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Impact Brief - 2019

Social Outcomes of the CARE-WWF Alliance in Mozambique

Results and Recommendations from a Decade of Conservation and Development Programming*

In 2008, the CARE-WWF Alliance emerged as a major strategic partnership between two international non-governmental organizations seeking to tackle the linked challenge of poverty and natural resource degradation. From the start, the mission of the Alliance was to test the idea that empowering some of the poorest and most vulnerable women and communities on the planet to engage in sustainable livelihoods and natural resource governance could improve their wellbeing and conserve globally important biodiversity. The flagship Alliance project in Primeiras e Segundas (P&S), Mozambique sought to advance three key objectives: Healthy Livelihoods, Healthy Ecosystems; Empowered Citizens; and Supportive Policies and Institutions. This involved implementation of conservation and development interventions – often implemented in the same communities and sometimes implemented in different communities. Conservation interventions included Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) of fisheries in the form of no-take zones for fish stock regeneration, as well as community-managed mangroves and forests for sustainable use and ecosystem preservation. Development

interventions – namely, Farmer Field Schools to promote climate-smart conservation agriculture practices, Village Savings and Loan Associations to improve savings practices and financial inclusion, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene interventions– mainstreamed gender and nutrition approaches to empower women and improve household food and nutrition security.

Research Design

A decade after its inception, the Alliance used household surveys and focus group discussions to answer two key research questions:

1. What are the social impacts of natural resource management in P&S?
2. How do impacts vary between those who participated in conservation interventions, development interventions, both, or neither?

The evaluation faced some constraints, including a limited number of study sites where community-based conservation and development interventions were applied together (three), separately (two development only, two conservation only) or not at all (just one community). (See Figure 1.)¹

Box 1. Community voices on the benefits and challenges of community-based natural resource management.

“There are [valuable species of] fish, which had disappeared a long time ago, that have reappeared [with the establishment and enforcement of the no-take zone.]”

Male community member from Corane

“Single women can rely only on the farm, but when the sun is like this [so hot], there is no way [to produce enough food... so they fetch snails and clams from the mangroves] to eat.”

Women from Mingolene

“[The community] understands [the reason for the natural resource governance rules] but disrespects them, because we can’t feed the children and there is no alternative.”

Member of Manene’s natural resource management committee

“For two years [after WWF left, we continued to monitor the forest]. But, after the population realized that WWF was gone, they began to invade the forest and to disrespect the monitors... Even the committee ended up giving up, because they didn’t even have boots, or hats or gloves [to do their work].”

Member of Namiepe’s natural resource management committee

*For additional information and context, please see the full evaluation report: Skinner, C. A., S. Mahajan, R. Lobo, M. Clark, L. Glew, M. De Nardo, et al. (2019). “Social Outcomes of the CARE-WWF Alliance in Mozambique: Research Findings from a Decade of Integrated Conservation and Development Programming.” Washington, DC, USA.

Results

Conservation interventions – no-take zones, community mangrove or community forest management – were associated with a 25% increase in dietary diversity between 2008 and 2014. After that, investment in community-based conservation declined, and by 2018, the correlation was no longer present. When community-managed no-take zones were properly enforced, communities perceived that they contributed to improved food and nutrition security by increasing access to larger and more diverse fish and seafood. (See Figures 2 and 3.) Communities also reported that well-managed mangroves and forests improve the food security of single women, who suffer disproportionately from poverty and food insecurity. Many challenges and pitfalls to how community-based conservation was implemented in P&S that, if left

unaddressed, could undermine both ecological and social sustainability in the long run. (See Box 1.)

Community-based conservation interventions were not correlated with significant changes in wealth in the form of assets, like pans and bicycles. But communities valued no-take zones because fish are a critical source of cash income.

Because communities understand that mangroves serve as nurseries for fish and shellfish, they also perceive that mangrove protection contributes to their economic wellbeing. When there's a surplus of crabs and snails, women gather and sell them for extra income. Communities also reported that well-managed forests improve material wellbeing through provision of timber and other materials for building infrastructure and protection from severe weather that could harm their assets.

Households in communities with Farmer Field Schools were 13% more likely to experience year-round food security. (See Figure 4.) Indeed, farmer field schools were by far the most popular Alliance intervention – perceived by men and women and participants and non-participants, alike, to contribute directly to household food and nutrition security. In contrast, sub-groups in the community experienced different levels of benefits associated with other interventions. Access to credit, advanced through the microcredit interventions like Village Savings and Loan Associations, was correlated with a 31% increase in the reported assets of female-headed households relative to no significant increase in assets for male-headed households. Similarly, communities perceived that well construction and community-based mangrove protection benefit women more than men because women are often responsible for fetching

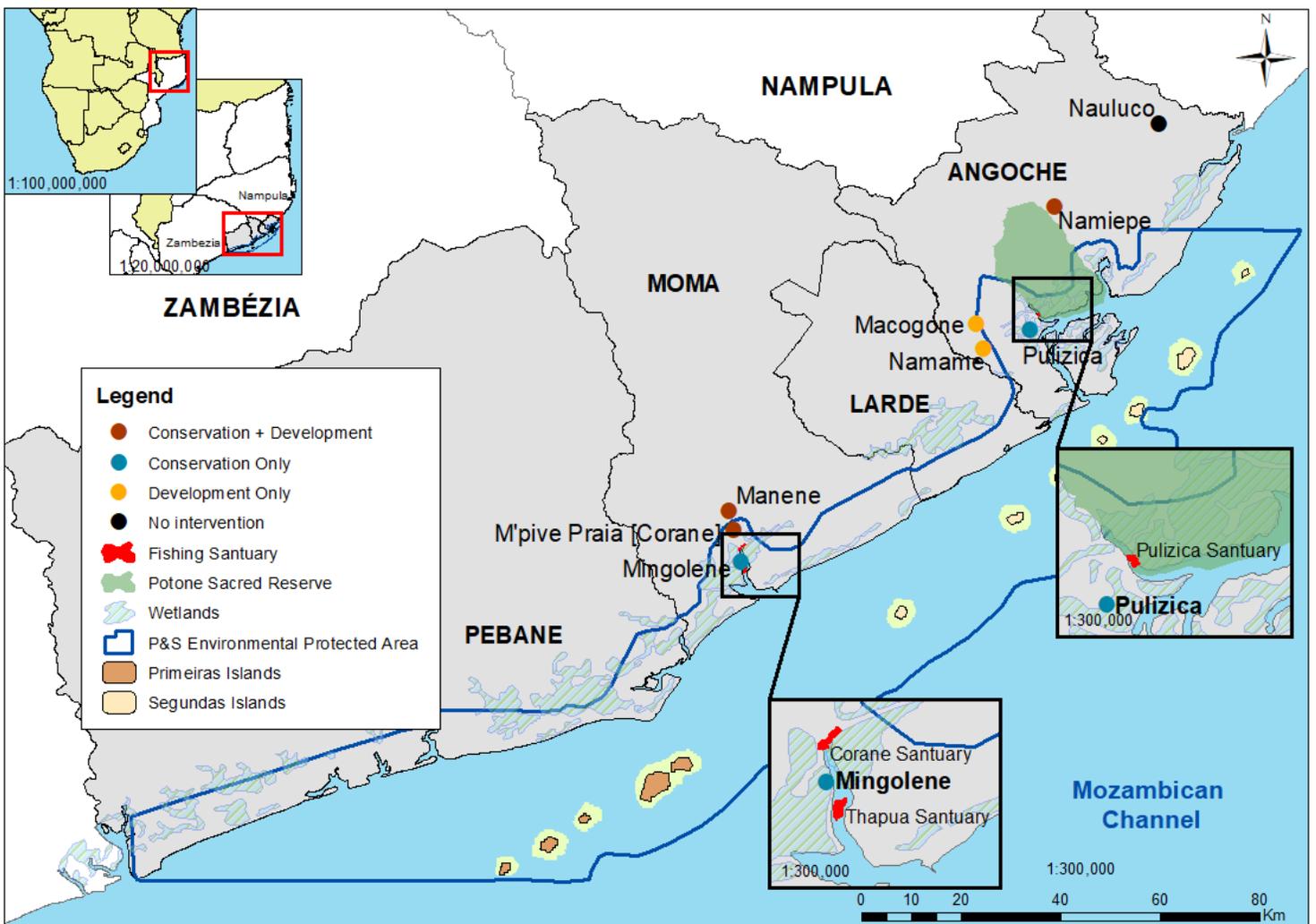


Figure 1. Map of the eight communities sampled in 2018.

Box 2. Community voices affirm the importance of mainstreaming gender in conservation and development.

“[Before the well built by the Alliance,] we used to suffer a lot because of water... If this was time drought, you would not find anyone here, we would all be there looking for water.”

Women from Corane

“We learned [with the projects] that when we go to the farm while our wife is pregnant, we cannot leave her behind carrying firewood on her head, a hoe [and] child on her back... while we carry on only with a machete in our hand. We learned that women have the right to say what is lacking at home, and the man has the duty to give money for her to go buy these things or go himself to buy these things. We learned that in the family household the two are in charge.”

Men from Namiepe

water and more dependent on harvesting shellfish for household consumption. Finally, communities perceive that no-take zones improve the food security and economic wellbeing of male-headed households more than single women, who are culturally excluded from most fishing activities.

Recommendations

Despite its limitations as a case study, the evaluation offers insights and implications relevant to different stakeholders involved in implementing integrated conservation and development projects.

For ongoing work in Primeiras e Segundas, in particular, researchers should drive improved understanding and practice by further analyzing this study’s quantitative and qualitative data and contextualizing findings within peer-reviewed literature and larger drivers of change, like climate change.

More broadly, reflecting on this evaluation’s process led to a number of recommendations for researchers and practitioners conducting similar evaluations that use research to inform practice:

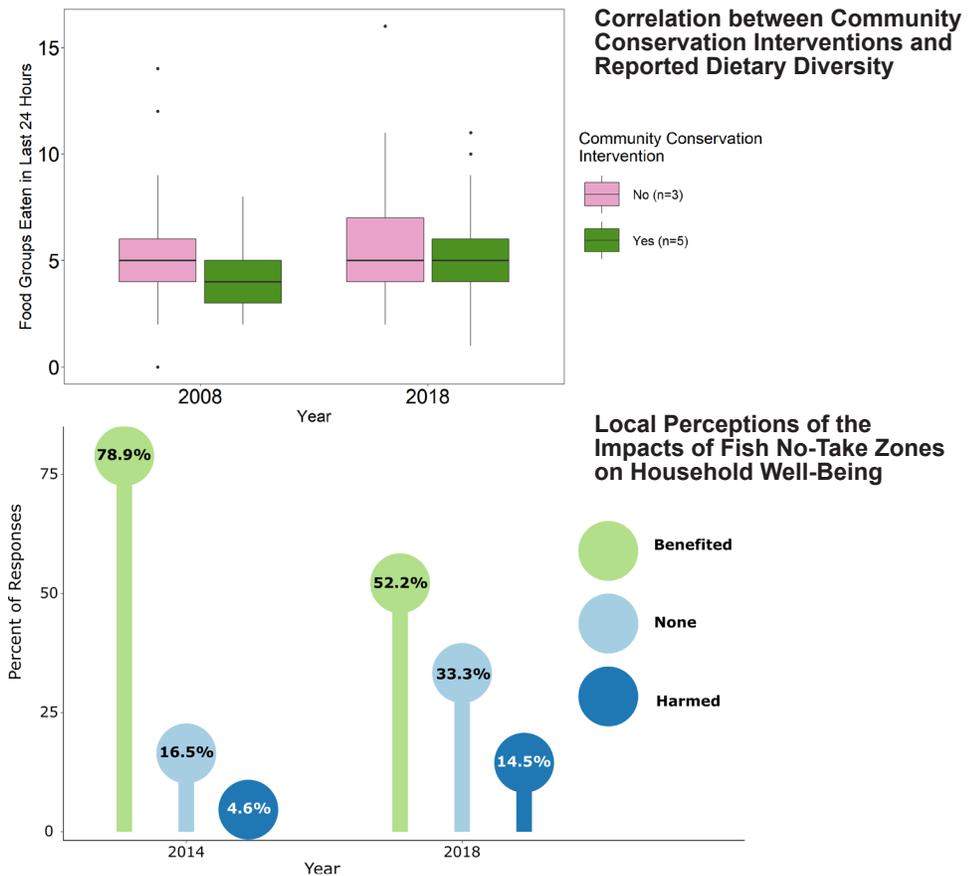


Figure 2 (top). Distribution of household dietary diversity in 2008 and 2018 in communities with and without conservation interventions shows the differential change over time in reported nutrition security – before conservation interventions and ten years later – between communities that participated in a fish, mangrove or forest management initiative and those that participated a development intervention or none at all.

Figure 3 (bottom). Community perceptions of impacts of fish no-take zones on households in Moma and Angoche Districts in 2014 and 2018.

- Practitioners should engage the same research partner over the life of a project. If not possible, it is critical to clearly document the research process and rationale for decisions.
- Researchers should invest in co-interpretation of data, including the perspectives of project implementers, communities and other stakeholders. In turn, practitioners should ensure that research findings and implications are shared back with local stakeholders, including decision-makers and beneficiaries.²
- Practitioners and researchers should use evidence, such as illustrative quotes from focus group discussions, to infuse community perspectives into global policymaking and accelerate adoption of integrated approaches for delivery of the 2030 conservation, development and climate agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate

Accord and Convention on Biological Diversity.

Finally, evidence from this evaluation suggests that adoption of the following recommendations in conservation and development practice – from project funding and design through implementation and monitoring – may accelerate conservation and development impacts globally:

- Practitioners should use baseline socioeconomic data for more robust beneficiary targeting to avoid elite capture. Women’s empowerment and gender integration efforts are especially critical to ensure that vulnerable community members, like female-headed households, benefit.
- Practitioners should invest adequate time and resources to get CBNRM incentive structures right. To sustain community conservation areas, the individual and communal costs and

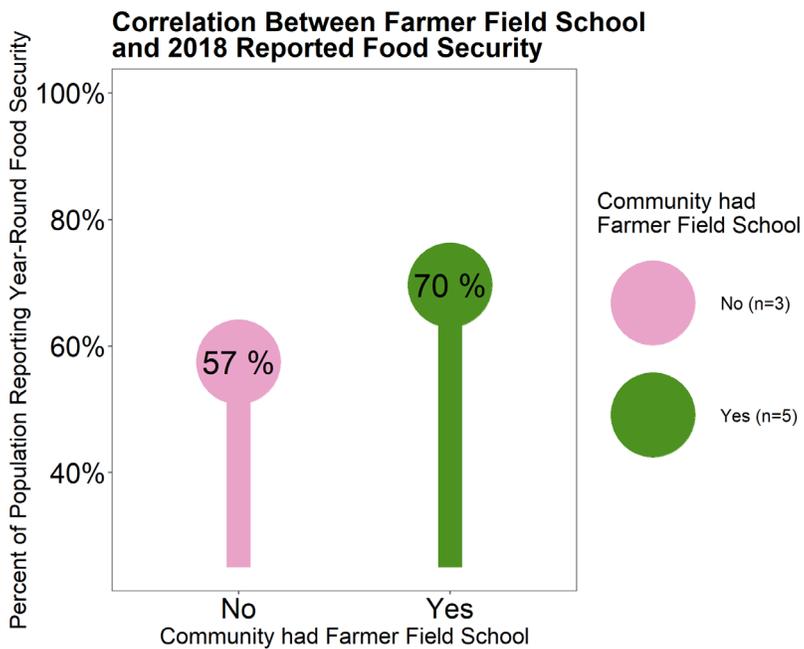


Figure 4. Correlation between Farmer Field Schools and households reporting year-round food security in communities with FFS and those that did not in 2018. Year-round food security is defined by households reporting adequate food provisioning for all 12 months in the previous year.

benefits of enforcement and compliance should be equitably distributed between defined users and managers over both the short and long term. Designers should consider how benefits of interventions might be used to offset the individual costs (e.g., enforcement burden) of conservation interventions.

- Practitioners should communicate and monitor for a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities and costs and benefits between project stakeholders. Sometimes, this may require social and environmental safeguarding, i.e., risk assessment and monitoring.
- Donors, governments and practitioners should invest in long-term sustainability by supporting good governance at multiple levels. This includes capacity building of local partners at multiple levels and facilitating stronger linkages between community-based organizations and district governments responsible for natural resource management, including rule enforcement.

Endnotes

1. Beyond the limitations of a case-study approach, the design of the final evaluation was constrained by a baseline intended for project monitoring rather than impact assessment and depth of analysis was constrained by time.
2. Additional monitoring, evaluation and learning guidance for practitioners informed by the experience of this evaluation is captured in a separate brief.



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For more information about the CARE-WWF Alliance:
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