



No Net Loss of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Applying the Mitigation Hierarchy and Biodiversity Offsets as tools to achieve sustainable development in the WIO

Nairobi Convention Science to Policy Meeting
10th July 2018, Durban, South Africa

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Common impacts from infrastructure & industry

Project footprint

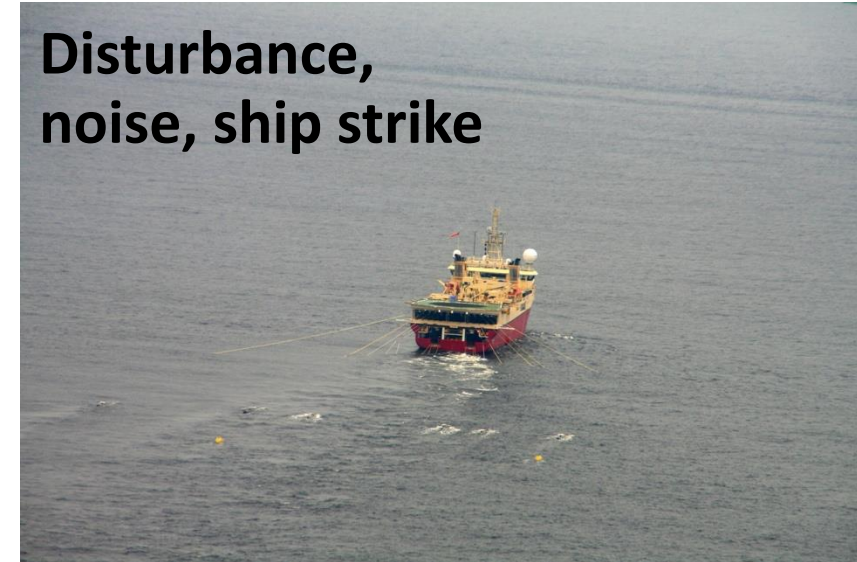


Direct impacts

Pollution



**Disturbance,
noise, ship strike**

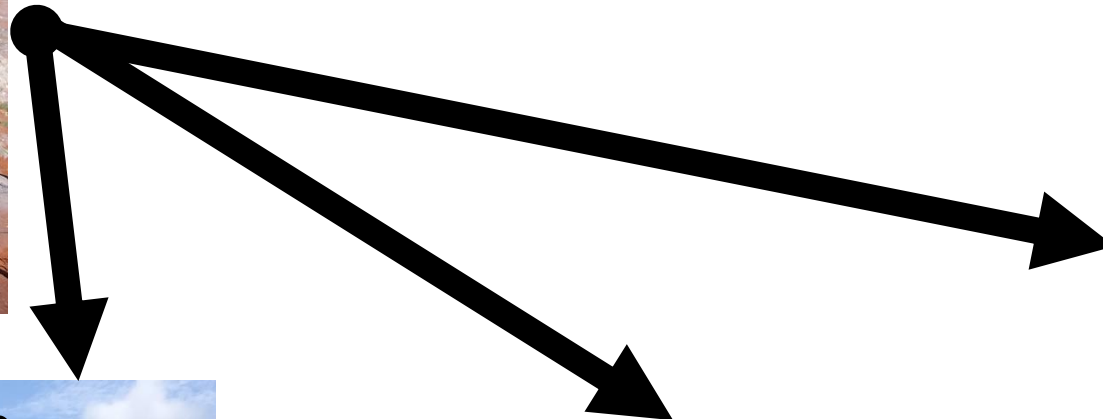


Common impacts from infrastructure & industry

Indirect impacts:

- industry encourages in-migration and increased resource demand
- linear infrastructure creates access to previously remote areas

Access to remote areas



Agricultural clearance



Increased demand



Hunting



Cumulative impacts

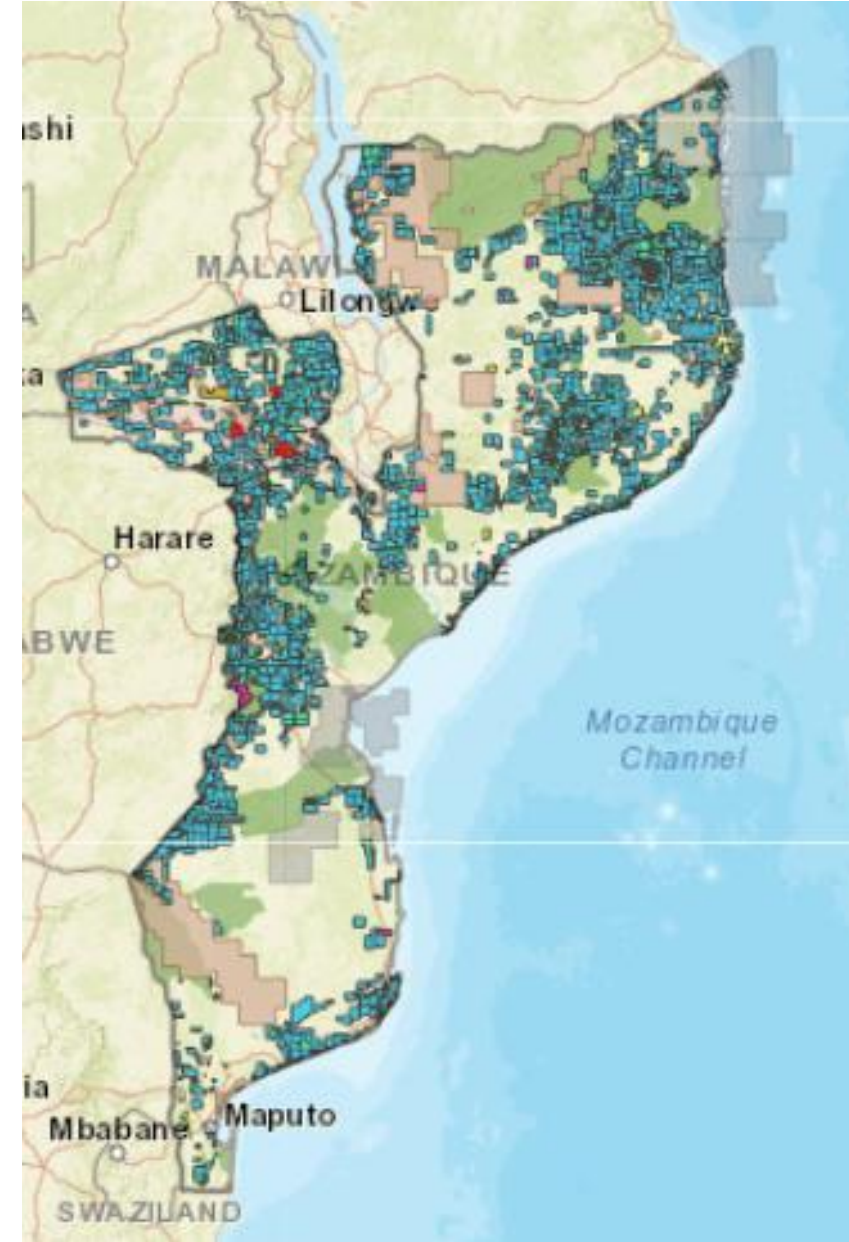


Indirect impacts:
unplanned, predictable
project-related

Direct impacts:
planned, predictable
project-related



Cumulative impacts:
multiple projects combined



Rapidly expanding Oil & Gas sector in WIO

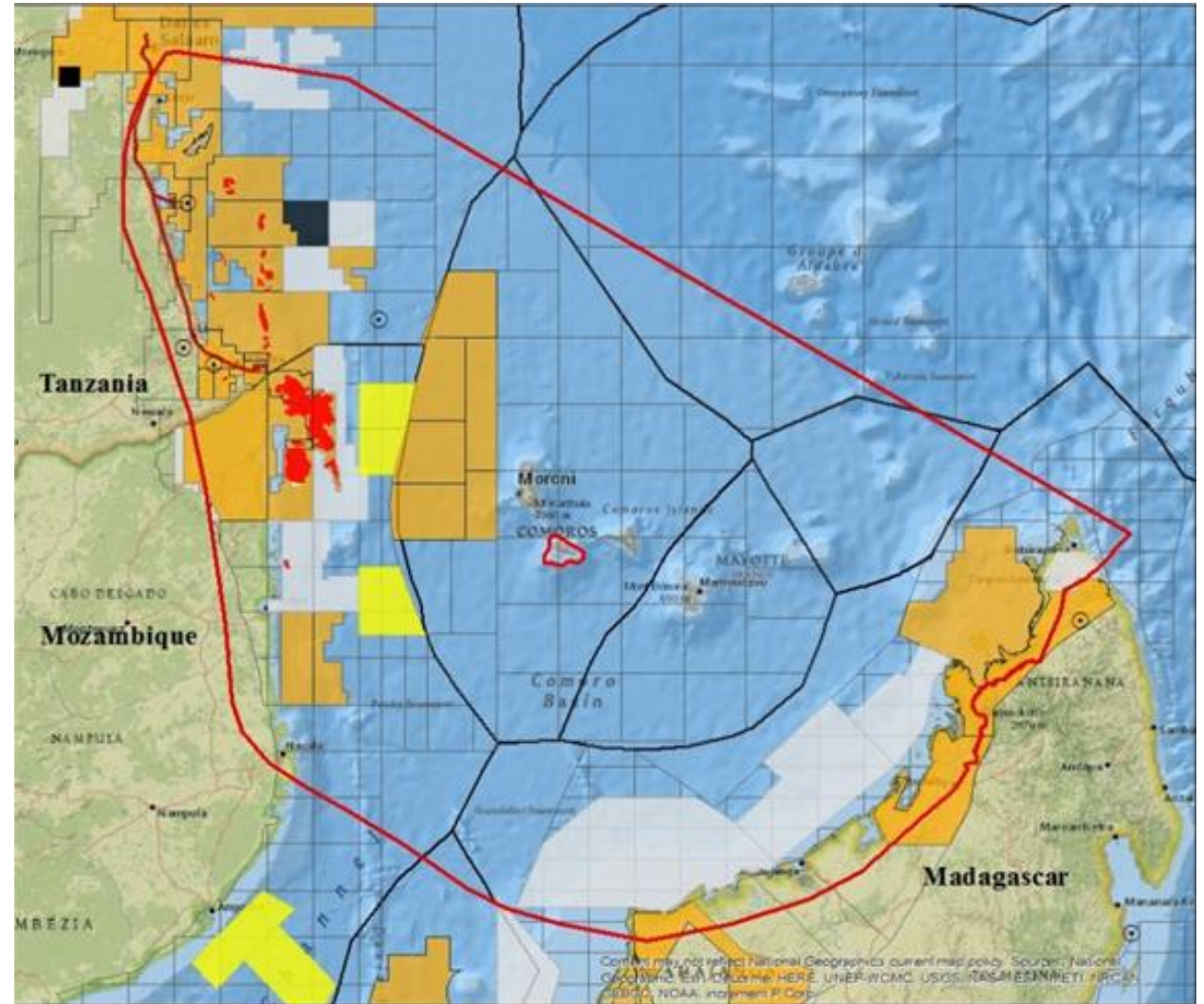
Region needs the best and earliest strategic planning to avoid impacts and maximise economic value and sustainability from the O&G sector

LINK TO NAIROBI CONVENTION:

Article 14.1 of NC states that “As part of their environmental management policies, the Contracting Parties shall, in co-operation with competent regional and international organizations if necessary, develop technical and other guidelines to assist in the planning of their major development projects in such a way as to prevent or minimize harmful impacts on the Convention area”



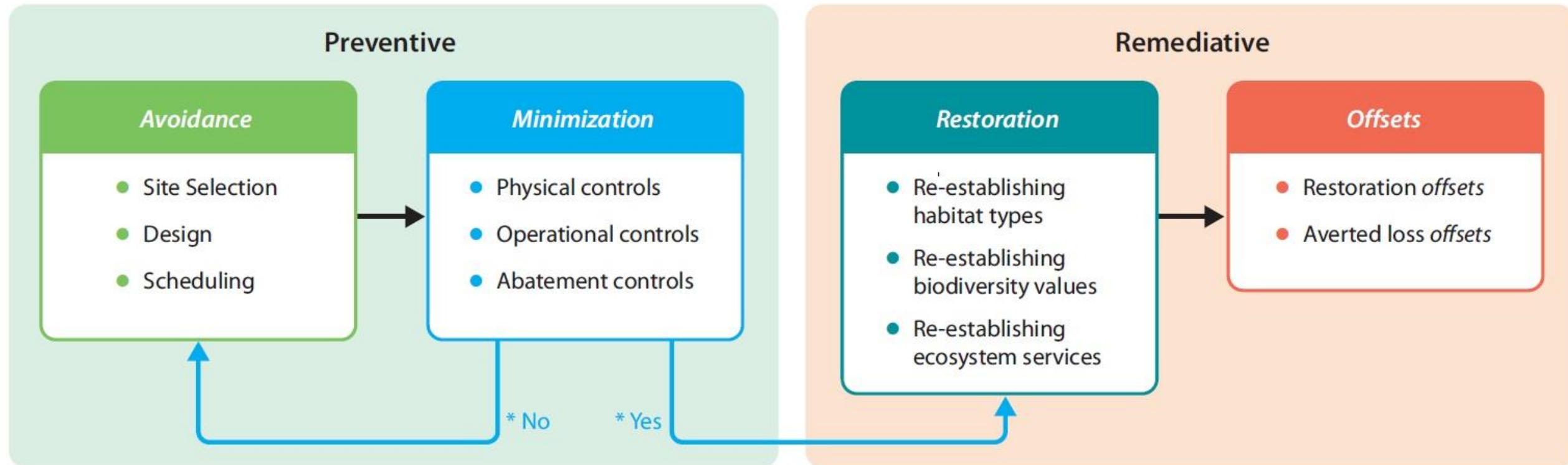
...BLUE ECONOMY



The mitigation hierarchy is best practice

Prevention is better than cure

“the sequence of actions to anticipate and avoid impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services; and where avoidance is not possible, minimize; and, when impacts occur, rehabilitate or restore; and where significant residual impacts remain, offset.”

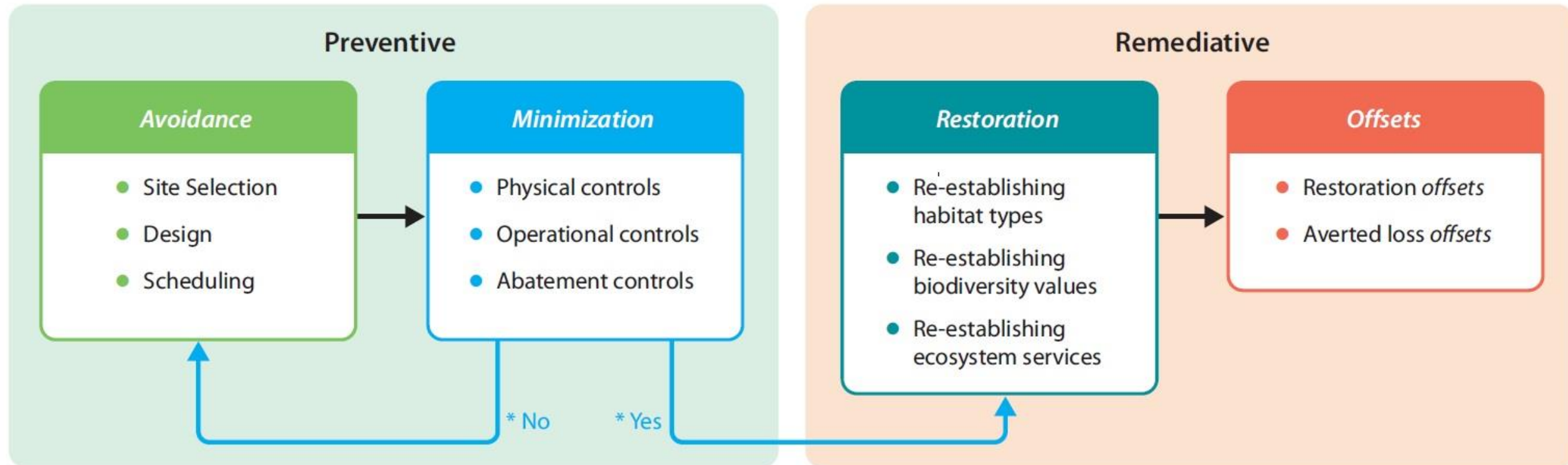


* Can potential impacts be managed adequately through remediative measures?

The mitigation hierarchy is best practice

Prevention is better than cure

“The ‘no net loss’ approach seeks to achieve positive outcomes for biodiversity and ecosystem services through implementation of biodiversity offsets that deliver long-term conservation results for impacts that cannot be avoided or otherwise mitigated.”

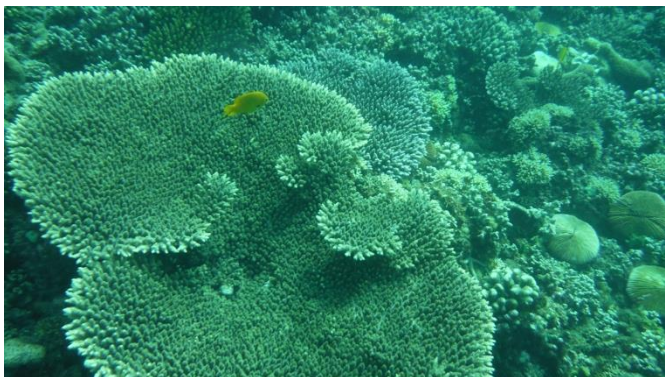


* Can potential impacts be managed adequately through remediative measures?


Avoiding impacts by identifying priority sites

Identification of priority sites through a national prioritisation process:

e.g. **Key Biodiversity Area** analysis can inform project design and national planning

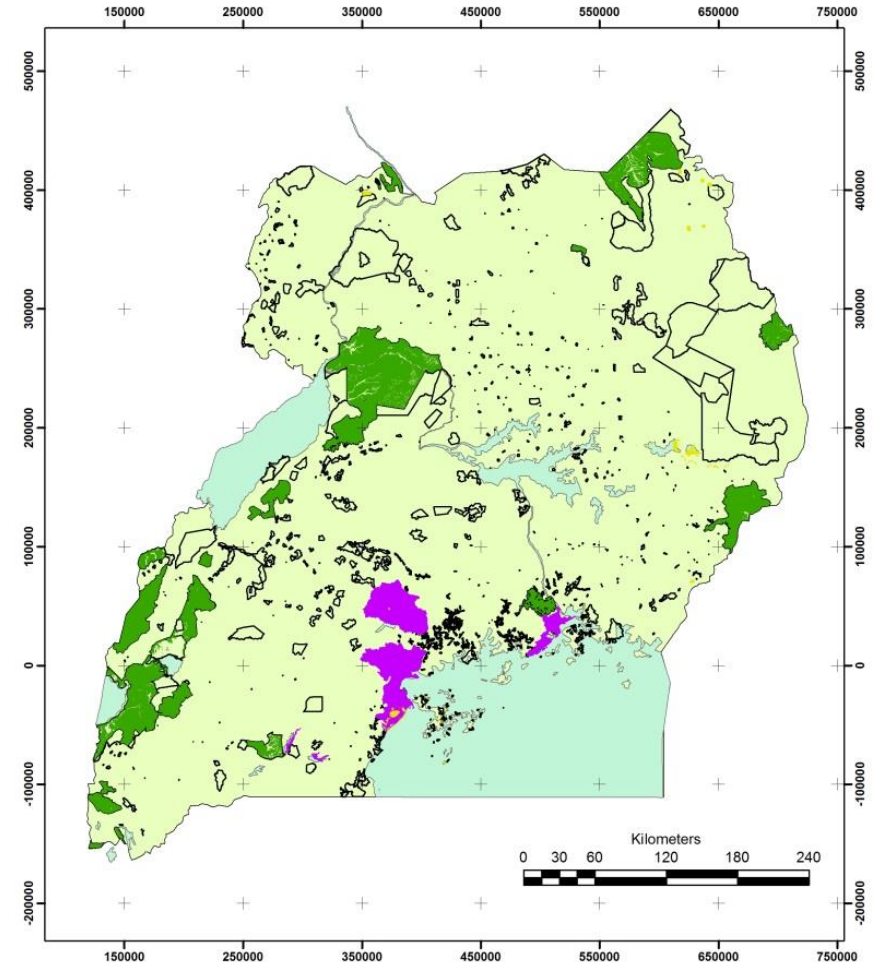




Conserving Uganda's Biodiversity:
Identifying critical sites for threatened species and habitats



A.J.Plumtre, S.Ayebare, D. Pomeroy, H. Tushabe,
G.Nangendo, H.Mugabe, B.Kirunda, & S.Nampindo

September 2017

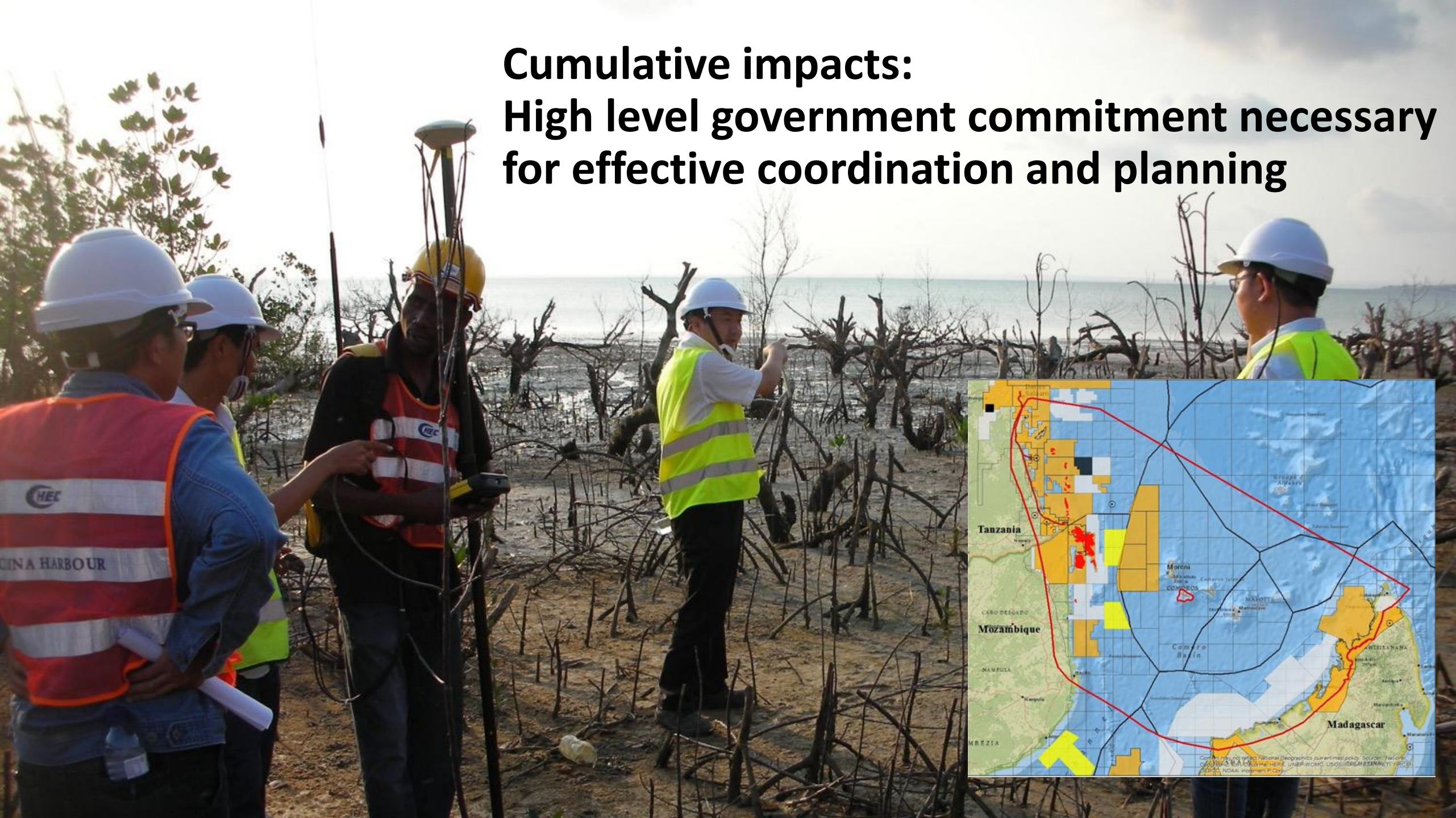


Lakes
Uganda border

Key Biodiversity Areas

Unprotected
Protected Area
Lake Victoria Freshwater

Cumulative impacts: High level government commitment necessary for effective coordination and planning



Implementation: International guidance (IFC, WB, industry) is best practice for achieving good Environmental, Social and Governance outcomes

Few governments

Many financing organisations



Landscape planning guidance

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Strategic Landscape Planning
Regional Assessment
Etc.

Early planning reduces impacts



Links to Nairobi Convention Themes

Assessments and Capacity Building:

“The main objective of the activities under this theme is to create better understanding and knowledge of the coastal and marine environment to strengthen linkages between ecosystems assessment and reporting mechanisms for informed planning and decision-making processes.”

Particularly

- (f) “Support development of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) at regional level in relation to environmental management of oil and gas development including cumulative impacts of oil and gas development in the region*
- (g) Support the development of an overview of ports and harbours including criteria and standards for the development of green ports, and a tool kit for green ports”*

These are critical areas for application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, highlighting the need for its application in the WIO, and thus for support from the Nairobi Convention



Links to Nairobi Convention Themes

Management:

“The main objective of activities under this theme is the effective management, sustainable use and protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region.”

Planning using mitigation hierarchy is a critical tool for environmental management, to mitigate against, or minimize, impacts.

“The approach will address interactive and cumulative human impacts on ecosystems including transboundary regional impacts and a blue economy pathway using natural blue capital.”

The Blue Economy by definition will incur impacts on the environment – the Mitigation Hierarchy needs to be applied prior to Blue Economy planning, to ensure that impacts can be avoided rather than minimized, or minimized rather than rehabilitated.

Careful and timely planning can reduce the cumulative and indirect impacts



Links to Nairobi Convention Themes

Coordination and legal aspects:

“The main objective of the activities under this theme is to strengthen the coordination structure within the Nairobi Convention for strengthened governance frameworks for the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems including transboundary ecosystems. This focuses on implementing and updating existing Nairobi Convention protocols, developing new protocols, improving coordination of activities (including reporting mechanisms and information exchange).”

“Activities will also focus on ratification and implementation of the LBSA protocol, revising and updating the Protocol on protected areas, wild fauna and flora in the Eastern Africa region, and supporting negotiation and adoption of the protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)” and in relation to “blue economy, oil and gas, ports and harbours, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA), Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA).”

Where activities and planning can be coordinated before activities take place, the cumulative and indirect impacts can be reduced – this will be essential if we intend to balance development and environmental protection

Promoting the incorporation of international best practice for implementing Mitigation Hierarchy and No Net Loss / Net Gain Policy is where NC can provide support



Policy recommendations to Nairobi Convention

Mitigation hierarchy and No Net Loss / Net Gain Policy: support the uptake of policies by Contracting Parties that require application of the mitigation hierarchy for addressing industry and development impacts on biodiversity, applied with a goal of No Net Loss or a Net Gain of biodiversity and ecosystem services impacted by the development.

Landscape Planning: uptake of landscape or seascape planning approach for addressing the most complex indirect and cumulative impacts on biodiversity before they arise.

Sustainable Financing: support the development of effective financing mechanisms that will ensure the consistent and permanent funding of biodiversity offsets, including the development of national and regional biodiversity trust funds.

Multilateral and bilateral financing: engage with multilateral and bilateral financial institutions (MFIs / BFIs) and other independent financial institutions to support better application of the mitigation hierarchy by their clients, including alignment with the standards of the World Bank, IFC, and others.

Region-wide coordination: harmonize policies and regulations on mitigation and offsetting to facilitate adoption and implementation by both government and private sector.

 Harmonization of policies will also assist in ensuring effective sustainable management of regional habitats and species, and facilitate capacity building across countries.



**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

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