

# Securing Sustainable Marine Futures in the Northern Mozambique Channel



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The Northern Mozambique Channel initiative (NMCi) aims at delivering large-scale conservation impact, sustainable economic development and prosperity of the region. Promoting sustainable practices and integrated management of marine-based activities such as fishing, tourism, extractives and shipping.

The initiative supports countries in the region to value, protect, and even enhance the natural ocean assets central to their economies.

The NMC holds natural assets of global importance as it is:

- second in the world in terms of coral reef biodiversity after the Coral Triangle;
- a future major producer of natural gas;
- a strategic shipping passage;
- an international fisheries resource area;
- an increasingly popular tourism destination.

The economic activity and livelihoods of coastal communities in the NMC are directly dependent on the region's natural marine and coastal assets – whether through fishing, natural gas exploitation or tourism. Economic development and demographic growth in this region in the next 10-30 years may be among the highest in Africa, which will result in exponential increases in demands and pressures on natural resources. A future based on sustainability and equity principles is the only viable future that should be considered.



## A Partnership Approach

Since 2012, several steps have been taken by CORDIO and WWF, in agreement with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, to initiate and consolidate a partnership approach around the NMCi. Together with partners, a regional vision and strategic framework based on an assessment of existing threats, drivers and pressures were defined.

Extensive consultations with countries, partners and stakeholders have allowed building a common understanding of the vision, identifying the possible strategies to implement it and the mechanisms to coordinate action amongst all partners.

**The partnership approach – which is the essence of the NMCi – will allow a better spread of resources, more strategic investments, and will deliver results that will be bigger than the sum of individual projects.**



Vezo girl, Madagascar © Roger Leguen / WWF

***“The people, countries and economies of the Northern Mozambique Channel prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the region.”***

### NMCi Vision

**For more information:** visit [www.cordioea.net/nmc](http://www.cordioea.net/nmc) or contact David Obura ([dobura@cordioea.net](mailto:dobura@cordioea.net)) or Harifidy Ralison ([HORalison@wwf.mg](mailto:HORalison@wwf.mg))

## Bold and Visionary Leadership

In 2012, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Nairobi Convention, Governments called for improved protection and management of the NMC area. Experience in other regions (e.g. Coral Triangle) has taught us that enlightened leadership from governments – combined with participatory and partnership processes with all stakeholders – are prerequisites for taking action at a scale large enough to safeguard major natural and public assets.

## What is expected from Nairobi Convention CoP8 (Seychelles, 22-24 June 2015)

A Decision has been formulated, and submitted to the Convention Secretariat, for consideration by the countries. The purpose is to strengthen the development of an Integrated Ocean Management framework to safeguard the NMC through three paths:

- For the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to continue to lead a process towards the establishment of an Integrated Ocean Management Framework for the Northern Mozambique Channel,
- For the Contracting Parties to engage actively in and endorse the framework proposal being developed for the NMC, for submission to the Global Environment Facility and other donors;
- For the Global Environment Facility and other potential funding agencies to support the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative.

**The NMCi is supported by the following organizations and members of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C):** Birdlife International, Blue Ventures, Conservation International, CORDIO, Fauna and Flora International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wild Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.