



## **THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**UNEP/CMS Secretariat welcomes the Republic of Mozambique, which will be the 112<sup>th</sup> Party to the Convention on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2009**

Located on the Southeastern seaboard of Africa, Mozambique possesses sites of high importance in regard to biodiversity such as the Gorongosa Mountains, the Great Inselberg Archipelago of Quirimbas in Northern Mozambique, and the Chimanimani Massif. Mozambique is home to a great variety of migratory animals like whales, dolphins, turtles, birds and bats. The geographical location of Mozambique makes it an important destination for migratory animals.

Mozambique is engaged in various conservation activities to save wildlife resources. The country has been party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1995 and to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 2003. New conservation areas have been established such as Quirimbas National Park for marine and coastal ecosystems and the Limpopo Transfrontier National Park. Several areas have been designated as being under special protection including Marrromeu Complex, Maputoland Centre of Endemism, Mountains Chimanimani and Namuli. In 2003, the Marrromeu Complex of the Zambezi Delta was declared a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, the world's foremost international agreement for the protection and wise use of wetlands. Mozambique engages in extensive work to conserve and manage the world's resources of wild animal species.

On 27 May 2008, during the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn, Germany, Mozambique was honoured with the first CIC "Markhor" Award for outstanding conservation performance, for its work in creating a wildlife corridor and reserve together with Tanzania, linking two African countries with major wildlife sources.

The project employs hunting and sustainable use as a means to sustain rural livelihoods and at the same time conserve elephants, African wild dogs and lions amongst other species, and to manage a total conservation area of 120,000 km.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) presented the Markhor Award for outstanding conservation performance to Gilberto Vincente, Mozambique. The Mozambican Niassa Game Reserve and the 29 villages of the Selous-Niassa Corridor in Tanzania received the award jointly. The Executive Secretary of CMS, Robert Hepworth, gave the keynote address at the ceremony and highlighted the importance of local people in ensuring the success of the project.

UNEP/CMS welcomes the Republic of Mozambique and looks forward to its participation in regional activities and Memoranda of Understanding to conserve dugongs, sharks, whales and dolphins, among other species of wild animals.