach and performance in terms of reconciling project development (e.g. the building of mines and infrastructure) with environmental issues, in particular biodiversity, also taking into account the new government structure and the main goals of the current five-year plan of the Mozambican government (PQG) 2020-2024. The first step consisted of consulting and analysing recently published documentation (between 2019 and 2023) of relevance to biodiversity conservation in Mozambique. The second step consisted of complementary interviews with key stakeholders, such as government entities, the private sector and academia. The interviews were conducted in person or virtually, lasting between 45 and 60 minutes using a structured questionnaire (see Annex 1) covering issues related to (i) Policies, laws and strategic documents, (ii) International commitments (Conventions), (iii) Platforms/Databases/Planning and management tools and (iii) Internal capacity. A total of eight institutions were interviewed between November 16 and 25, 2021 (see Annex 2 for a list of institutions). The main results and interpretation of these are presented in the next chapter and are the product of the combination of the two approaches explained above.

4. Summary update

4.1. Policies, laws and strategic documents

The national legal framework inherent to activities related directly or indirectly to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and biodiversity component is, in general, becoming increasingly diversified, covering the various sectors and aligning itself with international standards. In the last 3 years a series of legal instruments, including national strategies and plans have been developed and/or updated, introducing critical aspects and, in some cases, innovations to strengthen biodiversity conservation in Mozambique. Table 1 below thus lists the most relevant documents approved in the last 3 years (i.e. between the end of 2019 and end of 2022), which in some way contribute to the correct application of the Mitigation Hierarchy and to biodiversity conservation in general.

Table 1- Relevant policies, laws and strategic documents approved since 2019

Year of publication	Name	Legal instrument	Relevant issues
2019	Law of the Sea	Law no. 20/2019, of November 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the legal regime applicable to the exercise of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the national maritime space, the exploitation of living and non-living marine resources, as well as the use of the maritime public domain
2020	Five-year program of the Mozambican government (PQG) 2020-2024	Resolution no. 15/2020 of April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of its priorities is to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. Some of the objectives defined in this priority are: i) Improve territorial planning and zoning and strengthen monitoring and enforcement in their implementation; ii) Ensure the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources; iii) Strengthen the capacity to assess and monitor environmental quality, especially in areas where development projects are being implemented; iv) Reducing the vulnerability of communities, the economy and infrastructures to climate risks and natural and anthropogenic disasters; v) Ensuring the transparency and sustainability of mineral and oil and gas exploration activities; and vi) Strengthening monitoring and inspection capacity in areas where mining activities take place".

Year of publication	Name	Legal instrument	Relevant issues
2020	Maritime Fisheries Regulation (REPMAR)	Decree no. 89/2020 of October 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates the provisions of the Fisheries Law relating to sea fishing. Approves development plans, Clarifies how Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs) can become legally recognized entities and regulates the licensing of fishing activities. It presents a list of protected marine species (whose capture is prohibited) (Annex XIII).
2020	Coastal Zone and Beach Management Regulations	Decree no. 97/2020 of October 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It defines the principles and standards for the management, planning and sustainable and integrated development of the coastal zone and beaches in national territory. It aims to promote compatibility between socio-economic development and the conservation of the environment, biodiversity and landscape, within a framework of life quality for current and future populations. It promotes the protection, conservation and use of the coastline of the coastal zone, with a focus on sensitive ecosystems, namely beaches, dunes, native vegetation, mangroves, wetlands and seagrass beds;
2020	Mangrove Management Strategy (Mangrove Strategy) 2020 - 2024	Resolution no. 33/2020 of May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It identifies the goals to be achieved in relation to mangrove management in the country and highlights the need for effective management, involving all parties related to the mangrove ecosystem. It presents an Action Plan for its implementation
2021	Recreational and Sport Fishing Regulations	Decree no. 82/2021 of October 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the rules regulating recreational and sport fishing in Mozambique's maritime waters and continental or inland waters. It regulates the provisions of Law no. 22/2013 of November 1, the Fisheries Law, relating to recreational and sport fishing in Mozambique's jurisdictional waters. Presents the list of Protected Species (whose capture is prohibited) (Annex VIII)
2021	Regulations for the Protection, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Birdlife	Decree no. 51/2021 of July 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes rules for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of birdlife occurring on national territory, including its natural continental, marine, lacustrine and fluvial habitats. Recognizes Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as protection areas for avifauna and their habitats. It recognizes the activities associated with the implementation of Biodiversity Offset Management Plans as one of the means of managing and improving bird habitats.

Year of publication	Name	Legal instrument	Relevant issues
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix A presents the list of bird species protected in Mozambique, including migratory species whose hunting is prohibited.
2021	Hunting Guide Regulations	Decree no. 52/2021, of July 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates the activity of guide hunter, guaranteeing the sustainable use of natural resources and the application of ethical and deontological standards in the exercise of the activity
2021	National Territorial Development Plan (PNDT)	Resolution no. 7/2021 of December 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides the basis for the spatial coordination of sectoral policies with a territorial impact and for planning major public investments in territorial development. It establishes guidelines and orientations for (i) the formulation, execution, and evaluation of spatial planning policy and (ii) the preparation of territorial plans and other spatial planning instruments in the various spheres of state action. It requires precautionary and preventive approaches in areas of high ecological value (e.g. Conservation Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas - KBAs, etc).
2022	Directive on Biodiversity Offsets	Ministerial Diploma no. 55/2022 of May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the principles, methodologies, requirements, and procedures for the correct implementation of Biodiversity Offsets integrated into environmental impact assessment processes, under article 2 of Decree no. 54/2015, of December 31.
2022	Directive of Independent Specialist Reviewers of Environmental Impact Assessments for Category A+ activities	Ministerial Diploma no. 118/2022 of November 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the procedures for the registration and intervention of independent specialist reviewers (ISRs) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for category A+ activities, regulated in Decree No. 54/2015
2022	National Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Coral Reefs 2022-2032	Decree no. 69/2022 of December 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to ensure the ecological integrity of coral reefs to increase their resilience by eliminating anthropogenic forms of degradation and promoting sustainable use. It presents an Action Plan for its implementation

To date, some legal documents and strategies are still being developed, are awaiting approval and/or official publication in the official gazette. Listed below are some of the ongoing processes for updating or developing legal instruments and/or strategies relevant to the mitigation hierarchy, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and biodiversity in general in Mozambique:

- (i) **Revision of the Forestry Policy and Law**, which aims to create, protect, conserve, access, use, enhance and monitor the forestry heritage for the ecological, economic, social and cultural benefit of current and future generations (*Lead Institution: DINAF*).
- (ii) **Revision of the Land Policy and Law**, which aims to respond to the challenges of consolidating the structures of the market economy, the increase in the number of inhabitants in the face of a non-renewable natural resource, the challenge of climate change, the need to biodiversity offsets, the emergence of megaprojects and the accelerated growth of the urban population (*Lead Institution: DNDT*).
- (iii) **Revision of the Environmental Regulation for Oil and Gas Operations**, which defines the procedures for the EIA of oil & gas operations and measures for the prevention, control, mitigation and rehabilitation of the environment (*Lead Institution: INP*).
- (iv) **Revision of the Environmental Regulation for Mining Activities**, which defines the procedures for the EIA of mining activities and measures for the prevention, control, mitigation and rehabilitation of the environment (*Lead Institution: DNGM*).
- (v) **Development of the Maritime Spatial Plan (POEM)** which aims to promote sustainable and integrated development, based on intelligent and responsible planning of the potential uses, activities and roles existing in Mozambique's maritime space, while generating information and knowledge within the coastal zones and maritime space (*Lead Institution: DIPOL*).
- (vi) **Elaboration of the Blue Economy Development Strategy in Mozambique (EDEA)** which aims to promote the sustainable exploitation of marine and coastal natural capital, guaranteeing its conservation for future generations (*Lead Institution: DIPOL*).
- (vii) **Preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Mozambique**, which aims to guide and speed up the process of expanding MPAs in Mozambique, guaranteeing the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity (species and ecosystems) in good time and compliance with national and international conservation commitments (*Lead Institution: InOM*).

In addition,, there are other instruments that could be revised or introduced in the near future, such as:

- **Revision of the Environmental Policy and Law, and the associated regulations** (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, Decree 54/2015)
- **Revision of the fisheries policy and implementation strategy**
- **Revision of the Mining Law**
- **Revision of the Spatial/ Territorial Planning Policy and Law**

However, in general and according to the interviewees, the implementation of the instruments already approved (Table 1) needs to be strengthened, creating more capacity in the institutions (more qualified staff and a team tailored to the needs), as well as the process of sharing specific information. For example, when the National Marine Spatial Plan (POEM) was being drawn up, an online geoportal was developed (Webgis platform: <https://poem.gov.mz/POEMwebgis/>) to facilitate the sharing of available ecological and socio-economic spatial data for the marine environment; however, the functioning of this platform has been poor and it is mostly offline.

Some of the relevant **recommendations** provided by the interviewees at the level of policies, laws and strategic documents include:

- Promoting the exchange of experiences at international level
- Technical training on mainstreaming biodiversity in the legal framework (i.e. Integration in other sectoral policy and law)
- Promoting the inclusion of different sectors and partners in the drafting of legal instruments
- Financial support for implementation, awareness-raising and the use of good practices for implementation.

4.2. International commitments (Conventions)

Mozambique is a signatory to several international conventions related to biodiversity, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Nairobi Convention, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), among others (see more information at <https://sibmoz.gov.mz/international-conventions/>). It should be noted that recently (December 2022), during the CBD CoP15, the new Global Biodiversity Framework-Kunming-Montreal (GBF) was adopted, establishing 23 ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 and four long-term goals for 2050 aimed at safeguarding and restoring global biodiversity. The Government of Mozambique has initiated a national effort to ensure that national targets are duly aligned with these new global commitments outlined in the new GBF and other CoP15 Decisions, incorporating the updated progress monitoring indicators corresponding to each target. This reflects the importance that the Government of Mozambique attaches to national biodiversity and to the country's responsibilities towards the international community to contribute to the global effort to halt biodiversity loss. In general, however, Mozambique's performance in implementing the different international commitments or conventions it has ratified has ranged from poor to reasonable. According to the interviewees, the low performance in implementing these initiatives has been attributed to different reasons, such as:

- Very few qualified people (with theoretical and practical knowledge) to lead and operationalize the conventions to which Mozambique is a signatory.
- Low level of specialization in specific areas of most of these conventions
- Poor dissemination and awareness of the conventions to which Mozambique is a signatory.
- Lack of specific mechanisms or programs to implement these conventions.
- Weak institutional coordination to implement the activities of the conventions.
- Lack of dedicated funding for the implementation of convention activities

Among the **recommendations** for improving Mozambique's performance in these matters the following stand out:

- Holding specific seminars and lectures to promote and disseminate the conventions and the associated national commitments.
- Promoting technical training in resource mobilization for the implementation of convention activities
- Promoting specialized training in specific areas of the conventions (e.g. benefit sharing, biosafety, migratory species, etc.)

- Appointing focal points with the profile and capacity for the job in question

4.3. Platforms, databases, planning and management tools

Several initiatives have been implemented in recent years with the aim of improving general access to biodiversity information in Mozambique, contributing to improving the environmental performance/quality of EIAs and the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy. Table 2 lists some of the main and recent platforms and repositories where relevant information on national biodiversity can be found, with emphasis on the Mozambique Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ) and the Environmental Licensing Management System (SGLA) officially launched in 2022.

It should be noted that as part of the gap analysis carried out in 2018, other relevant platforms were identified, such as: (1) the [Geospatial Platform](#) of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV), (2) the [BIOFUND Virtual Library](#), (3) [BioNoMo](#) and (4) the Institutional Repository of the Eduardo Mondlane University ([RIUEM](#)), which are currently accessible through SIBMOZ.

Table 2- Platforms, databases and planning and management tools developed since 2019

Year	Name	Description	Link
2022	Mozambique Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ)	Web portal with the aim of providing relevant information on national biodiversity and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, as well as the sharing of knowledge and data, facilitating the decision-making process and promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity in the country. It establishes links with various complementary platforms from different partners, thus constituting a true portal for all validated biodiversity information for the country. It connects to practically all the other platforms listed below.	https://sibmoz.gov.mz/
2022	WebGIS of the historical vegetation/ecosystems map of Mozambique <i>(accessible through SIBMOZ)</i>	Interactive map showing in detail the 162 historical vegetation types/terrestrial ecosystems of Mozambique, at a scale of 1:250,000 (Lötter et al. 2023).	https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/578f9184d6d54320a8cf7bf886b194cf
2022	Interactive Environmental and Social Vulnerability Map for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in Mozambique	Interactive map with environmental and socially vulnerable areas to oil and gas exploration and production activities or operations in Mozambique. It aims to assist the INP and other related institutions during the decision-making process for (i) determining licensing conditions; (ii) land-use planning for the oil & gas sector, (iii) developing and/or improving the legal framework related to oil & gas exploration and production, and (iv) identifying vulnerable zones and areas that should be avoided when carrying out oil & gas exploration and production activities.	http://52.69.107.231/inp/

Year	Name	Description	Link
2022	Environmental Licensing Management System (SGLA)	Online platform for monitoring, integrated and centralized management of the environmental licensing process in Mozambique. Includes Mozambique's biodiversity offset registry system.	https://sgla.mta.gov.mz/
2022	Mozambique's National GIS Network (National Agency for Geospatial Development - ADE)	Mozambique's official national geographic data portal. It connects institutions, people, and resources for integrated spatial analysis. It is managed by the National Agency for Geospatial Development, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.	https://www.mozgis.gov.mz/portal/home/
2021	Marine Biodiversity Atlas <i>(accessible through SIBMOZ)</i>	Interactive map with public information collected or produced as part of the program to develop scenarios for the strategic expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). It includes ecological information (e.g. map of marine ecosystems, distribution of some key marine species, high productivity sites, larval distribution sites, etc.) as well as socio-economic information (e.g. important artisanal and industrial fishing sites, maritime transport, oil & gas exploration, etc.).	https://wcs-global.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=-b8aa324c46294cd8a685c50771b05828
2021	Atlas of Mozambique's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) <i>(accessible through SIBMOZ)</i>	Interactive map with summary information on the 30 KBAs currently identified in Mozambique, including information on the characteristics of the areas, key species, main threats and the rationale for considering them KBAs	https://wcs-global.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=2b6445c402514b81a0ed327b081ea12c
2021	WebGIS of the National Marine Spatial Plan (POEM)	Geoportal of the National Marine Spatial Plan, with a set of ecological and socio-economic data layers on Mozambique's marine and coastal environment. It is also accessible through SIBMOZ	https://poem.gov.mz/POEMwebgis/

Although there has been significant progress in terms of general access to biodiversity information in the country, especially with the launch of SIBMOZ, there are still some important gaps to consider. For example, integration/access to information on national marine biodiversity is still weak. However, rather than creating a new platform, it is recommended to use SIBMOZ, which could be adapted to incorporate a page dedicated to marine biodiversity. For example, SIBMOZ already includes the Marine Biodiversity Atlas, a lively and dynamic platform, and it is only necessary to ensure that it is constantly updated with the official information produced for the marine environment.

In general, there is still a need to strengthen capacity building, especially among platform managers, to ensure their sustainability and constant updating, as well as the creation of a coordination mechanism between institutions to facilitate information sharing. On the other hand, it is also necessary to promote the continuous dissemination of these platforms so that they are widely known and properly applied at national level by all stakeholders.

4.4. Internal capacity

Regarding capacity building needs, feedback from interviewees was that most government institutions do not have specific funding for capacity building; most of the funding for this component is provided by cooperation partners and/or related projects.

Based on the interviewees' recommendations, the topics considered to be priorities for additional training or capacity building are listed below:

- Carbon credits
- Environmental licensing, education and management
- Practical aspects of implementing biodiversity offsets (e.g. pilot projects)
- Green economy
- Biodiversity accounting (natural capital)
- Project conception/design

It is worth noting that, from a curricular point of view, in recent years some master's degree courses led by national universities have been established which, in some way, contribute to creating greater capacity in the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, as well as to greater consideration of biodiversity in EIAs and spatial planning, most notably:

- [Master's Degree in Biodiversity Management and Conservation](#) (Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering – UEM) with the aim of training specialists capable of identifying and solving the country's real environmental problems related to biodiversity loss.
- [Master's Degree in Biology and Conservation Ecology](#) (Faculty of Sciences – UEM) which aims to train specialists with a domain of scientific knowledge and a leading role in producing knowledge and solving problems in the fields of biology and biodiversity conservation ecology.
- [Master's Degree in Conservation Biology](#) (BioEducation Consortium: University of Zambezi, University of Lúrio, Manica Polytechnic Institute, University of Lisbon and Gorongosa National Park) which aims to train specialists capable of conducting research, management and conservation of ecosystems, mitigating the main threats to biodiversity, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

However, there is still a gap in the curriculum regarding concrete examples of metrics or indexes to measure biodiversity gains or losses and the implementation of biodiversity offsets in the national context, and in order to reduce this gap, it was suggested that specific lectures associated with the above-mentioned master's programs and academia in general should be promoted.

It's also important to note that biodiversity offsets have recently become a target topic in undergraduate theses, which shows a growing interest in the subject, especially among young people, who have the potential to become future leaders in topics relating to the mitigation hierarchy including biodiversity offsets. Some examples of related theses are listed below:

- Zandamela, E. L. E. 2021. Testing the Ambatovy Metric System in the Assessment of the Ecological Condition of Mopane, in Banhine National Park - A Contribution to Biodiversity Offsets, Monograph, Department of Biological Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo. (available in Portuguese)

- Macheve, Z. V. 2023. Assessing biodiversity offsets as a tool to support biodiversity conservation in Mozambique, Monograph, Department of Biological Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo. (available in Portuguese)

5. Main conclusions

- In general, the country's conditions for reconciling economic development with biodiversity conservation have improved since the country recognized the need to improve its legislative instruments. In the last four years, a series of legal instruments and/or strategic plans have been updated or developed, introducing critical aspects and, in some cases, innovations to strengthen biodiversity conservation in Mozambique, such as the recognition of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as areas to avoid in development projects, and the approval of Ministerial Diploma no. 55/2022. 55/2022, which enables project developers through rigorous application of the mitigation hierarchy, including high quality offsets, to contribute to achieving the conservation targets set by the country. However, the effective implementation of these instruments still needs to be strengthened, both by promoting the exchange of experiences at international level and through financial support for implementing activities, monitoring, enforcement, and associated capacity building etc.
- Mozambique's performance in implementing the international commitments or ratified conventions has ranged from poor to reasonable, mainly due to the lack of training or specialization in specific areas of most of the conventions, as well as poor dissemination and awareness-raising about them. It is necessary to promote more specialization training, including resource mobilization, as well as organizing more conferences and/or dissemination lectures.
- General access to information on biodiversity in the country has improved significantly, and several platforms have been developed, most notably the Mozambique Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ), which centralizes all the relevant information on biodiversity in the country and establishes links with several other related platforms. However, there is a need to strengthen capacity, especially among platform managers, to ensure their sustainability and constant updating, as well as the creation of a mechanism for coordination and information sharing between institutions, combined with continuous dissemination so that these tools are widely known and properly applied at national level by all stakeholders.
- With regard to internal capacity, it was found that most government institutions do not have specific funding for capacity building on issues related to reconciling development projects and biodiversity conservation and broader environmental conservation, and are very dependent on partners and/or related projects. Although there has been an increase in master's degree programs at national institutions that address biodiversity issues in general, there is still a notable lack of curricula on the mitigation hierarchy, and associated technical issues such as methods for measuring biodiversity gains and losses (including metrics, exchange rules, etc) and the implementation of biodiversity offsets in the national context,

which is why it is necessary to continuously promote lectures and seminars aimed at academia.

Given the gaps listed above, the COMBO+ Program continues working closely with the government, its partners and stakeholders on the legislative review processes to support these and promote integration of the mitigation hierarchy and alignment with existing (new) legal provisions on the mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets. The COMBO+ team is also involved in the process of updating the NBSAP to align this with the goals and targets agreed internationally and included in the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF-Kunming-Montreal). The COMBO+ Program is also actively working on developing the necessary tools and guidelines for spatial planning and rigorous implementation of the mitigation hierarchy and support progress towards national biodiversity targets in coordination with stakeholders, having already contributed significantly to initiatives such as developing online information platforms (i.e. SIBMOZ, SGLA, WebGIS of the historical vegetation/ecosystems map of Mozambique). In addition, , the COMBO+ team and its partners continue focusing on crucial capacity building for government institutions, civil society, academies, financial institutions, and companies to help broaden and deepen their understanding on the effective implementation of the mitigation hierarchy and its importance for achieving national biodiversity objectives.

6. Annexes

Annex 1- List of institutions interviewed between November 16 and 25, 2021

Ministries	Institution	Sector	Interviewed
MTA	DINAB	Government	Guilhermina Amurane
MTA	DPC	Government	Francisco Sambo
MIREME	DNGM	Government	Ercília Balango
MTA	ANAC	Government	Armando Araman
MIMAIP	DIPOL	Government	Moniz Munguambe
MCTES	UEM	Academia	Cornélio Ntumi
MCTES	UP	Academia	Benjamin Bandeira
	AMAIA	Private sector	Kemal Vaz e Rui Mirira

Annex 2- Questionnaire used in the gap analysis



COMBO+ Program's analysis of gaps in policies, laws, technical capacity and experience (C1)

2021

The aim of Component 1 of the COMBO+ Programme is to support the government in identifying, analyzing and introducing appropriate policies to encourage investment in development projects that result in no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity.

One of the first activities to be carried out in the second phase of the COMBO + is a diagnosis to understand what may have changed in the country between the end of the first phase of COMBO, which took place in 2020 (when the proposal for phase 2 was developed) and the effective start of the second phase - COMBO + (end of 2021).

To this end, COMBO+ intends to interview entities from the government, the private sector and academia to analyze whether the country has improved its approach and performance in terms of making development projects compatible with environmental issues, particularly biodiversity, also taking into account the new government structure and the main goals of the new five-year plan. This analysis will enable the COMBO+ project to make adjustments to its work plan to meet the country's current needs.

The assessment will consist of the following areas: General assessment, Policies, laws and strategic documents, international commitments (Conventions), Platforms/databases/planning and management tools, and Internal capacity.

We would therefore like to ask your institution the following questions.

Institution: _____

Sector: _____

Interviewer's name: _____

Interviewee's name: _____

Position : _____

Local: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Starting time: ____ : ____ End time: ____ : ____

Type of interview: _____

NOTE: Please provide evidence to explain and support the answers to the questions, if the answers are "no", please detail what other capacities and what changes in institutional arrangements would be necessary?

1. General assessment

1.1. Do you think the country has performed well in terms of reconciling economic development with biodiversity conservation?

Don't know ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___

Justify

1.2. Do you think that the quality of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies has improved over the last 5 years?

Don't know ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___

Justify

2. Políticas, leis e documentos estratégicos

2.1. Are there any strategic policy(ies) and/or law(s)/plan(s) related directly or indirectly to EIA or other environmental requirements or biodiversity in general, that your institution has recently reviewed or is considering introducing, reviewing or amending over the next 5 years (if you are a government institution, please reflect also at the level of the corresponding ministry)?

2.1a. Recently reviewed, *Don't know* ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___ if yes, which ones?

2.1b. To revise/introduce, *Don't know* ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___ if yes, which ones? what is the publication schedule?

2.2. Is your institution considering biodiversity aspects in the new policies and/or law(s)/strategic plan(s) you are developing or intend to develop in the future?

Don't know ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___ if yes, which documents and which aspects?

2.3. If you answered yes to the previous question, would you like some support from COMBO+ so that biodiversity aspects can be properly taken into account in the document in question?

Don't know ___ *Yes* ___ / *No* ___ if yes, specify the type of support (technical/legal/financial/other.)

3. International commitments (Conventions)

3.1. Please select below the international commitments related to biodiversity and climate for which you have some information.

- A. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- B. United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNCCD)
- C. Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR)
- D. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- E. Nairobi Convention
- F. Algiers Convention
- G. SDG 13: climate change and its impacts.
- H. SDG 14: Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans,
- I. SDG 15. Protecting terrestrial ecosystems, reversing biodiversity loss.

3.2. How do you consider the country's performance in relation to the international commitment(s) selected in the previous question?

A. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

B. United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNCCD) *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

C. Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR) *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

D. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

Nairobi Convention on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Region of Eastern Africa *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

E. African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

F. Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

G. Goal 14: Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

H. Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss *Don't know* ___ / *Very bad* ___ / *Bad* ___ / *Reasonable* ___ / *Good* ___ *Very good* ___ *justify*

3.3. With regard to the aspects you mentioned in the previous question, how could COMBO+ contribute to helping improve the country's performance with regard to these conventions? Please specify

4. Platforms/Databases/Planning and management tools

<p>4.1. Is there any kind of online platform/database/tool created at the level of your institution to improve the environmental performance/quality of EIAs and support the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, including greater consideration of biodiversity aspects? Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones?</p>
<p>4.2. Is/does your institution are/ intend to develop an online platform/database/tool to improve the environmental performance/quality of EIAs and support the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, including greater consideration of biodiversity aspects in the next 3 years?</p> <p>4.2a. are developing? Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones?</p> <p>4.2b. Plan to develop, Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones? and what is the publication schedule?</p>
<p>4.3. What other online platforms/databases/tools do you think are still needed to improve the environmental performance/quality of EIAs and support the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, including greater consideration of biodiversity aspects? Reflect on the country as a whole and/or your institution. Please specify</p>
<p>5. Internal capacity</p>
<p>5.1. Has your institution received any training to improve the environmental performance/quality of EIAs and support the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, including greater consideration of biodiversity aspects over the last 2 years? Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones?</p>
<p>5.2. On average, how many technicians took part in the types of training indicated in the previous question?</p> <p>Don't know ___ 0 ___ / 1-5 ___ / 6-10 ___ / 11-20 ___ / 21-50 ___ / more than 50 ___</p>
<p>5.3. Does your institution have any funding or financial support to promote this type of training?</p> <p>5.3.a Available Yes ___ No ___, 5.3.b Financial support Yes ___ No ___</p>
<p>5.4. Does your institution need training on environmental performance, EIAs, Mitigation Hierarchy, biodiversity offsets or other aspects related to biodiversity? Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones?</p>
<p>5.5. If the answer to the previous question is yes, how many technicians would you like to train?</p> <p>Don't know ___ 0 ___ / 1-5 ___ / 6-10 ___ / 11-20 ___ / 21-50 ___ / more than 50 ___</p>
<p>5.6. If you are an academic institution, please indicate whether you have recently made (in the last 2 years) or will make (in the next 5 years) any curricular changes to create greater capacity in the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy and the consideration of biodiversity in EIA and spatial planning.</p> <p>5.6.a) Have you done it? Don't know ___ yes ___ / No ___ if yes which ones?</p> <p>5.6.b) Do you plan to? Don't know ___ Yes ___ / No ___ if yes which one(s)?</p>