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## PROJECT TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Project/ Programme Name       | Lake Niassa Reserve Project                         |
| Project Number                | MZ002003 (656-G-00-08-00218-00)                     |
| Reporting Period              | FY12 (1 <sup>st</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> July) |
| Project Start Date (FY)       | September 2006                                      |
| Date Report Completed (MM/YR) | July 2012   |
| Report Completed By           | Geraldo P. Chizango and Albino Nandja               |

### 1) Progress on Activities

#### A) The Lake Niassa Reserve and Ramsar Site Management Plans

- WWF staff has helped the Ministry of Fisheries draft the Lake Niassa Reserve Management Plan. The Ministry of Fisheries is currently finalizing the aspect of multi-sectoral coordination and then will present the plan to different stakeholders; from local communities to provincial and district governments.
- A central level meeting organized by MICOA in partnership with WWF was held in May 2012. In this meeting, a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the development of a management plan for the Lake Niassa Ramsar Site was drafted. Also during the meeting, a technical inter-ministerial team was formed that would take charge of the writing of the management plan for the RAMSAR site. WWF has continued to engage with the Ministry Fisheries (MF) and Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) over the process. WWF will participate in the technical committee meeting later in August to define the technical beginning of the work.
- WWF led a public awareness campaign to celebrate the World Wetlands Day. This campaign included a lecture regarding the importance of preservation of wetlands and the role that wetlands play for the environment and the negative impacts that the movements of vessels will bring about on the great shore of Lake Niassa. The lecture was given by WWF, who spoke of the importance of wetlands for the planet, and MICOA, who spoke of the Ramsar Convention. The lecture was directed at government officials, community leaders, and members of CCPs (Community Fisheries Committees) and fishermen's associations, civil society organizations and the general public. In addition WWF delivered the Certificate of Declaration of Lake Niassa Ramsar Site sent by the The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat to the Niassa District Government and to the Niassa Provincial Government.

#### B) Capacity Building in Lake Niassa Reserve

- Three training sessions were administered on issues of co-management, associations, rotating savings and credit, leadership and gender to a total of 512 members (300 W, 212 M) of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). This work was undertaken in the administrative posts of Cóbuè (Cango, Mataka, and Chicaia Mbueca), Meluluca (Meluluca headquarters, Lussefa, Ngala, Nchepa), and the

Municipal Village of Metangula (Sanjala, Thungo, Muchenga, Seli and Micuio). Emphasis was given to the training of community members of Cobue, Meluluca and Metangula not associated with any CBO.

- In partnership with the delegation of IDPPE through the project's efforts to promote gender awareness, 144 posters were printed that show the need to involve women in co-management, due to the fact that women handle most of the lake and forest resources. 48 posters were disseminated in the Fishing Centers of the following Administrative Posts: Cobue, Meluluca and Metangula.
- Twenty-four radio programs were produced and broadcasted through the local community radio station on best fishing practices and sustainable fishing methods and observation of Fisheries Law. The radio announcement reached the following 10 villages: Chia, Mbamba, Messumba, Chiuanga, Micuio, Metangula, Ngolongwe, Mchepe, Nagala, and Meluluca.
- WWF undertook, in partnership with the Peasants Union, a capacity building training to a group of peasants, fishermen, and CCPs regarding the Land Law and Wildlife and Forest Law. The communities where Utchesse (25 persons; 10 women, 15 men), Chigoma (30 people; 20 women, 10 men), Mataka (16 people; 11 women, 5 men), Mbueca (35 people; 19 women, 16 men) and Cobue Sede (28 people; 17 men, 11 women), all belonging to the Administrative Post of Cobue. The training reached a total of 134 people.
- To ensure better conservation of fish from the fishermen and processors in the fishing town of Cobue Sede, Meluluca, Metangula, WWF undertook three practical demonstration sessions on techniques of salting, drying, smoking and the use of ice. This training involved about 512 people of which 300 were women.

### C) Improvement of Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods of Fishermen

- Over this year, 12 out of 14 fishermen who had borrowed money from the District Development Fund were able to repay more than 40% their debts back. The reason for this success is assumed to be a result of improved fish catches, but more information is needed to confirm this. WWF is currently working with IDPPE and IIP to create a mechanism for collecting information on the quantities of fish captured in fishing centers. Anecdotally, fishermen in the area are reporting that they are catching more fish now than before and can sell and have income to buy other products and goods to support their family.
- The number of Rotational Credit and Saving Schemes (PCR) increased from 8 in December 2011 to 15 in May 2012; this was motivated by the results and benefits that the first groups had. Some of the PCR members suggested that this initiative started in other communities. The savings and the time period is illustrated in the table below:

| N/<br>Ordem | Group Name           | Location | Jan (Mets) | Feb (Mets) | Mar (Mets) | Apr (Mets) | May (Mets) | Total (Mets) | Total* (USD) |
|-------------|----------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1           | Chitukuko            | Micuio   | 5,660.00   | 4,940.00   | 6,265.00   | 1,020.00   | 3,730.00   | 21,615.00    | 771.96       |
| 2           | Chiguilizano         | Micuio   | 10,155.00  | 5,015.00   | 4,940.00   | 6,570.00   | 4,555.00   | 31,235.00    | 1,115.54     |
| 3           | Coragem das Mulheres | Seli     | 8,035.00   | 9,115.00   | 10,025.00  | 5,475.00   | 2,400.00   | 35,050.00    | 1,251.79     |
| 4           | Tsogolo Lathu        | Thungo   | 6,786.00   | 3,945.00   | 6,010.00   | 3,760.00   | 1,680.00   | 22,181.00    | 792.17       |
| 5           | Tithandizane         | Sanjala  | 6,865.00   | 4,570.00   | 13,486.00  | 2,235.00   | 0.00       | 27,156.00    | 969.85       |

|              |                             |          |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 6            | <b>Unidade</b>              | Sanjala  | 15,500.00        | 7,000.00         | 21,190.00         | 2,340.00         | 130.00           | <b>46,160.00</b>  | <b>1,648.57</b>  |
| 7            | <b>Sunga Umoyo Wako</b>     | Seli     | 9,355.00         | 4,730.00         | 15,545.00         | 370.00           | 395.00           | <b>30,395.00</b>  | <b>1,085.54</b>  |
| 8            | <b>Kufuna funa Kulemela</b> | Muchenga | 3,870.00         | 4,630.00         | 8,430.00          | 5,690.00         | 2,065.00         | <b>24,685.00</b>  | <b>881.60</b>    |
| 9            | <b>Chipelecano</b>          | Messumba | 550.00           | 320.00           | 110.00            | 0.00             | 0.00             | <b>980.00</b>     | <b>35.00</b>     |
| 10           | <b>Chimwemwe</b>            | Meluluca | 4,100.00         | 10,790.00        | 16,345.00         | 3,320.00         | 2,740.00         | <b>37,295.00</b>  | <b>1,331.96</b>  |
| 11           | <b>Chikhulupi</b>           | Seli     | 14,530.00        | 4,105.00         | 16,125.00         | 2,335.00         | 1,810.00         | <b>38,905.00</b>  | <b>1,389.46</b>  |
| 12           | <b>Unido</b>                | Meluluca | 2,000.00         | 3,500.00         | 1,850.00          | 0.00             | 0.00             | <b>7,350.00</b>   | <b>262.50</b>    |
| 13           | <b>Ufuluwatho</b>           | Meluluca | 1,500.00         | 2,800.00         | 3,850.00          | 0.00             | 0.00             | <b>8,150.00</b>   | <b>291.07</b>    |
| 14           | <b>Ukassauka Ussaba</b>     | Muchenga | 0.00             | 0.00             | 9,305.00          | 2,760.00         | 5,149.00         | <b>17,214.00</b>  | <b>614.78</b>    |
| 15           | <b>Umphawi sassekana</b>    | Muchenga | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00              | 0.00             | 4,024.00         | <b>4,024.00</b>   | <b>143.71</b>    |
| <b>Total</b> |                             |          | <b>88,906.00</b> | <b>65,460.00</b> | <b>133,476.00</b> | <b>35,875.00</b> | <b>28,678.00</b> | <b>352,395.00</b> | <b>12,585.50</b> |

\*Converted at [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com) on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

- WWF advised five associative groups of fishing centers in Micuio, Muchenga, Seli and Chuanga in developing projects related to fisheries and fish marketing and helped in the preparation of two draft proposals for fishing, marketing and fisheries sales. These projects were submitted to the Development Funds of the City Council of Metangula and now await approval.

#### **D) Reserve Community Fisheries Councils:**

- A meeting with 11 CCPs (Mbamba, Nchepe, Chia, Lussefa, Meleuca Sede, Nkolongue, Chicaia, Chigoma, Mbueca, Cobue Sede and Uchesse) was held to inform the status of the legalization of the CCPs. IDPPE members, responsible for the legalization, explained that the documents have already been sent to the National Directorate of Administration Fisheries for review and forwarding to the Office of Minister for the Signature.
- Nine training sessions were held in the following CCPs: Metangula (Sanjala, Thungo, Muchenga, Seli and Micuio), and Meluluca (Meluluca headquarters, Lussefa, Ngala and Nchepe). A total of 198 people (148 women and 50 men) attended these trainings on aspects of collecting and updating the information regarding the co-management of fisheries and licensing.

#### **E) Lake Niassa Reserve Co-Management Meetings**

- Co-management meetings were held at district and provincial level in which representative of WWF, the fishermen councils, government and other invitees from Chiuta and Amaramba Lake, and fishermen from the Lugenda River gathered to exchange experiences on fisheries. Due to the high costs that these co-management meetings incur only one meeting at each level took place.

#### **F) Joint Law Enforcement**

- In partnership with the Provincial Directorate for Coordination of Environmental Action, trainings were held for 36 community rangers and five staff from the following relevant government ministries: District Agricultural and Economic Services (SDAE), Provincial Directorate of Fisheries, Republic of Mozambique Police (PRM) (two people), and Maritime Administration. The training covered topics such as Law of Fisheries, vessel inspections, monitoring of forests and procedures to issue a fine.

- There were three joint inspections involving the Naval Base, PRM, SDAE, Provincial Directorate of Fisheries, Maritime Administration and Fiscal community. These inspections (held at 23 fishing centers) aimed to increase environmental and legal awareness of fishermen and engaged with a total of 180 fishermen. Fishermen were made aware of the need to comply with regulations on fishing and regulations on the environment. Additionally 75 motor boats and 50 sailing boats were inspected for compliance with licensing and registration regulations.

## **G) Sustainable Financing Mechanisms:**

### Update on the BIOFUND:

- Mozambican Council of Ministers officially approved registration of BIOFUND as a foundation on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Inaugural General Assembly was held December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In March of 2012 the BIOFUND was granted Public Benefit Status.
- BIOFUND Board of Directors, Oversight Council, and General Assembly Council elected. The board includes most of the original founders, including WWF. First Board Meeting held December 15<sup>th</sup>; where the President (Magid Osman), Vice President (Oscar Monteiro), and other bodies were elected.
  - i. WWF will be secretary for the Board, and will sit on the technical committees for Budgets/Remunerations and Publicity/Public Launching of the Foundation.
  - ii. Luís Bernardo Honwana began his duties as Executive Director on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- On the basis of initial 3M Eur sinking funds for AFD, first grant proposals were solicited from 8 Conservation Areas in March, with 5 being chosen for support (Funds should be available for the period 2013-2016):
  - Ponta d'Ouro Marine Reserve
  - Niassa Game Reserve
  - Chimanimani National Reserve
  - Limpopo National Park
  - Lake Niassa Reserve (with USAID funds)
- Operational Funding & Procedures
  - i. UNDP GEF funding for operational costs of the BIOFUND over the first few years has been secured and the contract was received from UNDP in late December. Funds became available in May 2012. These funds provide approximately 50% of the operating costs needs fo the BIOFUND.
  - ii. KfW funding for the startup phase has still not been formalized, and as such no funds have yet been disbursed to WWF to implement the project. However, a draft contract was finally written and sent to WWF in December, and needs only a letter from MITUR to move towards signature.
  - iii. Investment Policy Draft prepared on the basis of the Madagascan model and approved by the Board in January 2012.
  - iv. Price Waterhouse Cooper contracted to produce both the BIOFUND Administrative and Financial Procedures Manual and the Grant-Making manual. A final draft of the first manual and the second draft of the grant-making manual were received by the end of December. Both have then undergone revision with donor input and should be finalized in August 2012.
- Capitalization
  - i. While several of the conditions for the finalization of the feasibility of French Development Agency contribution have now been met, there are still some aspects unfinished.

1. Actions taken in this period include negotiations in Paris in late June/ early July with the AFD and the Project Coordinator, a visit of AFD Paris in November, and regular contacts with the representatives in Maputo.
- ii. Negotiations with the German government have advanced in this period, with one mission from KFW Frankfurt in October and discussions/briefings with the new German Cooperation representative in Maputo. Negotiations appear to be on track to conclude an agreement between the German and Mozambican governments in 2012.
- iii. WWF internal fundraising is now focussed on the Netherlands and WWF US, but no firm commitments have yet been acquired.
- iv. USAID has verbally expressed interest in channelling some of their Biodiversity funding through BIOFUND in 2012.

## 2) Outcomes and Impacts Achieved

- With project support, an agreement was established between a Fishermen's Association in Metangula with IDPPE so that the Association could use a motorboat for fishing. In addition, a training session was held to capacitate two fishermen who volunteered to use the motorboats for fishing.
- Introduction and dissemination of new techniques for capturing Ussipa (*Engraulicypris sardella*) through the construction of a new net called Chilimila, which has a mesh size that is inches larger than the traditional fishing net currently used by fishermen in catching Ussipa. This net was promoted to help fishermen comply with the Fisheries Law and consequently improve the fish stock by allowing small sized fish to grow and reproduce. A number of training sessions were held to train 7 fishermen from each of the 15 fishing centers (105 fishermen in total) to use the Chilimila. Moreover, WWF is working in partnership with the field officers from IDPPE and IIP who are based in the fishing centers taking samples to monitor fish stock capture.
- A total of 36 community rangers have increased knowledge on monitoring fishing activities, vessel inspection, monitoring forest and procedures for issuing a fine with support from the Provincial Directorate of Environment.
- The UMOJI community association has a tourism partnership with the government and a private operator (Brazafrica) in the Manda Wilderness project area. This will provide additional income for community members living in the area.
- The paperwork has been submitted to the Ministry of Fisheries to legalize 9 Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs).
- The government has prioritized allocating the District Development Fund to the acquisition of sustainable fishing gear equipment in order to reduce the exploitation of fisheries resources.
- Increased level of participation of fishermen in resource management. In December 2011 there were 10 Fishermen's Associations with an average of 12 members each, and by August 2012 there are 18 Associations with an average of 12 members each.
- There is great support by the Government and local authorities regarding this project as a result there are joint planning and monitoring meeting regularly.

### 3) Challenges and Strengths Affecting Performance

#### Challenges

- Continue to work with the Ministry of Fisheries to expedite the review of the Reserve Management Plan.
- Intensify lobbying with the Ministry of Fisheries regarding the need to create a structure for managing the reserve and construction of infrastructure for the headquarters of the Reserve.
- The role of WWF in the management of LNR has remained unclear, making it difficult for WWF to provide the most effective assistance to the Reserve. An MOU with the Ministry of Fisheries will be helpful to clarify the role of WWF in the process of managing the reserve.
- Work with the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs for the elaboration of the Proposed Management Plan Area of Ramsar Site
- Continue to work with the District Government to continue to allocate credits to fishermen so that they are able to buy appropriate gear and abandon the use of inappropriate gear.
- Negotiate with district governments, economic agents and others to the need to install shops that can sell fishing inputs (nets, hooks, and other engines).
- Lack of knowledge and experience within the Ministry of Fisheries to manage protected areas is a challenge.

Below are the constraints that have affected the project performance:

- Delay in updating the management plan, which is the basis for the setting up the reserve's management structure, and hence, delay in the operation of the reserve.

### 4) Adaptive Management

During this reporting period, there has been continual lobbying with the Ministry of Fisheries to speed up the revision of the management plan and the assignment of a management body to the reserve. WWF Mozambique has continued to provide technical assistance to the future management body of the reserve. And the wider WWF network has continued to work with MCO (Mozambique Country Office) to fundraise for the next phase of the reserve.

### 5) Communications/Stories

#### Reappearance of utaka (*Copadichromis Sp*)

On May 30 WWF visited the fishing town of Mchepa where we talked with groups of fishermen about ongoing fishing activities and the relationship that existed between them and the CCP. Community members told us that when the CCP was created and began to work, the fishermen felt an inconvenience because they were being watched now by the CCP, on top of the community tax inspector who controlled their activities and joint enforcement groups that sometimes approached fishermen. Since members of the CCP are members of the fishing communities, the CCP is a strong enforcement organization. After sensitization, fishermen are

now adhering to the regulations regarding fishing licenses, no-take zones, and net size requirements. A big achievement that mosquito nets are no longer being used for fishing in the CCP areas, as communities know how destructive they are to fish populations.

**Side Boma** is a Mchepa's fisherman and told us that several years ago he could not fish because **Utaka** (*Copadichromis Sp.*) had disappeared from his fishing area and he knew of fishermen from other areas that also lamented the disappearance of Utaka . In April they heard that a fisherman from Nkolongue launched nets to capture Utaka and managed to fill the boat with Utaka (30 buckets). When announced the news to others that utaka appeared in the last two months and the fishing of utaka is very good. We are very pleased with the works that the CCP is doing, because before we thought they were spies from the government sent to prohibit fishermen from working. We are now seeing the results of conservation and we do not use poisons and mosquito nets. Today we also fish for Chambo and it is great; something is changing.