An aerial photograph of a coastline, showing a sandy beach on the left and a shallow, greenish-blue lagoon or bay on the right. A large, stylized blue graphic overlay, consisting of several concentric, wavy shapes in various shades of blue, is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the lagoon and the beach. The text is centered within the darkest part of this graphic.

Ocean Country  
Partnership  
Programme (OCPP)  
Interim Evaluation  
**Mozambique**  
**Case Study - summary**

Department for Food,  
Environment, and Rural Affairs  
June 2024

## About the OCPP



**The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP)** is a bilateral technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. Funding is provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The programme has been engaged in Mozambique since 2023.

NIRAS is the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) supplier contracted by Defra. Their work under the banner of OCPP-MEL covers a broad range of activities including process and impact evaluations, MEL system strengthening, support for communications, learning and monitoring throughout the lifetime of the programme, as well as conduct of ad hoc evaluation assignments at the request of Defra.

This document is one of five result summaries based on country case studies conducted as part of the OCPP 2024 interim evaluation. The others include Belize, Ghana, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

## OCPP Delivery Partners in Mozambique

OCPP’s bilateral partnerships are delivered by three British government Arm’s Length Bodies (ALBs):

Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

Since 2021, the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) has been delivering pilot projects in Mozambique as a strategic partner of OCPP, and will deliver an additional six pilots over the next two years. Key activities include development and application of ecosystem accounts for the Bazaruto region and Inhambane Province, as well as establishment of the GOAP Africa Community of Practice to share knowledge on ocean accounting.

Together, they are partnering with the Government of Mozambique to support effective management of their marine environment with a focus on providing technical capacity, equipment infrastructure, compliance and enforcement capacity, and monitoring capacity.

## Acknowledgements

This case study was prepared by Colleen Sullivan and Felisberto Afonso. They would like to acknowledge and thank the OCPP Mozambique Country Coordinator and BPF East Africa Regional Coordinator for their support and assistance in coordinating key stakeholder interviews and in the provision of programme documentation.



Marine Management Organisation



## Findings at a glance



- OCPP’s work in Mozambique has been hampered by challenges and activities have been significantly interrupted. Remote stakeholder engagement issues, delays in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Mozambique.
- Although at an early stage in terms of delivery, the delays have led to some concerns the programme’s ability to fulfil its ambitions and achieve meaningful impact by 2026.
- More positively, OCPP’s work on marine conservation education and training is seen as particularly valuable.
- By focusing on protected areas, pollution, fisheries, aquaculture, and capacity building, the programme aligns with Mozambique’s Blue Economy Strategy and is seen as relevant to the country’s marine needs.
- Transition plans and coordination with other donor efforts (such as BIOFUND or NORAD) will be critical to sustaining progress after the programme ends.
- Going forward, in-country presence could help improve coherence with other initiatives and reduce duplication.

## Mozambique’s marine environment

Mozambique’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

2%

represent marine conservation areas

≈300,000ha

Mozambique has one of the largest **blue carbon mangrove forest** in Africa and ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the world.



Mozambique’s commercial fisheries are estimated to be losing **\$60million** annually from **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.**



**Artisanal fisherfolk** account for **≈90%** of all fish catches.



## Seeking long term change to Mozambique's marine environment



Mozambique's oceans are threatened by overfishing, pollution, and resource exploitation, endangering biodiversity and vulnerable coastal communities' livelihoods. Meanwhile, stakeholders responsible for addressing these challenges through policy and action are constrained by limited resources and capacity.

OCPP's ambitions lie in addressing these issues by improving policies and regulations before moving towards enhanced collaborative action by stakeholders to manage and protect their marine environments effectively and sustainably. The long term outcome of OCPP in Mozambique is that partners can better address the challenges to their marine environments and biodiversity, enhance marine dependent livelihoods, and the wellbeing of those that depend on them, sustainably, equitably and inclusively.

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) has identified three pathways through which the programme can deliver change in the way these issues are addressed in Mozambique through the generation and use of scientific knowledge to better inform policymaking and action.<sup>1</sup>

- **Capacity building and technical assistance:** Providing expertise towards sustainable marine ecosystem science and better marine environment monitoring.
- **Governance and regulation:** Supporting the creation of evidence-informed policies, frameworks and plans for sustainable marine ecosystem management, governance and budgeting.
- **Science, education and knowledge exchange:** Conducting study pilots and environmental and needs assessments and facilitating cross-sector collaboration to enhance knowledge sharing, learning and innovation.



<sup>1</sup> Identified as 'causal pathways' in Mozambique's Theory of Change and aligned with OCPP's programme level Theory of Change which was refreshed with support from the NIRAS MEL team in 2023.

## Key findings



The interim evaluation of Mozambique involved a deep dive investigation into the design and implementation quality of the programme between November 2022 and May 2024. Evaluators focused on the programme’s scoping and delivery to date and the likelihood in the future of the programme making a contribution to its intended outcomes and impact.

### Meeting Mozambique’s needs



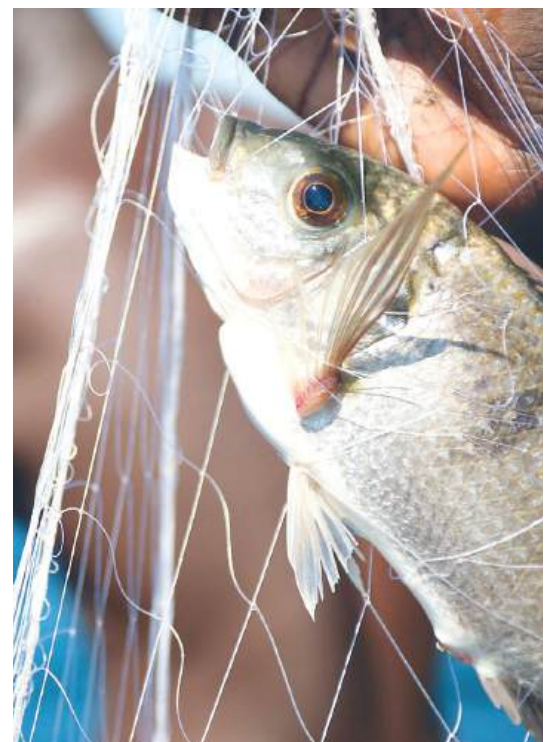
#### Successes and strengths

- Mozambique partners within government feel that OCPP’s support is relevant to Mozambique’s marine environment priorities.
- The initial scoping and design of the programme is regarded by in-country partners to be participatory and design-led.
- The programme’s work on marine education (notably through the OCPP masters scholarships), is filling a gap, often overlooked by other donors, and is thus seen as a particularly valuable contribution.



#### Areas for improvement

- There was not a uniform approach by the ALB delivery partners to engaging with the Mozambican government and other stakeholders, although this is starting to improve through concerted efforts across Cefas, JNCC and MMO.
- Delays in signing a Memorandum of Understanding, between Defra and the Government of Mozambique have led to delays in implementation.
- The scoping phase of the programme revealed a clear need for delivery partners to better understand the Mozambican context and invest time in building strong relationships with government stakeholders.
- While the general priorities of the Blue Planet Fund (BPF) are felt to be relevant to Mozambique’s Blue Economy Development Plan, there were gaps in in-country stakeholders’ understanding of OCPP’s activities and timelines.





Coherence with others working in the same space



Successes and strengths

- The BPF Implementation Framework is being used to ensure coherence between OCPP and other BPF programming while aligning its work with Mozambique’s national priorities and regulations.
- There are potential synergies with other BPF programmes in-country, such as the Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) programme.
- The country coordinators for OCPP and COAST regularly share knowledge, resources and plans thereby increasing each other’s efficiency.
- Initial positive engagement with the Blue Economy Working Group, has provided opportunities for external alignment and coherence.



Areas for improvement

- In-country stakeholders were confused by the different logos used by the ALBs at the beginning of implementation. All delivery partners now engage under the branding of OCPP, and there are ambitions to improve this cohesion, with one interviewee noting the desire for simple improvements such as a standard OCPP Teams or Zoom background.



The Blue Economy Working Group (BEWG), convened by the German Corporation for International Cooperation, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, consists of representatives from 27 donors and 39 implementing agencies. The aim of the group is to support coordination and coherence across donors and ensure there is no duplication of efforts. The BPF Regional Coordinator regularly attends BEWG meetings in-person, with the OCPP country coordinator attending remotely where possible. As part of its delegation visit in November 2022, OCPP held a half-day session with the BEWG, to present an overview of OCPP and BPF, as well as proposed activities and timelines. Members of the BEWG provided initial feedback against the proposed activities.



## Programme's delivery and use of resources



### Successes and strengths

- There is potential to improve efficiencies through shared tools and resources, both with other BPF programmes in-country, as well as coordination with OCPP implementation across other countries.



The BPF has a strong presence in Mozambique, with bilateral programmes including OCPP and COAST, as well as multilateral programmes such as PROBLUE<sup>2</sup>, Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)<sup>3</sup>, and Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA).<sup>4</sup> A BPF Mozambique Country Implementation Framework has been developed to 'show how the BPF portfolio in Mozambique will support the Government of Mozambique's ocean and blue economy priorities, and provide an overarching framework which all BPF programmes in Mozambique will deliver under'.<sup>5</sup> As part of this document, OCPP has developed a joint implementation framework with the COAST programme.



### Areas for improvement

- The programme's use of the intermittent presence delivery model where the ALB delivery teams fly into the country and then leave is not seen by in-country partners as an efficient method for designing and delivering the programme. Several interviewees suggested a permanent or greater in-country presence from the programme could help alleviate some of these challenges.



The OCPP specific workplan has been agreed in principle with Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMIAP). It focuses on government and NGO support for marine protected area (MPA) management, marine pollution, and fisheries control and enforcement, as well as technical capacity building for sustainable aquaculture and small-scale fisheries. Each activity is mapped against the relevant pillar from the Mozambique Blue Economy Development Plan and notes indicative outcomes and timelines.



<sup>2</sup> PROBLUE is the World Bank's multi-donor trust fund for leveraging and disbursing blue finance globally towards sustainable ocean sectors and activities  
<sup>3</sup> GFCR integrates public and private grants and investments for coral reefs with particular attention on Small Island Developing States.  
<sup>4</sup> ORRAA is a multi-sector alliance focussed on de-risking investments into critical ecosystems.  
<sup>5</sup> BPF Mozambique Country Implementation Framework, pg 2



### Meeting programme objectives



#### Successes and strengths

- Although implementation in Mozambique has just started, early indications suggest that the scholarship programme could contribute to achieving outputs and outcomes, provided that scholars remain in Mozambique and continue working in the marine environment sector after completing the programme.



#### Areas for improvement

- The uncertain timelines have caused planning and resourcing issues for delivery partners. In some cases, activities need to be delivered by technical specialists, and OCPP staff are already allocated to other projects.
- The delays have led to some reduction in scope and ambition of activities.



OCPP scholarships are being granted to 20 Mozambican students, delivered through the Association of Commonwealth University (ACU). The scholarships offer a unique opportunity for students from Mozambique to undertake a fully funded Master's in marine science. By shaping the next generation of marine scientists, these scholarships are contributing to the development of the expertise needed to manage and protect Mozambique's oceans. As one government stakeholder remarked: *"We're still struggling to have good professionals in the conservation sector in Mozambique. Shaping the profile of new leaders in the country is critical...we need to prioritise training to ecologists and biologists."*



### Delivering impact and lasting benefits

- Given the compressed timeline for OCPP activity implementation, there is opportunity to develop transition plans and utilise BPF Implementation Framework for joined-up programming with COAST, ensuring that activities continue after the end of OCPP in 2026.
- The Blue Economy Working Group can also play a pivotal role through engagement of key partners such as BIOFUND to provide sustainable finance mechanisms, as well as linking with existing donor activity.



OCPP have designed some activities to last beyond the end of the programme in 2026. For example, the BPF Implementation Framework under Marine Protected Areas, led by JNCC, aims to support government departments in expanding the MPA network, and building technical capacity to support government and NGOs to protect the environment.







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