

The Our Sea Our Life approach to community-based conservation includes:

1. Our Sea Our Life Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) standards in Community Conservation Areas
2. Local governance and management mechanisms
3. Sustainable livelihoods and financing linked to the 'opportunity costs' of conservation



For more information, please visit our website:
zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/our-sea-our-life
 Check out our twitter: [@OurSeaOurLife](https://twitter.com/OurSeaOurLife)
 Or please contact us at: Jeremy.Huet@zsl.org

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Our Sea Our Life

Building resilience for coastal communities and marine biodiversity



OUR SEA OUR LIFE

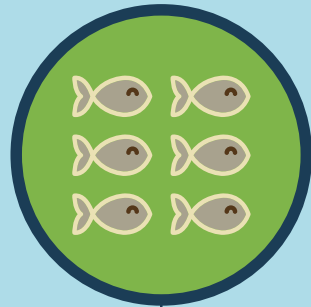
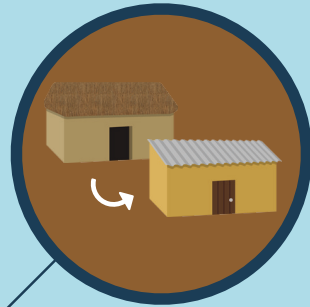
Empowering coastal communities in northern Mozambique to manage marine resources, build sustainable livelihoods and replenish the ocean.

Marine habitats and fish species are depleted by unsustainable fishing methods. Offshore oil/gas exploration also threatens further disruption. Poverty is widespread making communities highly dependent on marine resources. Government support for the biodiverse marine environment is limited.



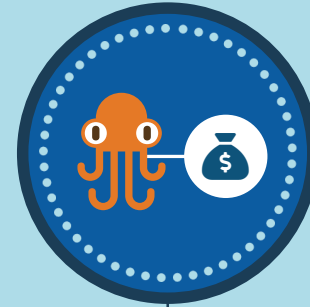
Community banks allow the local community to save money and invest in sustainable livelihoods.

Access to essential financial services improves food security and increases the standard of living for the local community.



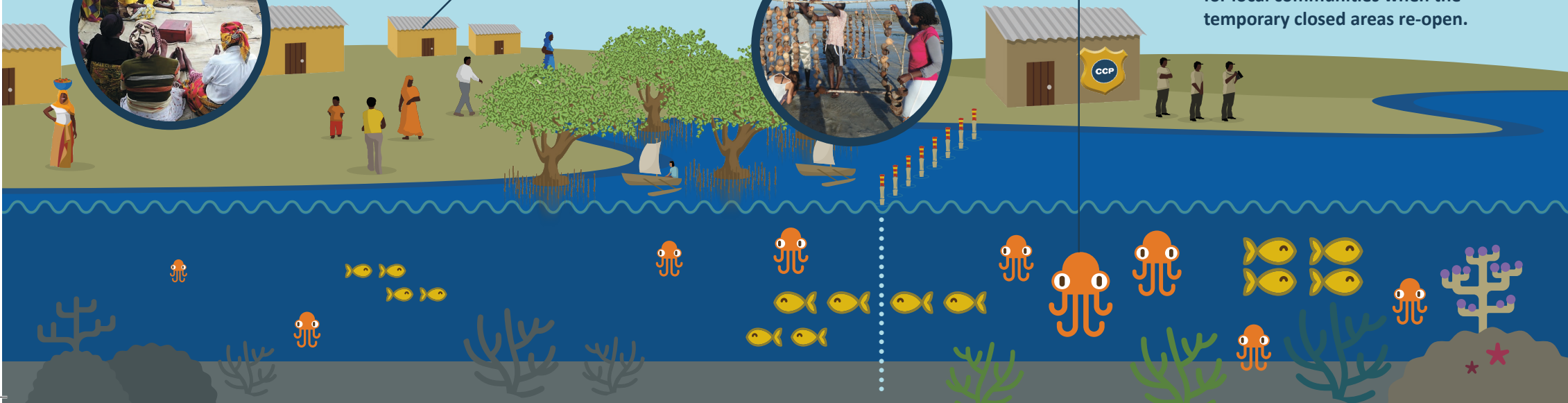
We have introduced Price Premium schemes for sustainably produced and harvested octopus, vegetables and bivalves.

Financial incentives supplement the income for fishers and improve their compliance of marine regulations, helping the ocean to replenish.



We have introduced Locally Managed Marine Areas with permanent replenishment zones and temporary closed areas. These regulated fishing areas are enforced by CCP and local authorities.

Species with shorter life cycles like octopus are given more time to grow, providing a higher value catch for local communities when the temporary closed areas re-open.



Overfishing, unsustainable fishing practices and growing populations in coastal areas have taken their toll on marine resources in Cabo Delgado, north of Mozambique. But marine resources are critical to coastal communities. Our Sea Our Life is a project coordinated by the Zoological Society of London, in collaboration with the Mozambican Associacao do Meio Ambiente and Universidade Lurio, the Kenyan CORDIO East Africa, and the Portuguese Universidade de Aveiro, and Universidade de Lisboa. The project is addressing overfishing and threats to marine biodiversity and local livelihoods, aiming to create Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs) for the management of Locally-Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in northern Mozambique. Working with coastal communities, Our Sea Our Life develops sustainable mechanisms to finance the management by the CCPs.

Continuous participatory work with the communities defines incentives customised to each community to bridge the short-term opportunity costs of conservation. Through the project, local communities have been able to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) which help individuals save and access small amounts of money for sustainable livelihood initiatives developed by the communities themselves. VSLAs encourage members to invest in alternative small-scale businesses (e.g. oyster farming and horticulture) to diversify their income. Our Sea Our Life alleviates the pressure on marine resources and has already improved the livelihood of nearly 8,000 beneficiaries. Involving the local communities with conservation action ensures the sustainability of these actions which in turn increases resilience to climate change and improves food security.

