

ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING IN A PROTECTED AREA:

**The case of the Niassa National Reserve,
Niassa Province
Mozambique**



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Maputo



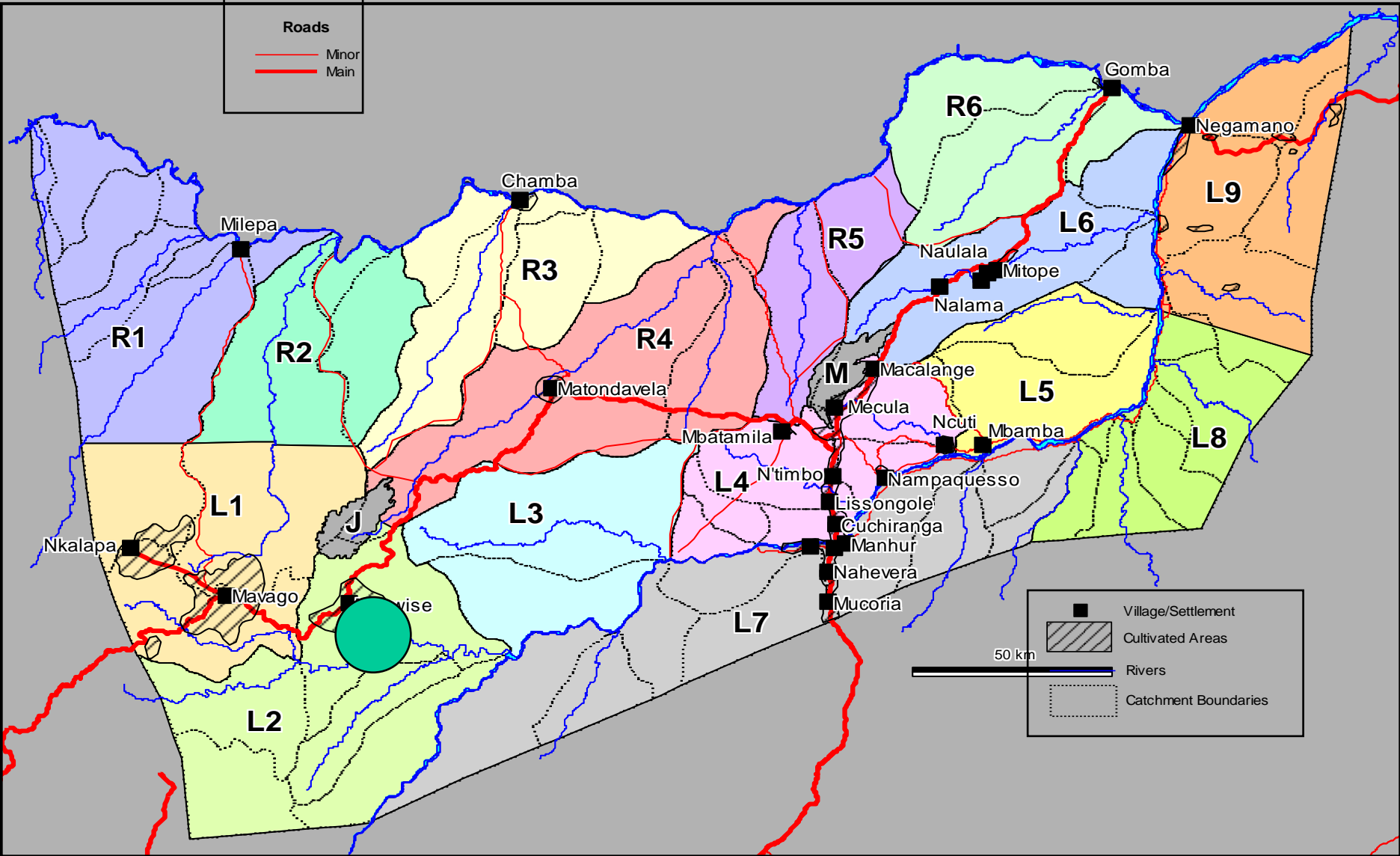
INTRODUCING THE NIASA NATIONAL RESERVE



- Largest protected area in Mozambique (42 000 sq. km) representing 36% of the total area under conservation
 - Third largest protected area in Africa
- It has most of the wildlife existing in the country
- 13 000 elephants,
 - 14 000 sable,
 - 600 to 900 lions,
 - more than 350 wildogs

- Currently, about 35,000 people live inside the Reserve in three major centres - **Mavago**, **Msawize** and the **Mecula** corridor.
- The largest settlements are in the Mecula and Mavago comprising about 14,000 and 16,000 people respectively.

ZONATION OF NIASSA NATIONAL RESERVE





REGIONAL SETTING



- NNR is linked to regional destinations accessible by pedestrian traffic.
- First indication of mining received in October 2008
- Attempts to remove miners by local government failed.
 - Required concerted effort from local police and Reserve staff.
 - Quantities of equipment and stones confiscated.

MINING ACTIVITIES



- Uncontrolled activities with reports of large number of miners (> 200) from Tanzania, Malawi and as far as Nigeria
- Conflict with and disruption of local tourism operations
- Evidence of other illegal activities: poaching, drugs etc.
- Quantities of semi-precious stones confiscated and handed over to mining authorities





IMPACT OF MINING ACTIVITIES



DECEMBER 2008

- Deforestation and erosion
- Local law enforcement over-whelmed
- Escalating confrontation
- Escalating illegal movement and trade
- Unsafe mining activities:
 - 1 death, 12 injured after mine shaft collapsed in June 2009



JULY 2009

EXAMPLES OF OTHER MINING ACTIVITIES



**GOLD PANNING
ON THE
ROVUMA RIVER**



**EXPLORING
POTHOLES ON
THE LUGENDA
RIVER**



THE PROBLEMS



- There is a clear statement in the Wildlife and Conservation Act that any form of mining in a protected area is illegal
- Influx of illegal immigrants
- Loss of economic benefits to local community and nation
- Introduced level of corruption
- Habitat destruction
- Potential to expand to other areas of NNR
- Lack of capacity to manage this situation



WHERE TO NEXT?



- The legal position: Mining in a protected area
 - How to bring order to this situation?
 - De-escalate potential conflict?
- How to rehabilitate the site
- Transfer benefits to local community, local government and NNR?
- Defining the roles of:
 - Ministry of Mineral Resources
 - Ministry of Tourism
 - Provincial and District Govt
 - NNR and local communities



THANK YOU