

VALORISATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR ECOTOURISM IN MOZAMBIQUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Valorisation of indigenous knowledge (IK) and practice for the sustainable development of communities through ecotourism is a complex process.

This project looks at the strategies to address the challenge of integrating indigenous knowledge in bird watching ecotourism, as a means of enabling active participation. The desired end result is that the economic standing of the local communities will improve as they conserve the biodiversity, and safeguard cultural landscapes and traditions.

INTRODUCTION

Ibo District is a small administrative district of Cabo Delgado Province, in northern Mozambique. It is made up of three islands (Ibo, Matemo and Quirimba) and Vila do Ibo is its principal town, located on the Ibo Island. Despite the measures introduced for the involvement and participation of citizens in decentralised administrative local structures in Mozambique, local governance has not significantly included private-public partnership in the management of biodiversity, natural resources and ecotourism.

This means that local communities do not benefit from opportunities offered by decentralisation policies thus contributing to increased community vulnerability and disadvantage.

In an attempt to alleviate this situation, initiatives to boost self-participation and self-involvement should be implemented. These activities can bring about the establishment of interventive attitudes towards better management of biodiversity, including bird slaughter and hunting, and awareness on excessive exploitation of resources, especially fishing resources, which are the main food for most seabirds.

In spite of high levels of illiteracy within the community, the locals have a wealth of IK about nature and development. Sadly, this knowledge is not reflected in the local strategic development

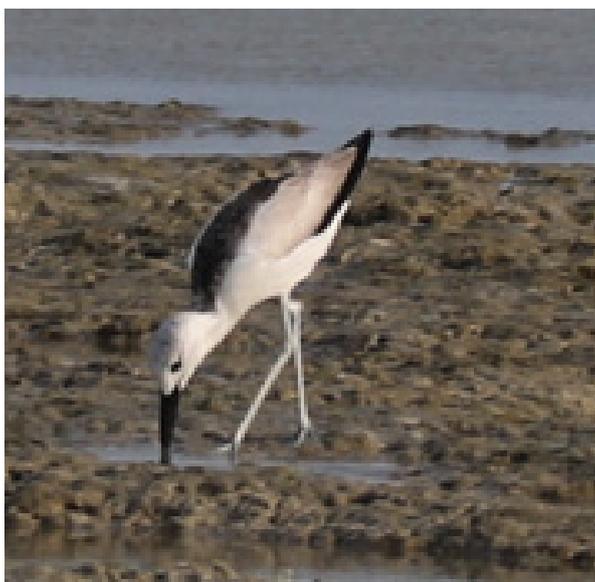
programmes, resulting in poor integration of communities in the local governance.

As Ibo District is also part of the Quirimba National Park (PNQ), this research will also update the PNQ bird's database and integrate communication and information technology approaches to a deliver digital database of birds and a sustainable tool for bird management in the area. This will be complemented by the mapping of bird confluence sites to introduce monitoring programmes for resident and migratory birds in the area.

APPROACHES AND RESULTS

The data collection process found approximately 200 different bird species in Ibo District, distributed within the three islands. Most of the birds have their corresponding names in local language, meaning and cultural sense. Some of the birds found have been listed with their corresponding names, status and importance or cultural sense.

The list of birds with a description of their characteristics have been included in a brochure being produced to aid tour guides better perform their job, benefit tourist operators and visiting tourists. The brochure will help and improve the local communities' awareness on the need for the preservation and management of birds' biodiversity. Training of local tourist guides on bird watching and other relevant issues was conducted.



Nomes

Português: Caranguejeiro.
Científico: Dromas ardeola.
Kimwani: Kipira.
Habitat: Especialmente nos mangais com abundancia de Caranguejos e estuários.
Estado: Migrante costeiro.
 Importância Local:
 Nenhuma.



Nomes

Português: Garça-branca-grande
Científico: Ardea alba
Kimwani: Kipira.
Habitat: Aquático (marinho, pântanos, barragens rios de fluxo lento e estuário).
Estado: Comum.
 Importância Local: Usado na alimentação.



Nomes

Português: maçarico-das-rochas
Científico: Actitis hypoleucos
Kimwani: Kididi
Habitat: Zonas Húmidas e ao longo da costa
Estado: Migrante paleártico comum, principalmente em Agosto e Abril.
 Importância Local: Indicador do enchimento da maré. Quando a maré começa a encher, ele canta muito alto.

Figure 1: Sample of birds observed in data collection process, with their characteristics

The training module included materials such as identification of birds and rules of tourist escorting. A digital/computerised birds’ database has also been created and the process of gathering requirements for the design of the tool for managing it is ongoing.

The project team and all interested parties held a meeting to identify a tourist operator to collaborate with and host the bird management system (Figure 2).

To help evaluate the performance of trained tourist guides, a questionnaire has been created and tourists served by each tour guide are required to fill it and provide their opinions. This activity is under tour operators’ responsibility.

CONCLUSION

Valorisation of indigenous knowledge and culture can be done in several ways. Thus, production of brochures highlighting this knowledge is one of the possible approaches.

Improving the income of local communities through their involvement in ecotourism activities can reduce the community’s vulnerability. The local community can also become more aware of the need to protect and better manage the birds’ biodiversity as they continue to utilise their traditional resources in a sustainable manner .

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is need for:

- Agreement between local communities and tourist operators on how to control the level of slaughtering and hunting of some bird species used as food stock.
- Each tour operator will have a list of tour guides’ names and contacts to hire in case they receive tourists.

- There is need to provide a beginner's English Course for tourist guides because most of them have poor language skills.



Figure 2: Meeting with Ibo tour operators



Tanzania

