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Mozambique Launches its First Ever National Biodiversity Information System

Mozambique has a unique geography with rich biodiversity, which offers economic opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism and conservation enterprises. However, the country's biological resources are vanishing due to expanding subsistence agriculture, deforestation for charcoal production, illegal logging for export, wildlife poaching, trafficking undertaken by international crime organizations, mining and extractive industries within and near the conservation areas, illegal/undocumented/unreported fishing, as well as urbanization. While resource and capacity constraints are often cited as barriers to improving conservation outcomes in Mozambique, the often-overlooked challenge is the scarcity of data and information on the country's rich biodiversity and natural resources.

To address the gap in accessible biodiversity data in the country, Mozambique launched the country's first information portal, the Mozambican Biodiversity Information System (SIBMOZ). The [website](#) is a unique partnership between key actors in conservation to provide access to a central information hub: it is hosted by the Ministry of Land and Environment and National Directorate for the Environment, under the auspices of the Ministry of Land and Environment, designed and administered by SPEED partner Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) with co-funding from USAID's Supporting the Policy Environment for Economic Development ([SPEED Program](#)), and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center.



*The Hawksbill turtle is one of Mozambique's marine treasures.
Photo credit: Luca Crudeli*

Why is the SPEED program supporting a biodiversity data portal?

The sooner Mozambique can identify, measure, and monitor its rich natural capital, the better suited the country will be to place economic value on the natural resources and ecosystem services that underpin the national economy. Better data will also help the GRM's readiness to engage with investors interested in climate and conservation finance projects in the country. It will also enable government leaders to improve land use planning by avoiding development projects in high biodiversity areas, as well as advance the implementation of biodiversity offset payments that are legally due from the large extractive industry companies operating in the country.

SIBMOZ will hold all the validated biodiversity information for Mozambique and is officially a party to the global information exchange network established under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), facilitates scientific cooperation, improves evidence-based decision-making process, and promotes the sustainable use of biodiversity in the country. The portal provides a wealth of information on Mozambique’s biodiversity, including descriptions of designated Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), links to the Government of Mozambique’s biodiversity strategies and plans, international conventions to which Mozambique belongs, as well as the legal framework governing Mozambique’s natural capital.

With the understanding that a government cannot manage what it cannot measure, the Government of Mozambique’s commitment to invest in and sustain the SIBMOZ portal is a critical step in improving management of Mozambique’s rich biodiversity resources—the backbone of its green economy.



Fernando Bemane de Sousa, the Deputy/Vice Minister of Land and Environment and USAID Mozambique Mission Director, Helen Pataki, attended the launch of SIBMOZ in 2022. Photo credit: DAI for USAID.