

Respecting, relying on and advancing traditional knowledge, governance and management systems

Beyond the sacred

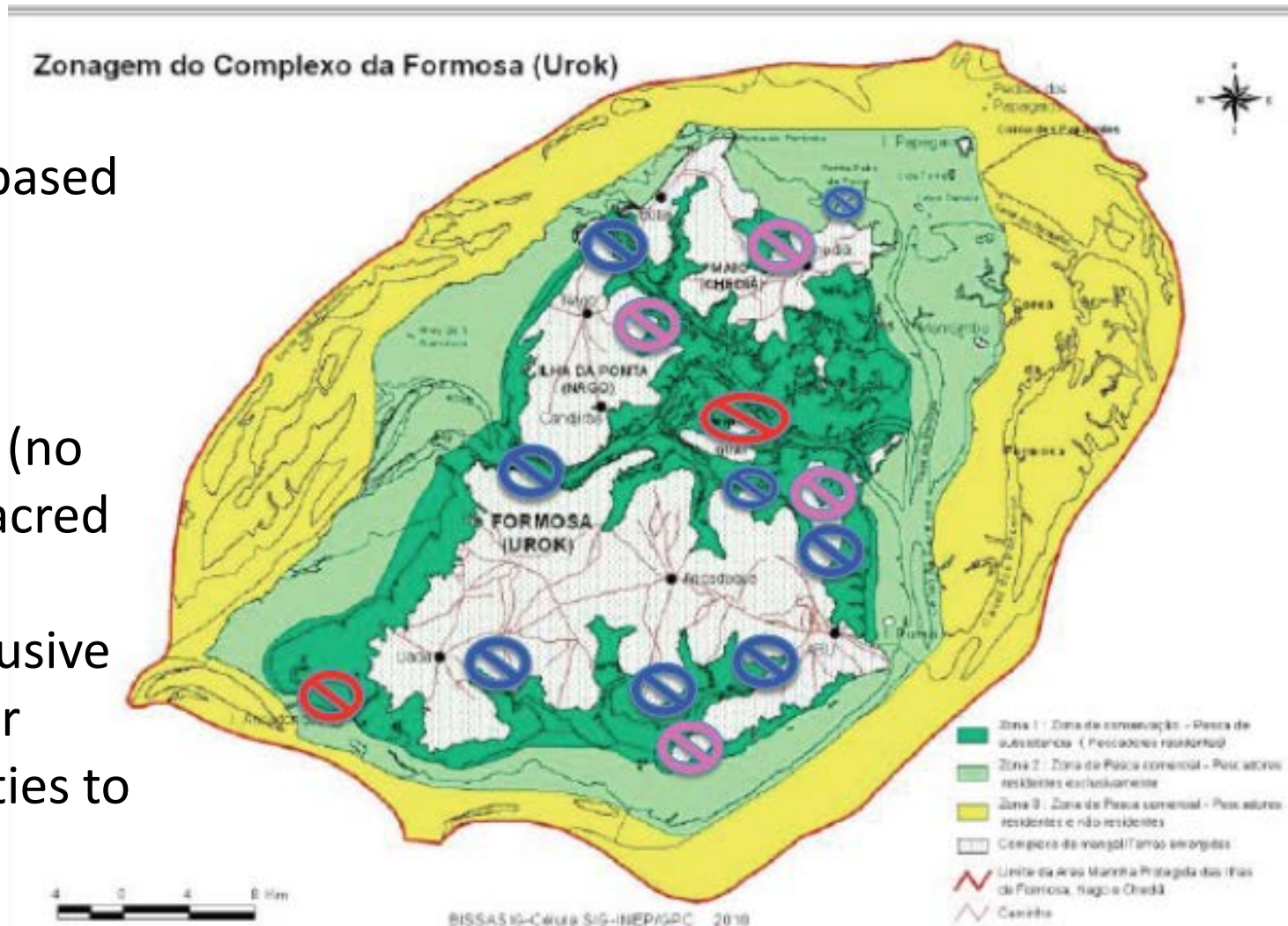
- Improving biodiversity conservation and social well-being by preserving and strengthening local knowledge, culture and traditional practices in West Africa -



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1. Integrating indigenous knowledge and traditional culture into MPA planning and management

- * **MPA zoning** based on traditional management system:
MPA core zone (no take) include sacred sites/islands
- * Granting exclusive access rights for local communities to defined zones



2. Integrating indigenous knowledge into MPA monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring with **locally/traditionnally relevant indicator** and **flagship species**

Eg « Lingron » (*Tagelus adansonii*)

- Importance for various spiritual ceremonies (initiation, mourning,...)
- food resource
- Used for ecological monitoring (shellfish)
- Flagship status



2. Formal recognition and legal framework

- Effective protection of traditional knowledge, management practices and institutions through **legal recognition and preservation of local management rights**

Ex: **Protected areas Act** Guinea Bissau:

→ **Protected areas objectives:**

- *Protection, conservation and enhancing traditional activities and ways of life....*

→ **PAs categories include**

- *Community conserved areas and sacred natural sites*



3. Strengthening and formal recognition of traditional governance mechanisms and institutions

Eg

→ **Traditional institutions** (eg. traditional elders councils)

formally recognized and integrated into MPA management system
(« official » validation of management decisions)



4. Promoting traditional knowledge and intergenerational transfert

Creative **awareness rising** activities and **innovative approaches** for promoting tradition, including among youth

→ *Eg: Contests, carnival, theatre*



Thank you!