



Mangrove Restoration & Livelihood Support in Mozambique

[Limpopo River Estuary]

PROJECT SUMMARY



Project partners

The **Sustainable Development Centre for the Coastal zones** is a national public institution with administrative autonomy under the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA). Its national head office is located in Xai-Xai and its activities extend throughout the country. It was established by Decree Law No. 05/2003 of 18/02/2003, Bulletin of the Republic No. 7, 1st Series, 2nd Supplement.

The duties of the Centre are to:

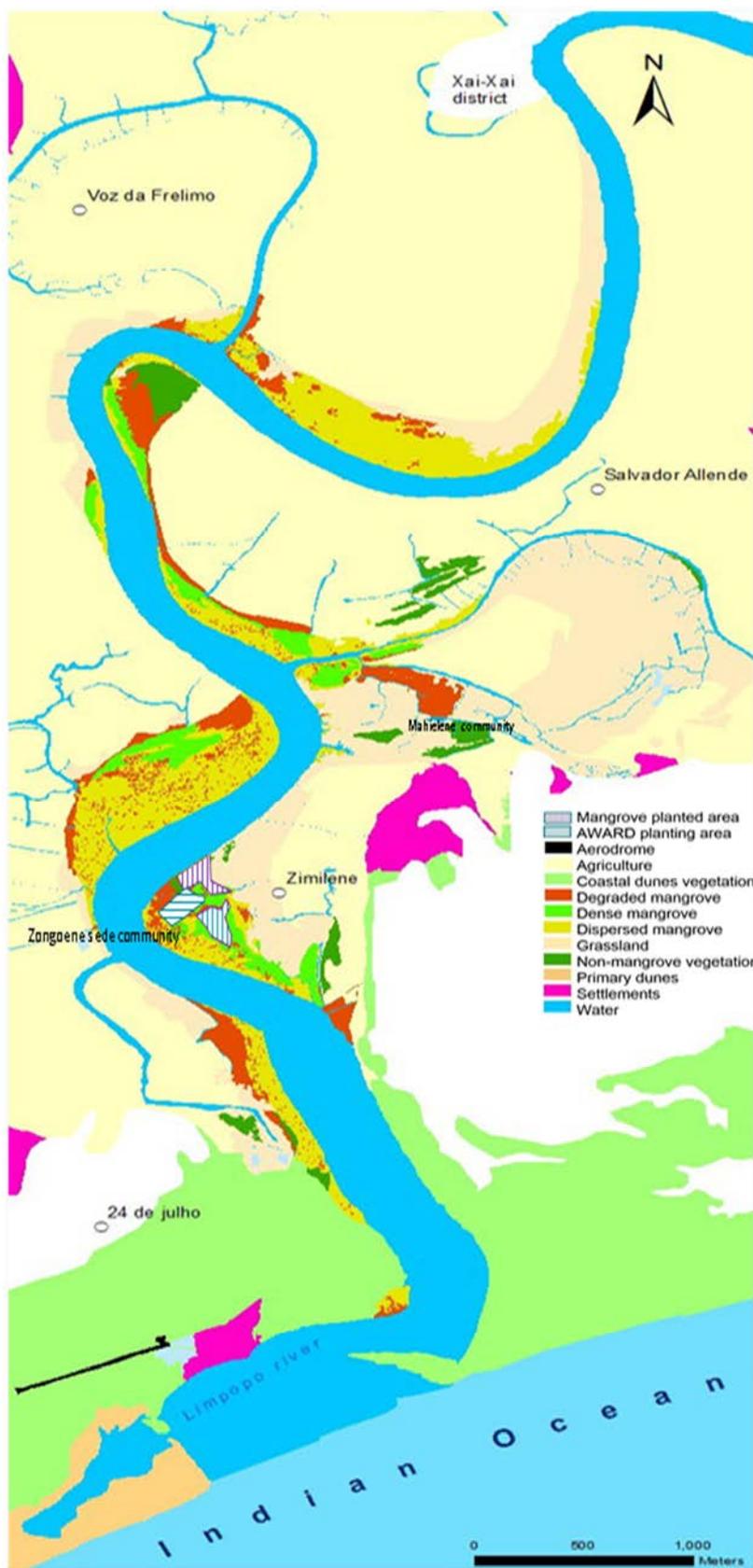
- Promote integrated planning;
- Promote and assist the monitoring of the status of the biodiversity, use and conservation of the natural resources and biodiversity in the coastal zones including the development of a database;
- Promote and implement together with other relevant entities, experimental and demonstration activities within the scope of integrated and sustainable management and protection of the environment of the coastal zones;
- Assist in the development of awareness programmes;
- Strengthen the power of the communities with regard to the protection of the environment and the natural resources of the coastal zones;
- Provide technical assistance on environmental issues in the coastal zones;
- Support training programmes in the environmental area; and
- Collect, compile and disseminate technical and scientific information relevant to the coastal zones.



República de Moçambique
Ministério da Terra, Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Rural
Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentável as Zonas Costeiras



Introduction



The mangrove forest of the Limpopo Estuary is a unique mangrove formation in the Gaza Province, Mozambique with an estimated area of about 900ha, before the 2000 floods.

The forest was of immense value to the surrounding communities, ensuring security of lives and livelihoods. During the last decade the extent of the mangroves has diminished substantially due to overexploitation and excessive siltation caused by heavy flooding during the year 2000. Consequently, large areas of mangroves have died or been depleted, leading to a reduction in the mangrove ecosystem nursery function and thereby a reduction in fish production and biodiversity.

These, in turn, led to a reduction in the means of living and in family income for the population living in the Limpopo Estuary, in particular to the community of Mahielene.

Project Purpose



The overall project goal was to contribute to increased resilience of the mangrove-livelihoods 'socio-ecological system' in the Limpopo estuary (Mahielene and Zongoene Sede communities) through healthy mangrove ecosystems where biodiversity and hydrological processes are restored and maintained so as to provide natural resources and ecosystem services that sustain local people.



Specific objectives are related to improved governance arrangements, participatory mangrove restoration, capacity-development and the sharing of lessons.



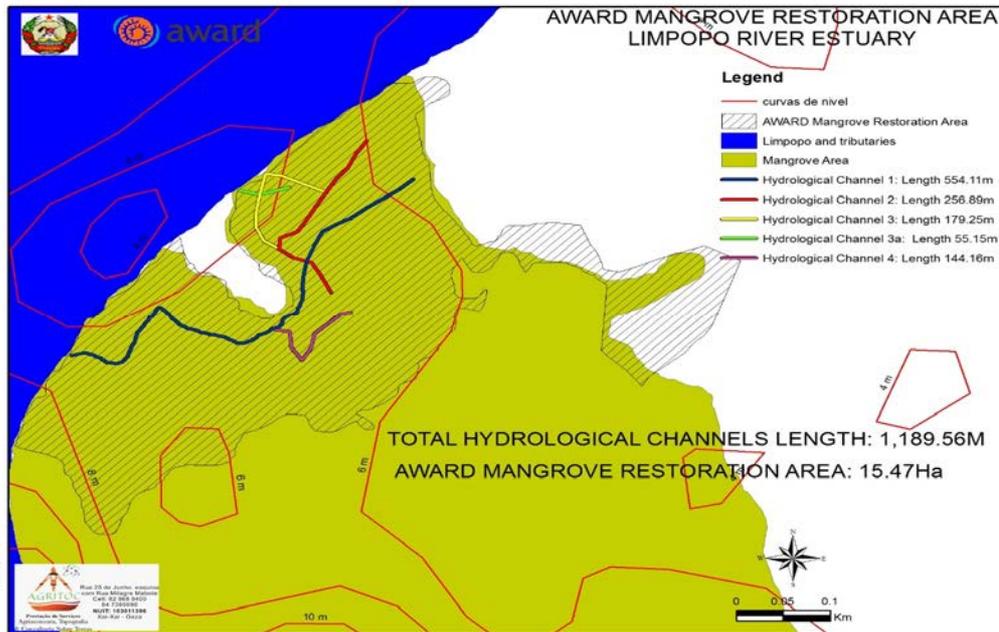


Activities

- A Natural Resource Management Committee was established in each of the communities, Mahielene and Zongoene Sede
- Community empowerment in environmental legislation (land law, environmental law, forest law, water law, conservation law) and gender, diversity and climate change
- Delimitation of Mahielene and Zongoene Sede Communities for natural resources management
- Restoration of hydrological system for community-based mangrove ecological restoration (CBEMR)
- Maintenance of the community mangrove nursery
- Mangrove plantation campaign
- Training workshops for teachers and implementation of six lesson plans into the curriculum relating to the mangrove ecosystems in the area's pedagogical influence
- Environmental awareness campaigns in community villages
- Monitoring of plantation sites
- Presentation at the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association's 11th Scientific Symposium and participation in training events



Results



NO.	EVENT	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MEN	TOTAL
1	Official launch ceremony	349	62	411
2	Restore hydrological system for community-based mangrove ecological restoration (CBEMR)	102	22	124
3	Constitution of the NRM	139	11	150
4	Community empowerment in environmental legislation (land law, environmental law, forest law, water law, conservation law) and gender, diversity and climate change	37	38	75
5	Training workshop for teacher regarding the lessons plans	57	36	93
		684	169	853

The mangrove planting campaigns began in September 2019. To date, about 70 local community members have participated in planting campaigns and about 200 students from local schools; 5 000 mangrove seedlings have been planted so far over an area of 2 hectares.



Six different lesson plans were supplied during the teacher training workshops for integration into the local schools' curriculum.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1

- Identification of alternative sources of economic and food security for the local communities to reduce pressure on fisheries and other natural resources

Recommendation 2

- Ongoing support to the natural resource management committees to achieve sustainability in the medium to long term

Recommendation 3

- Regular monitoring and maintenance of the hydrological channels and use of locally available datasheets for future channel excavations

Recommendation 4

- Continuous monitoring of the integration of the mangrove ecosystem into the local curriculum and images of different mangrove species should be provided to teachers to assist in the classroom

Recommendation 5

- Seed and propagation of multiple mangrove species should be strengthened

Recommendation 6

- Sharing of experiences of the community-based mangrove restoration project in the Limpopo estuary through exchange visits, conference presentations and participation in training workshops





award

The Association for Water and Rural Development

AWARD is a non-profit organisation specialising in participatory, research-based project implementation. Their work addresses issues of sustainability, inequity and poverty by building natural-resource management competence and supporting sustainable livelihoods. One of their current projects, supported by USAID, focuses on the Olifants River and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems to sustain livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment.

P O Box 1919, Hoedspruit 1380, Limpopo, South Africa
T 015-793 0503 W award.org.za
Company Reg. No. 98/03011/08
Non-profit org. Reg. No. 006 - 821

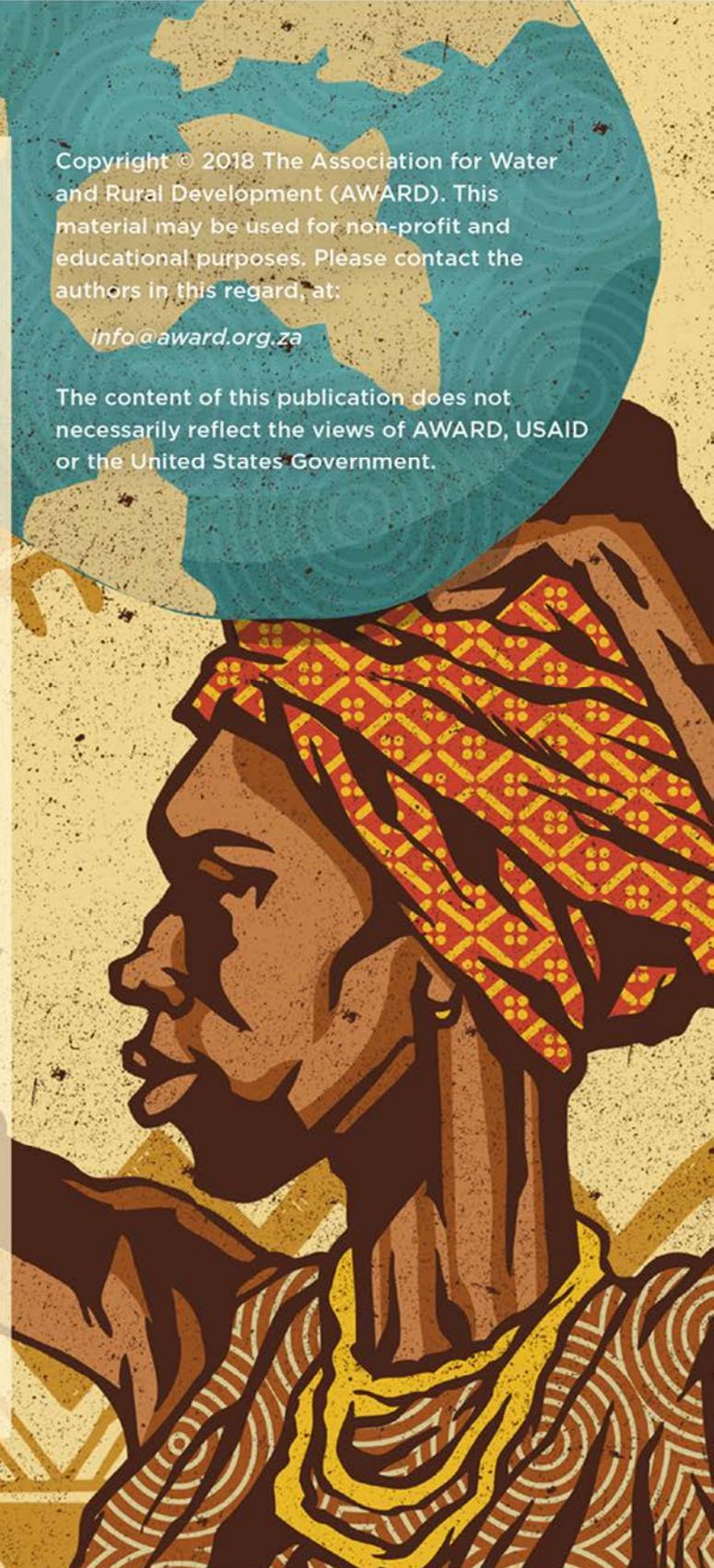
About USAID: RESILIM-O

USAID: RESILIM-O focuses on the Olifants River Basin and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems that support livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment. The 5-year programme, involving the South African and Mozambican portions of the Olifants catchment, is being implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD) and is funded by USAID Southern Africa.

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info@award.org.za

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