

ANNUAL REPORT

Year

April 2024 - March 2025

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ReGeCom members institutions



Government support



Ministério de Agricultura, Ambiente e Pescas
Direcção Nacional de Terras e Desenvolvimento Territorial



Ministério de Agricultura, Ambiente e Pescas
Direcção Nacional de Florestas



Donors and partners



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Dear colleagues and partners,

It is with great satisfaction that we present ReGeCom's fifth annual report, marking five years since our legal recognition as a national entity. While we remain young and evolving organization, this milestone represents a cycle of continuous effort in promoting community-based natural resource management as a fundamental strategy for conservation and strengthening the livelihoods of the communities who are guardians of these resources.

The 2024/2025 year stood out for significant progress. We expanded our community governance approach to the Magoè National Park landscape and held our VI General Assembly, a key moment to reaffirm the role and commitment of our members. Also noteworthy was the launch of our Strategic Plan, which will guide ReGeCom's actions over the next four years.

Our collaboration with government institutions was remarkable. We worked closely with: (i) National Directorate for Local Economic Development (DNDEL) on the initial design of the National program for Community-Based Natural Resources Management; (ii) National Directorate of Land, on community land use planning and land law revision; (iii) National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), on the ongoing legalization process of Mount Mabu Community Conservation Area and implementation of RiNaWa project; (iv) National Directorate of Forest, on forest policy reform and the organization of the upcoming National conference on Community-Based Forest Management. These partnerships highlight the importance of ongoing cross-sector collaboration – essential to place communities at the center of land and natural resource planning and management.

At the international level, strategic support from Maliasili and the African Nature-Based Tourism (ANBT) platform helped raise ReGeCom's profile beyond Mozambique's borders. We also maintained an active connection with the regional Community Leaders Network (CLN), and through it, the African Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Conservation (AICA).

The achievements presented in this report are the result of the tireless work of technicians from our member organizations – ACEAGRARIOS, RADEZA, AMPDC, and UDS – who played a vital role in facilitating and consolidating community governance systems, along with all members who responded to ReGeCom's various calls to action.

Finally, we recognize that institutional funding constraints continue to limit our growth. As we expand our interventions, it is increasingly urgent to strengthen our monitoring and implementation capacity.

We remain determined and committed.

Warm regards,



José Monteiro
Executive Director



"The year 2024/2025 was marked by the reaffirmation of our members' commitment to ReGeCom's vision and mission, as outlined in its Strategic Plan, as well as by the growing recognition of ReGeCom and its community governance approach on both the national and international stage" - José Monteiro

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



27
Communities



12000
Households
socialized



54 (25 women)
Community
Facilitators



68 people trained on
Human-Wildlife Conflict
Mitigation



1
ReGeCom
General Assembly



Approval and
launch of
Strategic Plan





COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

With 35 community committees established using the community governance approach in the landscapes of Chimanimani National Park, Marromeu National Reserve, Costa dos Elefantes, and the Mount Mabu community forest, ReGeCom dedicated this period, efforts to consolidating community governance systems in the Magoe National Park landscape.

Magoe National Park landscape

Through the facilitation from ACEAGRARIOS (a ReGeCom member), community governance activities in the landscape included: (i) Assessment of community governance systems; (ii) Selection and identification of community facilitators; (iii) Training of community facilitators; and (iv) Community socialization

Assessment of Governance systems

The assessment provided critical insights into the governance context of the communities located within and around Magoe National Park, covering 27 communities—13 classified as second-tier and 14 as third-tier communities. Findings revealed that land delimitation processes in these communities were mostly carried out at the regulado (traditional authority) level, and many of these processes remain incomplete. Additionally, approximately 64% of the communities visited reported not being involved in local decision-making processes, highlighting significant governance gaps and the need for inclusive approaches to strengthen community participation processes.

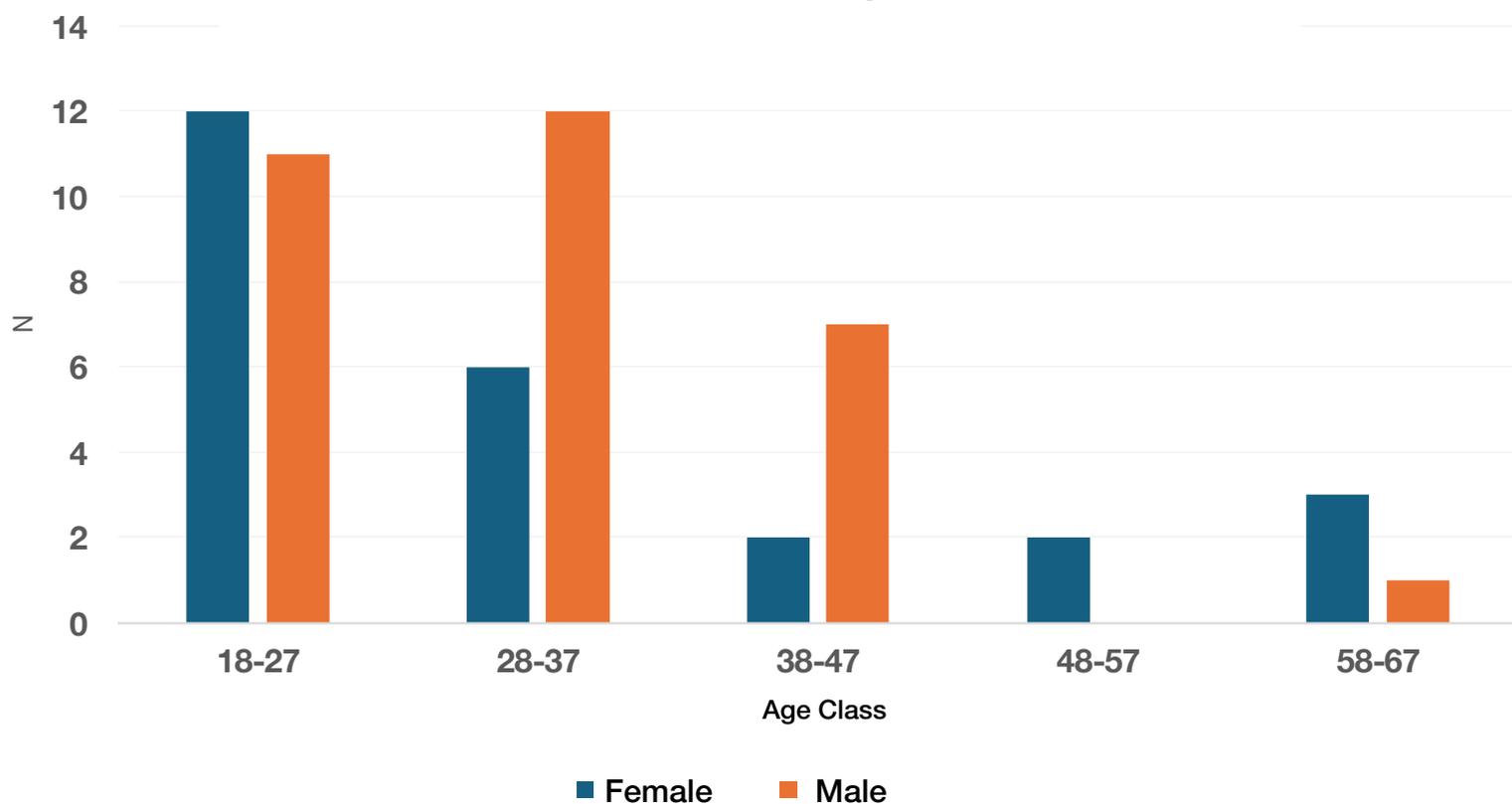


Selection of Community facilitators

In a participatory process across 27 communities, a total of 54 community facilitators were selected, including 25 women. The selection process involved publicizing the facilitator profile and clearly outlining their roles and responsibilities in supporting the consolidation of community governance systems. Most of the selected facilitators are young people, as illustrated in the age distribution chart. The selection process engaged a total of 2,949 community members, including 1,667 women, demonstrating strong community involvement and inclusivity in decision-making.



Community Facilitators - Age Distribution





Training of community facilitators

The training of community facilitators was conducted in two distinct phases:

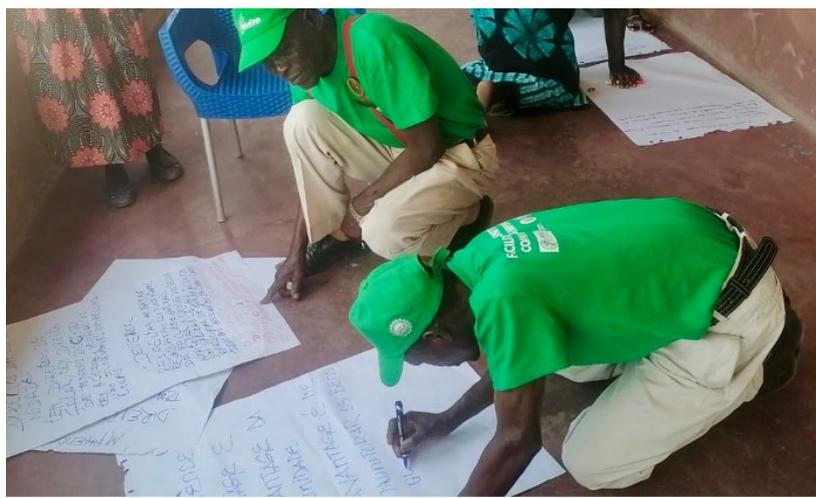
The first phase took place in Chitima Town, Cahora Bassa District, from July 22 to 25, 2024, with the participation of 85 individuals (58 men and 27 women). Participants included four ReGeCom technical staff responsible for the community governance intervention in Magoe National Park, 54 pre-selected community facilitators, and 25 community leaders from various localities.

The second phase, focused on consolidating knowledge—especially considering the literacy levels of some facilitators—was held at the local station level, from August 12 to 17, 2024. This phase involved 2 staff members from Magoe National Park (1 woman), 4 ReGeCom staff members (1 woman), and the 54 community facilitators (25 women), totaling 60 participants. The training lasted three consecutive days per station.

Training modules included: (i) **Concepts of community governance and principles of good governance**, (ii) **Community Governance approach**; e (iii) **Community socialization and establishment of community committees**

We used to think that it was normal for communities not to participate in decision-making... just to obey the leader's orders... but this knowledge is opening our minds

Fernando Brumo
Community Facilitator
Daque Sede Community



Community socialization

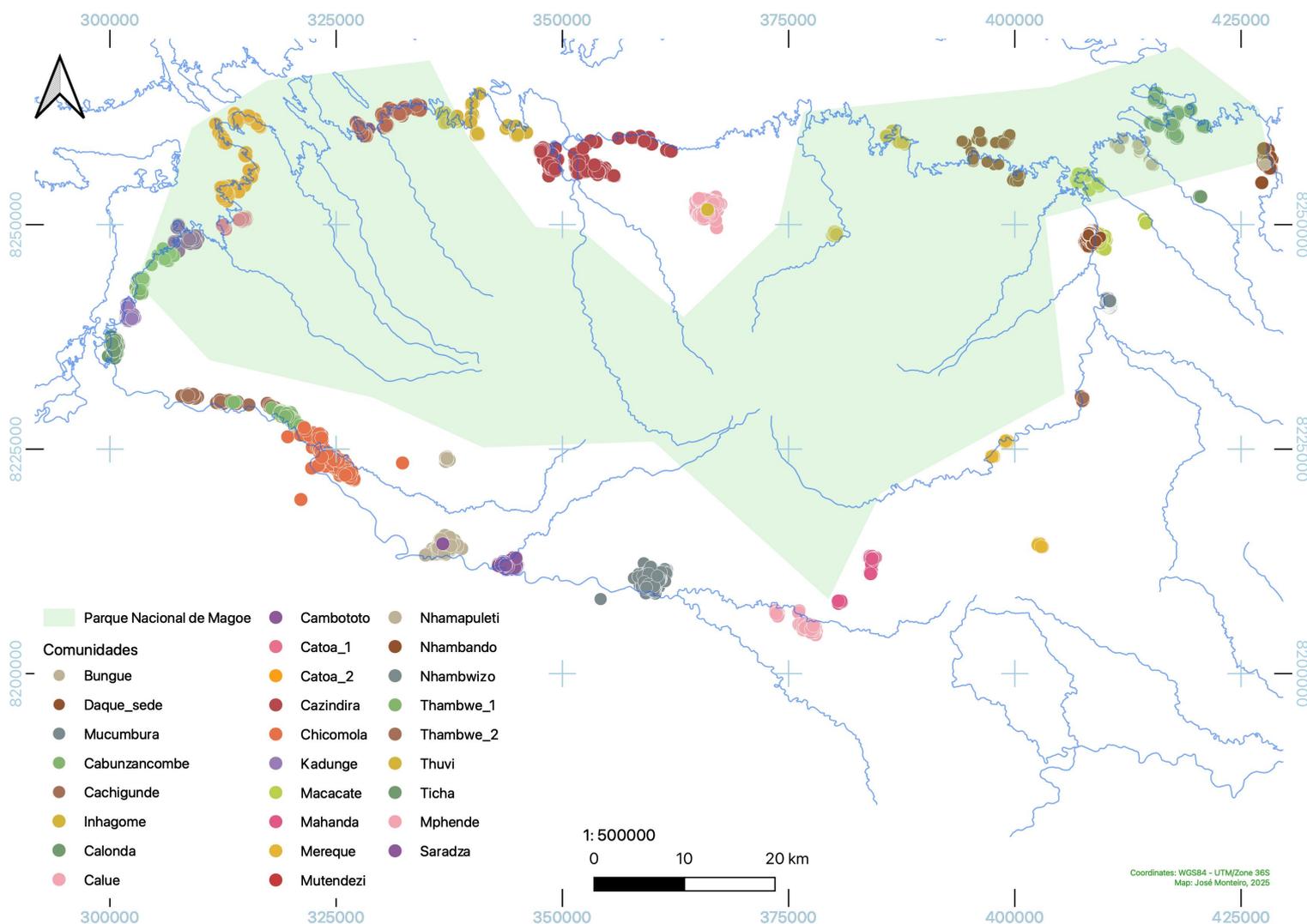
Community socialization is a critical phase in the consolidation of community governance systems. Trained facilitators were provided with a kit, which including mobile phones, governance materials, and tablets, to support this process. The outreach involved visiting all local households and community clusters to disseminate key messages on community governance, ensuring broad awareness, participation, and local ownership of the governance approach.



12000
Households
socialized



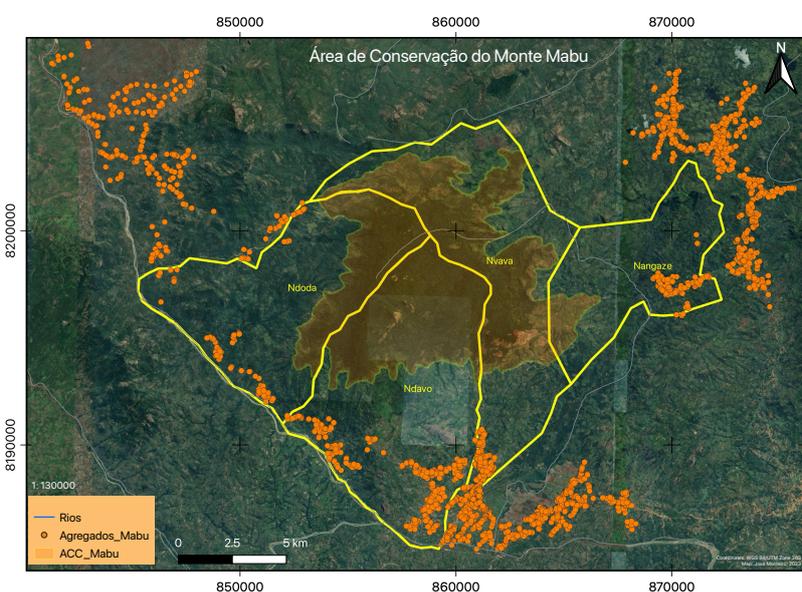
27
Communities



Mount Mabu landscape

In a milestone moment, the President of the Conserva Mabu Association formally submitted the legalization process for the Mount Mabu Community Conservation Area on August 19, to the Deputy National Director of ANAC. The event was attended by Judite Filipe, District Administrator of Lugela, members of the implementing consortium (ReGeCom, RADEZA, and WWF), ANAC, and BioFund—the entity managing project funding under the PROMOVE program, financed by the European Union.

In parallel, the landscape also saw the initiation of a community ecotourism program design process, which involved prioritizing key points of interest and shaping a shared vision for ecotourism development in Mount Mabu. ReGeCom's activities in the Mount Mabu landscape are funded by Rainforest Trust.





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RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Human-wildlife conflict in MNP

Climate change, population growth, and habitat loss are fueling Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) in many parts of Africa, posing challenges to peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife.

This is a daily reality for communities inside and around Mago National Park, an area rich in biodiversity. Human-Wildlife Conflicts leads to significant losses for both humans and wildlife, threatening food security, disrupting local economies, and undermining conservation efforts. Currently, drought and declining water sources are the

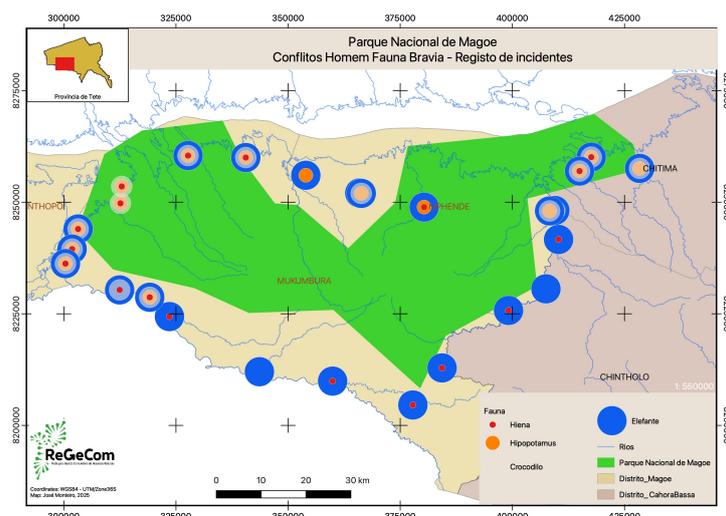
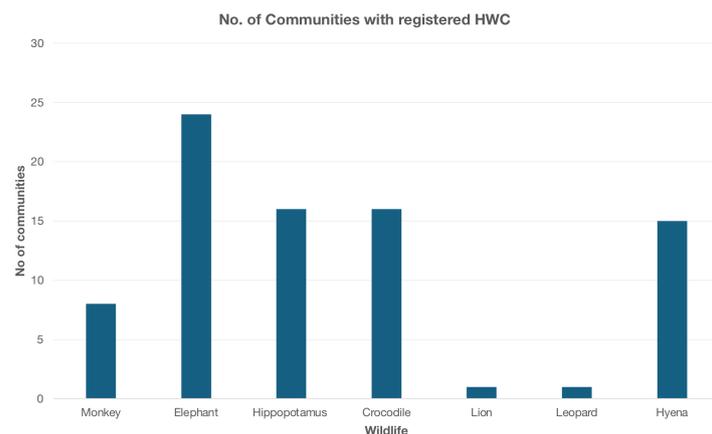
main conflict drivers, as both humans and wildlife compete for limited water.

How can wildlife in Mago National Park become a source of prosperity, rather than conflict, for local communities?

Achieving peaceful coexistence is a growing challenge, but also an opportunity. It requires planning and innovative solutions. ReGeCom is working closely with the Mago National Park team to create enabling conditions for communities and wildlife to thrive together.

Part of these solutions includes: (i) securing community land rights; (ii) Consolidating community governance systems; (iii) Developing community level land use plans to better manage land and natural resources.

These efforts should be paired with integrated, multi-dimensional economic opportunities aligned with local development goals and conservation outcomes.





INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VI General Assembly

A (ReGeCom began its fiscal year with the VI Ordinary General Assembly, held in person with almost 100% participation from its members. In addition to approving activity reports and the 2024/2025 action plan, the Assembly reaffirmed the collective commitment to promoting community-based natural resource management in Mozambique.



Review of the Community Governance Guideline

The Assembly served as an important moment to bring together technical staff from ReGeCom member institutions who have been actively engaged in implementing the community governance approach across key landscapes—namely Chimanimani National Park, Maputo National Park (Elephant Coast), Marromeu Reserve, and the Mount Mabu landscape. Facilitated by Cremildo Armando (RARE) and Tiago Luís (National Directorate of Local Economic Development – DNDEL), the session included a review of the Community Governance Guideline, integrating insights and lessons learned from field experiences in these landscapes where ReGeCom has been implementing its projects.



Launch of the Strategic Plan

With support from African Nature Based Tourism (ANBT) and Maliasili, ReGeCom launched its strategic plan for the period of 2024/2028, on August 2024, in Maputo. The plan focus on three strategic objectives: (i) Build and consolidate strong, representative, and effective community-based institutions; (ii) Develop tools and data resources to support community-based natural resource management; (iii) Strengthen the ReGeCom member network for collective impact.

The launch event brought together representatives from communities, government (notably the National Director of Forests, officials from National Directorate of Rural Development, and National Administration for Conservation Areas), administrators of Chimanimani and Magoe National Parks, the District Administrator of Lugela, donors, and NGO representatives.

Vision:

Communities in Mozambique lead sustainable land and natural resource management, based on improved community governance models

Mission:

To lead the effective development of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Mozambique



Hiring of communication officer

ReGeCom's Executive board has welcomed Celta de Vaz to its staff as the new Communications Officer. With this addition, ReGeCom aims not only to strengthen the visibility and clarity of its community governance approach, but also to amplify the voices of local communities and their members in the ongoing effort to consolidate community-based natural resource management.



Synergies and Partnerships

Collaboration in implementing RiNaWa project

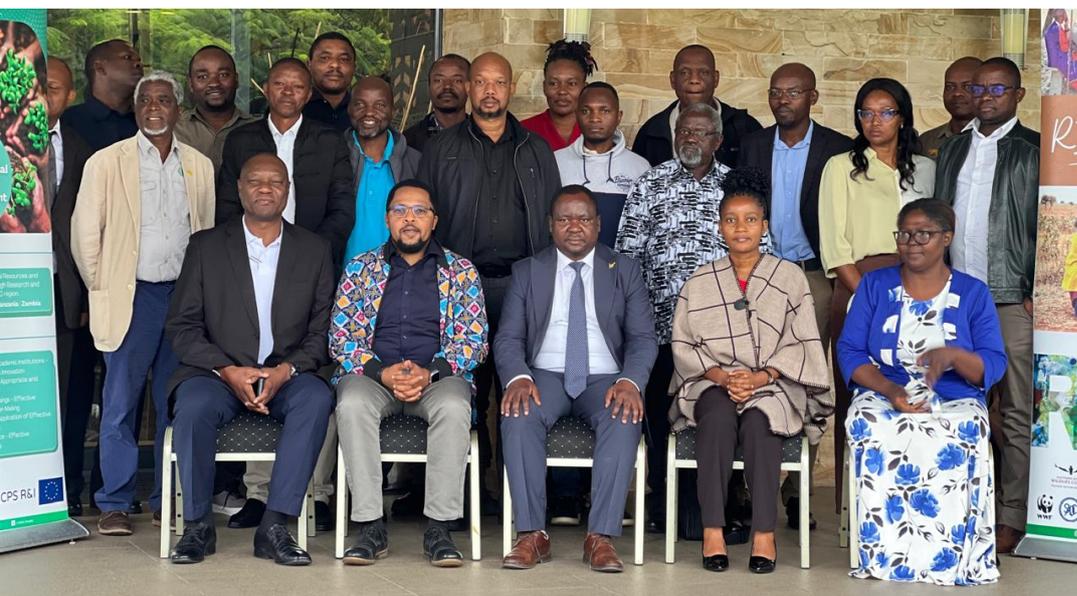
ReGeCom is a collaborating partner in the implementation of the SADC RiNaWa project, which aims to improve solid waste management and promote the sustainable management of natural resources across Southern African countries.

Artur Afonso (UniRovuma), a member of ReGeCom, serves as the organization's focal point for the project and participated in the project proposal development meeting held in Tanzania.

In alignment with RiNaWa's strategic goals, ReGeCom is proposing a pilot project to apply its Community Governance methodology to strengthen community institutions in Mozambique's coastal region.

Additionally, a second pilot project focused on solid waste management is being

proposed, with implementation to be led by a partner organization, REPENSAR, contributing to integrated environmental governance and sustainability efforts in the region.



National Program for Community-Based Natural Resources Management



Under the leadership of the National Directorate for Local Economic Development (DNDEL) and in collaboration with UN-DESA, ReGeCom participated in the program development meeting for the National Community-Based Natural Resource Management Program, held in Ponta de Ouro, Maputo Province.

The meeting brought together various stakeholders — government entities, civil society, and NGOs — to identify key

barriers and opportunities for implementing the national program. The aim of having a national CBNRM program is to lead the development of national policy that aim to integrate CBNRM as a national economic agenda.

Collaboration with MWA: HWC mitigation

In collaboration with the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance and Magoe National Park, ReGeCom launched efforts to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts in communities surrounding the park.

This collaboration resulted in a training session facilitated by MWA, from March 25th to 28th, which engaged 63 men and 22 women, including park rangers, community leaders, selected community facilitators, ReGeCom technical team. The training covered theoretical concepts of HWC and included practical mitigation exercises — even applying techniques during a real elephant incursion.

ReGeCom aims to continue investing in solutions for HWC that support local communities.



Training on economic assessment of tourism projects



With support from ANBT and Maliasili, four ReGeCom stakeholders — Marcelino Botão (ACEAGRARIOS), Vitalina Temporário (UCM-FAGREFF), Arlete Macuacua (ANAC), and José Monteiro — participated in an online training hosted by Conservation Strategy Fund between May 7 and June 27, 2024. The training focused on economic analysis of nature-based tourism projects and strengthens ReGeCom’s capacity to evaluate and support community ecotourism, particularly for the Mount Mabu initiative.

Executive Director benefit from Mulago Fellowship

ReGeCom’s Executive Director, José Monteiro, received the 2024 Henry Arnhold Fellowship from the Mulago Foundation — awarded to nonprofit leaders with “big ideas and the grit to make them happen. The Mulago Foundation Identifies and funds high-performing individuals, aiming to strengthen organizations capable of driving change and providing them with the support they need to do so. The fellowship is accompanied by a \$100,000 grant to ReGeCom.

José Monteiro joins an impressive group of 2024 Mulago Fellows, each dedicated to addressing climate and conservation challenges through scalable solutions. Among the fellows is Jade Saunders, from World Forest ID, Solange Bandiaky-Badji, from Rights and Resources, Bustar Maitar, from Fundação EcoNusa, Ines Serra Baucells from BIOSORRA, Dickson Kaelo from Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, Peter Bosip from Centre for Environmental Law & Community Rights and Shantanu Agarwal from Mati Carbon. Each of these individuals has demonstrated exceptional dedication and ingenuity in tackling some of the world’s most pressing environmental issues.

Along with the fellowship came an invitation to participate in the Design for Impact at Scale workshop, held in Morocco from August 24–30. Unfortunately, due to delays from the Moroccan embassy in issue the visa, José Monteiro was unable to attend the training, leaving the opportunity open for 2025.



MULAGO

Events

Exchange visit: Inclusive Conservation Initiative

Responding to an invitation from the Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), ReGeCom—represented by one of its members, Calisto Ribeiro, from the Mozambican Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AMDER)—participated in the Partner Learning Exchange of the Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) in Africa, held from August 4 to 9 in Tanzania. This exchange aimed primarily to strengthen the efforts of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in land and natural resource management, contributing to global biodiversity conservation.

The event brought together several organizations, including Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), National Alliance for Support and Promotion of Community Areas (ANAPAC), IMPACT-Kenya, ANAPAC-DRC, AICA-Nigeria, and ICCA-Benin. ReGeCom’s community governance approach was highlighted as an inspiring model, as it enables the involvement of multiple actors—such as local communities, civil society organizations, academia, and government—in implementing community-based natural resource management initiatives.



Webinar: Co-creation Sustainable enterprises

Invited by RAMO and GrouDD, ReGeCom participated in a webinar on December 10, 2024, focused on the co-creation of sustainable enterprises. During the event, ReGeCom shared experiences on community governance and how this approach can support the establishment of community-based enterprises. The webinar also served as an opportunity to learn more about the CERS approach developed by GrouDD, which is designed to assess the viability and sustainability of Community Conservation Enterprises. It provided a space for exchanging experiences with Linet Misiko from KWCA, Hina West from People and Planet First, and Marisa Rodrigues from GrouDD.

WEBINAR: Co-Creating Sustainable Enterprises



Moderator
Matthew Jordan
RAMO.EARTH



Speaker
Linet Misiko
Kenya Wildlife
Conservancies Association



Speaker
Hina West
People and Planet First
Ex-WWF



Speaker
José Monteiro
ReGeCom



Speaker
Marisa Rodrigues
GROUNDD







Participation in New York Climate Week

With support from African Nature-Based Tourism and Maliasili, José Monteiro, Executive Director of ReGeCom, participated in New York Climate Week from September 22 to 29, 2024.

Three key moments stood out during the week:

- **Conservation Champions Are Climate Champions**, organized by Maliasili, where ReGeCom's results and impact were presented;
- **From Pledges to Practices**, co-hosted by Maliasili and Synchronicity Earth, which focused on the urgent need to channel funds directly to local organizations and communities;
- **Championing African Local Conservation**, organized by WWF-US, GEF, and African Nature-Based Tourism, and facilitated by Nikhil Advani. At this event, ReGeCom emphasized the importance of community governance—including participatory land-use planning—as a key approach to strengthen climate adaptation interventions and contribute to ecosystem-based mitigation efforts. José Monteiro spoke on a panel alongside Nick McLeod from the ESR, and Linet Misiko from KWCA. The event can be viewed here: [Watch the event](#).



The week also provided an opportunity for meetings with partners, including a discussion with Caleb McClennen, President of RARE, who praised ReGeCom's work and its membership in the network. Bilateral meetings were also held with potential partners such as WinRock International, Legado, World Resources Institute, and Conservation Metrics.



Wildlife Conservation Forum

ReGeCom, represented by Cremildo Armando (RARE), participated as a member of the CLN in the Wildlife Conservation Forum held in Cape Town from October 25 to November 2, 2024. During the forum, ReGeCom had the opportunity to present its vision, objectives, and strategic approach, as outlined in the ReGeCom Strategy launched in August 2024. The presentation highlighted a case study on the Mulela community hunting block, located near Gilé National Park, which currently has no active investor. One of the key recommendations emerging from the discussion was the need for ReGeCom to engage with the Mozambican Association of Hunting Operators, in order to support the development and consolidation of community governance systems around hunting concessions areas.



Southern Africa Mountains Conference

As part of the Southern African Mountain Conference, held in KwaZulu-Natal from March 17 to 21, 2025, ReGeCom presented its ongoing work in Mount Mabu and the collective efforts to designate it as a Community Conservation Area. The presentation is available through this [link](#).

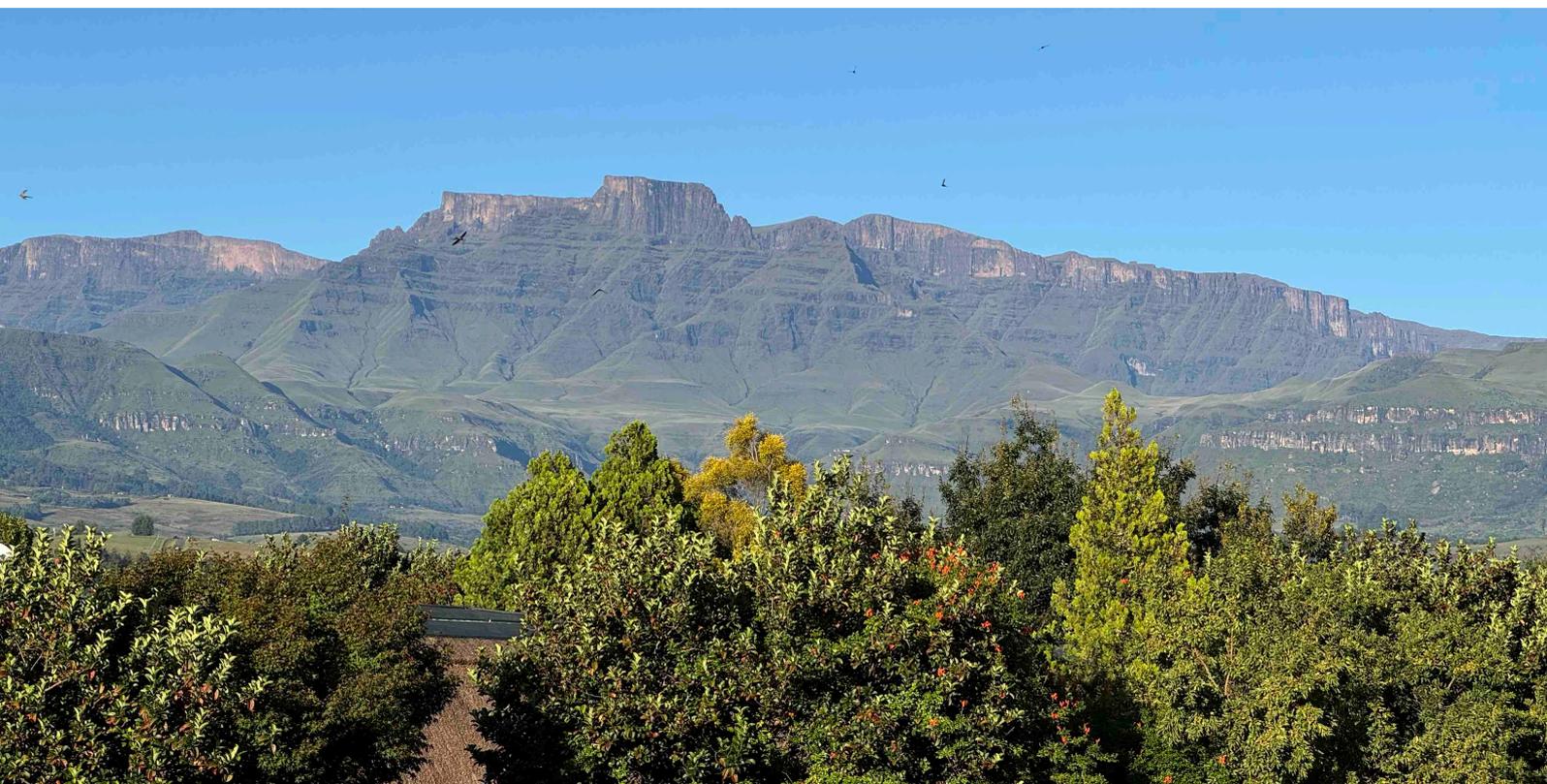


During the event, details were also shared about the South East Africa Montane Archipelago (SEAMA) Ecoregion, as outlined in this article ([link](#)), with a presentation delivered by Julian Bayliss, ReGeCom's technical advisor for the Mount Mabu project.

In addition to ReGeCom, the Mozambican delegation included representatives from BioFund, ANAC, Chimanimani National Park, Gorongosa National Park, and WWF. The event provided an important platform to

showcase ReGeCom's governance approach and to build and strengthen partnerships with regional organizations such as ERS and SADC.

The conference also marked the beginning of discussions around a potential initiative focused on the conservation and management of Mozambique's mountain ecosystems, with particular attention to the country's major water towers. This initiative is still under development, and further details will be shared throughout the year.





FINANCIAL REPORT

During the fiscal year from April 2024 to March 2025, ReGeCom received a total of 20,396,899.22 Meticaais in funding from Rainforest Trust, BioFund, and the African Nature-Based Tourism Platform (ANBT). Expenditures for the 2024/2025 year amounted to 26,712,038.27 Meticaais, of which 47% was allocated to project implementation and 49% to operational costs. Of the operational expenses, 60% covered personnel costs, while the remaining 40% supported other core functions of ReGeCom, including the launch of its Strategic Plan and the organization of the General Assembly. The lack of dedicated funding for core operations has been a key constraint in ReGeCom’s ability to execute and allocate financial resources effectively. During the reporting period, ReGeCom also completed its second financial audit—covering the 2023/2024 period—which was conducted by the firm Nexia Mozambique.





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges

- **Core funding for ReGeCom's operations.** ReGeCom currently lacks dedicated funding for its core operations, relying instead on management costs linked to project implementation. This funding model poses limitations on institutional effectiveness and long-term planning. Securing dedicated operational funds would significantly enhance ReGeCom's capacity to scale its impact. It would allow for the strengthening of its leadership team—particularly important at this stage, as ReGeCom expands its interventions across additional landscapes. Core funding would also support strategic coordination, partnership development, and continuous innovation in community governance for conservation.

Opportunities

- **Scaling Up the Community Governance Approach Around Conservation Areas.** Community governance challenges are widespread across Mozambique. However, conservation areas represent ReGeCom's primary intervention focus, as they are home to some of the country's most critical natural resources. ReGeCom sees a major opportunity in the implementation of ANAC's Community Development Plan to expand the establishment of community governance systems around conservation areas, with particular emphasis on hunting concessions.
- **Direct Funding to Communities with Governance Systems.** With community committees already established, ReGeCom aims to develop comprehensive profiles of communities that have functioning governance systems. These profiles will help increase their visibility and credibility, positioning them to access direct funding and attract partnerships with private sector actors interested in investing in community-driven conservation and development initiatives.

