



Photo by Ivy Yin, Our Children's Earth Foundation, and Wikipedia.

## Searcher Geodata UK Limited, Save Basin, Mozambique

Searcher has approval to conduct an EIA (322/SPA/DA/180/023) for its 3D Offshore Seismic Research Project in the Save Basin, in the province of Inhambane. The proposed operational area for seismic research is estimated to cover about 42,814 km<sup>2</sup>, within which up to 18,679 km<sup>2</sup> of seismic data may be acquired.

In October 2023, All Rise joined a consortium of 57 organisations to submit comments on the EIA for the proposed Searcher offshore seismic acquisition and offshore drilling project in the Save Basin, Inhambane Province.

Searcher's seismic testing project falls within the Inhambane Seascape. The Inhambane Seascape has been recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a marine conservation area of global importance. In 2024, it was highlighted to be a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) by the Mozambican government. This area is also home to the Dugong, which is on the IUCN Red List of endangered animals, classified as vulnerable. Less than 500 remain in the Inhambane region.

Re :Wild is an international conservation organisation that wrote an open letter to the Mozambican government urging them to commit to the protection of this important ecosystem that has the ability to provide for the Blue Economy. To read and also sign the open letter, click here: [A voice for Inhambane • Advocating for Earth | Re:wild.org](https://re:wild.org)



Searcher falls within the Inhambane Seascape Marine Conservation Area

Our client:

- Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE)

Partners/Collaborators:

- Associação Justiça Ambiental (JAI)
- Mission Blue
- RE: Wild
- Natural Justice
- Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF)

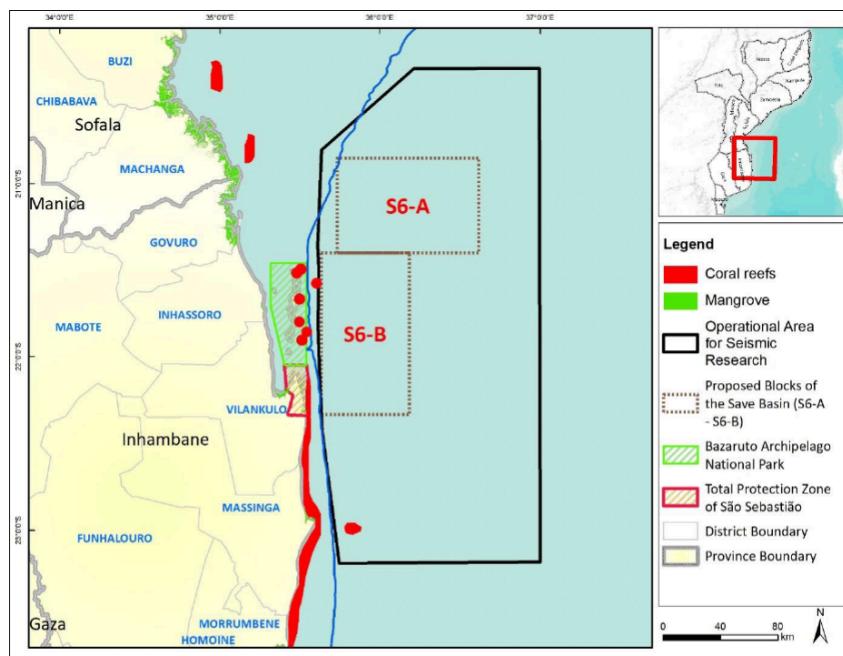


Figure 7: Area of influence of the Project in relation to environmental receptors

There are three conservation areas located to the west of the Project area, namely, the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (8km away); São Sebastião Total Protection Zone (9 km); and Pomene National Reserve (11 km).

Potential fatal flaws or questions have not been identified and properly considered:

- Activities in total protection or conservation areas.
- Presence of “Species Critically in and/or In Danger” (e.g. dugongs and turtles).
- Presence of a range of endemic or restricted species (e.g. corals and molluscs).
- Presence of “Migratory/Congregatory Species”, where this habitat may be considered a unit of discreet management for those species (e.g. certain cetaceans, prawn species, turtles).

- Crucial area for the provision of services and key ecosystems in the national, provincial or district scale (e.g. seagrass beds, mangroves, coral reefs)

The EPDA (environmental pre-feasibility study document) approval for seismic testing was granted on 8 July 2024. However, we were only informed of this approval on 29 October 2024. The EPDA is part of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) process. The EIA process in Mozambique involves screening, scoping, and assessment to determine the need for a full or simplified EIA and the subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Simplified Environmental Report. The EPDA, a key output of the scoping stage, provides a pre-assessment for full EIAs and is required before an environmental impact report is submitted.

The EPDA should not have been approved due to non-compliance with the law in that the public participation process has been flawed from the beginning of the project. We therefore sent a letter to the Minister of Land and Environment to demand that Impacto, the assessment practitioners, provide information on the EPDA report. The EPDA needs to be repeated due to the direct violation of the legal procedures for public consultation.

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