

CONSERVATION





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CIC MARKHOR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION PERFORMANCE

Five Community Based Conservation Organizations in Tanzania and the Niassa Reserve in Mozambique received the CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance on 27 May 2008 during the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn, Germany.

Markhor Award Certificate in the Village in Magazini



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Ana Paula Samo Gudo Chichava, Deputy Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique

“Transboundary conservation of biodiversity is achieved while at the same time empowering the people who live with the wildlife to secure their own future and livelihood.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE USE

During the Award ceremony, held at German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Ursula Heinen Parliamentary State Secretary, stressed the importance of sustainable use of natural resources, which forms the second pillar of the Biodiversity Convention.

Dr. Sigurd Lehmann-Tolkmitt, Head of the German CIC Delegation, thanked Tanzania and Mozambique for their outstanding conservation performance. He stressed that CIC feels strongly connected to conservation efforts in Africa and highlighted the importance of hunting principles that are guided by the sustainable use of natural resources. He pointed out that “in Germany, we have learned many lessons due to mistakes that have been made in the last 100 years”. He added that, “German hunters can learn many lessons from the experience achieved by the people in Tanzania and Mozambique.”

In his keynote speech, Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), underlined the efforts of the local communities of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and the Niassa Reserve in the conservation of nature including migratory species through transboundary cooperation.

Ana Paula Samo Gudo Chichava, Deputy Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique, welcomed the Markhor Award as recognition of her country’s efforts to meet international obligations, including the expansion of their protected areas to 15.5% of the land base.

THE FIVE TANZANIAN organizations represent the 29 villages within the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania, and the Sociedade de Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa (SRN) of Mozambique.

The SRN is Mozambique’s largest conservation area, funded through sustainable hunting tourism. The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor links the Niassa Reserve with Tanzania’s Selous Game Reserve.

This transboundary corridor creates a link for genetic exchange and migratory movements of elephants, antelopes, wild dogs and other wildlife between the two reserves. To help ensure the conservation of wildlife, the 29 villages on the Tanzania side of the corridor have embraced hunting tourism as principal source of income for the villages, thus creating a positive linkage between wildlife and human livelihoods. In this way, transboundary conservation of biodiversity is achieved while at the same time empowering the people who live with the wildlife to secure their own future and livelihood.

REVENUE FROM HUNTING TOURISM

CIC President, **Dieter Schramm** presented the CIC Markhor Award to **Gilberto Vicente** of Mozambique, and **David Mgalla** of Tanzania, and stressed the importance of peace in order to achieve conservation. "In many African countries, sustainable hunting and hunting tourism have increased populations of wildlife and secured species diversity.

Hunting bans have achieved the opposite." He called upon African governments to use revenue from hunting tourism to benefit the local people who live side by side with wildlife, and to reinvest in game conservation. "Only then will hunting really become sustainable!"

The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **Ahmed Djoghlaif** expressed his appreciation for the newly created award. "The CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance is a unique award [...] which link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use including hunting."

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

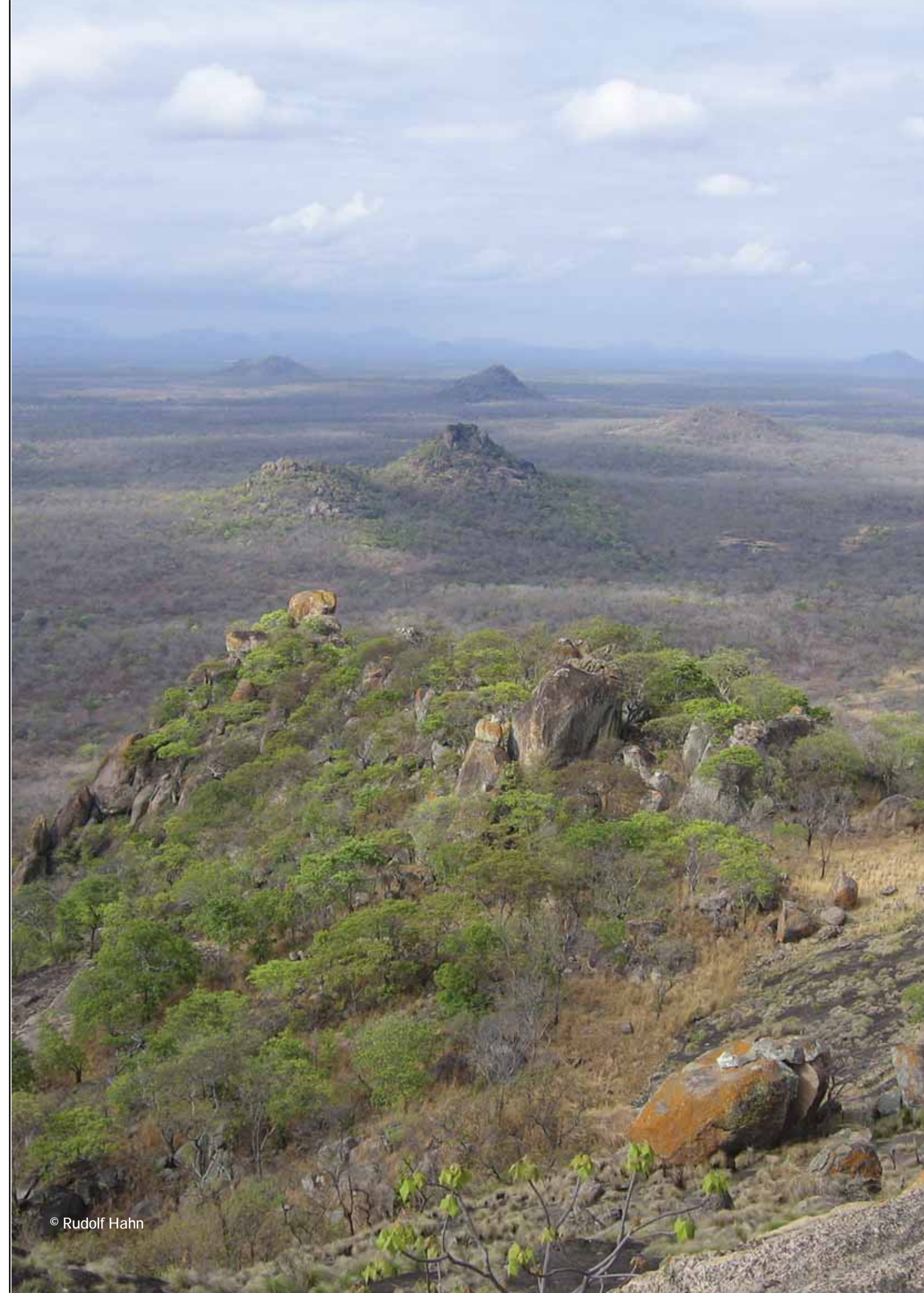
Der CIC vergab am 27. Mai 2008 während der 9. UN Umweltkonferenz in Bonn das erstmalig den CIC Markhor Preis für besondere Beiträge zum Artenschutz an zwei afrikanische Naturschutzeinrichtungen. Preisträger sind der Selous-Niassa-Wildtier-Korridor, der 29 tansanische Dörfer zusammenfasst und das Niassa-Wildreservat in Mosambik. Letzteres ist das größte Naturschutzgebiet Mosambiks und finanziert sich vor allem durch nachhaltigen Jagdtourismus.

Der Selous-Niassa Wildtier-Korridor verbindet dieses Reservat mit dem tansanischen Selous Wildreservat. Der Markhor Preis wurde gestiftet, um multinationale Artenschutzprojekte zu würdigen, die die Erhaltung der biologischen Vielfalt und ländlicher Existenz durch Umsetzung der nachhaltigen Nutzungsprinzipien verknüpfen.

RÉSUMÉ

Pour la première fois, le CIC a décerné le Prix Markhor pour la performance exceptionnelle dans le domaine de la conservation à deux organismes de conservation de la Tanzanie et du Mozambique. La cérémonie de remise du prix a eu lieu le mardi 27 mai 2008, à l'occasion de la 9^e Conférence de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB) à Bonn en Allemagne. Les lauréats du prix sont des Organisations communautaires tanzaniennes, qui représentent 29 villages au sein du Corridor Selous-Niassa en Tanzanie, et la Sociedade de Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa (SRN) du Mozambique.

Le SRN est la plus grande réserve naturelle du Mozambique, financée par le tourisme de chasse durable. Elle est reliée à la Réserve de gibier du Selous en Tanzanie par le Corridor de Selous-Niassa. Ce corridor transfrontalier sert à assurer l'échange génétique ainsi que les mouvements migratoires d'animaux. Le Prix Markhor est destiné à récompenser les projets de conservation d'intérêt multinational qui relient la conservation de la biodiversité et l'existence humaine par l'application des principes de l'utilisation durable.



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FOR MANY YEARS THE TEAM in the Niassa Reserve has been slowly developing an approach to manage the vast Niassa National Reserve, and on many occasions we have learnt hard lessons through trial and error. But we have always firmly believed that our approach to conserve Mozambique's largest conservation area, funded mainly through sustainable hunting tourism is the best option available under the trying circumstances. Therefore when the letter arrived informing us that the CIC had granted the "Markhor Award" to the Niassa Reserve together with the communities of the Selous-Niassa corridor in Tanzania in recognition of our efforts, it took us all by surprise.

The reality of receiving the award only sunk in after our Reserve Director was presented with the impressive certificate at the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn. Once the word got out we were inundated with calls and emails asking about the award, and obviously about the Niassa Reserve. Suddenly the profile of the Niassa National Reserve was raised, and a wide variety of people from all walks of life wanted to know more about what we do in the Reserve.

This gave us the opportunity to explain what the Reserve was all about to people who we normally would find difficult to approach. It also gave us the opportunity to show our "team" in the Reserve, especially the Game Scouts, local community leaders and government officials, that all the efforts and hardships were appreciated, even if this was not immediately obvious. This was the message that we were able to convey to the newly recruited Game Scouts at their recent passing out parade in the Reserve.

The CIC Markhor Award is now proudly displayed at the headquarters of the Reserve as a reminder to all that the job is not yet done, but our efforts to secure the Reserve and its unique biodiversity are appreciated.

With the award came a small donation for which we are grateful. But this also presented us with a challenge as to how to use this donation. The Niassa Reserve is huge, 42,000 km² with 35,000 people residing inside the Reserve, and the problems it is facing are many. In discussing what to do with the money it became obvious that it had to do with something that would have the greatest impact over a large area.

THE MARKHOR AWARD –

In the end, four potential themes have been identified:

- Prepare T-shirts for school children that carry a conservation message and raise the awareness of the Reserve.
- Identify a Women's Group(s) that can be assisted in some way with equipment (sewing machine, water dispensers, and mosquito nets for example).
- Use the money to prepare a number of sign boards that advertise the Reserve, or promote a conservation message, that can be placed at strategic points along the main access roads to the Reserve.
- Use the money to support local Community Associations involved with conservation. There are approximately 30 such associations in the Reserve, all of which need assistance of some sort.

The final decision is yet to be made, but whatever the outcome, we are confident that the end result will be greatly appreciated by all associated with this unique conservation area. In its own way, the Award will continue to promote the Reserve in the eyes of decision makers in the country, and we will always be proud to be associated with the Markhor Award and what it stands for.



– WHAT IT MEANS TO THE NIASA NATIONAL RESERVE

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Geschäftsführerin des „Niassa National Reserve“ berichtet: „Wir sind der festen Überzeugung, dass Mosambiks größtes Wildreservat am besten durch nachhaltigen Jagdtourismus erhalten werden kann. Trotzdem wurden wir überrascht, als der CIC den „Markhor-Preis“ dem Niassa-Wildreservat zusammen mit den Gemeinden des Selous-Niassa-Korridors in Tansania verlieh. Die Auszeichnung gibt uns die Gelegenheit, unserem „Team“ im Reservat zu zeigen, dass unsere Bemühungen geschätzt werden. Der CIC Markhor-Preis hat einen Ehrenplatz in unserem Hauptquartier erhalten. Die 2500 Euro Preisgeld wird für ein (noch zu bestimmendes) Projekt eingesetzt, das die größtmögliche Wirkung für die Region zeigt.“

RÉSUMÉ

Compte rendu de la directrice de la Réserve nationale de Niassa : « Nous avons l'intime conviction que le tourisme cynégétique durable représente la meilleure façon d'entretenir la zone de conservation la plus vaste du Mozambique. Malgré tout, lorsque le CIC a attribué le « Prix Markhor » à la Réserve Niassa ainsi qu'aux communautés du Corridor de Selous-Niassa en Tanzanie nous avons été les premiers surpris. Ce prix a permis de montrer à notre « équipe », les garde-chasses, à la communauté locale et aux fonctionnaires de l'administration que nos efforts sont appréciés. Le Prix Markhor du CIC est maintenant exposé dans les locaux de notre siège. La donation de 2.500 euros sera utilisée pour les activités qui auront l'impact le plus important sur la zone.

THE MARKHOR AWARD – WHAT IT MEANS TO THE SELOUS - NIASSA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

THE SELOUS - NIASSA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR with its own size of approximately 10.000 km² connects the largest elephant ranges of Africa. Although there is a number of corridor and trans-frontier conservation initiatives worldwide, it is unique that this entire corridor is not only located on communal land but also under the management of communities. Dependent on natural resources and wildlife for protein supply these communities realised that the forests and wildlife were rapidly diminishing from over-utilisation in combination with uncontrolled landmanagement. In order to conserve their natural environment the 29 villages of the Corridor organised themselves in 5 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and created their own conservation areas. Located in a remote area hunting tourism is their first option to gain economic benefits from conservation in the corridor. However, the creation and management of communal Wildlife Management Areas also involves many sacrifices and efforts of the communities.

Primarily the communities perceived the Markhor Award as an acknowledgement of those conservation efforts and are proud of the international attention. Upon the return from the Award Ceremony in Bonn their representative informed all villages in detail and since then framed copies of the Award Certificate as well as photos are decorating all village and CBO offices.

The award money was equally shared between the five CBOs and was very much appreciated. According to the CBOs' budget plans it will be used for various purposes, ranging from patrol food rations for the village game scouts, equipment like axes and bush-knives, ammunition, office rehabilitation or construction, savings on hunting rifles, stationeries to run their offices or other small investments.

The Markhor Award has also a positive impact on the cross-border cooperation in conservation since both the communities of the Corridor in Tanzania and the Niassa Reserve of Mozambique received the award together.

With the award the Selous - Niassa Wildlife Corridor gained an increased international recognition and hunting firms and associations committed to sustainable hunting tourism are showing their interest to send hunters to the corridor area – who will contribute with hunting to conservation and economic development.

In summary the Award gave a boost to the communities' motivation for the conservation of wildlife within the Selous - Niassa Wildlife Corridor, which basically started on their own initiative. Furthermore, it strengthened their selfconfidence and pride due to the fact that simple local communities are also able to receive such an international recognition. Since the CIC is already known in the corridor area because of its previous contribution to the production of local music for conservation, the local communities associate with the CIC a partnership, whereas the CIC can represent their common interest on the international platform.



ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Der Selous-Niassa Wildtier-Korridor besteht aus 5 gemeindebezogenen Organisationen (CBOs), mit dem Ziel der Erhaltung der biologischen Vielfalt. Jagdtourismus ist für sie der wichtigste Wirtschaftsfaktor. Der Markhor-Preis ist als Anerkennung gedacht und die Preisgelder wurden unter den fünf CBOs geteilt. Das Geld soll für die Lebensmittelversorgung der Wildhüter, Ausrüstungen, Munition, Büromodernisierung, Jagdgewehre, oder sonstige Kleininvestitionen eingesetzt werden. Der Preis wirkt sich positiv auf die grenzüberschreitende Kooperation zwischen den beiden Ländern aus, da er gemeinschaftlich an den Korridor in Tansania und das Niassa-Reservat in Mosambik verliehen wurde. Somit hat der Korridor international Anerkennung erlangt und die Jägerschaft interessiert sich dadurch verstärkt für das Gebiet.

RÉSUMÉ

L'autre lauréat du Prix Markhor, le Corridor et Réserve naturelle de Selous – Niassa comprend 5 organisations basées sur la communauté (CBO) de 29 villages, dont l'objectif est la conservation. Le tourisme cynégétique est la première option de ces villages pour réaliser des bénéfices sur le plan économique. Le Prix Markhor est perçu comme une reconnaissance et le montant de la donation a été partagé entre les cinq CBO et sera utilisée pour payer les vivres des garde-chasses de ces villages, l'équipement, les munitions, la réhabilitation des bureaux, les fusils de chasse, ou encore pour d'autres investissements modestes. L'attribution du Prix a un impact positif sur la coopération transfrontalière puisque le Corridor en Tanzanie et la Réserve de Niassa au Mozambique l'ont reçu conjointement. Le Corridor est maintenant reconnu au niveau mondial et les chasseurs montrent davantage d'intérêt vis-à-vis de cette zone.