

KISAWA

MOZAMBIQUE



Bazaruto Center
for Scientific Studies

JANUARY 2023 – JANUARY 2024
Annual Impact Report



Words from our Founder

Increasingly we are becoming a more 'purpose driven' society. People on the whole are thinking in a more meaningful and responsible way. Tourism, and indeed luxury tourism, can be a huge driver for such change and I find this is very exciting!

At Kisawa, sustainability is our approach – a way to do things – and we have had immense fun creating a relationship with our surroundings, both physical and human. In particular we focus our attention towards marine research and ocean conservation, which is not widely highlighted in Africa in comparison to land conservancy.

Kisawa was the first property globally to open in tandem with its own marine research centre. We launched BCSS four years prior — and the concept of creating a world-class science led institution is deeply embedded in the DNA of the resort's vision. It is the relationship between the two that we feel is unique to the hospitality industry – and helps make Kisawa what it is today.

BCSS is supported by the presence of Kisawa guests. The more guests we host, the more research is made possible. By comparison, work of this depth is usually only possible through grant applications or institutional employment — and may take several years until researchers can finally work in the field. At BCSS the team and their time series technology is working 365 days, 24/7.

Kisawa and BCSS are playing their parts in a larger story. We are excited to contribute by creating jobs, informing the ecosystem and celebrating the culture of a country. **In 2023, the two properties welcomed over 500 guests and visitors, and trained over 200 staff members with an enhanced focus on regenerative practices.**

Our approach is constantly evolving and challenging us, as we learn more about ourselves, our environment, our partners and our guests. Welcome to our first annual impact report, detailing our 2023 sustainable impact and goals for 2024.

With many heartfelt thanks to our teams, visitors and supporters,

Nina Flohr



LOOKING BACK
Sustainability Reflections

Looking back on 2023, we have witnessed global environmental changes inevitably evincing on the regional level as climatic extremes and weather fluctuations. **By embracing a holistic sustainability approach and incorporating common performance areas, jointly collected databases have guided science-based decisions at Kisawa Sanctuary and BCSS.**

This impact report reflects our endeavors in 2023, intertwining environmental, social, governance (ESG) elements within our approach. Immediate impact as a result of the 2023 refocus includes the following achievements:

The appointment of a **full time Sustainability Management department** has resulted in assessment, monitoring, support and initiatives within **35 performance area metrics** to avoid and mitigate our footprint.

In contribution to biodiversity, the **Kisawa Garden expansion project in collaboration with ESUDER Agricultural University** assessed **over 100 plant species** out of which **16,000 seeds** have contributed to creating a seed bank for regeneration, reflecting our vision of self-sufficiency and use of permaculture techniques.

In BCSS research expeditions a total of **1,033 marine individuals** were spotted with **685 coral and water samples** observed.

Joint Materiality and Waste Management efforts led to an **18% reduction of our total footprint and recovery of 16.4 tonnes of construction materials.**

In addition, organic waste is repurposed and reused for composting and animal feed through a zero-waste ambition.

Kisawa's newly introduced Dive Center enables guests to engage with BCSS's scientific expertise, 3D Seabed mapping technology, providing access to **13 research-verified dive locations.**

Guided by deepened **community engagement**, our efforts in social impact have secured education for **447 pupils** at Benguerra Island's Primary School, contributing to the establishment of a Secondary School, and positively affected the lives of **425 families.**

As we embark on 2024, Kisawa Sanctuary and BCSS remain **steadfast in the commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible luxury hospitality.**

Through transparency, innovation, and collaboration, we strive to sustain a large scale sustainability approach, welcoming you into an impactful guest experience in 2024.

Karolina Högberg
Sustainability Manager



Coral Reefs

Coral reefs in the Bazaruto Archipelago are barrier reefs, hosting an incredible amount of marine life. The coral is healthy and benefits from a continuous water exchange from the open ocean, with very few bleaching events through the year.

Photo: Helen Walne



Flamingos

Gather in large flocks on Benguerra Island, in particular on the north side. They rest on sand banks, and feed on the mudflats by filter-feeding tiny crustaceans

Photo: Orlando Miranda + Salvador Colvee



ESG SUMMARY 2023 Milestones

2023 marked many milestones for the Kisawa x BCSS partnership, expanding across land and marine fields to include adventures where Kisawa guests can experience BCSS oriented activities, and BCSS visitors can take part in scientific training.



Scientist for a day

Creation of the 'Scientist for a day' expedition guided by BCSS marine scientists, for Kisawa guests to observe data collection by the science team and get actively engaged in marine conservation by learning.

Ocean Mapping & Climate Change Monitoring

The dedication to diving expeditions totalled over 1,000 diving hours, where the virtual topography was rendered in a 3D map. In a significant technological leap, 26 coral and rocky reefs were meticulously mapped out.



Big Ocean Five

The launch of this initiative, with the help of award winning underwater photographer Helen Walne, highlighting the rich biodiversity of the region, and the opportunity to encounter the five exciting animal families: cetaceans, elasmobranchs, reptiles, sirenians and bony fish.

All Kisawa dive sites have been mapped in 3D at high-resolution, using advanced scientific survey techniques. The ocean floor mapping allows our guests to understand the topography and structure of the dive sites in fine detail, before they've touched down in Mozambique.



Garden to Table

Developing a pick yourself Kisawa 'Garden to Table' culinary activity, based on permaculture techniques and seed bank exchange.



1,629kg

Of marine debris collected by BCSS teams from five different sites in contribution to research



Scientific Training

Exciting marine life encounters, including the rare Ornate eagle ray, added to the allure of BCSS' new 'Scientific Training program' introduced in March, giving students the opportunity to acquire core knowledge in marine research at an active research facility.

ESG IN NUMBERS

Impact



71 tonnes

CO2 saved through our in-house filtered water and station eliminating plastic bottles since the start of Kisawa operations*



2,013

Benguerra inhabitants supported by Kisawa and BCSS' two freshwater wells



over 16,000

Seeds planted during Kisawa garden expansion including edible and flower species, in line with self-sustaining and seed regeneration*



65x

Participants present at 7 Sustainability Council and Green Team meetings, introduced in 2023 part of our governance and training approach



2,619

Kilograms of marine and land debris collected during 54 clean-ups arranged in 2023 by Kisawa x BCSS teams



95%

Of coastal forest remain untouched on Kisawa property in line with rewilding and biodiversity conservation purposes*

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales embark on a seasonal migration between their high-latitude summer feeding areas and low-latitude winter breeding grounds. BCSS growing database boasts records of at least 9 cetacean species, documented through over 1,000 sightings, totaling over 6,000 animals encountered. Notably, more than 1,000 of these individuals are migrating humpback whales.

Photo: Orlando Miranda + Salvador Colvee



*estimate based on available figures

Marine Ecosystem

Our R-2-R efforts align with the United Nations' Mission Blue, towards protecting 30% of the surrounding marine diversity by 2030 through protecting the Inhambane seascape.

Photo: Orlando Miranda + Salvador Colvee

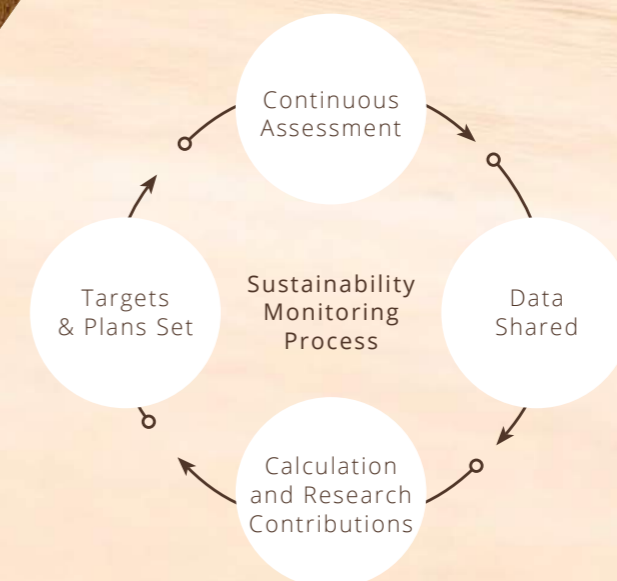


Resort-to-Research (R-2-R)

Pairing luxury hospitality with critical marine science, means every Kisawa Sanctuary guest directly supports non-profit research, creating a new, large scale, nature positive relationship between hospitality and conservation.

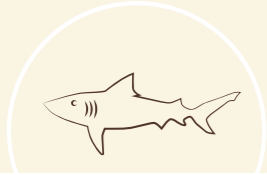
R-2-R provides a stable platform for long-term research endeavors, ensuring financial sustainability and longevity of scientific environmental monitoring. This enables international collaboration with other research platforms, and the ability to provide data and information to the Mozambican government and NGO's with the idea of contributing to long term conservation and better environmental information.

The R-2-R concept is the foundation of Kisawa and BCSS's relationship, in tune with the ecosystems on which Benguerra's inhabitants depend. It's a synergistic relationship where hospitality contributes directly to (non profit) marine science and openly shared research. Inversely, the data and knowledge output of BCSS guides daily environmental decisions within the sanctuary, from informing construction and design choices to enhancing guest experiences, creating a harmonious and meaningful connection between the resort and the marine ecosystem.



BIODIVERSITY Data Guiding

BCSS-gathered data on its own or via collaborations with other scientists, is used to help answer local environmental questions such as:



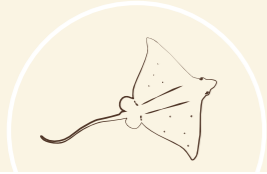
How often do certain endangered shark species use certain reefs and critical hotspots in Mozambican waters during several years?



How do static sound traps (hydrophones) help to identify species of whales that are hard to be seen but easier to be heard.



How are weather and wind shifts affecting seabed water temperature over the year, and in turn affecting coral reef health and bleaching events?



How, where, and when are endangered and CITES-protected species using the Mozambican waters during the year? Are they using National Parks?



Is the tissue composition e.g. heavy metals of commercial fish species changing through the year, and is it linked to environmental fluctuations?



How many kilograms of plastic are entering various marine ecosystems per month over several years? Where is the plastic coming from, and how much CO2 does this translate into?

Openly Shared Data Platform

All BCSS data collected in the region is accessible through an open data platform on the BCSS website, for free as part of our commitment to our Ocean Observatory concept.

The research is regularly contributing to academic journals, including but not limited to 'Nature,' 'PNAS,' 'Frontiers in Marine Science' and the 'British Ecological Society', while working with partners including the Hemholtz Centre of Ocean Research Kiel, the Ocean University of China, the Mozambican Oceanographic Institute, Nelson Mandela University and the Mammal Research Institute - University of St Andrews, Scotland.



New Partnerships and Contributions to Scientific Publications

In 2023 BCSS established new, valuable partnerships:

A memorandum of understanding with Universal Plastic uses AI algorithms and blockchain technology to achieve transparency and traceability of marine debris, with the goal of closing the plastic waste circle through tracking systems.

BCSS became part of the Western Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), focusing on supporting Western Indian Ocean marine sciences in all its forms since 1993.

In December, a paper on pioneering deep learning framework for marine mammal and bioacoustic research was published. Deep Voice Foundation conducted the fieldwork for this research, and BCSS hosted the Israeli team and facilitated the data collections over two years, monitoring the whale migration.

2023 NUMBER OF Sightings



Cetaceans

≈1120

Spinner dolphins
(*Stenella longirostris*)

≈600

Bottlenose dolphins
(*Tursiops sp.*)

33

10 Humpback dolphins
(*Sousa plumbea*)

510

Humpback whales
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)



Elasmobranchs

26

Scalloped hammerhead
(*Sphyrna lewini*)

13

Oceanic blacktip shark
(*Carcharhinus limbatus*)

21

Reef manta ray
(*Mobula alfredi*)

9

Spinetail devil ray
(*Mobula mobular*)

3

Whitespotted eagle ray
(*Aetobatus narinari*)

47

Jenkins' whipray
(*Pateobatis jenkinsii*)

23

Bull shark
(*Carcharhinus limbatus*)



Bony fish

10

Sailfish
(*Istiophorus platypterus*)



Reptiles

79

Green turtle
(*Chelonia mydas*)

89

Loggerhead turtle
(*Caretta caretta*)

31

Hawksbill turtle
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



Sirenia

13

Dugong
(*Dugong dugon*)



From Farm to Fork

In this photo: André Francisco Nhamurave from our garden team. By using ingredients at their peak, grown to our standards and picked each morning for the day, we ensure produce of highest quality.

Photo: Karolina Högberg



2023 IN NUMBERS Highlights



16.4 tonnes
Construction materials reclaimed
for BCSS repair



23%
Food waste reduction at BCSS
in 2023

By implementing metrics to the performance areas 'Materiality Stewardship & Waste Management', 'Energy & Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and Water Management' in 2023, a new initiative has guided the evolution of our 'Sustainable by Design' Approach.

Optimized Materiality Stewardship & Waste Management

The introduction of food waste protocols and tools, alongside waste segregation trainings and database analyses, has significantly contributed to **reducing the footprint by 12% at Kisawa and by 23% at BCSS.** Notably all food waste has been reused, partly for composting in line with permaculture and to support the island's pig's farm.

Implemented strategies within the performance area 'Materiality stewardship & Waste management' include a larger focus on local and ecological supply procurement ranging from kitchen to kiosk offerings. In addition to our plastic free ambition we aim to avoid single use items, whereby we **produce our own multi-use reed straws** at Kisawa.

In addition, BCSS' marine debris identification program including **42 beach clean-ups significantly contributed to research and park collaborations.** In addition to reclaiming **13.6 tonnes of wood for construction material**, further collaborations and refurbishments of waste storage lie in the 2024 horizon to better facilitate recycling infrastructure.

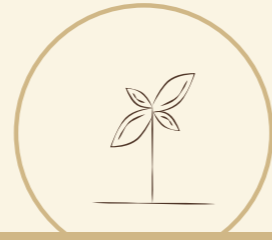


SUSTAINABLE BY DESIGN
Regenerative Vision



51%

Total carbon footprint decrease at Kisawa through 2023 – In efforts to transition to solar from natural gas



100

Plant species identified in 2023 during biodiversity assessment in development of our Garden experiences

Solar Powered Transition

Our adherence to energy efficiency and emission reduction is evidenced by the monitoring and analysis of fuels and water in our 'Energy & Greenhouse Gas emissions' and 'Freshwater use management' performance areas.

Whereas the research center is already solar powered, Kisawa is currently undergoing a renewable transition from natural gas to a solar powered system in 2024 embodying our carbon neutral goal.

With ongoing efforts in monitoring and mitigating our carbon footprint a remarkable reduction of 51% has been seen between 2022 and 2023.



Regional Supply Chains

By sourcing products locally and regionally where possible, Kisawa and BCSS maintain a first-hand local and organic awareness approach to reduce our emissions.

We have built a network of fishermen and local chicken suppliers from within the Inhambane province, supplying natural, local produce from within 300 km of Kisawa Sanctuary, with as much as possible grown, cooked, smoked, grilled and baked in the Kisawa Kitchen.

With the vision to become self-sustainable, we are currently expanding our food garden with nearly 16,000 seeds planted to sustain more of our menu, where 100% food waste goes into permaculture compost and animal feed.



Towards a Regenerative Environment

Kisawa and BCSS actively monitor and mitigate our environmental impact. Through continuous assessment of risks and opportunities, Kisawa and BCSS' joint databases inform daily operations. **By having our own filtered water bottling station, single-use plastic bottles are eliminated.** The use of recycled greywater for landscape irrigation exemplifies a closed-loop system where stable freshwater levels are monitored, ensuring that every resource is utilized with utmost efficiency.

By monitoring and presenting impact of performance area metrics on waste management such as organic waste produced and consumed, awareness over consumables are built up as well as trainings held to avoid overconsumption.



Gecko

Geckos and chameleons can be seen in the Bazaruto Archipelago. They also act as protectors and keep the spiders and mosquitos away.

Photo: Orlando Miranda + Salvador Colvee



SOCIAL IMPACT

Culture of Kisawa & BCSS



355

Christmas Hampers delivered to Benguerra Primary School as part of our mission to support the community



447

School students supported through benches, books, pens and teaching materials

Joyful and meaningful connections with the people of the community were initiated in 2023.

New Guest Activities Include:



Explore vibrant Vilanculos

Join a guided tour of Vilanculos, embracing the colours, craft and culture of this lively coastal hub. Depart from Kisawa by boat journey to Vilanculos bay. Your dedicated Tuk Tuk driver will greet you, before embarking on a sensory journey through the seaside port.



Island football

Watch or join in on afternoon football match with the Benguerra Island school children, or join the field with the Kisawa team on Sunday afternoon in the village.



Build a library

It is our ongoing goal to contribute to education by providing books and training. Help us shape the Benguerra Island library by donating any used or unused books or travel guides to the school library.

CULTURE

Team & Community

Kisawa and BCSS' impact extends beyond conservation; it aims to support our surrounding communities through the performance areas 'Community Engagement & Social impact' and 'Safety, Health & Wellbeing'.

Quality-of-Life

By investing in water infrastructure and ensuring access to clean water, Kisawa and BCSS support our neighboring villages through the construction of two freshwater wells for the community close to Kisawa and BCSS properties.

Our joint medical clinic attended by medics and nurses, was created for guests and staff of both properties.

Language classes, both in Portuguese and English are provided by our in-house teacher on a regular basis.

Governance

Kisawa and BCSS actively involve and take guidance from the community, inviting each member to become a stakeholder in the environmental and social management, where trainings in turn spread community awareness.

Bottom up alignment is ensured through having regular sustainability meetings through a in-house committee facilitating guided decisions through our Sustainability Council (SusCo).

Kisawa x BCSS teams

Kisawa's team of 196, approximately 90 percent hail from Mozambique. At BCSS, the team of 24 includes 16 staff from Benguerra Island and five Mozambicans.

In support of our in-house talents cultural music and dance celebrations have been held such as the Mozambican Peace Day contributing to a positive and supportive work environment.



TEAM & COMMUNITY

Island School Projects

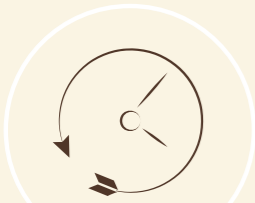
Our projects on Benguerra Primary school is about securing qualitative education for the young and future generation of Benguerra where 2023 focused on supporting needs of pupils and teachers in the establishment of a Secondary School.

Project Overview:



Completed

- Painting of classroom walls
- Refurbishment of classroom benches
- Installation of handwash water and washrooms
- Outdoor seated shade area



In Progress

- Completing teacher's village cooking area and bathroom + waste management facilities



Continuous

- Overall maintenance
- Supply of educational materials and uniforms



ISLAND SCHOOL EVENTS OVERVIEW



Moz. Children's Day

June 1st 2023
On World Children's Day, Kisawa was invited to attend a ceremony at Benguerra Primary School. Education and community representatives acknowledged our support, including the construction of the fresh water supply infrastructure, the new classroom benches, the fresh painting of the school and new uniforms and study material.

The Administrator's wife (First Lady of Vilankulo) gave a speech on children's rights and the community leaders expressed their educational visions for Benguerra.

Underwater Workshop

August 14th 2023
In partnership with award winning underwater photographer Helen Walne, we created a school workshop to bring awareness to the Indian Ocean surrounding Benguerra & the marine life that call it home. Bridging our R-2-R approach with BCSS the symbiotic work extends to engage and spread knowledge about marine conservation with the younger generation.

In full concentration and seated in the outdoor seated shade area, the students were astonished by the stories behind Helen's up close photographs, translated by our in-house teacher Vicente Vilanculo.

Christmas Hampers

December 26th 2023
As part of the festive program, a family event was held at Benguerra Primary School on December 26th with guests assisting in delivering 355 food hampers to the children and their families. It was an appreciated venue attracting most pupils and their families being in the midst of the festive period.

A warm thank you to our donators who have supported us throughout the journey in contributing to sustaining educational needs of Benguerra Island.

TOWARDS ESG REGENERATION

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Going above our internal performance goals, Kisawa and BCSS are proud to commit to the macro SDG framework, outlining commitments to prevent marine pollution, support quality education, contribute to responsible consumption and production, becoming carbon neutral, and working through partnerships and transparency.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water

BCSS actively addresses SDG 14 targets, focusing on marine pollution prevention, sustainable management of marine ecosystems, minimizing ocean acidification impacts, and conserving coastal and marine areas. BCSS serves as a catalyst for advancing scientific understanding, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices in marine ecosystems, both locally and internationally.



SDG 4 – Quality Education

While Kisawa supports capacity building and sustaining quality education for the future island generation of Benguerra, BCSS directly contributes to high quality education by providing hands-on learning opportunities, career development, and a deeper understanding of marine ecosystems through its professional Scientific Training Program focused on marine ecosystems.



SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Kisawa's and BCSS' joint waste management and materiality stewardship strategy works to prevent and reduce waste. By reutilising and repurposing organic waste for composting in line with permaculture techniques, as well as purchasing locally and ecologically most possible extent, our sister properties contribute to responsible consumption and production.



SDG 13 – Climate Action

By producing our own renewable energy at BCSS and vision for Kisawa, the focus lies on becoming fully solar powered apart from mitigation and adaptation strategies.



SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The collaborative 'Resort-to-Research' model exemplifies Kisawa's and BCSS's commitment to effective partnerships, facilitating knowledge-sharing and contributing to sustainable development. Read more about how we work with continuous assessment and goal alignment towards the committed SDG targets in our [BCSS article](#).



People and Culture

In this photo: Waiter Fernando Tangune, part of Kisawa's F&B team. Trained by Chief Barman Meluleki Dube and F&B Manager Lindani Biyela.

Photo: Enrico Costantini



People and Culture

Kanhi Kwedho, meaning 'our home' is made up of three villages: Chirringhome, Bavene and Chizungune, with a combined population of 2013. Containing 425 families, the island hosts one kindergarten, one school and one hospital.

Photo: Orlando Miranda + Salvador Colvee



2024 ESG PROGRAM APPROACH

Vision & Projects – Get Involved

The following projects solidify our commitment to broader environmental and social objectives whereby interested guests and partners are invited to contribute to the following projects:

We believe in National Capacity Building

Help communities to stand stronger and deeper connected to the ocean. Consider sponsoring Mozambican students to enrol on one of the scientific training courses through BCSS, by providing following scholarships:

[Visit BCSS for more info](#)



Experience & Assist
2 weeks



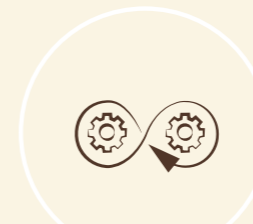
Study & Protect
8 weeks



Engage & Help
4 weeks



Advance & Lead
12 weeks



Emerge & Contribute
6 weeks

Donations go towards co-funding of the research projects conducted at BCSS by early career scientists from Mozambique.



PARTNERS
Thank You

Without our contributing visitors and partners, our work would not be possible. We thank our valued guests, donors and partners for the support in enriching the work between Kisawa and BCSS.



Bazaruto Archipelago

We look forward to welcoming you back to our island home soon.

Photo: Elsa Young



X

KISAWA

