Marine Reserves on Inhaca and Portuguese Islands: What is the Effectiveness Management Evaluation Based on?

J. Nhaca
Inhaca Marine Biological Research Station, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
jeremias.nhaca@uem.mz

Efforts are continuously done to conserve marine species and ecosystems all over the world and the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) are valuable tools to achieve pre-established goals. However, management plans are not always clear enough to attain the goals, what can threaten the species and ecosystems. Marine reserves exist on Inhaca and Portuguese Islands for over 50 years and were created before Mozambique was independent from colonisation and has been long enough to evaluate the effectiveness Management Plan in order to adequate environmental conditions nowadays. All monitoring stations were set at the time of creation of marine and forestry reserves based on marine reserves location and mainly influenced by the presence of coral reef and some no longer exist because of siltation. Recently, some legislation have been approved to allow multiple use of resources without causing many conflicts and they appear not to follow recommendations based on research what leads to redefinition of limits of marine reserves motivated by visual observations in terms of time and conflicts with local community for areas for agriculture, collection of firewood, house building materials and fishing usually whenever the administrator in charge of the reserves changes. The legislation which formally created the marine reserves included other places that are not regarded as reserves anymore. In so doing, this study aims to evaluate the conservation effectiveness and recommend measures for better and effective conservation.