



The Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative in Mozambique (ProsperAzul)

Enhancing climate smart, resilient and inclusive economic growth through the promotion of a sustainable blue economy

Context

Mozambique has over 2,800 kilometres of coastline and an extensive network of marine and coastal ecosystems. These natural resources form the foundation for livelihoods for around 14 million people living in coastal areas and offer significant opportunities for economic development, food security, and climate resilience. Artisanal fishers currently supply 90% of the country's fish production. Despite this natural wealth, the country faces major challenges in unlocking the full value of its blue economy. Key issues include weak institutions, insufficient coordination among stakeholders and a lack of comprehensive and accessible blue economy information. Furthermore, the lack of infrastructure, supply and market systems and investments limits the sector's growth potential and hinders sustainable economic development.



Project name	Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative in Mozambique (ProsperAzul)
Partner Country	Mozambique
Volume	35.6 Mio. EUR (33 Mio. EUR from European Union; 2.6 Mio. EUR from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
Duration	September 2024 to December 2028
Implementing Partner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Many blue economy-related activities remain informal or underdeveloped. Current practises often lead to unsustainable exploitation of marine resources. Moreover, climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels, ocean warming, and extreme weather events, are reinforcing existing vulnerabilities in coastal communities.

Especially women, youth, and small-scale producers lack access to investment, training, infrastructure, and markets. This limits their ability to benefit from coastal and marine economic opportunities and to contribute to the conservation of marine ecosystems. The current trajectory risks increasing social inequalities, severe environmental damages, and consequently the loss of long-term economic potential. The government of Mozambique recognizes the importance of the blue economy for sustainable economic development and supports the sector through strategies such as the National Blue Economy Development Strategy, the Policy and Strategy of the Sea and the Marine Spatial Plan.



Approach

In alignment with these frameworks under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries, ProsperAzul applies an integrated approach aiming at climate-smart, resilient and inclusive economic

growth through the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy. The project works along three highly interlinked workstreams across different levels, from building national capacities for coordination to direct engagement with coastal communities.

1 Foster investments for a sustainable blue economy

To support an inclusive and sustainable blue economy in Mozambique, ProsperAzul strengthens institutional, informational, and financial foundations to attract and manage investments. It improves stakeholder coordination, governance, and policy aiming at unlocking investment opportunities aligned with national priorities.

Key activities within this action field include:

Strengthening Blue Economy Governance



Support the inter-ministerial Blue Economy Council and the Blue Economy Working Group of donors, implementing the National Blue Economy Strategy and the Marine Spatial Plan.

Mapping Existing Blue Economy Activities



Develop a national map and contribute to a geographic information system (GIS) platform of blue economy projects, initiatives, activities and data to guide planning and donor alignment (matchmaking & pipeline development).

Enabling Innovative & Inclusive Financing



Develop and adapt financial instruments to support sustainable blue economy agencies and investments, while providing technical assistance to establish policies and regulatory frameworks that enable innovative financing models (Blue Economy Roadmap).



2 Strengthen fisheries and aquaculture value chains

The initiative develops and implements sustainable and inclusive upgrading strategies for selected aquaculture and fisheries value chains using a participatory and systematic approach. The value chains are selected for their potential to generate income, especially also for women. At present, ProsperAzul focuses on three key value chains:



Cages used in aquaculture. ©Depositphotos

Farmed Tilapia

Farmed tilapia has a strong market potential and the ability to contribute to food security and income generation.



Salt piles in saline. ©Depositphotos

Sea Salt

Sea salt production, concentrated in Nampula, Inhambane, and Maputo, is vital to both national consumption and export income generation.



A seaweed farmer is controlling the growth of his plants. ©GIZ

Seaweed

Seaweed farming in Mozambique has high growth potential due to rising global demand and low entry barriers for communities. It offers strong inclusion opportunities for women.

The programme is also exploring support for the shallow water shrimp value chain. The upgrading strategies focus on developing solutions to overcome challenges such as limited access to quality inputs, inadequate processing infrastructure, and market barriers which prevent the selected value chains to unfold their potential for inclusive and sustainable growth. By fostering strong partnerships with the private sector, ProsperAzul works to enhance the competitiveness of value chain actors in both national and international markets through:



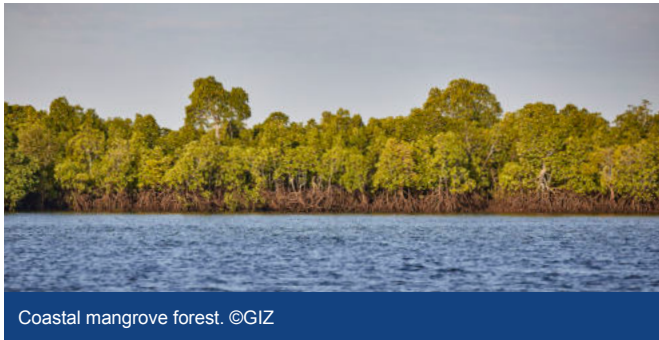
Better coordination of the value chains



Introduction of environmentally friendly production and processing practices



Improved access to inputs and markets



Coastal mangrove forest. ©GIZ

3 Conserve marine and coastal ecosystems

Empowering local communities, authorities, businesses, and civil society to jointly manage and restore Mozambique's coastal and marine ecosystems is another central part of ProsperAzul's objective.

The project applies a seascape approach that brings together governments, communities, civil society, and the private sector to jointly protect biodiversity hotspots across boundaries in the Inhambane and Maputo Seascapes.

Key partners are the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) on Areas' Board, Peace Parks Foundation, African Parks Foundation, Inhambane Seascape Alliance and Platform, World Conservation Society (WCS), RARE, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Together, these partners support community co-management of marine resources, the development of co-management plans, greater private sector engagement, and the mobilization of alternative financing, including opportunities enabled by national legislation. Through this partnership-driven model, ProsperAzul promotes inclusive governance, sustainable resource use, and long-term financing of community-led conservation and restoration initiatives.



Members of the Maputo National Park Friends Club visiting the park. ©GIZ

Maputo National Park Friends Club

A successful example of this approach in action is the Maputo National Park Friends Club, which actively engages local communities and businesses in conservation activities, supports alternative income generation, and fosters collaboration to protect vital ecosystems.

Intended Impact



13 million Euro
of new investment in the blue economy



7,535 beneficiaries
have access to finance for investments in an inclusive and sustainable blue economy.



1,560 key actors
in supported fisheries and aquaculture value chains increase their competitiveness



500 jobs
are created in supported fisheries and aquaculture value chains



400 km²
of marine and coastal areas are more sustainably managed

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