

# RESEA PROJECT

Regenerative Seascapes for People, Climate and Nature

The ReSea Project seeks to enhance the physical and socio-economic resilience of coastal communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros to climate change impacts.

Implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mission Inclusion (Mi), the project is supported by Global Affairs Canada under the Partnering for Climate initiative. This Partnership will work in close collaboration with local women and conservation organizations, and regional technical actors to deliver inclusive and transformational change at the community and global levels.

Anchored to the Western Indian Ocean-led and Africa-driven Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative endorsed by Heads of State of WIO region, ReSea will support the establishment of a network of regenerative seascapes that contribute to enhanced climate and socioeconomic resilience of coastal communities and accelerate regenerative blue economy agenda in the region. The project's objectives revolve around three pillars: Blue Planet, Blue Nature and Blue People, with Blue Partnerships as a cross-cutting theme.

## PROJECT LAUNCHES

The ReSea Project was launched in February 2024 in Antsiranana, Madagascar, at Hotel de la Poste. With Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy Mr Paubert Mahatante Tsimanaoraty, as the chief guest, the launch saw representatives from local government, civil society organizations, community organizations, and community members gather to mark this significant milestone.



The ReSea Project in Madagascar will be implemented in the districts of Antsiranana I and II, located in the Diana Region by IUCN, Mission inclusion and local women's organization, Capacity-building for Communities (C-for-C).

[Read more](#)

In May 2024, the ReSea Project was launched at Águia Negra Hotel in Vilanculo, Inhambane, with 50 representatives from government, civil society, private sector, research and academia, and local communities. The event was graced by Secretary of State for Inhambane Province, His Excellency Amosse Macamo and Canadian High Commissioner in Mozambique, Sara Nicholls.



The project will be implemented by IUCN, Mission inclusion and Muleide in the Vilanculo and Inhassoro districts on the coast of Inhambane Province.

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## Seascape governance working group

The ReSea Project seeks to promote inclusive governance by supporting the participation of women and youth, the vulnerable and marginalized in the management structures of key coastal and marine ecosystems and their resources, to ensure their voices are heard and unique needs to the effects of climate change are addressed.

In this respect, we supported the establishment of a Seascape Working Group in Kilifi County whose aim is to enhance collaboration among the different entities and individuals in the seascape and consolidate conservation and management efforts within the county, to mitigate the effects of climate change while promoting sustainable use of natural resources.



The group comprises representatives from the Kilifi County Government and government agencies such as Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Fisheries Service and Kenya Forest Service. 50% of the group is made up of non-state actors including Civil Society Organizations, Community Forest Associations and Beach Management Unit, People with Disabilities (PWDs), Youth and Women (the latter making up 40% of the working group).



## County Climate Information Services Plan (CCISP) workshop



Once finalized, the CCISP will help individuals and organizations make informed decisions to reduce risks and optimize resources; enhance preparedness by providing early warnings and forecasts that enable proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events; support planning and implementation of sustainable practices in agriculture, water management, urban planning, and other sectors; strengthen the capacity of communities to adapt to changing climate conditions and recover from adverse events.

One of the key priorities of the ReSea Project is to enhance the resilience of coastal communities in the 5 project countries, to climate change while enhancing their capacity to adapt to its effects. In partnership with the Kilifi County Government, Kenya Meteorological Department and other stakeholders in the climate space in Kilifi County, we co-developed the County Climate Information Services Plan (CCISP). The CCISP will provide relevant and timely climate-related information to help individuals, communities, businesses, governments, civil society organizations, etc. to make informed decisions to manage the impacts of climate variability and change.





## Review of the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PRCA) Report

In our commitment to integrate gender in environmental commitments and adaptation plans, we have made significant strides in Kilifi County. Through our collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi, we brought together stakeholders to carry out a gender-inclusive review of the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PRCSA) Report and identify climate intervention priorities in the 14 wards where the ReSea project will be implemented. This was to foster community-led action in addressing the climate related challenges faced by the county.



A total of 221 participants were sensitized on the outcomes of PCRA conducted in 2023, various climate policies and legal frameworks, and introduced to the Financing Locally Led Climate Actions (FLLoCA) program as a source of funding towards climate interventions in the counties. This enabled community representatives from the 14 wards to identify the existing climate change hazards, their impacts and propose practical solutions. A total of 42 adaptation pathways were prioritized and proposals developed as per the FLLoCA guidelines that would inform funding whose implementation would enhance resilience of the people.



## Global Affairs Canada visit to Kilifi Seascape

Shermin Fakirani, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Canadian High Commission in Kenya, called on the ReSea Kenya team and met with businesswomen from the Bidii na Kazi Women’s Group in Mida Creek, Kilifi County.

Founded in 1993, Bidii na Kazi, in partnership with Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service have been at the forefront of mangrove conservation. With the support of the National Museums of Kenya, they run a restaurant along the mangroves which serves tourists visiting the area. While their efforts have borne fruit, they lack formalized training in mangrove restoration and access to business opportunities to improve their livelihoods and support their families.







## ▶▶▶ Learning visit to the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA)

The ReSea Tanzania team paid a visit to the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) in Mbegani, Bagamoyo, where they got to learn about their blue incubator program which bears similarities to IUCN Tanzania’s Bahari Mali project and ReSea’s planned activities. FETA training and education programs, research, extension services, and outreach conservation initiatives in fisheries, aquaculture, and related fields to promote the sustainable development of fisheries and allied industries.



## ◀◀◀ Courtesy visit to Director of Biodiversity

The ReSea Project, a direct contributor to the Great Blue Wall initiative, is playing a critical role in supporting countries in achieving their marine and coastal conservation targets by delivering both conservation and socio-economic outcomes. On a courtesy visit to Thomas Chali the Director of Biodiversity in the Vice President’s Office, several topics were discussed including:

- Establishing a National Chapter for the Africa-led Great Blue Wall initiative,
- Crafting a Blue Economy Policy & Guidelines for mainland Tanzania
- Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) ratification
- Ongoing review of Tanzania’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with IUCN’s support
- Participation in the IUCN Africa Conservation Forum
- Reviewing the Environment Act to bolster environmental efforts

## ▶▶▶ Global Affairs Canada visit to Tanga-Pemba Seascope

Dr. Nikita Eriksen-Hamel, Deputy Director of Policy and Practice at Global Affairs Canada, visited visited four blue economy groups across Mkinga and Pangani Districts in Tanzania’s Tanga Region - Ulezi Kazi Seaweed Group, WAKAMA Crab Fattening Group, Kingfish Sardine Processing Group and Pangani Magharibi BMU engaged in mangrove restoration. These groups, part of IUCN Tanzania’s Bahari Mali project, are pioneering innovative economic activities in crab fattening while actively working towards environmental conservation. The ReSea Project is building on the successes and lessons from Bahari Mali, aiming to benefit both people and nature in the Tanga-Pemba Seascope.







## Government engagement

In the lead up to the ReSea Mozambique launch, we conducted a successful mission to Inhambane Province where they met with Chief of Staff of the State Secretariat, Antonio Ricardo Nhacoongue, His Excellency the Governor of the Inhambane Province, Daniel Chapo, his executive, key stakeholders, Provincial Environmental Services, and the Provincial Directorate of Land, Environment, and Rural Development, as well as IUCN Members operating in the seascape, to discuss the project's implementation and launch. The visit served to introduce the ReSea Project to stakeholders in the seascape, align on objectives and strategies, securing support and commitment and foster collaboration in the project's implementation.





# BLUE ECONOMY SCOPING STUDY

To support our blue economy activities under the Blue People Pillar, TechnoServe conducted a scoping study to evaluate nature-based value chains in Tanzania and Madagascar. The study focused on the potential of these value chains to help communities adapt to climate change, their regenerative capabilities, market potential, and barriers to entry for women and youth.

TechnoServe's recommendations will not only identify ways to catalyze investment but also provide strategies to catalyze inclusive impact in the blue economy sector, particularly regarding the scaling of initiatives that positively impact people, climate and ocean biodiversity.

## Madagascar



TechnoServe carried out an exploratory study on blue economy opportunities in the ReSea Project intervention zones in Madagascar. The study was done in 10 communes, 29 fokontany and 34 villages.

## Tanzania



TechnoServe conducted an assessment of the nature-based value chain in six districts: Pangani, Mkinga, Mkoani, Wete, Chakechake, and Micheweni, located within the Tanga-Pemba Seascape. The comprehensive study involved 12 BEE groups, 5 BEE companies, 1 research institute, 3 government agencies, and 2 NGOs.





We conducted awareness campaigns on human rights, gender-based violence, and gender equality among women's associations in Andranomayo fokotany and Mangako commune, Antsiranana II. A 15-minute radio show aired from March 5 to 8 on Varatraza, Jupiter, and DSFM, highlighting the March 8 celebrations and women in development. We also participated in a discussion organized by the Ministry of Population and Solidarity on women's rights and gender-based violence. To conclude Women's Month, the Madagascar team joined the local community in a carnival held in Diego.



We joined the Kilifi County Government at DCC Grounds, Mwarakaya Ward in marking the day under the theme "Count Her In: Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress". The event, which was graced by H.E. Deputy Governor of Kilifi County Flora Mbetsa Chibule and Kilifi County First Lady Susanne Mung'aro, brought together women from across the county, government officials, civil society organizations and the private sector. Local community women came together to advocate for increased access to economic opportunities which, as has been acknowledged by the Kilifi County Government, plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of the community.



Hosted in Mkinga District, we joined the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in celebrating women in coastal communities of Tanga, recognizing their contribution in promoting sustainable utilization of marine resources and enhancing the resilience of coastal communities.

A series of activities took place including a dialogue on the major livelihood challenges and opportunities to accelerate women's inclusion, leadership skills and equality; mangrove-planting to raise awareness on Nature-based Solutions; and a learning exchange and participation at a local fair where the women showcased their marine products.





We joined the Canadian High Commission in Kenya at the Global Affairs Canada Blue Economy Partners' Forum held in Sankara Hotel, Nairobi. Partners present discussed:

- Empowering women in the Blue Economy
- Impact measurement in the Blue Economy
- Catalyzing Blue Economy activities in low-resourced communities through financing
- Areas of collaboration among partner organizations working in the Blue Economy



»»» WORLD OCEAN DAY

KENYA



In partnership with stakeholders in the marine sector including government agencies, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, and community members in Msambweni, Kwale County, in marking the day, acknowledging the importance of the ocean and its ecosystems to Kenya's economy and people.

The National Oceans Dialogue preceded the celebrations where discussions centered around the role of healthy oceans in the blue economy; area-based management needs and opportunities e.g. transboundary area-based management and integrating gender in marine resource management; and ocean innovation such as the Great Blue Wall initiative, blue carbon as a Nature-based Solution and the role of the National Decade Committee in Spearheading UN's Ocean Decade Actions.



MOZAMBIQUE

We joined the provincial government, members of the CCPs (Community Fisheries Committees), partners, local community and private sector in a colorful ceremony in Inhambane Province.





We marked World Environment Day in Ambolobozobe, Diana Region, with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, partners and stakeholders in an event themed: “Me and you to recover, together to fight the drought”, where they participated in the planting of new inches of mangroves.



## AFRICA OCEAN FORUM



IUCN held the first ever Africa-wide Conservation Forum from 24-28th of June 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Africa Ocean Forum was organized as a pre-forum event under the Great Blue Wall initiative on the 24th and 25th of June. We took part in the forum which brought together actors in the marine space from across the African Continent to consolidate African priorities for accelerated ocean conservation and marine biodiversity outcomes. These priorities then fed into the Africa Conservation Forum, as the regional preparatory meeting ahead of the World Conservation Congress, IUCN's statutory meeting, which takes place in October 2025.

Keeping in tune with the objectives of the ReSea Project were discussions around:

- harnessing a regenerative blue economy which contributes to the livelihoods of coastal communities while sustainably managing marine resources
- enhanced participation of coastal communities to drive ocean action including incorporating traditional and local knowledge and practices with science to inform policy
- increased visibility of Africa's marine and indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) in ocean governance, conservation and innovation
- strengthening partnerships to ensure a collaborative approach to marine and coastal conservation

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*This an extremely important event, as for the first time African nations are working together towards a Call to ocean action in responding to climate change impacts.*

H.E Nilda Borges Da Mata, Minister of Environment  
Sao Tome e Principe

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# BLUE PARTNERSHIPS

The ReSea Project aims to engage with local stakeholders in all 5 seascapes to ensure the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the local communities. By consulting with those directly impacted, we are laying the groundwork for a project that is not only effective but also sustainable and inclusive.

## STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

### KENYA

To start off the year, we held a stakeholders' consultative workshop in Malindi, Kenya, in February, bringing together local government, NGOs and CBOs, private sector, and the local community to validate the ReSea Project's baseline findings, gather feedback and build consensus on the projects' implementation. Participants noted the timeliness of the project particularly for women in Kilifi County and the importance of partnerships with the different stakeholders in the seascape for sustainability, inclusivity and ownership of the project.



### TANZANIA



In March, we held a stakeholders' consultative workshop in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, that brought together government representatives from the United Republic of Tanzania, non-profits, academia and researchers to validate the ReSea project baseline data, identify opportunities, challenges and areas of synergy and increase ownership of the ReSea project. Discussions also included the setting up of the national chapters of the Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative and Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Network (WIOMPAN).







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