

An aerial photograph showing a vast, dense green forest that stretches along a coastline. The forest meets a large, calm body of water, likely a lake or bay, which has a deep blue hue. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is serene and natural.

**The Manda Wilderness Project  
Mozambique**

# Where is Manda Wilderness?





Zambia

Tanzania

Malawi

Mozambique



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Juan de N  
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# Location

Lago District, Niassa Province, Mozambique

- **Opportunities**

- Lake Niassa: of international ecological importance – over 600 endemic species of fish identified
- Inland from the lake a pristine wilderness area of brachestegia / miombo woodland with potential for game – wildlife corridor runs across northern moz and into Tanzania (selous)
- Nature tourism potential

- **Challenges**

- Remote, isolated, lack of infrastructure
- Recovering from >20 years civil war
- Low level of government activity / interest
- Starting from scratch: tourism, marketing, logistics

# The Manda Wilderness Project

A project initiated in 1998 by a group of 6 private individuals to introduce tourism as a force to stimulate conservation and community development

## **Mission Statement:**

*"In partnership with the Nyanja People of Northern Mozambique, the Manda Wilderness Project invites visitors to explore the beaches and crystal clear water of the lake and the timeless beauty of the Niassa bush.*

*Our vision is to balance community development with conservation through the creation of a sustainable wilderness reserve."*

# MANDA WILDERNESS

## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

### Tourism

#### Nkwichi Lodge

14 bed eco-tourist lodge.  
Mid to high end international tourists

Private

### Conservation

#### MW Community Conservation Area

120,000 hectares or Africa's last true wilderness areas.

Manda Wilderness Community Trust

### Community

#### Community Development Projects

Working with 15 villages on projects to improve health, education and small business.

# Nkwichi lodge



# Conservation

- Manda Wilderness worked together with local NGO to talk to communities about potential of and links between tourism, conservation and development, and value of land
- 15 communities signed up to be part of the project, setting aside land for a conservation area – totally 120,000 hectares, involving 20,000 people
- Natural resource committees established in each of these 15 communities to begin to regulate land use – esp stop hunting.
- Association – UMOJI - established to represent all 15 communities as one, and to eventually manage the conservation area
- Boundaries for conservation area agreed with communities and government and land titles obtained, alongside the land titles for the community land areas.
- Next stage is for the community conservation area to be legalised and commercialised – management plan being written this year with funding from Ford Foundation. More private investors encouraged



# Community Development

- To bring immediate benefits to the community, MW works together with the individual village committees on development projects
- Projects financed through Manda Wilderness Community Trust – UK Charity
- Community generate project ideas
- Partnership – community provide local materials (bricks) and labour, MW provide expertise and cement / roofing irons etc
- Projects = tools for growing capacity of committees

# Development projects: School construction

