

SEPTEMBER 2012

## OVERVIEW

### IIED Natural Resources Group

**Project name:**

South-South REDD+: a Brazil Mozambique initiative

**Project leader:**

Isilda Nhantumbo and Duncan Macqueen

**Time frame:**

2009–2012

**Cost:**

£970,000

**Objective:**

To provide technical and participatory-process support for the development of a national REDD+ strategy and REDD+ readiness programme in Mozambique.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Global debates about reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promoting conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), emphasise the need for strategies to build on existing knowledge. IIED helped facilitate a collaboration between Mozambique and Brazil to do just this. The South–South partnership shared expertise, created a broad, multi-institutional REDD+ working group including national and international organisations, and consulted over 1,300 key actors at national, provincial and local levels. The group has produced an approved REDD+ readiness preparation plan (RPP) and a draft national REDD+ strategy, and chosen six pilot sites to test different aspects of REDD+ in Mozambique.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

For REDD+ payment mechanisms to work in Mozambique, officials, communities and private-sector actors must understand who has the right to use forest land, and how to modify rights and financial incentives to encourage land-use changes that reduce deforestation and degradation. Then institutions are needed to implement and monitor these changes and channel finance. Only prolonged exposure to REDD+ concepts and practice can deepen this

# Deep REDD+: lessons from a South–South–North collaboration

Brazil and Mozambique join forces to learn about fighting deforestation and forest degradation.

Brazil's Bolsa Floresta programme was one of the first schemes to counter deforestation by paying local communities and land users to leave trees uncut. And it's become one of the largest, with 10 million hectares in 17 reserves, each managed by a community association. As more countries begin outlining strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promote conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), can they draw on the experiences of Southern pioneers like Bolsa Floresta?

Mozambique's government set out to explore this possibility, signing a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009 between the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) and the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS), the Brazilian public-private partnership that oversees Bolsa Floresta. It was an unusual pairing. Many developing countries are working on plans aimed at getting them into the pipeline for international REDD+ funding, but they often consult only their own government departments.

In Mozambique, a working group involving MICOA, the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) and FAS – with funding from Norway and technical input from national and international organisations including IIED, Indufor, Eduardo Mondlane University in

Mozambique, and the NGO Centro Terra Viva – developed a road map to produce the REDD+ preparation plan. As part of the learning process, working group members undertook exchange visits in both Brazil and Mozambique, to observe how REDD+ works in the Amazon, and to learn about Mozambique's own initiatives for addressing deforestation.

### Balancing inclusiveness and efficiency

IIED coordinated the research and consultations for this road map. We faced two problems: designing an inclusive process with limited time and resources, and coordinating across institutions.

The team recognised a trade-off between pace and inclusivity: developing REDD+ strategy fast, as Mozambique officials urged, versus involving more stakeholders and building their capacity to implement the strategy. For REDD+ to work in the long term, we had to cultivate 'deep REDD+' – enthusiasm and knowledge among national, provincial and community institutions in critical landscape corridors, such as the Beira corridor in central Mozambique. Country exchanges, in-country briefings and consultations, and testing at pilot sites were all important.

We also tailored the process to reach diverse groups more efficiently – by inviting district representatives who could take information back to their home areas, for example. One-on-one

understanding and capacity. To nurture ‘deep REDD+’, we established a multinational, multisector partnership grounded in South–South country exchanges and action learning at pilot sites. For this working group, building the knowledge and implementation capacity of stakeholders was an integral part of formal REDD+ planning. A key priority was to maintain collective effort in the face of various institutional agendas. The reward was national REDD+ planning documents ground-truthed by international learning about what had worked elsewhere, as well as by local insights about what might work at pilot sites in Mozambique.

## KEY LESSONS LEARNT & INNOVATIONS

- In this South–South partnership, learning was mutual: rather than blindly replicating a ‘proven’ model from Brazil, the partners adapted the approach to Mozambique’s local contexts and capacities, drawing on field visits to both countries.
- To create strong, broad ownership of REDD+ readiness, we needed time to engage government, civil society, the private sector and local communities. We balanced inclusivity against time and resource constraints by working first in areas of intensive deforestation and degradation, which will form landscape corridors for REDD+ implementation in the future.
- While local participation and piloting is crucial, coordination at the top can make or break REDD+ readiness. Tackling drivers of deforestation requires linking champions across sectors such as forestry, agriculture, energy and mining, as well as respected business and NGO representatives.

## PARTNERS’ VIEW

*The Minister of Environment’s leadership laid the ground for the technical work to proceed, but South-South collaboration requires commitment and continuous engagement between all parties involved. In the future, it is important that South-South collaboration explore more exchange with other neighbouring countries such as Tanzania or the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

Personal opinion of Francisco Sambo, Mozambique Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs

## IIED NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP

The aim of the Natural Resources Group is to build partnerships, capacity and wise decision making for fair and sustainable use of natural resources. Our priority in pursuing this purpose is on local control and management of natural resources and other ecosystems.

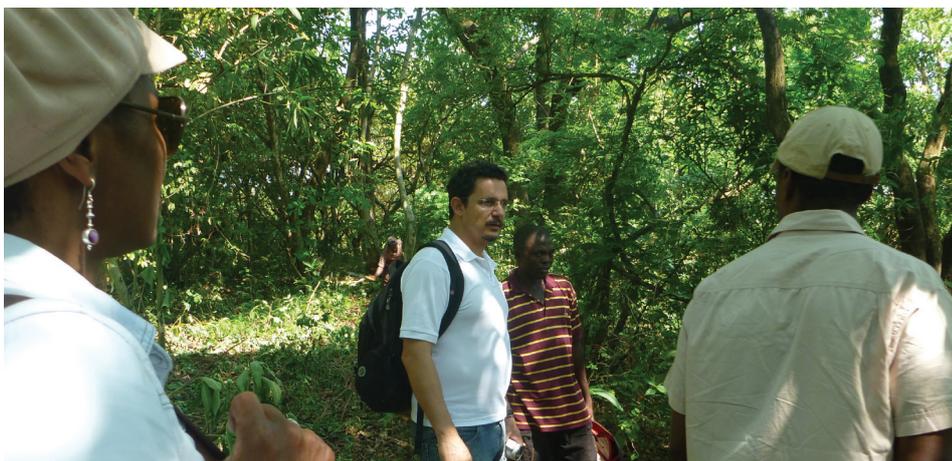


Photo: FAS

Exchange visits between Brazil and Mozambique facilitated mutual learning for both countries.

discussions targeted contributors to deforestation and forest degradation, as well as those working to mitigate impacts. Conversations with forest-dwelling communities brought up issues REDD+ must address to gain buy-in on the ground – such as who is responsible for deforestation, how can poor people protect their incomes as well as forests, and how to share the scheme’s benefits.

All together, the process directly reached more than 1,300 people and trained more than 200 in REDD+ concepts and methodologies. The multistage consultations were relatively costly, yet some NGOs have suggested we could have been still more inclusive – underlining that REDD+ planning processes have to judge the right balance between participation and efficiency.

A second challenge was communicating across diverse institutions. Different external partners occasionally sent mixed signals to Mozambican officials on specific issues such as carbon rights and integrating REDD+ into national policies. Making these messages coherent was critical to help the government make informed decisions.

REDD+ initiatives elsewhere will also have to coordinate broad coalitions. Because REDD+ involves fast finance, many institutions and businesses want in – without necessarily wanting to work together. And because REDD+ aims to change the drivers of deforestation, it’s not just about the forest sector. REDD+ working groups should include public and private-sector representatives from agriculture, tourism and conservation, energy, mining, finance, planning and development, and business. Going forwards in Mozambique, we will push for more involvement and leadership from these different sectors.

## Mutual learning

We found that South–South collaboration was not just about Mozambique receiving a good model from a larger, more experienced country; Brazil also had to be open to learning about the context where its knowledge might be applied. Although Bolsa Floresta covers an area larger than Portugal, its communities are small and scattered. In Mozambique – where forests underpin the livelihoods of 80 per cent of the rural population, including three million small-scale farmers – officials questioned whether they could afford to scale up Brazil’s cash payments to households and communities. But they agreed other pro-poor features of Bolsa Floresta – such as local income-generation groups and community capacity-building programmes – are ripe for testing, building on Mozambique’s existing experience with community-based natural resources management.

In its first three years, the working group produced key planning documents, including the REDD+ readiness preparation proposal – which has been approved by the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility – and a draft national REDD+ strategy. Next, we hope to start taking REDD+ readiness forward at six pilot sites in Mozambique. In Manica, for example, where farming is encroaching on forest reserves, local communities are already discussing how REDD+ can work for them. We can now start to implement plans from our first phase and explore how places like Manica can become part of a larger corridor for testing and adapting solutions tailored to the local context.

The International Institute for Environment and Development’s Reflect & act series showcases innovation and lessons learnt in selected projects from across the institute. See [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org) for more.