

## BOX 1. MozAzul: Mozambique's Sustainable Blue Economy Development

Mozambique is largely dependent on the sustainable development of its ocean economy. The waters of this Indian Ocean country are exceptionally rich in marine biodiversity, and it depends heavily on access to the ocean for its economic activity. The fisheries sector represents two percent of its GDP and more than 400,000 of its citizens are directly involved in it. The country has a high potential for tourism, but it has only been partially tapped so far. Mozambique is also particularly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events.

With support from PROBLUE, the World Bank has been working with the government of Mozambique to strengthen the knowledge base that can inform its development of a sustainable blue economy. The MozAzul cross-pillar initiative works with fisheries; on issues of plastics pollution; and also on strengthening the government's capacity to manage its marine resources sustainably. The task team is working toward more sustainable blue economy investments by supporting improved data, producing recommendations on investments and policy changes, strengthening capacity in the blue economy, and developing an enabling environment for blue innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Under Pillar 1**, work is being conducted with the government of Mozambique on an assessment of public expenditures and sustainable private sector development in fisheries. This assessment will enable the highlighting of priority areas for reform for policymakers, and will help in setting the agenda for the next phases of budgetary planning.

**Under Pillar 2**, PROBLUE is supporting assessments feeding into the Government's national action plan to combat marine litter, currently under development. The analytical work is geared toward filling knowledge and data gaps concerning plastic pollution. This will include i) a marine litter and plastic footprint analysis; ii) a policy gap and stakeholder analysis; and iii) an assessment of opportunities for a circular economy, and iv) the development of a plastic social innovation process.

**Pillar 4** is aimed at identifying pathways for Mozambique to develop its blue economy, including through: i) supporting the development of core operating principles and an action plan for the Proazul Fund; ii) assessing a variety of financing mechanisms that could contribute to a blue economy in Mozambique; and iii) strengthening regional collaboration within the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) region, including through knowledge exchanges.

Findings from MozAzul will feed into Mozambique's marine spatial planning and agrarian sector development planning initiatives, among other ongoing strategic planning processes.

The MozAzul project has been coordinating with stakeholders to achieve a common goal for a blue economy. It has seen close collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on plastics, added value to other investments, like the implementation of SWIOFish in Mozambique, and is feeding into the development of two new World Bank investments projects.

Mozambique / Mais Peixe / Government of Mozambique

