



# MONITORING, TAGGING AND CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES IN MOZAMBIQUE: ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Edited and Compiled by

Eduardo J S Videira, Marcos A M Pereira & Cristina M M Louro



MOÇAMBIQUE



WHITE PEARL

PONTA MAMOLI  
MOZAMBIQUE



MACHANGULO SA -  
PANORAMA  
INVESTIMENTOS, SARL



Original é sempre melhor.



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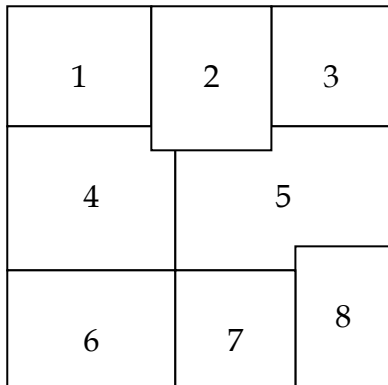
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Cover and back cover: concept and graphic design by Marcos A M Pereira.



1 - Pre-season training of turtle monitors. Ponta Milibangalala, September 2010 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

2 - Deployment of temperature logger. Ponta do Ouro, February 2011 (Photo: Eduardo J S Videira).

3 - Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) underwater. Ponta Malongane, February 2011 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

4 - Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) underwater. Ponta do Ouro, January 2011 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

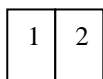
5 - Nesting loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). Ponta do Ouro, November 2010 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

6 - Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) heading back to sea after nesting. Ponta do Ouro, November 2010 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

7 - Pre-season training of turtle monitors. Praia da Rocha - Inhambane, November 2010 (Photo: Anna Westling).

8 - Juvenile green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), rescued and released. Ponta Goméni, April 2011 (Photo: Marcos A M Pereira).

## Back cover:



1 - Xai-Xai monitors showing a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) carapace, which stranded in Chongoene already dead. Xai-Xai, February 2011. (Photo: Eduardo J S Videira).

2 - Carapace of a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) killed with a speargun at Macanza beach. Závora, February, 2011 (Photo: Eduardo J S Videira).

*The opinions, positions and points of view expressed in this document, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the governmental institutions, private sector or civil society which contributed to the production of this document.*

Maputo, July 2011

## **S**ummary

This report is the fourth in the series of annual reports on “Monitoring, tagging and conservation of marine turtles in Mozambique”. It refers to the 2010/11 nesting season, whereas for the southern part of the country it includes the period from October 2010 to March 2011, and the whole 2010 year for northern Mozambique.

A total of 980 marine turtle nests were recorded in the 2010/11 nesting season. About 72% of these were laid in the area between Ponta do Ouro and Inhaca Island (nests laid by *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*) and about 18% in Vamizi and Rongui islands (nests laid by *Chelonia mydas* only). These two stretches of coastline, continue to demonstrate a relatively high importance as nesting sites for marine turtles in Mozambique.

As usual, *Caretta caretta* (loggerhead) was the dominant in terms of nests laid (701 nests) and was followed by *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle, 185) and *Dermochelys coriacea* (leatherback, 56). The area between Ponta do Ouro and Inhaca Island, which was entirely covered this year, proved again to be very important for *C. caretta* and *D. coriacea* (665 and 41 nests, respectively), while Vamizi and Rongui islands did the same for green turtles (178 nests).

Once more, the monitoring of eggs and hatchlings is facing difficulties in its implementation and is not functioning properly. Therefore, it was not included in the present report; however it will be included as soon as improvements are achieved.

In the past season, 180 marine turtles were tagged, about 82% of which in Matutuíne (between Ponta do Ouro and Santa Maria). *C. caretta* was the most tagged species (75%), followed by *C. mydas* (18%). In this season, tagging was initiated in the area between Ponta Mucombo and Santa Maria. The tagging programs with higher consistency continue to be those in Ponta do Ouro – Ponta Malongane, Ponta Malongane – Dobela, and Vamizi and Rongui islands.

The killings of marine turtles and egg collection continues, still, to be frequently reported. In the past season, 59 turtles were killed by fishermen or on the beach whilst nesting and 7 nests were raided. These figures provided an idea of the extension of these illegalities along the coast, despite the fact that these numbers are, obviously, inferior to the real figures. It occurs throughout the coast, however and from the records, some areas are a matter of concern such as the beaches around Inhambane, Primeiras and Segundas Archipelago and Macaneta beach, located so close to Maputo. These areas are, notwithstanding their ecological importance for marine turtles, very important for the tourism industry. It should be highlighted that not a single case of turtle killing was recorded at the recently proclaimed Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, which could be the result of the excellent protection and patrolling effort in this area. A high number of nests were destroyed by natural causes (especially inundation by the sea), this occurring particularly on islands, attaining worrying figures in the northern part of the country (Primeiras and Segundas and Vamizi/Rongui).

One of the most important aspects of this program is the involvement of local communities living in the areas where such programs are running, from which the monitors are hired (in the majority of the areas). These monitors perform the tasks of monitoring and protection of females and nests throughout the season. However, this constitutes an enormous challenge due

to the low literacy levels of the majority of monitors as well as their drop-out rate (especially between seasons). These are later translated into the quality of the data collected. Nevertheless, encouraging cases of highly motivated and interested monitors exist, which have accumulated relevant experience with their involvement with the program over the last three years.

Lastly, we need to emphasize the need to secure financial support which is deemed fundamental for the running of this monitoring and conservation program in Mozambique. It is believed that further support should be provided by the national private sector, pioneered by good examples of companies (mainly in the tourism industry) that are already successfully supporting the monitoring program in a few areas.

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## Introduction

Five species of marine turtles occur and nest along the Mozambican coast. All of them are threatened worldwide and have been protected in Mozambique for over 45 years. Nonetheless, the mortality of nesting turtles or those caught at sea, and the collection of eggs is common, widespread and goes unpunished throughout the coast (Louro *et al.*, 2006; Videira *et al.*, 2008, Pereira *et al.*, 2009, Videira *et al.*, 2010).

On the other side, the knowledge regarding biological aspects such as the distribution, feeding and nesting areas of marine turtles in Mozambique is scarce. This in turn, hinders the implementation of protection and conservation measures for these species.

In this report, the data on the monitoring, tagging and mortalities of marine turtles recorded in the 2010/11 season is presented. As in the previous seasons (Videira *et al.*, 2008, Pereira *et al.*, 2009, Videira *et al.*, 2010), the data are presented in table format for an easy interpretation. These, however, must be interpreted and analysed *a posteriori* with caution. The data presented were extracted “as is” from the available sources, and errors might occur in the data series, beyond the editors’ control.

## Methodology

In all areas the monitoring programs followed, in general, a similar methodology: on-foot night or day patrols covering about 5-7 km per monitor. Table 1 shows the monitoring period and methods per area covered. Videira *et al.* (2008) provided more details on the methodology. Matutuine’s east coast was entirely covered for the first time this year, and Závora and Tofo were extended. In total, 308 km (~11% of the country’s coastline) were covered.

**Table 1.** Methods and monitoring period per monitoring area.

Area	Method	Km of beach monitored	Monitoring period
Ponta do Ouro	On foot patrol	8	31 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Malongane - Dobela	Vehicle patrol	32	24 Nov 10 - 6 Jan 11
	On foot patrol		1 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Dobela - Mucombo	On foot patrol	30	1 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Mucombo – Sta Maria	On foot patrol	20	30 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Inhaca	On foot patrol	12	Dec 10 – Feb 11
Macaneta	On foot patrol	15	15 Oct 10 – 15 Feb 11
Manhiça	On foot and vehicle patrol	15	15 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Bilene	On foot patrol	10	1 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Xai-Xai	On foot patrol	10	15 Oct 10 – 15 Feb 11
Zavala	On foot patrol	20	17 Nov 10 – Feb 11
Závora - Macanza	On foot patrol	20	15 Nov 10 – 15 Feb 11
Tofo (Barra – Praia da Rocha)	On foot patrol	15	15 Nov 10 – 31 Mar 11
São Sebastião	On foot patrol	15	1 Nov 10 -28 Feb 11
PNA Bazaruto	On foot patrol	50	1 Oct 10 – 31 Mar 11
Primeiras e Segundas	On foot patrol	2	1 Jan 10 – 31 Dec 10
PN Quirimbas	On foot patrol	22	1 Jan 10 – 26 Jun 10
Vamizi/Rongui	On foot patrol	12	1 Jan 10 – 31 Dec 10

**Table 2.** Marine turtle emergencies per species per area (NI = not identified).

Area	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	NI	Total
Ponta do Ouro	59	-	2	-	-	-	61
Malongane - Dobela	735	-	35	-	-	1	771
Dobela - Mucombo	441	-	10	-	-	-	451
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	256	-	13	-	-	-	269
Inhaca	21	-	1	-	-	-	22
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Manhiça	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bilene	7	-	8	-	-	-	15
Xai-Xai	5	-	2	-	-	-	7
Zavala	14	-	6	-	-	1	21
Závora - Macanza	6	-	1	-	-	-	7
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
São Sebastião	5	-	1	-	-	3	9
PNA Bazaruto	3	3	2	-	-	-	8
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	29	29
P N Quirimbas	-	5	-	1	-	4	10
Vamizi/Rongui	-	178	-	-	-	-	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>1559</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1869</b>

**Table 3.** Number of nest per species per area (NI= not identified).

Area	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	NI	Total
Ponta do Ouro	43	-	2	-	-	-	45
Malongane - Dobela	340	-	25	-	-	-	365
Dobela - Mucombo	105	-	1	-	-	-	106
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	158	-	12	-	-	-	170
Inhaca	19	-	1	-	-	-	20
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Manhiça	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bilene	6	-	8	-	-	-	14
Xai-Xai	3	-	2	-	-	-	5
Zavala	10	-	2	-	-	1	13
Závora - Macanza	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	5	-	1	-	-	3	9
PNA Bazaruto	3	3	2	-	-	-	8
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	29	29
P N Quirimbas	-	4	-	1	-	3	8
Vamizi/Rongui	-	178	-	-	-	-	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>980</b>

**Table 4.** Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*): nests laid per area.

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ponta do Ouro	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	23
Malongane - Dobela	22	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	71	243
Dobela - Mucombo	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	44	38
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	28	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	62	62
Inhaca	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Bilene	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Xai-Xai	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Zavala	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Závora - Macanza	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>391</b>

**Table 5.** Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*): nests laid per area.

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ponta do Ouro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Malongane - Dobela	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	15
Dobela - Mucombo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mucombo - Sta Maria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	2
Inhaca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilene	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Xai-Xai	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zavala	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Závora - Macanza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
PNA Bazaruto	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>

**Table 6.** Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*): nests laid per area.

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Primeiras e Segundas	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	3	11	21	45	35	24	13	9	14	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



**Table 7.** Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*): nests laid per area.

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 8.** Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*): nests laid per area.

Área	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 9.** Unidentified turtle species: nests laid per area.

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ponta do Ouro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malongane - Dobela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dobela - Mucombo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inhaca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macaneta	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Xai-Xai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zavala	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Závora - Macanza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tofo	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	-

**Table 10.** Number of reported cases of nests raided per area (NI= not identified).

Area	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>D. coriacea</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>E. imbricata</i>	<i>L. olivacea</i>	N.I.
Ponta do Ouro	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malongane - Dobela	2	-	-	-	-	-
Dobela - Mucombo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inhaca	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilene	1	-	-	-	-	-
Xai-Xai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Zavala	-	-	-	-	-	-
Závora - Macanza	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	3
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 11.** Number of nests destroyed by natural causes per area (NI= not identified).

Area	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>D. coriacea</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>E. imbricata</i>	<i>L. olivacea</i>	N.I.
Ponta do Ouro	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malongane - Dobela	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dobela - Mucombo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mucombo - Sta. Maria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inhaca	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilene	3	2	-	-	-	-
Xai-Xai	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zavala	-	-	-	-	-	-
Závora - Macanza	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	1	-	-	-	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	-	-	-	27
PN Quirimbas	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	83	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27</b>

**Table 12.** Reported mortalities of adult marine turtles per area (CC - *Caretta caretta*; CM - *Chelonia mydas*; DC - *Dermochelys coriacea*; EI - *Eretmochelys imbricata*; LO-*Lepidochelys olivacea* e NI - espécie não identificada).

Area	Species/Causes	Killed	Natural causes
Ponta do Ouro	-	-	-
Malongane - Dobela	1 EI e 1 CM found dead on the beach	-	2
Dobela - Mucombo	1 EI, 2 CC found dead on the beach	-	3
Mucombo - Sta Maria	1 CC found dead on the beach	-	1
Inhaca	-	-	-
Macaneta	2 DC killed on fishing nests; 3 CM killed on fishing nets, 2 CM killed and eaten by local fishermen; 2 DC killed by trawlers	9	-
Manhiça	-	-	-
Bilene	-	-	-
Xai-Xai	1 CC found dead on the beach (missing a frontal flipper) 2 CC killed by lodges' guards whilst nesting (Beach Lodge area)	2	1
Zavala	1 DC killed on fishing gear	1	-
Závora - Macanza	4 CC and 1 CM all killed by locals. 1 CC found dead on the beach	5	1
Tofo	1 LO and 20 NI killed by locals 2 CM found dead on the beach	21	-
PNA Bazaruto	4 NI caught on nets and killed by fishermen in Vilankulos	4	2
Primeiras e Segundas	15 NI killed by fishermen	15	-
PN Quirimbas	1 NI and 1 CM killed by fishermen (using spears)	2	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table 13.** Number of marine turtles tagged, per species.

Area	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>D. coriacea</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>E. imbricata</i>	<i>L. olivacea</i>
Ponta do Ouro	4	-	-	-	-
Malongane - Dobela	114	6	1	-	-
Dobela - Mucombo	12	-	-	-	-
Mucombo - Sta Maria	10	-	-	-	-
Inhaca	-	-	-	-	-
Macaneta	-	-	-	-	-
Manhiça	-	-	-	-	-
Bilene	-	-	-	-	-
Xai-Xai	-	-	-	-	-
Zavala	-	-	-	-	-
Závora - Macanza	-	-	-	-	-
Tofo	-	-	-	-	-
São Sebastião	-	-	-	-	-
PNA Bazaruto	-	-	2	-	-
Primeiras e Segundas	-	-	11	-	-
PN Quirimbas	-	-	-	-	-
Vamizi/Rongui	-	-	20	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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