



IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: A Brazil–Mozambique Knowledge Exchange

✓ The Challenge

Brazil and Mozambique are both countries under the Forest Investment Program (FIP) of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Two of their tropical forests—the Miombo in Mozambique and the Cerrado in Brazil—face a common challenge: how to ensure forests contribute to rural livelihoods. Their rural and forest communities face challenges relating to land ownership, access, and management rights as well as to the management of their natural resources and livelihood. Mozambique and Brazil also have millions of hectares of degraded land that could be put back into production through good management.

The Cerrado and the Miombo are home to thousands of species of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the regions; each forest is also a huge carbon reservoir that prevents the acceleration of climate change. Unfortunately, these natural ecosystems are degrading at a rapid pace, as vast plots of land are transformed for commercial agriculture or cattle ranching or are degraded for the production of firewood and charcoal.

The Miombo, the largest biome in Mozambique, loses about 220,000 hectares per year mainly to agricultural expansion. Deforestation not

only affects the local populations who depend on the forest, but also leads to the loss of a longer-term source of income for the country. In addition, the international community loses with the disappearance of fauna and flora and the global implications of greenhouse gas emissions.

✓ The Solution—Who Did What?

Brazil has dramatically decreased deforestation since 2004. With its successful programs in conservation area management, rural development, and increasing rural access to markets, Brazil has much relevant experience that can inform how Mozambique implements its FIP projects and the national rural development agenda.

The two countries are united in the fight against deforestation, and both have adopted policies, investments, and actions to reverse this situation. Under the FIP and the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, both part of the CIF, a delegation from Mozambique traveled to Brazil in 2016 to exchange knowledge on technologies, ideas, and best practices related to forest protection, forest management, and income generation through the cooperative exploration of nontimber forest resources. The Mozambicans also

wanted to learn how to economically empower forest communities in the Miombo forest.

Mozambique is exploring the development of eucalyptus plantations as a means of providing different sources of charcoal, fighting degradation, and providing economic alternatives for local stakeholders. These plantations can reduce the pressure on natural forests, which are often degraded for charcoal and firewood, by providing an alternative energy source. The delegation visited the Luiz de Queiroz School of Agriculture, linked to the University of São Paulo, which has developed a line-planting technique that mixes fast-growing exotic species with natural forest plants. On visiting the Plantar Project, one of the first Clean Development Mechanism projects supported by the World Bank Prototype Carbon Fund, the delegation realized that it is possible to professionally manage plantations, especially when the private sector is involved.

“On returning to Mozambique, we want to test some partnerships involving local communities and private sector companies,” remarked a trip participant from northern Mozambique, referring to some examples seen in Brazil.



The example of sustainable use of the savannah by the Riachão cooperative, in the north of Minas Gerais State, inspired the Mozambican delegation. *“Today we see the value of this forest, and the entire community is committed to protecting this forest around our waters. The sale of macaúba (palm) oil has complemented our revenues. Now we produce oil, soap, and fertilizer, and we have many plans for expansion,”* said Maria de Lourdes, member of the Riachão cooperative in Brazil.

Another subject that interested Mozambique was the National Forest Inventory (NFI) being conducted by the Brazilian Forest Service: Mozambique started its own NFI in 2016 and will launch the final results by the end of 2018.

✓ Results

Since this exchange, Mozambique and Brazil have shared a series of knowledge exchanges focused on strengthening natural resource management and stakeholder engagement.

Mozambique has started its own NFI, supported by funds from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, managed by the World Bank. The inventory will provide the information necessary to help manage Mozambique’s productive forests.

Exactly one year after Mozambique was accepted as a new country into the FIP, the country already has a plan for getting projects going on the ground.

“We were expecting to learn a bit, but were impressed with the array of solutions developed by the Brazilian friends which can be applied in Mozambique,” said Sonia Nordez from the National REDD+ Technical Unit.

In 2017, to further this cooperation, the two countries and the World Bank signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding.

✓ Lesson Learned

Sustainable rural development entails linking organizations of smallholders such as cooperatives and associations to new markets, value chains, credit, technical assistance, and rural infrastructure, and giving significant attention to the sustainability of the resource base—water, forests, and biodiversity.

✓ Instrument

Study tour

✓ Knowledge Brokers

Andre Rodrigues Aquino, Sr.
Natural Resources Management Specialist, The World Bank Group

Joao Moura Estevao Marques,
Natural Resources Management Specialist, The World Bank Group

✓ Multimedia

Mozambique’s Integrated Landscape Management Portfolio (ILM):
<https://bit.ly/2PsZOMq>

Mozambique Learns Forest Protection From Brazil:
<https://bit.ly/2zQptnn>

The Forest Investment Program:
<https://bit.ly/2RUunYe>

Brazil–Mozambique Knowledge Exchange video:
<https://bit.ly/2B3Py4a>

Brazil–Mozambique Knowledge Exchange blog: From the Cerrado to the Miombo, savanna forests give quality of life to Brazilians and Mozambicans alike:
<https://bit.ly/2Puu35F>

Feature Story: Collaborating Across Continents: Mozambique, Brazil and the World Bank Deepen South–South Cooperation on Sustainable Rural Development:
<https://bit.ly/2zQ2gSp>