These products and designs tell the story of their home, where their ancestors are and where they were born and provide a strand of hope for a future without poaching.
"Kushirika" means to come together. In 2015 a group of 26 men and women from the remote Mbamba Village - living inside Niassa National Reserve Mozambique - came together to create a craft group with the help of the Niassa Carnivore Project (www.niassalion.org). The mission is to find a way for people and wildlife to live together by providing a sustainable livelihood for people without any formal education or job that does not include poaching or wildlife trade.

Kushirika aims to earn, to learn, to share and to protect the place they call home, Niassa National Reserve, through the sale of high quality goods that are locally created. They are inspired by the wilderness they live in and all their products have a conservation theme - from the baskets and flipflop animals and weaving (using single use plastic) to the embroidered designs of animals and plants on bags, cushions and quilts.

All of these hand-crafted items come from the heart of an extraordinary wilderness area which is critical for lions and so many other animals. These products preserve traditional hand skills while giving them a contemporary twist and 100% of the proceeds from sale of these items goes back to the group. All the items can be personalised and made to order with names.

All items, except the embroidery, are made from sustainable materials found in the village and surrounds – discarded flip flops, clay, lala palm fronds, discarded single use plastic bags, bamboo and inselberg grass. This means that each item is different. For the embroidery, we provide good quality material and thread to ensure the items are high quality and long standing, the designs are their own.

Please support Kushirika, help it grow and thereby help protect this wilderness.
KUSHIRIKA ANIMALS

FLIP FLOP PORCUPINE
A001 - $6

FLIP FLOP PANGOLIN (LRG)
A004 - $25

FLIP FLOP PANGOLIN (SML)
A003 - $9

FLIP FLOP LION (SML)
A005 - $4

FLIP FLOP HYAENA (SML)
A006 - $4

WOOL & FLIP FLOP ELEPHANT
A008 - $4

FLIP FLOP ELEPHANT (SML)
A009 - $4
KUSHIRIKA ANIMALS

FLIP FLOP BIRD (LRG)
A017 - $9

FLIP FLOP HONEY BADGER (SML)
A018 - $4

WOOL & FLIP FLOP BIRD
A019 - $4

FLIP FLOP EILAND (SML)
A021 - $4

FLIP FLOP BIRD (SML)
A020 - $4

FLIP FLOP AARDVARK (SML)
A022 - $4
KUSHIRIKA HOME

HAND EMBROIDERED CUSHION COVER
IN WOVEN COVER
H001 - $20
COVER ONLY
H002 - $15

TEASPOONS
H003 - SET OF 6 - $14
H004 - EACH - $3

COASTERS
H005 - SET OF 6 - $4
H006 - EACH - $2

PLACEMATS (MED)
H007 - SET OF 4 - $10
H008 - EACH - $3

GLASS BOTTLES WOVEN WITH SINGLE USE PLASTIC
H009 - $18

HAND WOVEN BASKETS (MED)
H010 - $4

HAND WOVEN BASKETS (LRG)*
H011 - $10

*AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS DESIGNS & SHAPES
BRACELETS WOVEN FROM SINGLE USE PLASTIC
H015 - $3

WOVEN BRACELETS*
H013 - $3

HAND WOVEN BASKETS (SML)
H012 - $4

FLIP FLOP NECKLACE
A014 - $3

* CAN BE PERSONALISED WITH NAMES, WORDS, COLOURS
KUSHIRIKA COLLECTIVE ART
Inspired by Niassa Reserve and created by Kushirika

Each individual square of the throw is carefully sewn together by Mzee Katumbusi once all the embroidery has been completed. Each square is individually embroidered and signed by different women of the Kushirika group. They have learned to write their names through writing them on their pieces. The throws can follow a specific biodiversity theme (birds, fish, mammals, insects) or be a riot of colour representing an ecosystem.

VILLAGE LIFE THROWS/WALL HANGING
COVID-19 was tough for the Kushirika Group as there were no visitors to Niassa Reserve and few sales of individual craft items. They rose to the occasion, working together to create unique, collective art pieces that represent their lives. These were designed, drawn and embroidered collectively and then sewn together by Mzee Katumbusi to reflect their vision. These expressions of village life are bursting with colour and interest and the realities of being a remote village inside a protected area in an environment teeming with wildlife today. This is an authentic story of coexistence expressed through embroidery and design: the more you look the more stories you see, from the baboon stealing maize in the fields, to the fishermen in the river with crocodiles and hippo. The women collect firewood, while our team radio track for lions in front of Mariri Mountain. This is their story.
COLLECTIVE ART: VILLAGE SCENE
CA001 - $550
COLLECTIVE ART: BIODIVERSITY QUILTS
CA002 - QUEEN SIZE THROW - $400