



## WWF Technical Progress REPORT

**Project Title:** Lake Niassa Reserve  
**Project Number:** 656-G-00-06-00129-00  
**Reporting Period:** October 2007 – March 2008

### 1. Global Thematic Programme, Ecoregional Targets or Global Policy Initiatives

The project is part of the WWF Mozambique country program within the Southern African Program (SARPO). It contributes to the SARPO Conservation Strategy 2006-2010 and especially to the Strategic Objective 1: Conserving the Web of Life; Key terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and processes conserved, sustainably managed and used in Southern Africa. Under this objective, the project contributes to Milestone/Target (LW 3.1.) 6.5 million ha of representative freshwater habitats are protected by 2010 in priority river basins. In regard to the global conservation priorities, the project contributes to the Freshwater Program, Target 3.

### 2. Project Successes

The progress and successes that can be reported for this period include the following:

#### 1. Consolidation and functioning of the **project coordination committee**

In which participate: the Provincial Director of Tourism, The Provincial Director of Environmental Affairs, The Provincial Director of Agriculture, the Provincial head of Police, the Administrator of the Lake district and the provincial Fisheries Department, as well as WWF (December 2007).

2. **Submitted a Justification Document and annual report** in August 2007, to the provincial governor and the project coordination committees that describes the scientific, socioeconomic, cultural and historic basis for declaration of the Lake Niassa Reserve (LNR). This report is based on a variety of activities performed during the mobilization phase between February and May 2007:

- Community consultations conducted in 11 communities from Metangula to Cobué with 450 local people involved in environmental education regarding fish life cycles and Lake resource exhaustion trends and projections;
- Conducted stakeholder information exchange with the government, villagers, and investors, based on existing scientific data and local knowledge of the area; and

- Exchange visits with Quirimbas National Park conducted.
3. **Community Ranger Capacity and recognized** in December 2007. Twenty four (24) community's rangers benefited from capacity building in Fishing Law, Legislation and the recognitions will be based in LOLE legislation.
4. **The first Lake Niassa Reserve Draft Management Plan** was completed in September 2007. The plan is now available for comments and waiting to be finalized. Notable progress in the plan includes: a protected area and buffer zone identified from Metangula to Chigoma/Cobué with 60,000 total hectares in size.

### 3. Progress on Activities

Significant progress was made in the implementation of the activities, following the Annual Workplan for this period. The project implementation is within its time frame and no major financial drawbacks can be reported. Below is a summary of progress made for each project objective during this reporting period.

**Objective 1:** To develop and document a plan for the establishment and sustainable use of the Lake Niassa Reserve (LNR) area that is acceptable to all stakeholders and that ensures that development will be both ecologically sensitive and socially just.

*A justification document that lays out the scientific, socio-economic, cultural, and historic basis for the declaration of the LNR*

- Identification, consolidation and functioning of the **project coordination committee**  
In which participate: the Provincial Director of Tourism, The Provincial Director of Environmental Affairs, The Provincial Director of Agriculture, the Provincial head of Police, the Administrator of the Lake district and the provincial Fisheries Department, as well as WWF (December 2007).
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Provincial Governor and WWF, which sets down the guidelines for the relationship to government departments and for the project implementation by WWF. The MOU includes the Terms of Reference of the project coordination committees.
- Terms of reference for the Management plan and action plan approved by Governor and project coordination committees, covering the period of the next eight month (8) (December 2007).

*A draft General Management Plan (with associated zoning plan) is elaborated that is supported by stakeholders at all levels, from village level up to national level*

The design of a Management Plan and zoning plan is an ongoing process. The first Lake Niassa Reserve Draft General Management is now available for comments and waiting to be finalized by August 2008. Notable progress in the management plan includes:

- Protected area and buffer zone identified from Metangula to Chigoma/Cobué;
- Aquatic areas will be reserve area and land areas will be buffer zones, with reserve with 60,000 total area hectares;
- Draft maps with data are now available;
- Carried out a study to survey the biological data and measures for Lake Niassa management to be included in the management plan; and
- In the midst of preparing a process for conducting consultations with the communities located within the reserve to negotiate the inclusion of the continental zone as part of the reserve.

**Objective 2:** To improve managerial and decision making capacities of the LNR population to allow them to better defend their own interests and better manage their own natural resources

*Enhanced community capacity among men and women to use and manage Lake resources in a sustainable way in coordination with relevant authorities*

- Two (2) Communities Fishing Councils (CCPs) were established in the proposed LNR area, namely Chuanga and Messumba. In total there are now seven (7) Fishing Councils established and organized, out of the planned eleven (11).
- The legalization of the communities fishing councils is ongoing and is coordinated by the local governor. In total seventy (70) CCP members were trained in fishing council organization and functioning and co-management. All of them have been recognized and registered by the local governor in Lago District (October 2007).

The next steps of this activity will be coordinated by IDPPE with WWF support. The local Governor and Fisheries Department will also be involved. They will also provide a plan to promote capacity building and legalize the rest of the communities in the reserve area (Chigoma, Mataca, Cobué, Tchia, Mbamba and Mbueca). Fisheries Department will provide a monitoring plan to assist all CCPs established and the Co-management Committee to improve their functioning.

*Enhanced organizational and democratic capacity of community-based organizations and traditional/religious structures to resolve developmental and resource management issues*

- Twenty two community guards from eleven communities were trained and had capacity building in terms of Fish Law and Legislation in Metangula (December 2007). The recognition and credentials will be based on LOLE (Lei dos Orgão Locais do Estado) that allows SDAE (District Services for Economic Activities) by the local Governor to coordinate and organize all activities in and around the Lake
- Six community fishing councils (Messumba, Chuanga, Micuio, Sanjala, Tungo and Seli) were registered in the local administration, and have the necessary documentation required for their legal recognition by the Ministry of Fisheries (in April 2008).

**Objective 3:** To establish a “first-phase” LNR management scheme and management structures (in collaboration with local fishers and villages and existing governmental departments and agencies)

*Ranger team organized, trained and officially recognized*

- Community Ranger team recognized in December 2007. In the process of presenting the guards to 11 communities near the reserve and to the local authorities. This activity is coordinated by the District Government, with the objective of explaining to the communities and the local authorities the role of the guards and the activities that they will be involved in, the mechanism of collaboration with the communities, and the procedures and rules that they’ll be enforcing. In April an authorization guide will be produced by SDAE that will check the competencies of the guards in their activities.

*First phase LNR management established, based to the extent possible on the use of existing organizations, administrative bodies, and local community structures.*

- A mosquito net collection and sensitization campaign occurred during February and March of this reporting period. This activity, promoted by the District Government through SDAE and SP Fisheries, involved the community guards discussing with the use of harmful gear in Lake Niassa with the communities.
- The second meeting that will involve the District Government of the Lake, Maritime Administration, Marinha de Guerra, SDAE, community guards and the Fishery Services is set to organize the patrolling of Lake Niassa. This meeting will help the group to harmonize the plans for patrolling, define the responsibilities of the different actors and further will be a demonstration of the capacity of the patrolling bodies (scheduled for the 2 of May 2008).

- The TORs of the steering committee were approved and ratified by the Provincial Governor in March. This is represented by the following institutions: Tourism, Environment, Agriculture, Fishing, the District Administrator, the PRM leader, and WWF. These institutions together extend over the areas where WWF undertakes our activities in Lake Niassa. The committee will present regularly to the Provincial Government the activities of the project and its undertakings. The Provincial Director of Tourism and the coordinator of the steering committee will meet once a month.
- The steering committee will meet next in Metangula to analyze the final process of the preparations of the management plans and the legal basis of the process for the declaration of the conservation area in Lake Niassa.
- An MOU between the Provincial Government and WWF was signed in April on the scope of project implementation of natural resource conservation. These parties will meet once a year to evaluate the project and the degree of implementation of the MOU.

#### **4. Problems and Constraints**

The following problems and constraints were encountered during this reporting period:

- There is a lack of knowledge and weak dissemination of the project's objective and activities in some local communities in the Lake reserve area, the communities Association (UMOJI) and traditional leaders in the north part of the reserve. This results in difficulties for local communities to understand the proposed conservation areas. Local communities and traditional leaders should have legal assistance and receive more clarifications of the trends and expected projections regarding the Lake resource and this should be implemented by the local government and agencies.

#### **5. Learning and sharing**

The planning tools used by WWF with the Government agencies/institutions to establish the LNR were successful. The tasks, approaches, responsibilities and timing for each intervention were defined by all of the institution involved.

It was an important lesson learned at all levels, that the LNR project is a government initiative and not a WWF project; hence the government has many responsibilities to promote and coordinate the conservation initiative. This understanding has a direct impact on all WWF projects in Niassa.

#### **6. Adaptive Management**

About 16.000 mosquito nets were distributed by the Ministry of the Health to local people to prevent malaria in the District of Lago-Metangula. These nets have a very long

life-span and are treated with chemicals that are active for a total of 4 years to prevent malaria. Now more than 50% of nets are being used by local people for fishing in the LNR areas. Most of the nets are being sold in the local market and sometimes come from Malawi and Tanzania. This situation has been recognized by the local governor and other stakeholders and a decision was taken to patrol the LNR area and confiscate all mosquito nets used for fishing. The decision was accompanied by the move to utilize the capacity of the 24 community ranger (trained in Fishery Law) and start patrolling the LNR area in February 2008.

## **7. Communications/ Success Stories**

There was an important meeting held in December 2007, in which participated the three communities Micuio, Messumba and Cobué. The objective was to clarify the LNR project purpose and goal. During the meeting all communities members, traditional leaders and the governors representative emphasized that all communities should be involved in the establishment of the Lake Niassa Reserve through the sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of conservation initiatives.

## **8. Future Issues/ Challenges**

- **Conduct communities consultations of the management plan of LNR**  
Guarantee that all stakeholders, local government, communities and the project technical coordination committee are involved in the process and support the management plan.
- **Collaboration with the Fisheries Department**  
Guarantee a good level of collaboration and coordination with the Fisheries Department at all stages and accelerate many activities related to capacity building, community organization and legalization of community fishing councils.
- **Environmental Education**  
Continue implementing environmental education in all of the communities and disseminate messages to the local communities regarding fish life cycles, trends of resource exhaustion in the Lake, user rights, and access to and benefits of natural resources based on the Land Law, the Forestry and Wildlife Law and Legislation.

## **9. Anticipated future problems or delays**

At this point there in the project there are no anticipated future problems or delays.

## **10. Information on security issues**

At this point there is no information on security issues that would affect program integrity and safety of cooperating and implementing partners.

### **11. Overall Assessment of Progress**

The progress made to date is evaluated as positive given the fact that activities outlined in the Annual Workplan are on track and ongoing. The project has made noticeable strides in contributing to establishing a new protected area in and around Lake Niassa. Prospects for the next reporting period's performance are strong and in line with the goals established in the Annual Workplan.

<b>Report completed by:</b>	
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<b>Date</b>	<b>April 2007</b>