

BioForMoz Newsletter 1

July, 1, 2021 – October, 1, 2021

Dear friends,

this is the first newsletter of the new BioForMoz project (Support for Environmental Research) AID 12089, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation Agency, entrusted to the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Sassari to collaborate with the Biotechnology Center of the E. Mondlane University of Maputo in Mozambique. The details of the Project are shown in the annex.

The Project started on 1 July 2021 and the Management and Coordination Committee, the Scientific Commission and the Commission for Training and Research Grants were formed. In addition, the logistic administrative staff is operating from the beginning. Therefore the activities are in full swing.

Some thematic areas have been identified on which to announce the first call for training and research fellowships for Mozambican researchers:

- Molecular virology
- Environmental pollution
- Molecular Phytopathology
- Molecular microbiology and drug resistance
- Ticks and diseases transmitted by ticks and other vectors
- Genetic characterization of wild mammals

The 2 BioBank laboratories at the Biotechnology Center and the Natural History Museum are also under construction, for the conservation of biological samples of wildlife in conservation areas, a priority activity for the purposes of our initiative, linked to the genetic characterization of animal populations and the control of zoonoses. The BioBank will be available to local authorities and international collaborations.

Similarly, the problem relating to the rehabilitation of the university laboratory of the Inhaca Marine Biology Station was tackled, which will represent a strong point for our marine biology activities.

Our Sapienza zoologist Dr. Simone Sabatelli is expected on 15 September. He will work on the genetic characterization of animals and insects with the Biotechnology center and the Natural History Museum, will develop the BioBank, will present the seminar: "Water beetles as models in Evolution , Ecology and Conservation "

Our scientific director Prof. Piero Cappuccinelli is expected on 24 September to coordinate the research activities.

I hope to be able to count on everyone's collaboration for the success of the initiative.