



## REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

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### MINISTÉRIO PARA A COORDENAÇÃO DA ACÇÃO AMBIENTAL

Speech by His Excellency the Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs on the occasion of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species for the Conservation of Dugong in Mozambique

Ms. Donna Kwan, Member of the Secretariat of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,

Ms. Ana Paulo Chichava Deputy Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Advisory MICOA

Estimated representative of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment national partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome Ms. Donna Kwan, who came from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to our country and in particular the city of Maputo.

We welcome the opportunity given to us to sign on our home soil, the Memorandum of Understanding to create the basic conditions necessary for the conservation of Dugongs. The implementation of this instrument is to ensure the development of a sound environment for survival of marine mammal in the various ecosystems of the country.

Mozambique with 2,770 km of coastline, is part of Marine Eco-region of East Africa with various habitats and migratory marine species, as are the dugongs, dolphins and whales. Historically, the presence of dugongs in Mozambique was registered on several sites, from the Quirimbas Archipelago, Pemba, Nacala, Mozambique Island, Angoche, Bazaruto Archipelago, Inhambane, Chidenguele and Maputo Bay covering various habitats along the coast.

In the African continent, the Dugong is the largest marine mammal, an attractive potential for coastal tourism. In 2007 data estimated that in Mozambique there are about 250 dugongs in the Bazaruto Archipelago. However the total population in the country it is unknown.

The occurrence of some socio-economic allies to environmental problems both natural and human as in the case of climate change, human pressure exerted mainly for potential habitat of dugongs, the use of environmentally friendly fishing practices do not undermine the commendable efforts of our Government wants to reduce poverty, both for the conservation of biological wealth, especially endangered species like the case of dugongs.

And in this sense our government is committed to find solutions to reduce pressure on natural resources through the creation of mechanisms or legislative intervention, whether through the implementation of programs and initiatives for the establishment of national and international partnerships, which demonstrate good conservation practices, while contributing to poverty alleviation.

Dear guests,

Under national legislation, the populations of dugongs are protected by law and Rules like the Law of Forestry and Wildlife, which does not allow hunting of these mammals.

Mozambique ratified the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild in November 2007 and prepared the National Report on

the State of Conservation of Dugongs in partnership with the Museum of Natural History at the University Eduardo Mondlane and WWF.

In 2009 we organized the 1st International Workshop on the Ecology and Conservation of Dugongs, with the aim of producing recommendations for the conservation and management of dugongs in the country and start with the preparation of a Plan of Management of Dugongs in the National Park Bazaruto Archipelago, located Inhambane Province.

Dear Dr Donna Kwan

The efforts have been undertaken as an institution to coordinate environmental actions in accordance with environmental policies and strategies nationally and internationally, bring us more and more new challenges to maintaining an environment that all targeted. One such challenge is to strengthen the protection of dugongs and seagrass habitats, important resource for food.

We recognize that adherence to this memorandum is a good opportunity for us to join it up with other countries in the world in joint efforts and sharing of benefits, such as the exchange of experiences on good practices for conservation of the population of mammals, technical training, implementation of projects for the Conservation and Management of Dugongs nationally supporting mainly target groups involved in dugong habitats to ensure sustainable use of resources.

We are steadfast in our mission to eliminate poverty in a harmonious and sustainable.

Our thanks!

Maputo, April 18, 2011