

MAPUTO DECLARATION ON THE WILDLIFE ECONOMY IN MOZAMBIQUE

*Conference on the Wildlife Economy
organized by the Mozambican Association of Safari Operators (AMOS),
in partnership with the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC)
and the Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity (BIOFUND)*

Maputo, 9 April 2026

The participants of the **Conference on the Wildlife Economy**, gathered in the City of Maputo on 8 and 9 April 2026, representing the public sector, private sector, academia, civil society, local communities and cooperation partners, adopted this Declaration as an expression of their political, institutional and ethical commitment to promoting the wildlife economy as a natural heritage, a strategic natural capital asset, and a foundation for the rural, social, economic and environmental development of Mozambique.

PREAMBLE

- **Recognizing that** ecosystems sustain ecological functions essential to maintaining life on Earth, including climate regulation, water provision, soil fertility, pollination, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem health and human well-being;
- **Further recognizing that** Mozambique is a mosaic of cultural identities, rich in local knowledge, and that the wildlife economy should generate employment opportunities, income, tourism, research, environmental education and livelihoods for millions of Mozambicans, including local communities living in close relationship with natural resources;
- **Considering that**, in Mozambique, the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are grounded in the national, regional and international legal framework;
- **Recalling that** Mozambique forms part of the SADC regional architecture on matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife;
- **Recognizing that** despite the country's high potential in biological resources, the contribution of the Wildlife Economy to the country's GDP remains limited;
- **Warning that** illegal extractive activities and the associated deforestation silently depreciate the natural capital upon which strategic sectors such as hydropower, fisheries and tourism depend;

- **Recognizing that** it is crucial for Mozambique to move towards a system of accounts that reflects the real value of natural capital and its contribution to the country's future prosperity;
- **Aware that** food security, nutrition, climate resilience and poverty reduction depend largely on the integrity of ecosystems and the sustainable use of biodiversity, including wildlife species and the ecosystem services that sustain food systems;
- **Further aware that** the illegal, irregular and unsustainable exploitation of wildlife and flora, habitat degradation, uncontrolled fires, human-wildlife conflict and the impacts of climate change continue to reduce the economic and social potential of wildlife;
- **Convinced that** a well-governed, inclusive, transparent and scientifically informed wildlife economy can strengthen conservation, attract responsible investment, expand sustainable value chains, generate public and private revenues, and distribute benefits more fairly to local communities;
- **Recognizing that** the transformative growth potential of a well-governed, inclusive, transparent and scientifically informed wildlife economy can sustainably expand trophy hunting, nature tourism, carbon trading, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, and that
- **Such growth can** take place without necessarily expanding conservation areas, but rather through improved governance, full utilization of existing concessions, scientific revision of harvesting quotas, and diversification of business models associated with wildlife;
- **Recognizing the central role** and universality of local communities, population dynamics, the private sector, academia, the media, civil society organizations, women and youth as indispensable actors for participatory governance and for building a prosperity model based on nature;

The participants of this Conference hereby declare and undertake the following Commitments and Targets:

1. Reaffirm the wildlife economy as an essential component of Mozambique's natural capital and as a legitimate basis for promoting sustainable, inclusive, resilient and territorially balanced development;
2. Promote the integration of the wildlife economy into national public policies, territorial planning instruments, rural development strategies and green investment, employment and poverty reduction agendas;
3. Strengthen the effective implementation of the legal and institutional framework for conservation, as well as its review, updating and harmonization, ensuring transparency, regulatory predictability, accountability, good governance and a firm fight against corruption and crimes against the wildlife economy;

4. Ensure that the economic benefits generated through conservation and the sustainable use of wildlife are shared fairly, equitably, timely and measurably with local communities, while respecting legally recognized rights and valuing their role in the management of natural resources;
5. Stimulate responsible public and private investment in value chains associated with the wildlife economy, including nature tourism, trophy hunting tourism, the sale of live animals, the promotion of meat processing, ecosystem restoration, bio-trade and other activities compatible with ecological integrity;
6. Strengthen cooperation between the State, the private sector, academia, civil society and local communities in order to promote applied research, innovation, ecological monitoring, sectoral statistics, environmental education and evidence-based public communication;
7. Intensify the prevention and combating of poaching, illicit trafficking of species, illegal exploitation of natural resources and other activities that weaken State authority, harm biodiversity and reduce the confidence of investors and communities;
8. Promote a regional and transboundary approach aligned with the commitments of SADC and Africa, strengthening cooperation in matters of enforcement, information sharing, regulatory harmonization, institutional capacity building and the promotion of nature-based value chains;
9. Value the contribution of biodiversity to food systems, water availability, ecosystem health, nutrition and the livelihoods of populations, especially rural communities most dependent on natural resources;
10. Promote training, awareness and ecological citizenship programmes aimed at children and youth, local communities, public decision-makers and economic actors, in order to consolidate a national culture of appreciation for the wildlife economy and the sustainable use of natural resources;
11. Promote innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation and the wildlife economy, including public-private partnerships, environmental funds, appropriate market instruments, impact investments and other mechanisms compatible with the law, social equity and ecological sustainability;
12. Encourage the review, updating and harmonization of policies, strategies and regulations that influence the wildlife economy, in order to eliminate constraints, reduce overlaps, facilitate implementation and increase institutional confidence in the sector;

13. Uphold that the management and use of wildlife species must observe the principles of sustainability, legality, safety, precaution, social participation and public benefit, in accordance with national, regional and international best practices;
14. Maintain this Conference and its outcomes as a permanent platform for dialogue, mutual learning and monitoring of commitments among all relevant actors of the wildlife economy in Mozambique.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

1. We recommend the preparation, within six months, of a Strategic Development Plan for the Wildlife Economy and the respective multisectoral Action Plan for the implementation of this Declaration, with an initial two-year horizon, containing priorities, responsibilities, indicators, funding sources and accountability mechanisms.
2. We recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries, through the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC), in coordination with the Mozambican Association of Safari Operators (AMOS), the Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity (BIOFUND), academia, civil society and local communities, establish within three months a technical platform to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of this Declaration.
3. We recommend the periodic production of decision-support instruments, including the institutionalization of the wildlife value chain concept, the updating of the database, the preparation of progress reports with performance indicators and proposals for reforms aimed at the legislative integration of the wildlife economy sector, based on scientific evidence and inclusive consultations.
4. We recommend that the process of drafting the new National Conservation Policy include the sustainable use of wildlife as a fundamental and strategic component, and that the private sector, through its representative associations, be formally engaged as a partner in this process.
5. We recommend that the implementation process of this Declaration be aligned with national, regional and international commitments on conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, food security, climate adaptation and sustainable development, thereby enabling the promotion and realization of the second Conference on the Wildlife Economy.
6. We recommend that a Wildlife Economy Satellite Account be established and implemented as a matter of priority, in coordination with the existing Blue Economy Satellite Account, in order to accurately measure the contribution of wildlife, forests and ecosystem services to GDP, as well as other aspects relevant to the definition of investment priorities.

FINAL PROVISION

This Maputo Declaration constitutes a milestone of convergence between conservation, economic development and collective responsibility.

By adopting it, we reaffirm **our commitment to making the wildlife economy a driving force for the conservation and prosperity of Mozambique, for the well-being of its people, and for the safeguarding of present and future generations.**

Adopted in Maputo, on 9 April 2026.