

[Approval by mail]: Mozambique: Emissions Reductions in the Forest Sector Through Planted Forests with Major Investors (FIP, IFC) (PFIPMZ032A) – UK Comments

1. There is reference to the General Boundary Principle – allowing geo-referencing rather than on the ground surveying as sufficient for land delimitation and the issuing of titles. The advantages in terms of achieving scale, faster and cheaper are clear – but we would welcome further information about the extent to which this has been tested in practice. Experience shows that it is often the on the ground process of delimitation that reveals potential areas of disputed “ownership”. Will this fast track method obscure possible future conflict?
2. How are the project and the company defining “degraded areas”?
3. We appreciate that this project is designed to dovetail with the Company’s implementation plan for work with communities but it would be helpful to have a table that makes it clear what results are to be achieved as a whole, what through this project’s contribution, and what through the company’s own implementation. This is important since as the project rationale states – the objective is to test an overall model for possible replication – with this funding being a contribution towards the model, and capturing the learning from it.
4. For this reason, we believe that the monitoring, evaluation and learning around this intervention is crucial, and that it should be open and transparent, mindful of unintended consequences as well as expected results. It is important to think about long term tracking and learning, how this will be done and how stakeholders will continue to be engaged beyond the end of the IFC project lifetime
5. The tracking of the Eucalyptus impact on hydrology is excellent, but wonder if there needs to be a similar objective to:
 - ensure that the impact of a mosaic approach on remaining fragments of natural forest is tracked, experience from elsewhere has shown how difficult it is to conserve forest fragments as pressure for land grows in the event of more demand for agriculture and/or outgrowing.
 - explore the impact on livelihoods, particularly the nature of alternative employment opportunities
 - track the potential longer term implications of in-migration once/if the region becomes an employment hub are understood and planned forIt would be good to have these explicitly stated as objectives, and some explanation of how this monitoring/tracking will be done in the longer term (ideally with the private sector’s input too) and how the information will be shared with stakeholders.
6. What is the potential to link with the DGM might be, if there is any coincidence in geographical area. The objectives seem to be well aligned and worth exploring.