Mozambique’s extensive 2,700 km of coastline is renowned for its rich biodiversity. It features the Western Indian Ocean’s largest mangrove forests, as well as expansive coral reefs, sandy and rocky shore estuaries, and rich seagrass beds that contain the dwarf eelgrass *Zostera capensis*, listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Beyond their ecological importance, these coastal ecosystems are essential for supporting livelihoods, ensuring food security, and bolstering the climate change resilience of coastal communities. Artisanal fishing supports both commercial and subsistence fisheries and accounts for 90% of Mozambique’s annual fish landings, providing sustenance for more than 1.5 million people.

The country’s coastal ecosystems and farmland are at risk from unsustainable use and climate change. Harmful practices in fishing and farming are compromising the integrity of both terrestrial and marine coastal ecosystems. This is increasingly exposing communities to climate risks as degraded mangrove forests, coral reefs and seagrass meadows lose their ability to act as natural buffers against the effects of climate change. Fish stocks are becoming depleted as a result of critical marine habitat loss and overuse, and this is directly impacting the livelihoods of local fisher communities. Due to a lack of technical capacity and tools, as well as limited financial means to sustainably manage natural resources, these communities are caught in a downward spiral of food insecurity, socio-economic challenges and ecological vulnerability as coastal ecosystems deteriorate.

Recognising the crucial role of mangrove forests, coral reefs and seagrass beds in coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) strategies, Rare and partners will build on past project experience and leverage political momentum around the revised General Regulation on Marine Fisheries (REPMAR). The project will take an integrated and livelihood-centered approach to coastal ecosystem management in Nampula Province, focusing on fisheries co-management and climate-resilient, small-scale agriculture. The project aims to implement and enhance a network of Community-Managed Fishing Areas and Reserves (CMFA+Rs), working with Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs) and Community-based Natural Resource Management Committees (CBNRMCs). Fisher-farmer communities will gain diversified livelihood opportunities (e.g. mangrove-based apiculture; poultry farming; aquaculture) that will ease pressure on coastal ecosystems and enhance socio-economic resilience for more than 71,000 beneficiaries. Moving forward, the project aims to integrate coastal EbA strategies into local, subnational and national policies for sustained political, social and financial support.
## KEY TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newly created MPAs:</th>
<th>Effectively managed MPAs:</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>741 km²</td>
<td>347 km²</td>
<td>71,620</td>
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## KEY ACTIVITIES AND AREAS OF WORK

### MPA GOVERNANCE

- Enhance marine protected area (MPA) management and the sustainable use of four existing CMFA+Rs in Ilha de Moçambique and Memba. Establish five new ones in Memba, Mogincual and Nacala-Porto by collaborating with CCPs and local government.
- Conduct climate change vulnerability assessments and incorporate the findings, along with conservation and ecosystem restoration approaches, into climate change adaptation strategies for the target communities.
- Coach CCPs in the implementation of climate-smart fisheries management plans and assist in the development of operational plans. Provide surveillance material, infrastructure and training for enforcement purposes.

### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- Promote climate-resilient livelihoods by: establishing and strengthening savings groups; providing technical and vocational training to fisher-farmers; enabling seed funding and investment in fisheries value chains; developing and supporting new productive enterprises, e.g. poultry farming, mangrove-based apiculture and aquaculture.
- Train fisher-farmers in regenerative agriculture such as seed production; facilitate access to affordable technologies, link them with input suppliers and buyers; strengthen marketing and negotiation skills; provide infrastructure and equipment.
- Boost female leadership through infrastructure support and business training to 26 new and four existing female-owned, fisheries-based microbusinesses.

### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Establish 10 CBNRMCs and support them through vulnerability assessments, disaster risk reduction action plans, emergency response, simulation exercises, emergency kits, etc.
- Support learning and participation from government agencies in disaster simulation exercises in preparation for emergency response.
- Conduct regular awareness campaigns for community preparedness and train local groups on the use of mobile-based early warning systems.

### HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

- Together with local communities and government technicians, support and monitor the development and implementation of a mangrove management and rehabilitation plan, including on-site seed recovery, planting, and the setting up of two nurseries.
- Develop and implement a plan for seagrass restoration.
- Establish new and capacitate existing CBNRMCs to facilitate community participation in the management and monitoring of local land-based natural resources, including mangrove forests.