BIOPAMA
From Knowledge to Action for a Protected Planet

Action Component in Eastern and Southern Africa

Results, Lessons and Recommendations

Implementation period:
September 2019 - September 2023

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Overview

The BIOPAMA Programme

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme contributes to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions in protected areas and surrounding communities through the provision of a variety of tools, services, capacity development and funding to support conservation stakeholders.

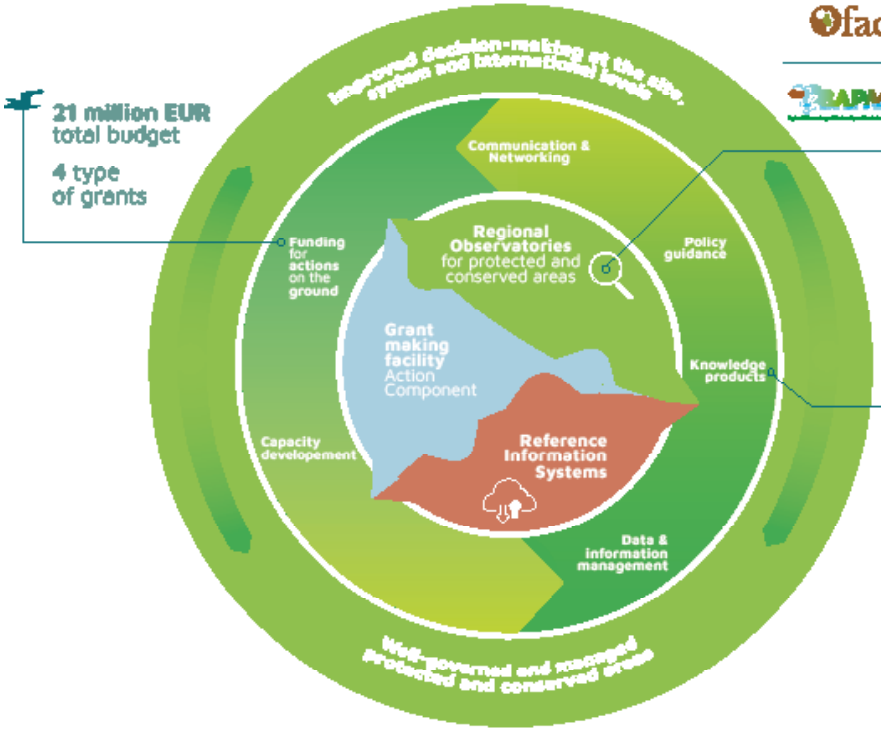
BIOPAMA implements a 21 million Euro grant-making facility named BIOPAMA Action Component – financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund. The funding is addressing priorities for action, supporting activities on the ground for strengthening the management effectiveness and governance of protected and conserved areas. By adopting a landscape approach, these actions also contribute to enhancing the local livelihoods through sustainable use of the natural resources and ecosystem services, as well as increasing the resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The implementation of the Action Component is one of the major deliverables of the BIOPAMA Programme, together with the consolidation of the Regional Observatories for protected areas and biodiversity and their Reference Information Systems (RIS).

The BIOPAMA Regional Observatories and the RIS provide valuable information, knowledge and data on the protected and conserved areas in the ACP countries, which have a key role in highlighting where actions on the ground are needed.

The Programme Strategy

From Knowledge to Action in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific



The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway
www.caribbeanprotectedareasgateway.com

The SPREP-PA
(Regional Protected Area Support Programme)
www.pipap.sprep.org

The Regional Resource Hub for
Eastern and Southern Africa
www.esahub.rcmrd.org

The Central Africa Forest Observatory
www.observatoire-comifac.net/analytical_platform

The Observatory for Biodiversity and
Protected Areas in West Africa
www.obapao.org

BIOPAMA Action Component in Eastern and Southern Africa

Goals

- Enhance the management and governance of priority areas by addressing existing limitations;
- Enforce the legal framework required to achieve effective biodiversity conservation in protected areas;
- Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas' management.

Results

5 Call for proposals

4 Types of grants

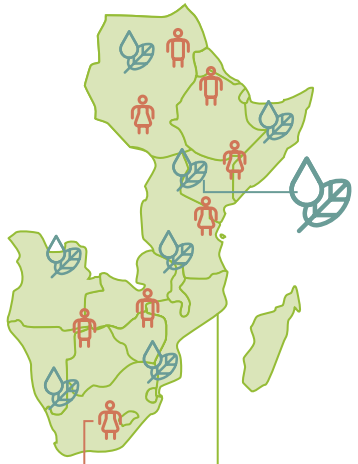
442 Proposals received

62 Projects approved

15 countries

€ 6,555,205 Total buget allocation in ESA

€ 3,792,783 Total disbursements at the end of July 2023



12,445 Local communities members involved

3,647 PCAs in the Protected Planet Database

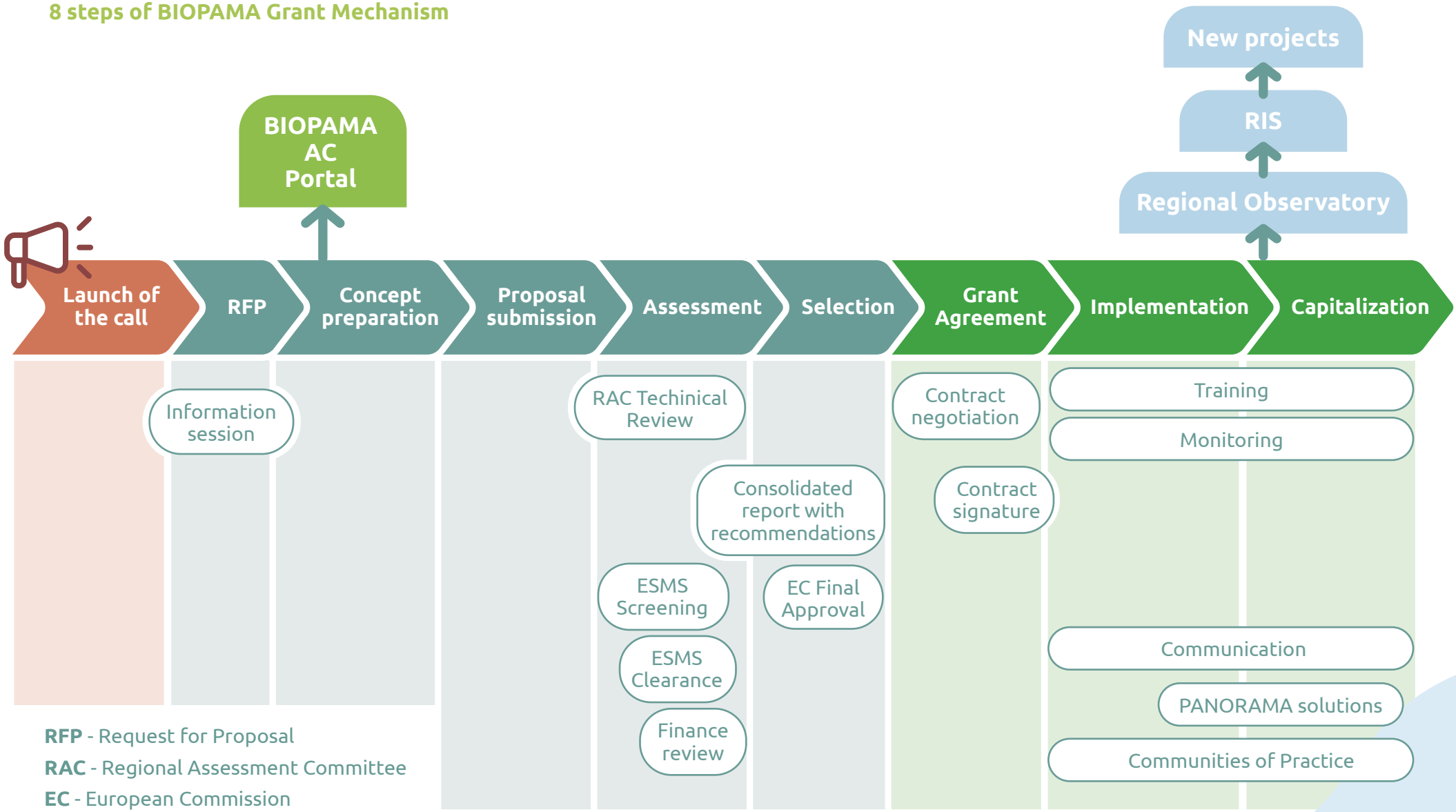
124 PCAs reached under the BIOPAMA Action Component

2,267,286 km² Protected areas coverage ESA Region

210,297 km² BIOPAMA grant total coverage

Overview

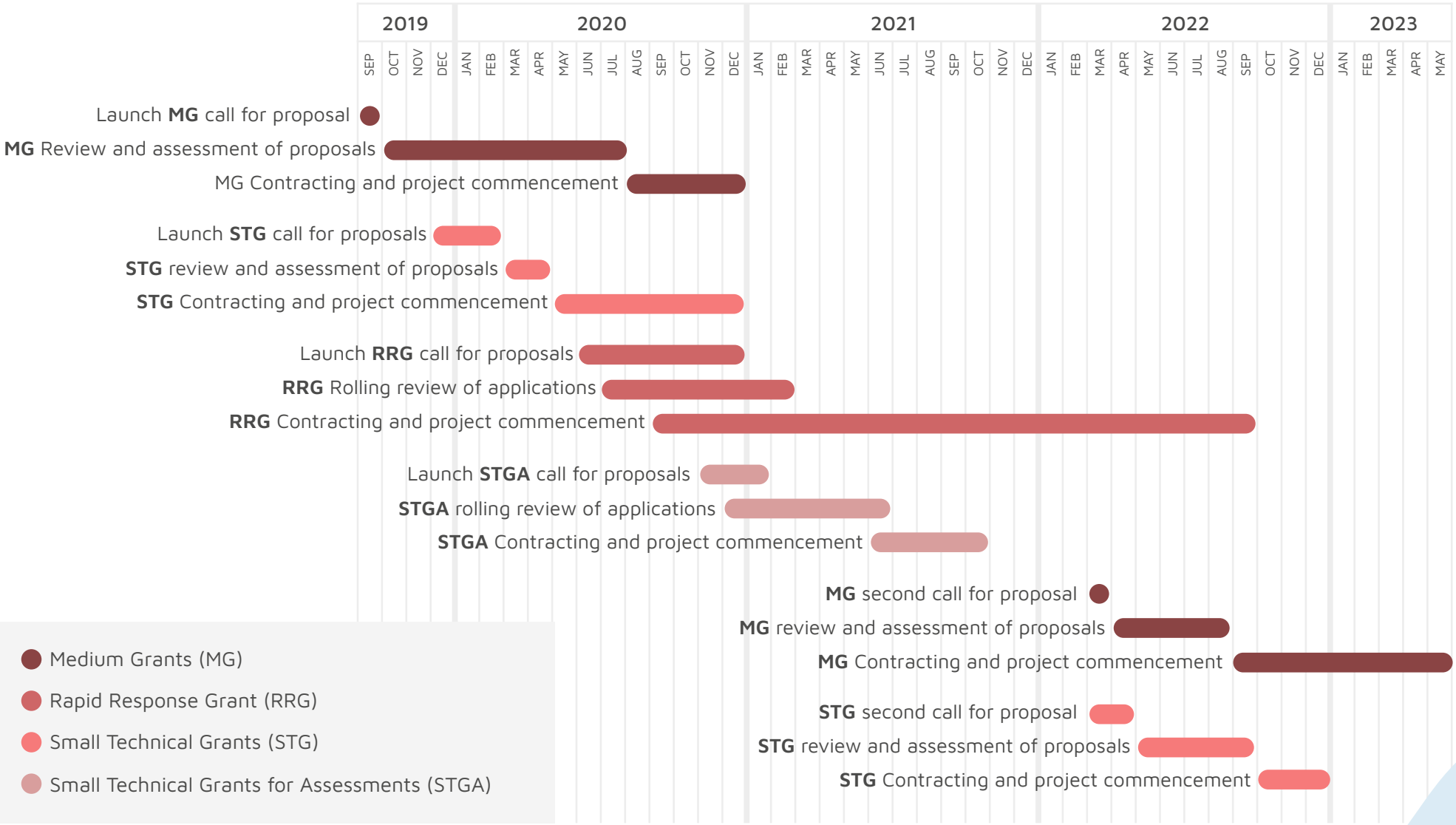
8 steps of BIOPAMA Grant Mechanism



RFP - Request for Proposal
RAC - Regional Assessment Committee
EC - European Commission

Overview

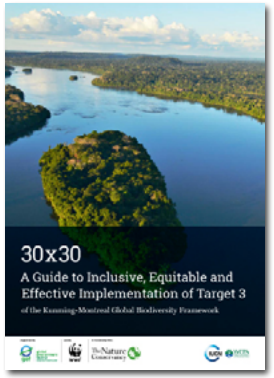
Timeline of the BIOPAMA Action Component in Eastern and Southern Africa

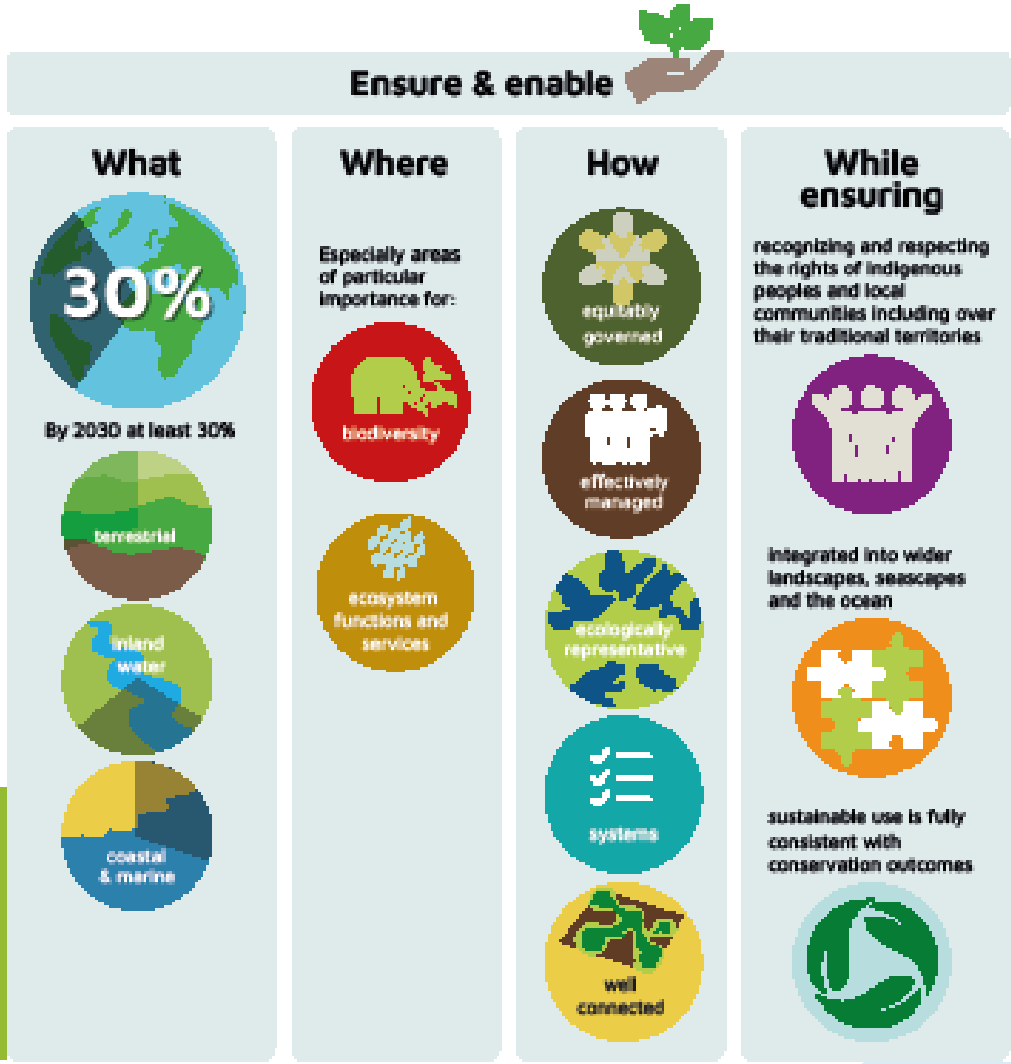


Key results

Contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework “30x30” Target

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.





The BIOPAMA Action Component projects were aimed at improving the governance, ensuring effective planning and management of the protected and conserved areas for improved conservation outcomes, and achievement of a site’s goals and objectives thereby contributing to the 30x30 target.

Grants Impact based on the Green List Standard and Criteria

To measure the achievement of effectively governed and managed PCAs, IUCN developed a Green List standard which outlines the criterion and generic indicators.

Impact of BIOPAMA Action Component Grants on Improved Governance and Management Effectiveness of PCAs (In relation to the Greenlist Standard and criteria)		
Green List Criterion	**Green List Indicators**	**Result**
Guarantee Legitimacy and Voice	• Enhancing participatory planning and decision-making through the Involvement of stakeholders, and communities in management planning, processes, and actions	**61 PCAs**
	• Promoting Gender Equity through the involvement of women, youths, and vulnerable communities in planning and decision-making	**23 PCAs**
Achieve Transparency and Accountability	• Developing, implementing, and monitoring grievance Management Mechanisms	**2 PCAs**
	• Improving Access to Information on Governance and Management	**42 PCAs**
	• Improving WPDA information and information sharing with RO and RIS	**124 PCAs**
Enable Governance Vitality and Capacity to Respond Adaptively	• Improving governance of the PCA	**32 PCAs**
	• Capacity Building the Staff and communities of the PCAs on management effectiveness and governance	**144 PCAs**
Improvement in the Management Effectiveness of the Protected and Conserved areas		
Develop and Implement a Long Term Management Strategy	• Developing, implementing, and monitoring Management plans	**10 PCAs**
Effectively and Fairly Enforce Laws and Regulations	• Improving systems for monitoring and patrolling	**11 PCAs**

Solution

Updating the management plan of Mangabe Reserve and assisting local communities through improving infrastructure and facilities

Watch the video

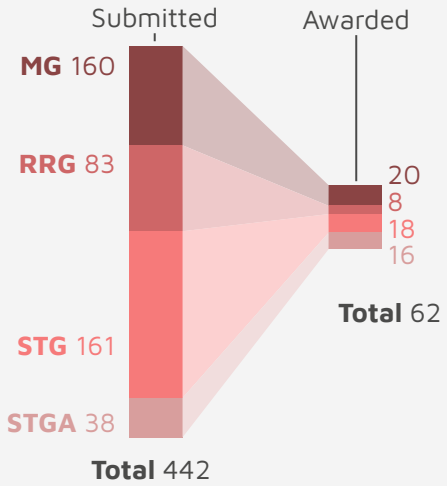
Solution

Enhancing Governance and Conservation in biodiversity protected area management

Watch the video

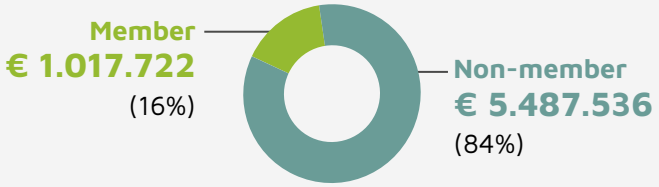
Grant Allocation

Poposals submitted per grant type



The cumulative number of proposals submitted was 442, out of which 14% were awarded with various types of grants (MG,STG,STGA,RRG). The key reasons of proposals not awarded were due to incomplete or late submissions, and lack of technical, organisational and human resource capacity by the organisations to manage the grants

Grant allocation IUCN membership



IUCN works through over 100 members in ESARO (and more than 1,400 members globally), by providing credible and trusted knowledge, convening, and building partnerships for action, sustaining global-to-local and local-to-global reach, and influencing policies, standards, and practice. Through BIOPAMA Action Component, a total of 9 IUCN members were awarded 1,017,722 EUR (16% of the total grant) to implement conservation activities in the region.

Grant allocation per institution categories

	Academic Institution	Government Institution	International NGO	Local NGO	Community based association	National NGO	Grand Total
MG			10	7		3	20
RRG	1	1	1	10	4	1	18
STG	1		1	4		2	8
STGA	4	2	2	2	1	5	16
Total	6	3	14	23	5	11	62

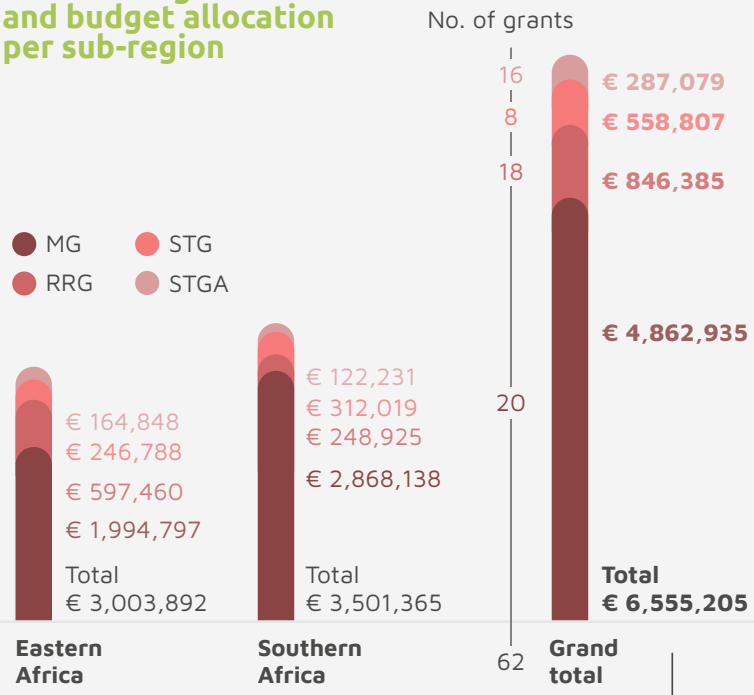
Grant status

	Closed	Ongoing	Terminated	Grand Total
MG	1	19		20
RRG	9	7	2	18
STG	4	4		8
STGA	15		1	16
Total	29	30	3	62

Key results

Grants Financial Status

Number of grants and budget allocation per sub-region



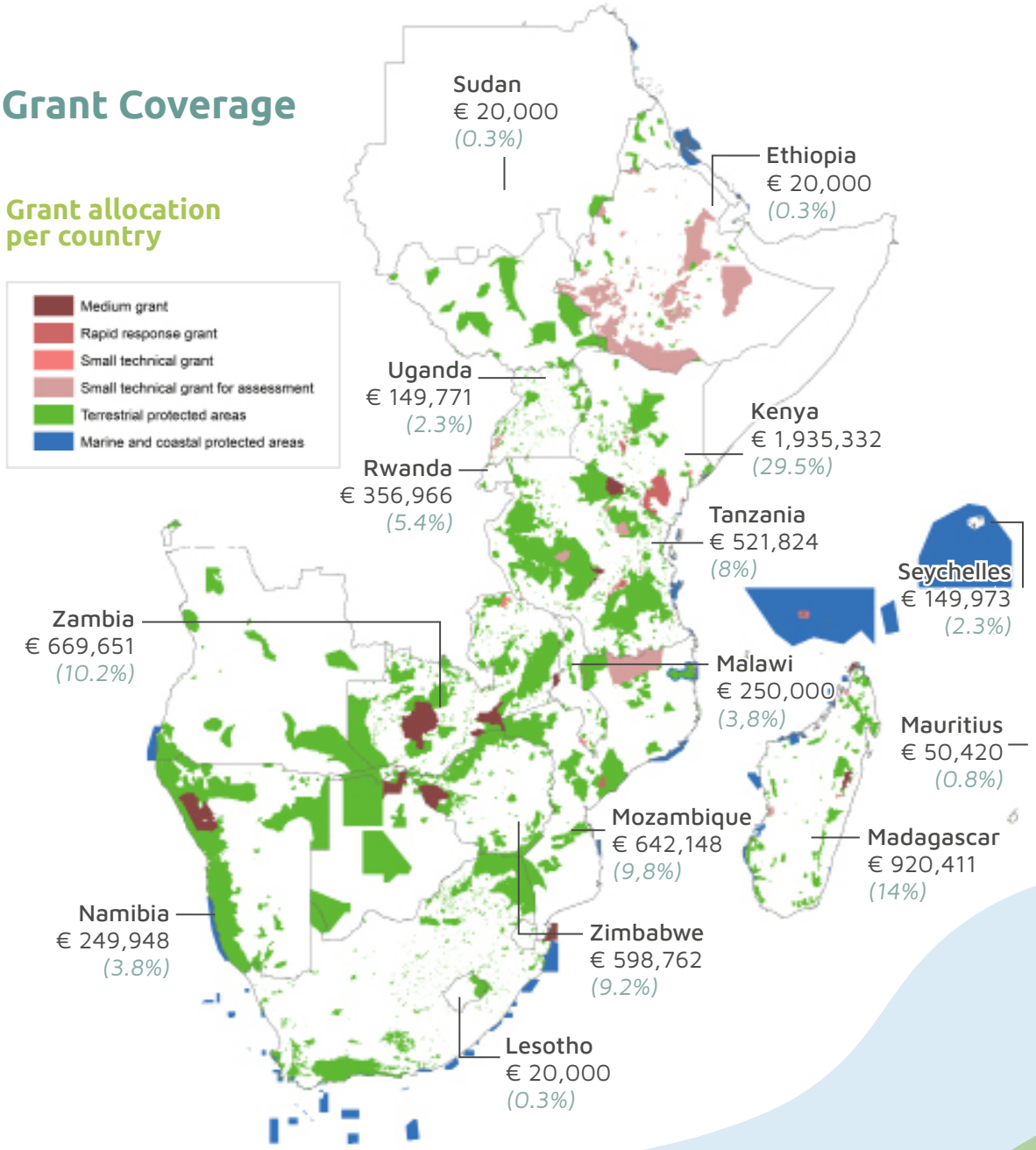
Disbursement rate

€ 3,792,783 *(57,8%)*

Total disbursements at the end of July 2023

Grant Coverage

Grant allocation per country



Beneficiaries

12,445
local communities members involved by the BIOPAMA Action out of which:

5
vulnerable community groups

1,925
youth

1,214
women

15 countries
covered in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)

Improved Governance and Management Effectiveness in 124 Protected and Conserved Areas

For the closed grants BIOPAMA improved Governance and management effectiveness in **124 PCAs** with a total coverage of **210,297 km2**.

With the new medium grants currently under implementation, the initiative is implementing actions in **68 more PCAs** bringing the cumulative total to **192 PCAs**.

1,024
Stakeholders comprising National Agencies, Implementing Partners, and local authorities have been involved in implementing BIOPAMA projects

Target: 1,232

34
Community-Based Organisations (CBO) improved their technical and operational capacities through the intervention.

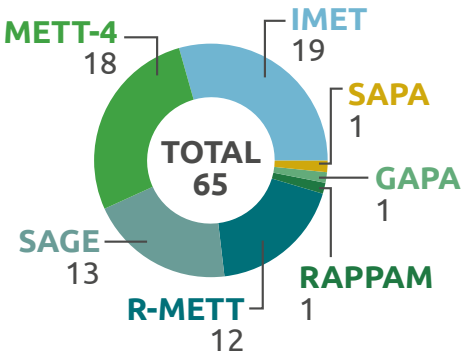
The **CBOs-NGO** partnership built the capacity of the CBOs in project and financial management, reporting, and proposal writing thereby increasing their capability to apply for follow-on grants.

Improved Governance and Management of Protected and Conserved Areas

Assessments of Protected and Conserved Areas

65 PCAs have undertaken management effectiveness and governance assessments using different tools.

PAME & PAGE Assessments



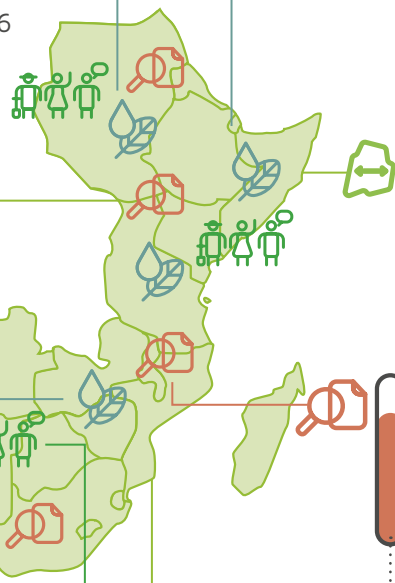
IMET - Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
SAPA - Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas
GAPA - Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas
RAPPAM - Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas
SAGE - Site Level Assessment of Governance and Equity
METT-4 - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
R- METT - Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

124
Improved the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) information and information sharing with Regional Observatory (Regional Resource Hub) and the BIOPAMA Regional information system (RIS)
Target: 126

230,547 km²
Area covered by these PCAs
Target: 230,837

61
PCAs with Improved Participatory Planning and Decision Making
Target: 64

10,937
people ACTIVE actively involved in Participatory planning, decision-making processes, and activities of the PCAs
Target: 43,983



42
PCAs with improved access to Governance and Management Information
Target: 34

48,995 km²
Area with Improved access to Governance and Management Information
Target: 230,837

10
Management plans and Diagnostic tools developed in PCAs
Target: 13

43,943 km²
Area benefiting from the Implementation of the Management plans
Target: 44,218

Key results

Improved Governance and Management of Protected and Conserved Areas

Solution

Site level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) in Makame and Burunge Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) located in the Northern part of Tanzania

Watch the video

Solution

Enhancing Governance and Conservation in biodiversity protected area management

Watch the video

Solution

Assessment of Governance and Equity of Lumo and Satao Elerai Conservancies for improved conservation and development outcomes

Watch the video

Solution

Integration of the Batwa cultural values to save world mountain gorillas at Bwindi using GAPA

Watch the video

Solution

Identifying key biodiversity threats and conservation interventions through management and governance assessment

Watch the video

Solution

Updating the management plan of Mangabe Reserve and assisting local communities through improving infrastructure and facilities

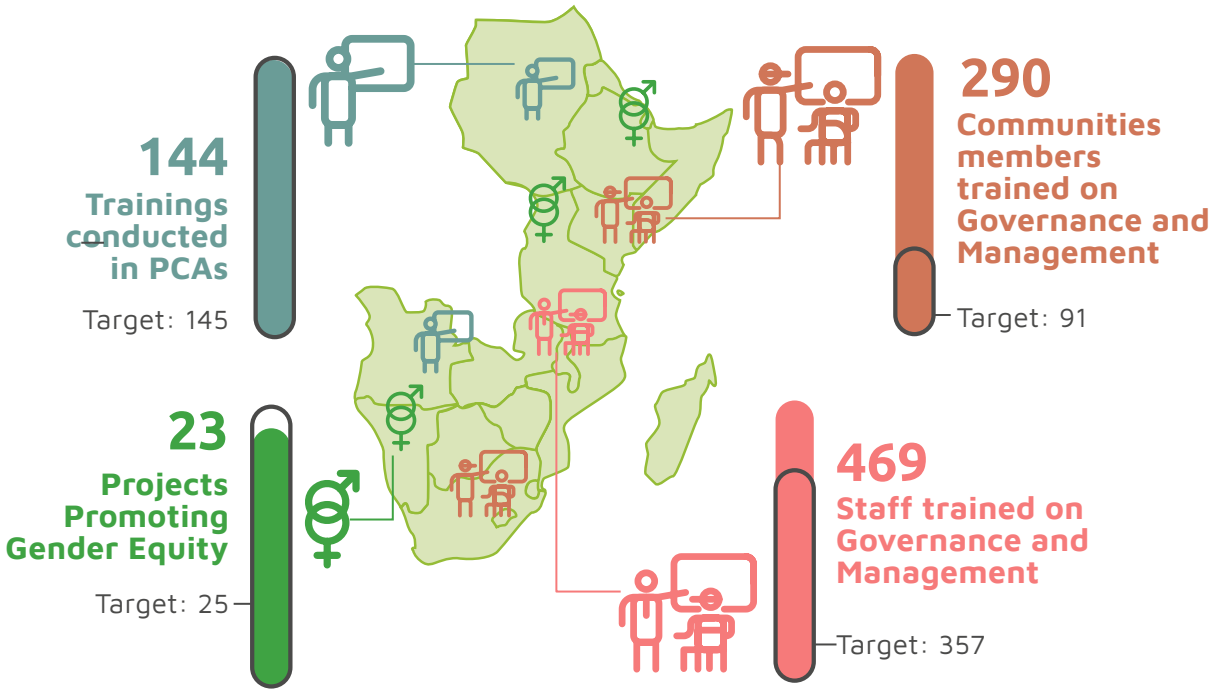
Watch the video

Podcast

Protected Area Management and Governance

In this episode, you will hear insights and learnings on how protected and conserved area teams and partners have improved management and governance in the areas where they work. We will learn what tools they used to assess management effectiveness and governance and if, and how, these assessments supported decision making such as prioritization of key actions to implement in the protected area.

Enhanced Capacities of Actors



Solution

Local communities drive vulture conservation initiative across the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area: a success story of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia

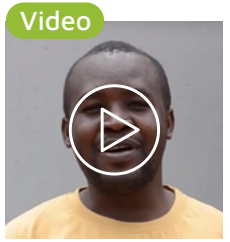
Watch the video

Solution

WIO-COMPAS Assessment: A Mentorship Approach Towards Building MPA Staff Capacity

Watch the video

Video



Mafinga Hills Zambia - IMET Assessment Summary

Key results

Enhanced Social Economic Benefits

4
PCAs with enhanced social economic benefits
Target: 1

427
Communities with enhanced social economic benefits from BIOPAMA
Target: 400

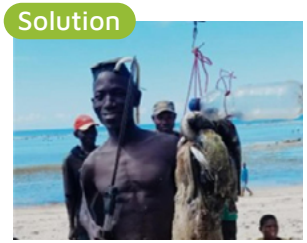
1.218
Number of people with enhanced social economic benefits from BIOPAMA
Target: 1.245

279 women
with enhanced social economic benefits from BIOPAMA
Target: 255

200 youth
with enhanced social economic benefits from BIOPAMA
Target: 255

4,135
Value of the Social Economic Benefits in EUR
Target: 16,322

Solution



Access of vulnerable community members to income generating bivalve aquaculture in northern Mozambique

Solution

Enhancing Community Resilience against the impacts of COVID-19 in the Kamungi Conservancy, Southern Kenya
Watch the video

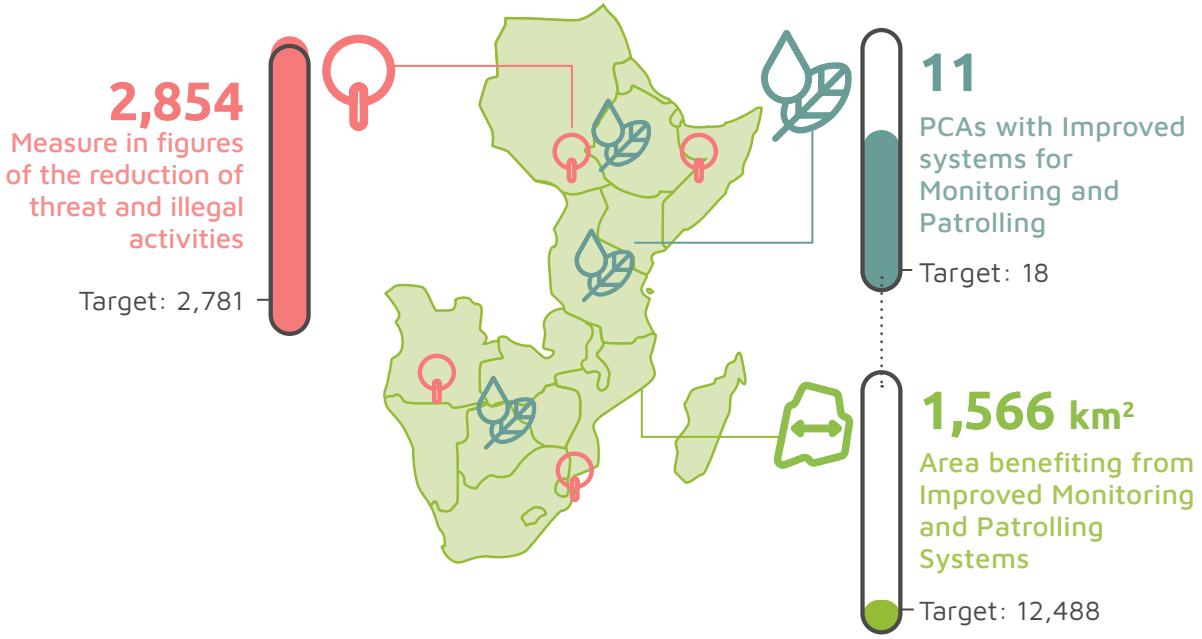
Solution

Eco-Friendly Leather Tanning and Manufacturing as a tool to improve livelihoods for women in pastoral communities of Tanzania and Kenya
Watch the video

Solution

Improving socio-economic livelihoods of local communities to foster wetland restoration/ regeneration and sustainable use of natural resources in Nzuguto community wetland
Watch the video

Improved Systems for Protected and Conserved Areas Monitoring and Patrolling



Solution

Harnessing local knowledge to protect the free roaming black rhinos in the Kunene and Erongo regions of Namibia - let locals fill the boots.

Watch the video

Solution

Protecting Chumbe Island Nature Reserve from increased poaching threats due to COVID-19 pandemic, through re-assignment of local rangers, skills development of youth fishers, and sustaining its conservation activities

Watch the video

Solution

Digitising Data Collection for Enhanced Wildlife Management

Watch the video

Video

Supporting conservation in the Zambezi Delta

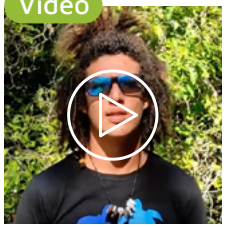
Improved Systems for Protected and Conserved Areas Monitoring and Patrolling

Solution

A lifebelt for Cousin Island Special Reserve MPA

Watch the video

Video



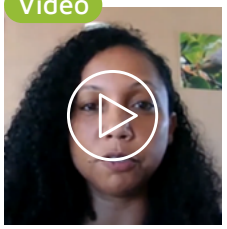
Strengthening biosecurity measures to safeguard Aldabra's unique biodiversity (Seychelles)

Solution

Enhancing effective management and protection of the Uzungwa Scarp Nature Forest Reserve, a threatened tropical biodiversity hotspot in Tanzania

Watch the video

Video



Developing a management plan for Mondrain Reserve (Mauritius)

Podcast

Biodiversity Monitoring and Species Conservation

We'll inform you about biodiversity monitoring and how species conservation interventions are carried out in the field through practical experiences supported by the IUCN programs. We'll showcase examples from different regional contexts and ecosystems while discussing the importance, opportunities, and challenges associated with this key actions to protect our planet.

Challenges & Recommendations

Challenges in Grant Management and Implementation

KEY CHALLENGES	
A. MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT MECHANISM	
Call for Proposals	Unbalanced representation of applicants both in type of organisation (58% by NGOs, 23% by Government Agencies and 19% by others) and geographical distribution
Project design and Grant Application	Incomplete/Ineligible submissions by applicants (50% of draft applications were not submitted)
	High admin burden for short term grants
Contract Agreement	Delayed approvals due to stringent internal controls by IUCN and donor
B. GRANT IMPLEMENTATION	
Inception calls	• Poor attendance of inception calls • Overwhelming amount of administrative/grant management requirements
Activity Implementation	Activity Implementation delays due to: • Administrative delays • COVID-19 restrictions • Natural disasters – droughts, cyclone • Political interference
Finance Management	• Delays in financial disbursement by IUCN • Currency changes resulting in losses • Lack of interpretation of the budget from the grantee team • Low Quality/Incomplete financial report submissions by grantees • No flexibility of modifications of the budget • The procurement policies for grantees do not always align with donor organizations
C. GRANT MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION	
Project Logframe and workplans	Low capacity on log frame and Workplan development
Reporting	Low quality/incomplete report submissions
Communications and visibility	Ineffective Grant Communication

Challenges and recommendations

Recommendations for Grant-Making programs and Grant Projects

The challenges faced during BIOPAMA Action Component implementation from September 2019 to September 2023 were analysed by the programme management team and the grant-recipients alike. These analyses yielded recommendations that will inform prospective grant programmes and will hopefully set the foundation for the design of new grant mechanisms and the implementation of successful projects.

	SHORT TERM - GRANTS FOCUSED	SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM (AID EFFECTIVENESS)	MEDIUM TO LONG TERM (SUSTAINABILITY)
Pre-Award	• Deploy a targeted outreach and visibility during the call for proposals. • Build capacity for applicants on the application guidelines and requirements • Simplify the application processes/requirements for small grants. • Establish Realistic timelines for award phase	Foster cross-project collaboration from the application phase and throughout to ensure geographical coherence, local coordination and enable the conditions to achieve greater impact	Strenghten the nexus and collaboration of AC with the other IUCN grant mechanisms and programs, country offices, members, and commissions for effective grant management
Award	• Clarify to the grantee the need for inclusive attendance during the Project inception calls • Mentoring and capacity development of the grantees along entire grant cycle	• Increased capacity in Grant Management Unit at IUCN to manage the grants- By hiring more personnel to support grants • Agile adaptation of grant implementation to respond to external influences and Risks	Develop, implement, and monitor Key Performance Indicators for effective grant management by the programme team
Grant Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication	• Capacity development of the grantees on M&E, reporting and communications tools (workplans, log frames, reporting templates) • Analyse trends based on issues reported by grants management staff and create training resources • Support grants to develop clear communication and Visibility Plans • Use collaboration tools to solicit and collect feedback from grantees, partners,donors for the improvement of the granting mechanism. (grantees surveys, partners annual surveys, etc) • Organise knowlege and experience sharing platforms for the grantees	• Develop training and guidance vidoes and FAQs for common queries such as grant management system, financial templates, guidelines and make them accessible on the resources portal • Grants to allocate dedicated funds to communications •Negotiate less stringent reporting conditions with the donor to reduce the administrative burden on grantees.	• Develop and implement IUCN Grants Management 5YR strategic plan detailing how to effectively award and manage grants, enhance partnerships and ensure effective oversight and accountability • Effectively incoporate feedback, insights, and best practices from donors, partners, and beneficiaries in the design of IUCN porgrams in the future
Financial Management	• Identify common grant financial audit findings and provide training to applicants and recipients to prevent and mitigate future issues • Support grantees to Idnetify their procurement needs at the beginning of the project and develop individual procurement plans for effective planning and monitoring • The grantees need to set up a team dedicated to financial management, without assigned staff it does not work	• Through tools like Smartsheet and Power BI that allow to visualize financial execution through dashboards, graphics etc. that allow visualization of financial execution, set up dashboards and graphics to assist grantees, IUCN and donor to quickly assess progress	• IUCN and donors to engage on how to simplify financial reporting to ensure maximum efficiency of funds and reportin

BIOPAMA

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