

3R Ecopoint Network, a project of 3R, Vilanculos, Mozambique



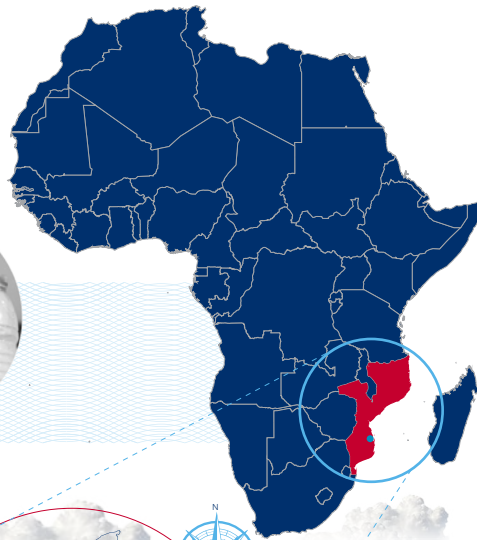
3R Ecopoint Network is an initiative of 3R, being implemented in Vilanculos, a small town adjacent to Mozambique's first declared marine protected area, the Bazaruto Archipelago. With the objective to establish a financially sustainable and environmentally sound value chain for plastic waste in Vilanculos, the initiative is part of the Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs) project managed by IUCN and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.



7,000

tons of waste per year

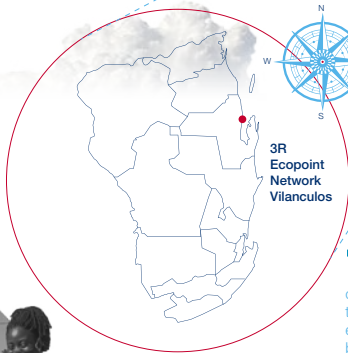
The small city of Vilanculos produces 7,000 tons of waste per year, of which 2.7% is plastics. Before the project, most of it ended up in the environment or at local dumpsites, as there was no selective waste collection system in place. Beach clean initiatives existed to collect plastic waste, yet the village lacked the necessary infrastructure to manage the collected waste and make sure the material would reach the recyclers.



Inclusiveness and collaboration

Community-based initiatives can be an effective way to contribute to inclusiveness and stakeholder collaboration. They contribute to greater circularity by filling the social equity gap currently prevailing in the Circular Economy. This is the case of 3R Ecopoint Network, which besides reducing the negative impacts on the environment from plastic pollution, has a strong social focus. It seeks to empower waste pickers and the creation of sustainable incomes to improve their living standards.

The initiative also ensures stakeholder collaboration and has been, as part of broader national efforts, working with government authorities on the implementation of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) Regulation.



13 events organized to raise awareness to the general public and encourage reduction or better management of waste



15,959 kg of material collected / managed



MZN 335,000

(USD 4,624) generated as income for local NGOs and waste pickers

2 ecopoints opened in partnership with the NGO ParCO to receive and buy recyclable plastic waste from the local community, especially from waste pickers

35% of the plastic waste in Vilanculos collected by 3R Ecopoint Network monthly

697 waste pickers working in Vilanculos