

The Mozambique Tourism Anchor Investment Program: Opportunities for investment

The Anchor Program

The Mozambique Tourism Anchor Investment Program is a joint initiative between the Government of Mozambique, represented by the Ministry of Tourism, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group. The objective of the Program is to secure high-quality tourism investment in Mozambique.

The Anchor Program has identified and selected a limited number of investment opportunities across the country, known as 'Anchor Investment Sites'. Each of these sites has been legally secured in the name of the Program's state implementing partner, the National Tourism Institute (INATUR). Together with IFC, INATUR has carried out considerable work in conducting pre-feasibility studies, assessing the viability of the sites, registering the land, liaising with communities and clearing the sites of all administrative and regulatory barriers, leaving them free, clean and available for immediate investment.

The Anchor Investment Sites

Each Anchor Investment Site will be developed according to a specific development model; eco-tourism, tourism resort, or integrated resort model. The first of the sites to be publicly launched is a part of the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area and falls under the first model 'eco-tourism development'. It is known as the Maputo Elephant Reserve Anchor Investment Site.

The Maputo Elephant Reserve Anchor Investment Site



Located between Mozambique's capital city Maputo and the South African border, the reserve is a unique mosaic of forests, freshwater lakes, dunes, floodplains and rivers, is home to a rich birdlife, about 300 elephant, and is a breeding area for the almost extinct sea-turtle. Bordering the Indian Ocean and within easy distance of Maputo and the wider Kruger National Park area, this site offers a unique opportunity to integrate a luxury coastal tourism product into existing tourism circuits.

▪ **Site Description**

The entire reserve is made up of riverine forest, wetland, freshwater lakes, grassland, dunes and several kilometres of wide sandy beach-front. Each concession is situated on the coast with an uninterrupted view of the Indian Ocean. With its pristine corals, spotted manta rays, whale sharks and turtles, the ocean provides excellent diving, and whilst the inland wildlife is currently at an early stage of development, it too will become a significant tourism attraction. Responsibility for the management of the reserve is with the Ministry of Tourism, and the reserve is also one of the beneficiaries of a 7-year, US\$35-million World Bank-funded 'Transfrontier Conservation and Tourism Development Program'.

▪ **Location/ Infrastructure**

The Reserve is about 2 hours from the nearest international airport at Maputo via a variety of paved, sand and 4x4 roads. From South Africa, access is granted by a high-quality paved road to Ponta D'Ouro, followed by a sandy track, and good access is available from Swaziland via the Goba border. The reserve's internal network consists of sandy tracks that are only passable in 4x4 vehicles. There are airstrips at Ponta do Ouro \pm 50km south and on the Machangulo peninsula \pm 25km north of the Reserve. High voltage power lines supplying the Machangulo peninsula traverse the north of the MSR in a generally east/west alignment and freshwater is available from the rivers and/or underground sources.

▪ **Concept development**

The Ministry of Tourism has adopted an Investment Procurement Strategy for the Reserve which is aimed at three distinct investor profiles.

- An international lead investment is sought for a concession of up to 3000 ha at Ponta Milibangalala in order to build investor confidence and raise international awareness of the Reserve.
- A regional investment is designated for an 810 ha area at Ponta Chemucane to integrate the MSR into regional ecotourism circuits and establishes a model community-public-private partnership.
- A 1500 ha concession at Ponta Dobela will facilitate a development that is majority-owned by a national investor and that opens the way for domestic participation in the tourism economy of the Reserve.

Investment Process

In December 2008, the Ministry of Tourism announced the Call for Expressions of Interest in the three Maputo Elephant Reserve concessions. Interested parties have until 27th February 2009 to submit an Expression of Interest according to the guidelines set out in the tender documentation.

To obtain the full Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) documentation, please contact Dr. Albino Mahumane at the Ministry of Tourism, Albinomahumane34@gmail.com with copy to ReservaMaputo.Investimento@gmail.com.



Contact the Anchor Team

For further information or details of other Anchor Investment Sites, please contact Dr. Zacarias Sumbana at INATUR; Zsumbana@futur.org.mz or Hermione Nevill at IFC; Hnevill@ifc.org.