



AFRICA OCEANS PROGRAM



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

Africa





AFRICA NEEDS OCEANS

OUR MISSION

Building upon a strong foundation of [science](#), [partnership](#) and [field demonstration](#), Conservation International empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for [nature](#), our global biodiversity, for the well-being of [humanity](#).



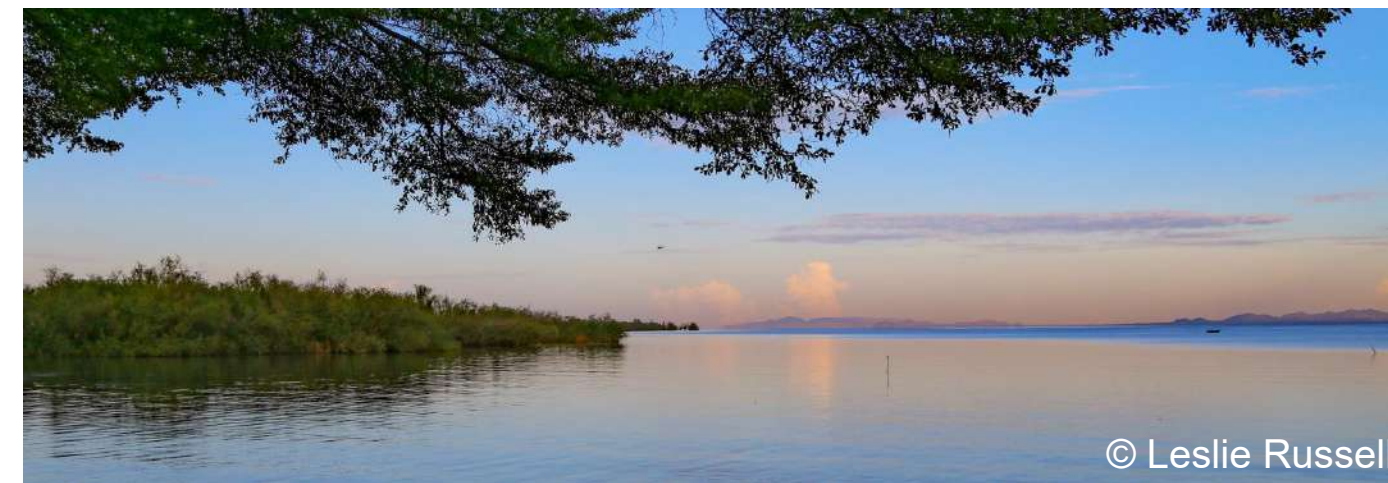


OUR STRATEGY & TARGETS



PROTECTING FORESTS AND MANGROVES FOR CLIMATE

Mitigate **.43Gt of Co2** emissions by protecting and restoring biodiversity and carbon rich forest and mangrove ecosystems and creating climate finance to sustain them



DOUBLING OCEAN PROTECTION IN AFRICA

Effectively protecting **2.5 million km²** of key coastal and marine habitats in West and Southern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean to continue to provide benefits such as food, climate stability and healthy ecosystems



DEVELOPING PLANET POSITIVE ECONOMIES FOR AFRICA'S RANGELANDS

Transform **20M hectares** of globally important but degraded rangelands in East and Southern Africa to a planet-positive model that produces lasting conservation results, restored ecosystems, improved livelihoods and sustained economic development



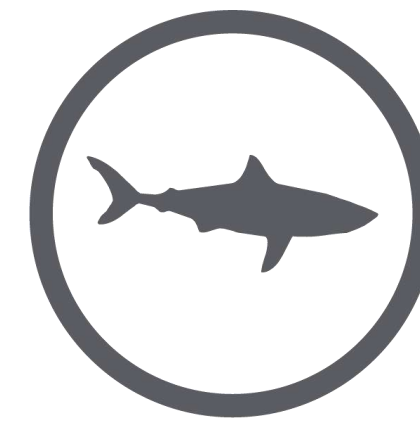
WHAT'S AT STAKE



CLIMATE

Race to limit global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the worst climate change impacts. Urgent need to cut emissions and enhance global carbon sinks.

Need to adapt to heightening climate impacts with Africa worst affected and least adapted.



BIODIVERSITY

Urgency to halt and reverse biodiversity loss with 450 marine species in North Africa and/or sub-Saharan Africa listed as globally threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Halting and reversing biodiversity loss is key to safeguarding health of critical ecosystems that sustain us.



PLANET-POSITIVE

Priority to reduce extreme poverty, with two-thirds of the global population living in extreme poverty in Africa — a figure that could climb to 88% by 2030 amid rapid population growth in coastal Africa.

Pressing need for sustainable blue economies that create jobs and improve livelihoods.

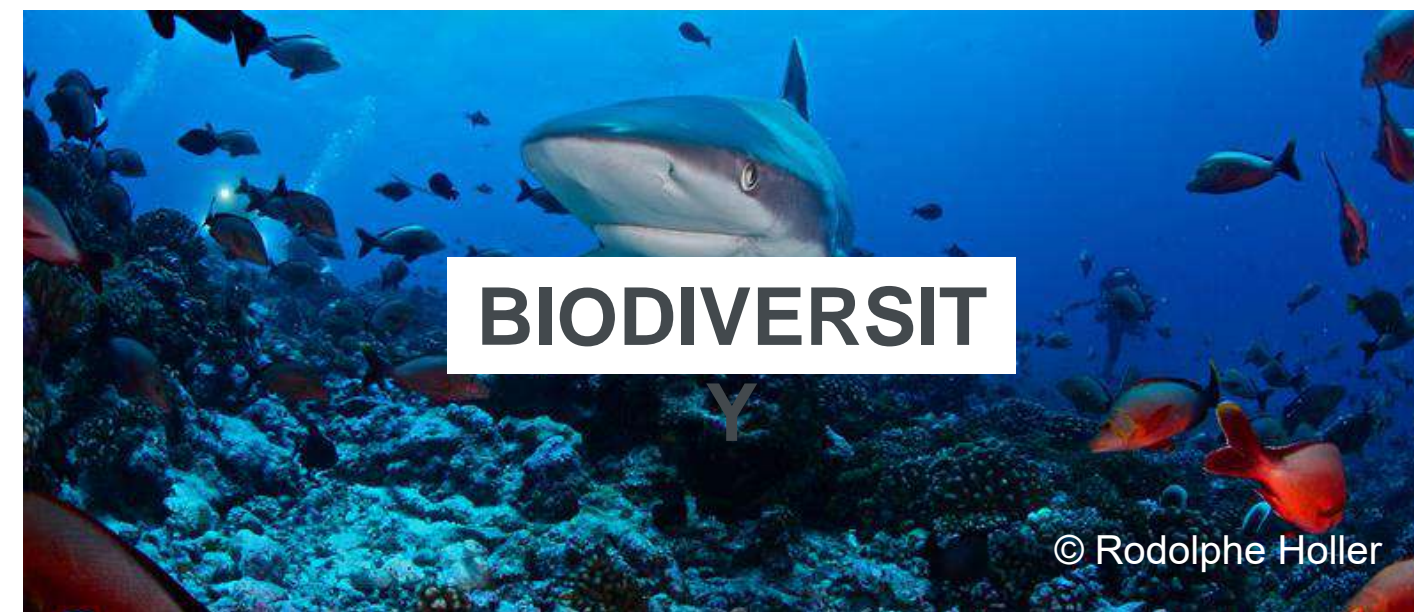


AFRICA'S OCEANS: A KEY SOLUTION

With 38 of Africa's 55 nations being coastal or island states, **effective governance of the continent's oceans** will significantly enhance food security, sustainable livelihoods, and economic development, conserve critical ecosystems and biodiversity, while providing natural cost-effective solutions for the global climate crisis.



Healthy ocean ecosystems are important **carbon sinks** and the foundation of **climate-resilient societies and economies** in the face of worsening climate change impacts (sea level rise, storms, coral bleaching etc.)



Halting and reversing biodiversity loss restores the critical ocean **ecosystem balance** needed to deliver long-term benefits to people.



Sustainable development of Africa's **blue economies** (tourism, fisheries etc) can reduce poverty, create much-needed jobs, and grow economies.



KEY TRENDS

1.

Africa's limited resources for ocean governance means marine natural capital remains vulnerable to overexploitation.

2.

Pressure on ocean resources to increase significantly due to rapid population growth, high poverty rates, and high dependence on oceans for livelihoods.

3.

Sea-level rise, coral reef degradation, storms and other climate change impacts to increase, threatening lives, livelihoods and economies.

4.

Growing appreciation of the value of coastal and marine ecosystems in Africa expected to drive conservation and sustainable management efforts



AFRICA NEEDS OCEANS

OUR AFRICA OCEANS PROGRAM



VISION

Africa's coastal and marine ecosystems are valued and effectively managed to provide lasting contributions to biodiversity conservation, economic development, and climate stability and resilience





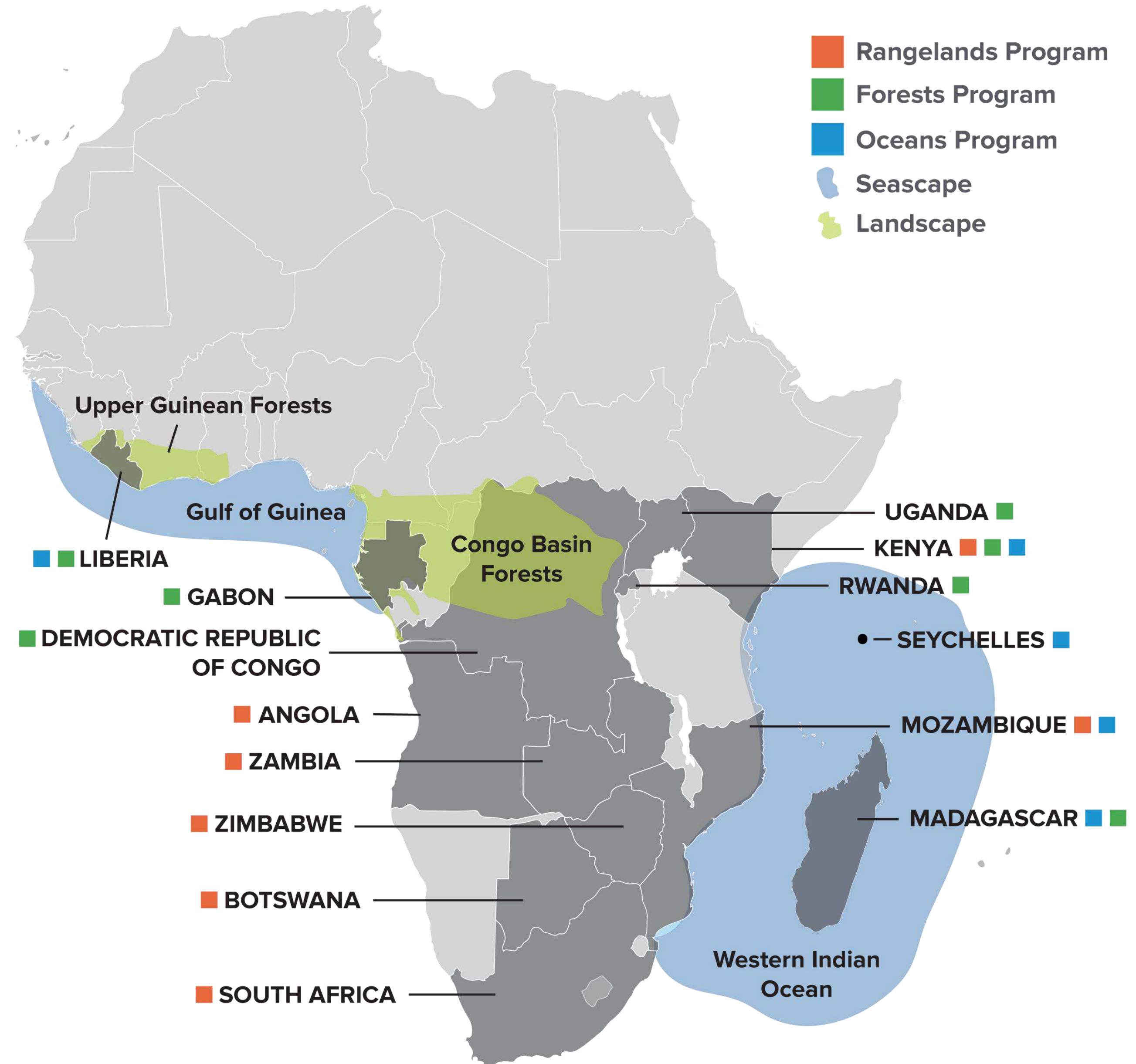
AFRICA NEEDS OCEANS

OUR OCEANS PROGRAMS

5 Country Offices:

- Liberia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- South Africa
- Botswana

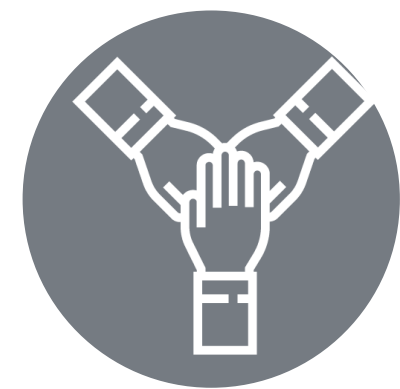
Regional team overseeing projects in additional **27 countries**



OUR APPROACH



Participation and diversity: involving stakeholders in conservation planning, and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our projects and teams.



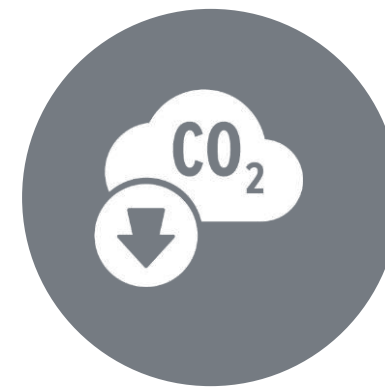
Partnerships: working primarily through partners; creating lasting partnerships and coalitions with civil society, governments and corporations.





WHAT WE DO

Assessing and demonstrating the **value of coastal and marine ecosystems** for biodiversity, socioeconomic development and climate resilience.



Delivering **sustainable and innovative financing for ocean conservation** (e.g., blue carbon, enterprise development funds)

Improving the **productivity and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture systems** to strengthen food security and livelihoods.



Addressing **marine plastic pollution** through policy and market-based approaches.

Supporting **marine protected areas and other effective areas based conservation measures** in places with high value for biodiversity, livelihoods and climate.



Promoting rights of women and artisanal fishers to drive ocean conservation and benefit from equitable access to benefits of ocean management.



AFRICA NEEDS OCEANS

WHERE WE WORK

AND WHY THESE PLACES MATTER

- Ocean ecosystems rich in globally important biodiversity and fish stocks.
- Regions where oceans face pressure from growing population, high poverty rates and high dependence for livelihoods.
- Areas disproportionately experiencing climate change impacts (e.g., sea-level rise and extreme weather).
- Oceans having the least protection and management by governments and communities.
- Places with large-scale development projects planned, requiring approaches that balance economic development and conservation.





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Raised the **profile of ocean conservation in West Africa** by hosting the region's first ocean conference in 2019



Led the **establishment and expansion** of Madagascar's Seven Bays Marine Corridor, a Marine Protected Area (113,000 ha).



Built strong partnerships with government, communities, & NGOs in South Africa to catalyze ocean conservation.



Developed **new scientific studies** on biodiversity, plastic pollution, blue economy to guide ocean conservation in Liberia



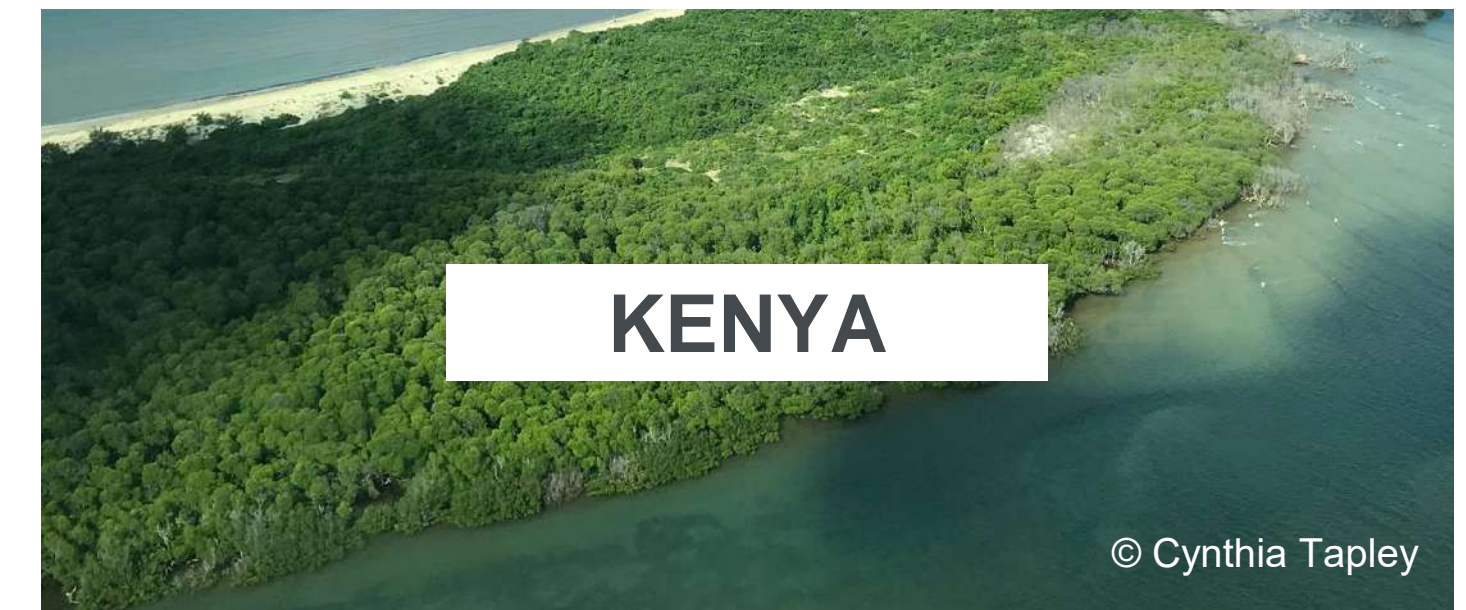
Contributed to **mainstreaming coastal and marine ecosystems** into climate change plans in Kenya, Liberia & Madagascar.



Successfully **deployed conservation agreements model** to enable community-led ocean conservation in Liberia



PRIORITIES (2022-2030)



- Expand **ocean conservation** and **sustainable blue economy impacts** through our Blue Oceans program.
- Create enabling conditions for **gazettement of a 25,000-hectare protected area** to conserve the Marshall coastal wetlands.
- Develop at least two **Community Fishery Improvement Projects**.

- Support Madagascar's plan to **expand MPA coverage** tenfold. Potential sites identified.
- Secure pending **World Heritage Site approval** for 7 Bays Marine corridor.
- Support artisanal fishers to **improve governance of priority fisheries** in Northern Madagascar.

- **Develop an oceans strategy** in collaboration with partners to guide our work and add value to ongoing efforts by other actors.

PRIORITIES (2022-2030)



- Campaign to secure government commitment to **protect 30% of oceans** by 2030.
- **Develop tools and approaches** that integrate ecological, social, and economic dimensions in community-based coastal fisheries.



- **Develop an oceans strategy** in collaboration with partners to guide our work and add value to ongoing efforts by other actors.

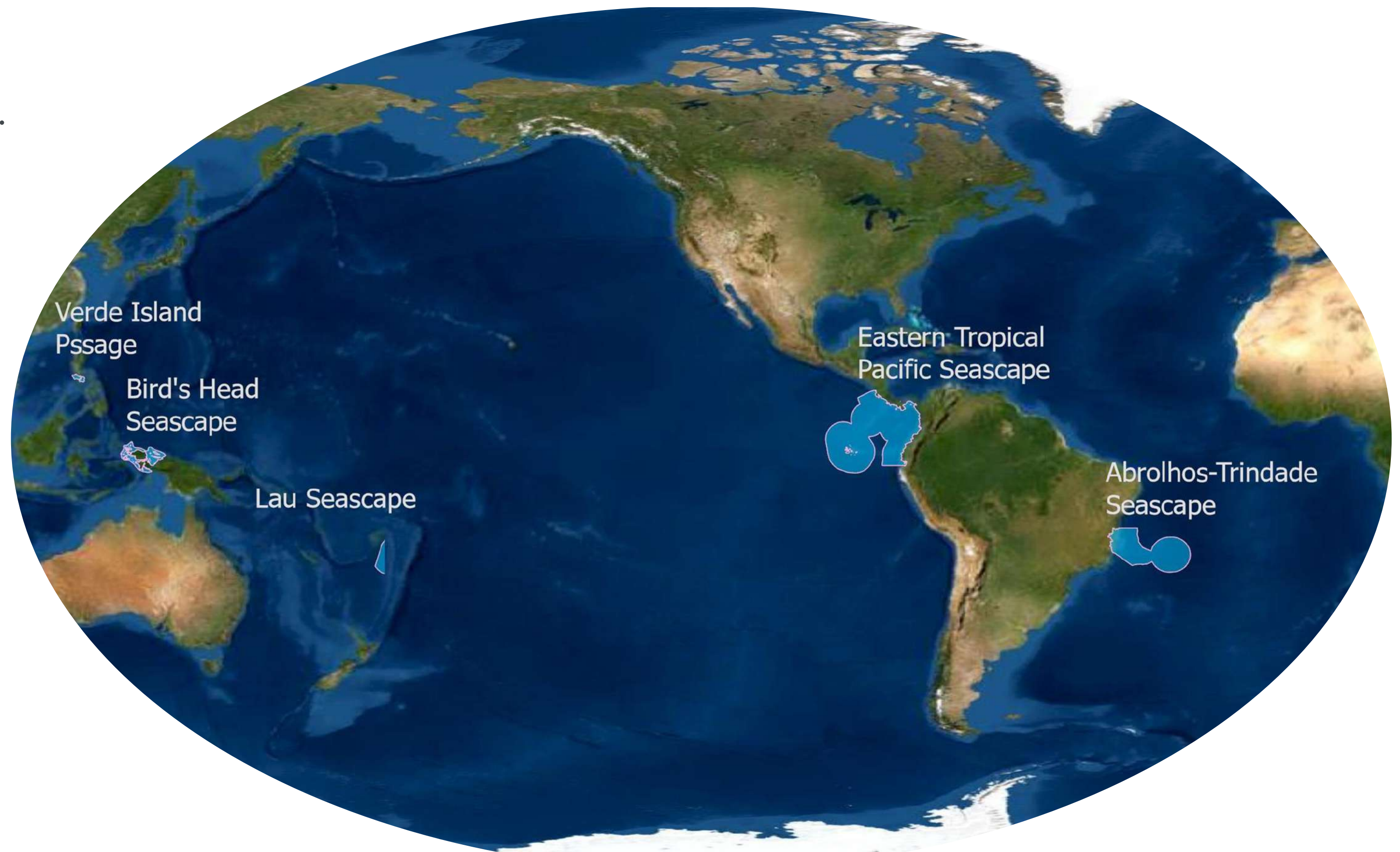


- Assess and demonstrate **the value of coastal and marine ecosystems** for food security, livelihoods and as a nature-based climate solution
- **Protect 6.3 million hectares** of the Western Indian Ocean via the Blue Nature Alliance.
- **Unlock new funding opportunities** (e.g., blue carbon markets) for sustainable livelihoods and coastal and marine



GLOBAL SEASCAPE PROGRAMS

- **Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape** (Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador).
- **Abrolhos Seascape** (Brazil).
- **Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape** (the Philippines).
- **Bird's Head Seascape** (Indonesia).
- **Lau Seascape** (Fiji).



Learn more: 15 years of lessons from the Seascape approach:
<https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.423>

LAU SEASCAPE (FIJI)

- **Consultation with stakeholders:** Indigenous leaders, the people of Lau, government of Fiji, academic institutions, and local and international nongovernmental organizations.
- **Consolidated framework developed** with technical support from partners and government.
- **This strategy represents the shared vision and goals of Indigenous people of Lau**





PARTNERS

FUNDING PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

More partners to be identified and added

