

Policy Brief

Achieving 30x30 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Executive Summary



Fig 2: Coastal and marine protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa

The statistics differ **between those** reported by countries in their national reports and those in the Protected Planet databases due to differences in the methodologies and datasets used to



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Methodology

The findings summarized in this brief from the SOPACA 2 report were obtained through a collaborative effort with country governments, facilitated by their appointed BIOPAMA focal points. These focal points coordinated with relevant institutions and departments within their respective countries to gather and provide the necessary data and information. This data was regularly submitted to the Regional Resource Hub as part of ongoing updates to the Regional Reference Information System. The requested information included details legal and policy frameworks, financing for protected and conserved areas, and national statistics on assessments (PAGE and PAME). To gather this information, the BIOPAMA team developed a questionnaire, which was distributed to all participating countries. The responses formed the basis for the report's content and contributed additional insights into the regional analysis, helping to shape the recommendations presented in this brief.

Summary Findings

Policy harmonization and cross-sectoral planning

One of the most significant challenges faced by countries across the region is the **fragmented distribution of mandates among various ministries**, particularly those responsible for tourism, forestry, wildlife, agriculture, finance and coastal and marine resources. This fragmentation extends to the management of land use rights and land titles, which are often governed by distinct legal frameworks that do not align with conservation goals. The management of protected areas is often divided among multiple government bodies and underpinned by different legislative Acts, leading to inefficiencies, coordination difficulties, and a lack of cohesive action, contributing to the inability to generate, manage, deploy and align financial resources. This dispersion of responsibilities results in fragmented decision-making processes, where overlapping or conflicting priorities among different sectors hinder the development of integrated and effective conservation strategies and efficient use of financial resources.

The lack of harmonization in policies, mandates, and land tenure systems not only creates administrative bottlenecks but also impedes the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to conservation needs. Additionally, this harms the release of finances for adequate management of these areas and the ability to design new sustainable finance solutions for the benefit of



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and execution of conservation strategies are crucial steps toward achieving sustainable management of protected areas. A more integrated approach, coupled with regular policy reviews, updates, and the incorporation of climate resilience measures, would create a more coherent and efficient conservation framework. This framework would be better equipped to address contemporary challenges, adapt to future environmental changes, maximise financial resources and ensure the long- biodiversity.

Equitable governance and inclusive conservation

Governance structures in the region need to be strengthened to ensure that decision-making processes are inclusive and .000008g



underlying natural assets needed for sustainable economic growth across a multitude of sectors vital to emerging economies. They are also enhanced in their ability to provide economic opportunities for local stakeholders.

However, it is not simply the increase of finance available that is required but ensuring that the finance is targeted at conservation needs and supports social imperatives. To develop sustainable finance solutions that are tailored to the unique needs of Eastern and Southern Africa, several enablers are needed including collaboration across sectors, clear methodologies to identify, design and amplify finance solutions, and the inclusion of local decision-makers. It should also be noted that sustainable finance solutions need to be used to augment existing and traditional sources of funding that protected and conserved areas have been historically reliant on such as donations, grants, and development assistance. They need to also come alongside income source



on financial management will ensure that resources are used transparently and ethically. Mechanisms for addressing grievances and concerns will help maintain trust and effectiveness in the use of funds.

Leveraging Technology

Advanced technologies such as satellite monitoring, drones, and data analytics can significantly enhance the monitoring and enforcement of protected areas. These tools provide real-time data on wildlife movements, ecosystem health, and illegal activities, supporting more effective conservation strategies. Initiatives like the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Patrol Software for protected areas adapted in countries like Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles leverage technology to track and protect elephant populations across multiple countries.

Conclusion

Achieving the ambitious 30x30 Target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Eastern and Southern Africa. The region's diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity are invaluable assets, but they are also under



The path ahead is undoubtedly complex, but with the right strategies, political will, and regional solidarity, Eastern and Southern Africa has the potential to emerge as a leader in global biodiversity conservation. The choices made today will shape the future of biodiversity, and with it, the well-being of the millions who depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, culture, and survival.

