

FGLG-Mozambique

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011



FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP



Activities Report 2011

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1. Introduction

In 2007, at the height of a set of events which shook national public opinion, and translated into the publication of a series of illegalities committed in the forest sector, the movement Friends of Forests (Amigos da Floresta) was created. It is a coalition of civil society organizations as well as interested individuals contributing to good forest governance and, consequently, for the protection and conservation of forest resources for sustainable development.

Friends of Forests are members of the Forest Governance Learning Group international platform, which integrated eight African States (South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Cameroon, Ghana and Tanzania) and three Asian States (Vietnam, India and Indonesia). The central objective is to reinforce good forest governance and to maximize exchange of experiences and learning in forest management. The FGLG initiative was created in 2003, and is supported by the International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED), with its headquarters in the United Kingdom.

Following a campaign carried out for two years, where the movement used components of environmental information and education, as well as used an advocacy strategy which has had exciting and positive results, there was a decrease in activities, which also resulted in a decrease in visibility. The main reason for this is instability in the respective coordination and which was aggravated by the exit of the Center for Public Integrity as focal point. Shortly after the 7th International Learning Meeting, under the sponsorship of FGLG and IIED was held in Namaacha, on the 7th until the 10th of December, 2010.

Since then, Centro Terra Viva (CTV), founding member of Friends of Forests, assumed the coordination functions, not just prevent the initiative which achieved a lot of impact in a short period to die, but also to bring a new image and respective dynamic, launched by the Movement in new directions and challenges.

2. Activities Plan for 2012

In the meeting held in Namaacha, Forest of Forests proposed to coordinate (without taking into consideration contributions each organization that composes Friends of Forests would make) the following activities:

- i. Reorganize the structure of FGLG Mozambique, including a secretariat for a coordination committee and a General Assembly,
- ii. Contribute to strengthening public opinion about REDD, through holding three regional meetings; one at the central level (Maputo City), one in the center region and the other in the northern region.
- iii. Assess the state of good forest governance in 2001 through a public position
- iv. A study about exploitation of forest coal in Mozambique, with a case study from a chosen province

As we will see, these objectives were not only fulfilled but also a lot was overcome during the year of 2011.

3. Activities carried out

For FGLG, the following activities took place:

3.1. Restructuring the movement Friends of Forests and the creation of the Forest Learning Group

In the meantime, although Friends of Forests had disappeared in 2011, CTV, along with its new and existing partnerships, transformed the Forest Learning Group. This contributed to rescuing of the underlying concept of FGLG international and also lead to the creation of open platforms, not just for civil society, but also to academic and research institutions at the private and public level as well as public/government institutions.

Among previous partners, it is worth highlighting work by KUWUKA-JDA (Youth Development and Environmental Advocacy) and the Organization for Mutual Rural Support (ORAM). One of the founding members, who had left the Movement- Environmental Justice (Justiça Ambiental), began participating in some activities.

Among the new partners, it is also worth giving a special mention to the Agronomy and Forest Engineering Collage (FAEF), for its important role in GFP (Growing forest Partnerships) and REDD (National REDD Strategy) initiatives, as well as their support in diverse forum discussions about forest issues. The government, through the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) and the National Directorate of Land and Forests (DNTEF)-Ministry of Agriculture, was an important partner for the Forest Learning Group.

2011 also saw a new and strong actor in Society-the Rural Observatory (OMR). It brings together academics, researches and individuals interested in debating and contributing to rural development, putting special focus in the binomial exploration of natural resources (including forest) versus rural development. CTV and OMR will work together in different initiatives, mobilizing and involving various partners.

Thus, as a way to respond to the weaknesses in the forest sector, various institutions in the country, be it government, academic, civil society, cooperation partners or others, debate, in their day-to-day, issues related to forests. They also design strategies for sustainable use of this resource, given its importance in the country and the world.

3.2. Contributing to public opinion surrounding REDD

In this chapter, the Forest Learning Group, lead by CTV, actively worked to strengthen public opinion about REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation-REDD+). It organized, among other activities, information and education actions associated with public talks to enrich the National REDD Strategy.

In 2011, CTV, with support from FAEF, held a seminar directed at the Commission for Social, Gender and Environmental Affairs (CARGA), from the Assembly of the Republic, with a total of 25 participants. REDD constitutes one of the fundamental themes of discussion served as a way of clarification, for the deputies, about the issues that where, according to them, strange, complex and simply unknown. There was also a training seminar held, together with FAEF and two public professional training institutes (National Public Administration Institute and the Center for Judicial and Judiciary Training). This training was

geared towards managers and technicians from various ministries working with environmental and natural resources issues. The themes, good forest governance and REDD were heavily highlighted, as a result of the participants interest.

In the REDD Working Group (CTV, MICOA, DNTF and FAEF, with support from IIED and INDUFUR), 17 public consultations were held, around the country with the following objectives: (i) Disseminate and collect opinions about the Proposal for the National REDD Strategy for preparation on the final document; (ii) Verify the causes of deforestation and forest degradation stated in the draft of the strategy; (iii) Verify the actions listed in the strategy draft that contribute to the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

The REDD Working Group had a visit to the Amazon State, in Brazil, in partnership with the Sustainable Amazon foundation (FAZ), where seven Mozambican technicians. Of these, two were from CTV, two from DNTF, 2 from MICOA and 1 from the Eduardo Mondlane University.

The Forest Learning Group participated, through its members, in the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in December of 2011, in South Africa, of which REDD was on table of negotiations and decisions.

3.3.Studies and material produced

In this chapter, it is important to mention the GFP program. This initiative is implemented in eight countries including Mozambique. The objective is to conserve forests so that they produce ways of substance for the communities that live in them, thus strengthening global climate change mitigation. GFP Mozambique integrates, among others, diverse members of the Forest Learning Group, and showed to be fundamental for the pursuit of the objectives made in the creation of the Friends of Forests Movement.

- i. A survey and documentation was made about lessons learned in community management in the south of Mozambique. The study was made in partnership with CTV and KUWUKA (this work will be published in digital and paper)

- ii. A research project was made about the production of charcoal in Mozambique. The objective here was to evaluate the political options and impact for sustainable forest use. This activity was made by FAEF, with CTV as facilitator (this work will be published in digital and paper). This product was a response to a study that was in the Activities Plan for 2011
- iii. A training manual was made about good practices in conservation and sustainable use of forest resources at the level of communities, as well as a guide for good practices for forest conservation at the community level. This activity was undertaken by FAEF, with CTV as facilitator (this work will also be published in digital and paper form).
- iv. With the Nature in Danger Forum (Fórum Natureza em Perigo), a documentary was produced. It showed the situation of communities within the forest reserves of Mecuburi and Moribane, in the Nampula and Manica provinces, respectively. The documentary was shown on Mozambique Public Television and was officially launched and followed by a debate at the Polytechnic University, in partnership with CTV and OMR.
- v. Finally, a database about forests was created, compiling a number of informative documents about forests in Mozambique, produced along the last few years, which can be found on the site: www.parceriasflorestais.info. It was made by Zambézia OnLine with CTV as facilitator.

It is important to mention successes achieved by the GFP program in its support in community management initiatives taking place in the Moribane Forest Reserve. Here, the community lodge, Ndzou Camp was opened, under the ACTFDF (Trans-border conservation Areas and Tourism Development), which was funded by the World Bank. The community has 60% of the capital while the Eco MICAIA company has 40%. In parallel with the tourist project, the Association for Moribane Development is undertaking the other community based natural resource management activities. These include multiplying native species for reforestation and harvesting of medicinal plants- an initiative supported by the GFP program.

CTV also worked on its first monitoring activity with Monitoring Good Environmental Governance (from June 2012 until June 2011). The focus was environmental themes such as land and forests and its respective report was published in March of 2012. The report centered on the following indicators: quality of the political-strategic framework, quality of

the legal framework, Government efficiency, transparency and public participation, Rule of Law and justice and equality. This document will be given to various government institutions, companies, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions as well as to libraries.

4.4. Support for Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

One of the focuses of the Forest Learning Group is support and strengthening of community based natural resource management in Mozambique. Two conferences were held about CBNRM. Issues discussed and debated included the importance of sustainable use of forest resources, with the involvement of local communities, with the aim to promote local/community development.

The first was the Southern Region Conference, held in Massingir, Gaza province from the 29th till the 30th of March of 2011. The objectives were to: (i) share and discuss CBNRM experiences in the southern region of Mozambique; (ii) evaluate how the experiences have contributed to a reduction of poverty and for sustainable natural resource management; (iii) find a common position from organizations and communities involved in CBNRM to present in the referred event.

The second was the IV National Conference in Maputo City, from the 28th until the 30th of April of 2011. In this event 300 people participated, coming from different organizations from the communities, government institutions, civil society, journalists and academic institutions.

There were also the following events in Zambézia and Sofala. Respectively: the Forum on Forest Consultations (8th of June) and the Forum on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (15th until the 17th of November).

As recommendations from these events, the following were produced:

- i. The issue of implementing medium and long term projects;
- ii. Defining strategies that allow communities to demand partnerships themselves;

- iii. Community involvement in any decision making process, which is linked to access to information and training;
- iv. The benefits of community resource management should center on man
- v. Improve implementation of the legal- judicial framework

4.5.Public Debates/Seminars

In terms of advocacy, for the International Year of forests (2011), besides the debates that were organized for GFP and REDD, CTV, with contributions from partners, organized two public debates with forest themes that resulted in recommendations. The first was for the International day of Forests. Participants included a panel of journalists with immense experience and intervention in covering cases of illegal exploitation and exportation of forest resources, a representative from DNTF and a FAEF professor. The second focused on the importance on agriculture of conservation and its contribution to forest protection. The panel included a specialist in conservation agriculture from FAO, a superior technician from the Ministry of Agriculture as well as a professor at the Polytechnic University/member of OMR.

4.6.Support for legislative processes

The Forest Learning Group provided legal-technical support for various legislative processes that took place throughout the year 2011. These included the Proposal for the Areas of Conservations Law, revision of the Mine Law (of 2002), revision of the Regulation of the Forest and wildlife Law (of 2002) and for the revision of the Penal Code (of 1886)

In the case of the proposal for the Areas of Conservation Law, lead by the Ministry of Tourism, the intervention was made at the level of the Conservation (that integrates, among others, CTV, WWF and IUCN), having contributed to the elaboration of an internal chapter about the system of conservation areas (categories, definitions and regimes). The intervention also included adding to the chapter about offences and penalties..

The revision process of the Forest and Wildlife Law was lead by DNTF, in a record period of 45 days. There was space for contributions, in written form, suggestions via e-mail and orally of which the main proposals for revision were presented in the National Seminar about Consultations held in Maputo.

With relation to the Mine Law, under the Ministry of Natural Resources, the intervention was made via a coalition Platform for Natural Recourses. It was created during the year 2011 and was lead by the WWF, with the goal to maximize interventions form different civil society organizations in the natural resources realm.

Lastly, through the coalition spontaneously created, there was an opportunity to contribute to the process of the debate around the proposal for a new Penal Code, approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to the Assembly of the Republic. A public presentation was made at a seminar organized by the organization WLSA-Mozambique and the Mozambican Judges Association. The document presented was about the gaps in the referred proposal, in the perspective of environmental penal rights, comparing and defining the aspects that should be considered by the national legislator (offenses in the environmental-legal order that for their seriousness, should be criminalized).

4.7.Open Letter to the President of the Republic

Na open letter to the President of the Republic was created, asking his intervention to stop the wave of excessive exploitation of natural resources in Mozambique. Highlighted was a series of seizures of wood which was illegally explored that were being prepared to be exported to the Asian market. Besides the members of the Forest Learning Group, the letter was supported by various other organizations, especially those that work for defending human rights. There were a total of 12 signatures. The letter was not just published in various newspapers (daily and weekly), but also received attention from various television channels. This letter could serve to increase pressure on the Government, leading to initiating the revision process of the regulation of the Forest and Wildlife Law.

5. Impacts

The work along 2011 resulted in the following impacts:

- i. The permanent invite to the civil society organizations to participate in legislation processes with direct or indirect relation to forests and inclusion of many contributions in the text legislative proposals;

- ii. Seizing hundreds of containers of wood illegally exploited, which lead to denouncing and pressure from various spheres of society and lead to the initiation of the process of revision of the forest legislation, with the goal to discuss its weaknesses;
- iii. Involvement of civil society organizations in main government events about forests and related themes, including presentations of various themes and consideration in some proposals
- iv. Consolidation of the relationship between the Friends of Forests Group and the media, who have undertaken an important role in coverage of theme, forests;
- v. Clarification from the public sector, civil society organizations and society in general about forest issues and REDD;
- vi. Creation of new partnerships in the Forest Learning Group (FAEF, OMR, and others) as well as strengthening of alliances to defend concrete themes/issues (platforms, networks, coalitions, etc)
- vii. Strengthening the bridge between forest issues, access and security in land tenure and the rural development models through various events and activities where the link was clarified

6. Lessons Learned

Below are the lessons learned in 2011:

- i. The Mozambican Government is receiving and authorizing requests for land for forest plantations, biofuels farming or extractive industry, increasing the pressure on land and natural resources, as well as conflict indices. This requires a greater effort by civil society in terms of advocacy and monitoring, especially in the chapters of good governance and land administration.
- ii. The forest sector possesses innumerable problems that require coordinated and concrete intervention from all actors, namely the Government, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions.
- iii. Land access and security constitute a fundamental element for sustainable intervention in the area of forests.

- iv. Any intervention in the forest sector must be lasting and multi-sector so that the results achieved are positive.

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