

ReSea Project NEWSLETTER

This quarter we have made significant strides in our collaboration with governments, civil society organisations and local communities to meet their national goals and fulfill international commitments.

Read on to learn how we're supporting the implementation of Nature-based Solutions, effective management and expansion of Locally Managed Marine Areas, identifying sustainable blue economy opportunities, conducting peer learning visits and carrying out community engagement in the five project countries.



RESEA PROJECT LAUNCHED IN COMOROS



The ReSea Project in Comoros was launched by Djoumoi Saindou Allaoui, Sustainable Development Delegate for the Governourate of Mohéli.

We successfully launched the ReSea Project in Comoros. Speaking during the launch, Soalihy Hamadi, Director General of Aid Programming and Coordination at the General Planning Commissariat said, "This project is in line with national priorities, in particular the priority focused on promoting the blue economy. This project also meets the objectives of sustainable resource management and the fight against climate change."



ReSea Comoros team Said Ahamada and Loubna Hamidi (Third and fourth from the left) during the launch event.

The ReSea Project in Comoros is implemented in Nioumachoua, Mohéli, in the Comoros Archipelago, in the heart of the Mohéli National Park, by Mission inclusion, IUCN and local women's organization PFDDSA with the support of Global Affairs Canada.

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▶▶▶ SENSITIZATION ON JOINT CO-MANAGEMENT AREAS (JCMA)

To further efforts to improve the management of marine fisheries in Kenyan waters, the Government of Kenya set up various interventions in fisheries governance including Joint Co-Management Areas (JCMAs).

As we work with the State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries and the County Government of Kilifi in the implementation of various fisheries management interventions, we brought together fisheries officers to sensitize them on the JCMAs in Kilifi County.



Nathan Majwa, IUCN Seascope Governance Officer led the JCMA Sensitization workshop.

These were also trained as Trainer of Trainers on JCMA development, implementation, monitoring and review process.



Nathan Majwa, IUCN Seascope Governance Officer and Francis Okalo, IUCN Coastal and Ocean Resilience Programme Manager led the JCMA Sensitization workshop.

◀◀◀ REVIEW OF WATAMU MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

We're proud to have collaborated with Kenya Wildlife Service to embark on the revision of the Watamu Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plan.

The Malindi-Watamu Marine National Park and Reserve was gazetted in 1968 and in 1976, designated as a Man and Biosphere Reserve.

The park's 2016-2025 management plan has so far provided clear management guidelines to resolve ecological, social and economic challenges within the MPA. However, there are emerging areas that need to be integrated in the plan for effective management and realization of the conservation goals.

Following this initial meeting, a core team was established to lead and oversee the subsequent phases of the review. This will shape the updated management plan and guide Watamu MPA's strategic direction from 2027-2037, integrating climate actions, gender, and other emerging issues for effective management and sustainability over the coming decade.

▶▶▶ VALIDATION OF NATURE-BASED VALUE CHAINS



Benjamin Agong, Mission inclusion's Blue Economy Officer, led the consultative workshop on nature-based value chains.

To ensure alignment with local community needs, business viability, and policy priorities, we held a consultative workshop with stakeholders in the Kilifi Seascope including government, civil society organisations, research institutions and community members to assess, refine and validate selected nature-based value chains. This will inform the next steps in establishing a Blue Economy incubator program in Kilifi County.

▶▶▶ COUNTY CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES PLAN (CCISP) IMPLEMENTATION

In our continued collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi, we brought together stakeholders to develop the five-year budget and sustainability mechanisms to support the implementation of the County Climate Information Services Plan (CCISP), that will support the implementation of the CCISP.

This follows the first phase where we co-developed the County Climate Information Services Plan (CCISP)



The second phase of our collaboration with the Kilifi County Government was led by Nathan Majwa, IUCN Seascape Governance Officer.

These efforts will ensure that Kilifi County Meteorological Services can effectively implement and maintain climate information services that support the county's climate resilience and adaptation strategies.



The learning visit was led by Francis Okalo and Joseph Olila, IUCN Coastal and Ocean Resilience country managers in Kenya and Tanzania respectively

◀◀◀ KENYA-TANZANIA PEER EXCHANGE VISIT

To promote collaboration and enhance sharing of knowledge and best practices on marine area-based management and governance, ecosystem restoration and regenerative blue economy, we brought together Stakeholders from the Kilifi and Tanga-Pemba seascapes for a learning exchange visit in Kwale County, Kenya. Participants took part in knowledge-sharing sessions, site visits, and were introduced to the [IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard](#). [Read more](#)

▶▶▶ LEARNING VISIT TO NATURAL STATE

Mission inclusion's Kilifi Seascape Manager Timothy Kakai joined a delegation to Natural State, Isiolo, Meru County where they learned about how Natural State leverages innovative technologies to improve food security, stimulate economic growth, and promote sustainable environmental practices and the Blue Economy.



Mission inclusion's Kilifi Seascape Manager Timothy Kakai joined a delegation from Global Affairs Canada, AECF, Plan International, Coopéración-Intégration-CANADA (CICAN) and Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) on a visit to Natural State.





The Kenya National Consultation on LMMAs was led by Nathan Majwa IUCN Seascape Governance Officer with Francis Okalo, IUCN Coastal and Ocean Resilience Manager.

◀◀◀ NATIONAL LMMA WORKSHOP

To further support the recognition and management of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), we hosted the Kenya National Consultation Forum on LMMAs in Diani, Kwale, bringing together key stakeholders in Kenya's marine conservation space to evaluate the status of Area Based Management, address challenges faced and identify opportunities for growth. A national call to action was developed which was then submitted at the regional Western Indian Ocean LMMA Forum held in Madagascar.

TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, KENYA

Led by Nature-based Solutions Officer Bonface Busolo, we carried out capacity building with policymakers and local conservation organisations on the IUCN Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions in Kilifi Kenya.

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"NbS can be used to empower the community and at the same time, contribute to our revenue streams in the county."

Zena Mohammed, Director Revenue Enhancement and Resource Mobilization, Kilifi County





The multi-stakeholder forum was led by Eva Msella, IUCN Seascope Governance Officer, with Joseph Olila, IUCN Coastal and Ocean Resilience Programme Manager.

◀◀◀ TANGA-PEMBA MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM

With stakeholders in the Tanga-Pemba Seascope, Tanzania, we established the Tanga-Pemba Seascope Multi-Stakeholder Forum (T-PMSF) which will streamline and boost collaborative efforts across the Seascope. The Seascope Framework Workplan and Terms of Reference were also endorsed.

The Tanga/Pemba Seascope Multi-Stakeholder Forum aims to map out the different stakeholders in the region as well as their activities, foster learning and innovation and ensure that the government has clear, up-to-date insight on ongoing and planned projects.

▶▶▶ NATIONAL LMMA WORKSHOP

We convened Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) practitioners in Tanzania to explore coalition-building strategies for LMMAs at both national and regional levels.

Participants examined the challenges facing LMMA management structures, proposed solutions, and developed recommendations. These will serve as the basis for establishing a National LMMA Network in Tanzania, which will contribute to the broader Great Blue Wall initiative. [Read more](#)



The LMMA workshop was led by Eva Msella, Seascope Governance Officer with Joseph Olila Coastal and Ocean Resilience Programme Manager, with ReSea co-implementing partner Mission inclusion.

TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, TANZANIA



The NbS training in Tanzania was led by Sulemani Mohamed IUCN's Nature-based Solutions Officer with Mission inclusion's Tanzania team.

31 local partners and 7 policymakers in Tanga-Pemba Seascope took part in a training on Nature-Based Solutions that was held in Tanga, reviewing the 8 criteria of the Standard and case studies on successful NbS implementation projects. the knowledge gained will help lay the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient seascope. [Read more](#)





▶▶▶ NATIONAL LMMA WORKSHOP



The National LMMA workshop was led by Temoteo Mucavele IUCN Mozambique’s Seascape Governance Officer with ReSea Project partner Muleide.

We co-hosted a peer-exchange workshop with Locally Managed Marine Area practitioners in Vilanculos, Inhambane Province, bringing together government officials, local communities, NGOs, and academics. Participants shared insights on the current state of LMMAs in Mozambique, discussed common challenges and opportunities, and explored the role of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), including drafting the the Mozambique Declaration on LMMAs.

[Read more](#)

Following the launch of the ReSea Project in Mozambique, we continue to engage local communities within our areas of intervention to introduce them to the project, better understand their needs and map out women and youth entrepreneurs. Led by Hortência Rafael da Conceição, Isabel Chitolo and Guimarães Dallazane Mutumane ReSea Project Partner Muleide’s Gender Officers and Blue Economy officer respectively, we met community members and community fisheries committees in Mucoquene, Nhagonzo and Chipongo.

◀◀◀ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





The spearheaded by Temoteo Mucavele, IUCN Mozambique’s Governance Officer and Denise Nicolau, IUCN ESARO’s Regional Coastal and Ocean Ecosystems Manager.

◀◀◀ MULTISECTORAL DIALOGUE PLATFORM ON MARINE & COASTAL CONSERVATION

We held a consultative workshop with 40 stakeholders in the Inhambane Seascape to establish the Multisectoral Dialogue Platform on Marine and Coastal Conservation in Vilanculo Distict, Inhambane Province. Participants included representatives from local communities, provincial and district governments and non-governmental organizations,

During the dialogue it emerged that this platform is an essential space for giving voice to local communities and building a shared vision of Inhambane province. As a first step, an informal WhatsApp group was then formed .

TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, MOZAMBIQUE

25 project implementers dedicated to coastal and marine conservation in the Inhambane seascape and 14 decision-makers at government level from the district of Vilaculos and Inhambane were trained on the IUCN’s Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions.

Participants also visited Mangalisse Community Fishing Council where we exchanged experiences on Nature-based Solutions and Community Managed Fishing Areas. [Read more](#)



The NbS training in Mozambique was led by Bilardo Nharreluga, IUCN Mozambique’s Nature-based Solutions Officer and Denise Nicolau, IUCN ESARO Coastal and Ocean Ecosystems Regional Manager.



The NbS trainees during the learning visit to Mangalisse Community Fishing Council.



▶▶▶ MANGROVE RESTORATION LEARNING VISIT

We paid a learning visit to Conservation International mangrove restoration site in Ambolobozikely fokontany, Antsiranana where we got to learn how the local community has been involved in the mangrove planting activities, policing and monitoring of the mangroves that helps reduce their destruction and opportunities to support the community in economic activities such as fish processing.



The ReSea Madagascar team led by Holy Ratsimanoroarisoa, Mission inclusion's Seascape Manager, Tantely Tianarisoa, IUCN's Nature-based Solutions Officer and Harilala Rakotonaivo C-for-C's Gender Officer.

We carried out an awareness raising session among community members at Ambolobozikely village, Antsiranana, to promote gender equity, inclusive leadership and knowledge of legal frameworks to protect human rights.

◀◀◀ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, we trained representatives from government, civil society organisations and the local community on the IUCN Global Standard on NbS and its integration in different sectors of the seascape to maximize their impact.



The NbS training was led by Tantely Tianarisoa, IUCN Madagascar's Nature-based Solutions Officer.



▶▶▶ NATIONAL LMMA WORKSHOP

49 Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) practitioners from Moheli, Anjouan and Grande Comores Islands took part in our a national LMMA Forum. Discussions were around LMMAs in Comoros, their legal and policy framework, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for improvement.



The LMMA workshop was led by Said Ahamada, IUCN's Governance Officer with Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy, IUCN ESARO's Governance Manager.

The Comoros declaration and roadmap were developed for the creation, recognition, expansion, networking and improving effectiveness of LMMAS. A group of 7 participants were nominated to follow up the implementation of the recommendations from the Forum.



Participants during the workshop held in Moheli with ReSea Comoros implementing partners IUCN, Mission inclusion and PFDDSA.

◀◀◀ STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

We carried out consultations with stakeholders in the Moheli Seascape ahead of the ReSea Project launch in Comoros, laying the groundwork for a project that is not only effective but also sustainable and inclusive.

TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, COMOROS

Policy makers and Nature-based Solutions practitioners in Comoros came together for a training on Nature-based Solutions, in Nioumachioi-Moheli seascape. They also paid a visit to the Mlejele region where they explored one of the largest mangrove areas in the region, witnessed the impacts of climate change, and further discussed NbS opportunities available in the region. [Read more](#)



The NbS training in Comoros was led by Loubna Hamidi, IUCN's Nature-based Solutions Officer.

FEATURE: RESEA EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: TRAINING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION



Trainees in Mozambique analysing a case study.

Climate change is impacting coastal and marine ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean, threatening people and nature. Governments, local communities, researchers and civil society organizations alike are seeking ways to combat these intensifying impacts. Nature-Based Solutions for adaptation (NbS for adaptation) are emerging as one of our greatest allies in adapting to climate change, harnessing the power of healthy ecosystems to help people to adapt to climate change.

To harness the power of nature, [IUCN's Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions \(NbS\)](#) has emerged as a key tool. The Standard helps deliver consistent, high-quality NbS for climate adaptation, by supporting users to apply, learn and continuously strengthen and improve the effectiveness, sustainability and adaptability of their NbS interventions.

Through the ReSea Project implemented by Mission inclusion and IUCN with the support of Global Affairs Canada, policymakers and NbS practitioners in five countries in the Western Indian Ocean – Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Tanzania – received hands-on training on the IUCN Global Standard. This training seeks to standardize implementation for NbS for adaptation across the region and strengthen adherence to global criteria, ensuring robust and effective efforts.

The training was led by IUCN Climate Change and Energy Transition team, Wendy C. Atieno, Christopher Roy, Zoe Jafflin, and Lilliane Assogba Sessou (IUCN PACO), IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) Great Blue Wall team, Denise Nicolau, the NbS Officers in the five project countries – Loubna Hamidi (Comoros), Bonface Busolo (Kenya), Tantely Tianarisoa (Madagascar), Bilardo Nharreluga (Mozambique), and Sulemani Mohamed (Tanzania) – Mission Inclusion, and partner women's organisations.

“Nature based solutions (NbS) are pivotal for climate adaptation. They leverage natural processes to allay climate impacts, such as reducing flood risks through wetland restoration or reducing coastal erosion through mangrove restoration,” explained Christopher Roy, Programme Officer, Climate Change. “By integrating NbS for adaptation into planning and development, we can create sustainable, adaptive systems that benefit both people and nature, addressing climate challenges with co-benefits for other societal challenges.”



Participants in Tanzania during the training in Tanga.

Participants made an in-depth review of the eight criteria of the Standard, analysed a variety of NbS case studies, and visited project sites, applying the Criteria to country-specific scenarios. The goal was to develop NbS leaders and champions within the five seascapes with the hope of cascading the information gained to local communities and into field implementation.

“The training sessions were the first step in a learning journey for key stakeholders in the region,” remarked Wendy C. Atieno, Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change. “The success of the training will really be seen and felt in the coming years, with the implementation of effective and context-specific NbS for adaptation projects, and a strengthened policy and financing landscape for NbS for adaptation. The trainings link diverse stakeholders in the Western Indian Ocean and the Great Blue Wall for long-term implementation.”



Policymakers in Comoros remarked that the NbS approach can be integrated into other sectors, such as education, including revisions to the education curriculum

Local stakeholders were equally optimistic. Speaking from Kilifi, Kenya, Mr. Antony Kanundu, Director Climate Change, Kilifi County highlighted, “We have great opportunities in Kilifi for NbS for adaptation as some of these are measures that communities have been practicing for generations. What we need to do now is bring the science, technology and the knowledge about NbS together to scale up action.”



Participants in Kenya expressed their excitement at getting hands-on training of the Standard.

A crucial next step for all the countries is to establish of a community of practice among the stakeholders to continue learning and sharing their wealth and breadth of experience and knowledge.

“Ongoing support is essential to ensure correct implementation of NbS at seascape level and align with policy frameworks. This includes regular mentorship, peer learning networks, and access to tools and resources that empower local leaders to drive NbS initiatives and advocate for sustainable change while empowering women and youth in the process,” added Denise Nicolau, Regional Coastal and Ocean Ecosystems Manager, IUCN ESARO.

The NbS for adaptation training builds on an [online course for ecosystem-based adaptation](#) developed by GIZ, IUCN, and IISD with financial support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Global Affairs Canada as part of the Nature for Climate Adaptation Initiative funded by the Government of Canada, and the Global EbA Fund.



IUCN's Tantely Tianarisoa guiding trainees in Madagascar.

EVENTS: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM



Mangroves are nature's superheroes. They provide a habitat for marine species, help with absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere thus reducing the effects of global warming and protect our coasts from storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion. They also contribute to food security, wellbeing and protection of coastal communities.

This year we celebrated this extraordinary ecosystem in style:



In Tanzania, we joined the government, civil society organisations, local community members, students from Kihere Secondary School among other partners in a beach clean-up and mangrove planting exercise. Celebrations, officiated by Regional Commissioner for Tanga, Her Excellency Dr Batilda Burian, included the presenting of new beach cleaning equipment to the community, awareness raising campaigns on the importance of mangrove conservation



Her Excellency Dr Batilda Burian, Regional Commissioner for Tanga presided over the celebrations in Tanzania.



Innocent Kabenga, IUCN Kenya Country Representative (right) with the ReSea team in Kwale, Kenya.

In Kenya, we joined Kenya Forest Service and other stakeholders in marking the day in Mkupe, Kwale County. During the event, the Kenya National Mangrove Portal, Mangrove Restoration Guidelines and Mangrove Nursery Tree Manual were launched. The portal consolidates all mangrove actions, cover maps, degraded sites and related data with the goal of knowledge sharing to enhance collaboration and facilitate reporting against national targets.



ABOUT THE RESEA PROJECT

The Regenerative Seascapes for People, Climate and Nature (ReSea) Project seeks to enhance the physical and socio-economic resilience of women, men and young people, living in coastal communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros and Madagascar. Anchored to the Western Indian Ocean-led and Africa-driven Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative, the project will support the establishment of a network of regenerative seascapes that contribute to enhanced climate and socioeconomic resilience of coastal communities.

ReSea relies on Nature-based Solutions that are gender-responsive, and inclusive practices which protect, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems. In addition, it focuses on enhancing the livelihoods of local communities, particularly women and youth, through Nature-based value chains for climate change adaptation.

The project is funded by the Global Affairs Canada as part of the Partnering for Climate engagement. This commitment advances the implementation of the Environment and Climate Action Area of the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP). It is implemented by Mission inclusion and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with local women's organisations and conservation partners in the five project countries - GROOTS Kenya, WFT-T (Tanzania), Muleide (Mozambique), C-for-C (Madagascar) and PFDDSA (Comoros).

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