The Our Sea Our Life approach to community-based conservation includes:

1. Our Sea Our Life Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) standards in Community Conservation Areas
2. Local governance and management mechanisms
3. Sustainable livelihoods and financing linked to the ‘opportunity costs’ of conservation

For more information, please visit our website:
zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/our-sea-our-life
Check out our twitter: @OurSeaOurLife
Or please contact us at: Jeremy.Huet@zsl.org

Thanks to all our partners

And our funders

We're ZSL, an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives.
Join us at zsl.org

ZSL is a registered charity in England and Wales no: 208728
Empowering coastal communities in northern Mozambique to manage marine resources, build sustainable livelihoods and replenish the ocean.

Marine habitats and fish species are depleted by unsustainable fishing methods. Offshore oil/gas exploration also threatens further disruption. Poverty is widespread making communities highly dependent on marine resources. Government support for the biodiverse marine environment is limited.

Overfishing, unsustainable fishing practices and growing populations in coastal areas have taken their toll on marine resources in Cabo Delgado, north of Mozambique. But marine resources are critical to coastal communities. Our Sea Our Life is a project coordinated by the Zoological Society of London, in collaboration with the Mozambican Associações do Meio Ambiente and Universidade Lurio, the Kenyan CORIDIO East Africa, and the Portuguese Universidade de Aveiro, and Universidade de Lisboa. The project is addressing overfishing and threats to marine biodiversity and local livelihoods, aiming to create Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs) for the management of Locally-Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in northern Mozambique. Working with coastal communities, Our Sea Our Life develops sustainable mechanisms to finance the management by the CCPs.

Continuous participatory work with the communities defines incentives customised to each community to bridge the short-term opportunity costs of conservation. Through the project, local communities have been able to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) which help individuals save and access small amounts of money for sustainable livelihood initiatives developed by the communities themselves. VSLAs encourage members to invest in alternative small-scale businesses (e.g. oyster farming and horticulture) to diversify their income. Our Sea Our Life alleviates the pressure on marine resources and has already improved the livelihood of nearly 8,000 beneficiaries. Involving the local communities with conservation action ensures the sustainability of these actions which in turn increases resilience to climate change and improves food security.