

FGLG-Mozambique

Progress report 2012



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1. Introduction

In accordance with the signed agreement between Centro Terra Viva (CTV) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the implementation of the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), several were the activities developed with the objective to improve the management of forestry resources in Mozambique. As a result, an activities plan was submitted to IIED where it was approved, along with its respective budget. The following activities were planned for the current period:

2. Planned Activities

For the referred period the following activities were outlined:

- Revitalize the Forest Governance Learning Group;
- Organize a National Forum on Forest Consultations;
- Participate in REDD group meetings;
- Participate in national and international workshops about climate change (REDD and Forests);

2.1. Level of progress:

a) Meeting to revitalize the Forest Learning Group

To achieve the same objectives as those behind the creation of “Amigos da Floresta,” CTV identified and invited civil society organizations to join this group, now known as the Forest Governance Learning Group. This group is part of FGLG international and is supported by IIED. As a result, two meetings were held: the first in April and the second in October of 2012.

The first meeting’s objective was to invite different civil society organizations in Mozambique and in the world. Eight organizations were represented in the meeting (AMAIA, CCS, Livaningo, LUPA, KUWUKA JDA, ABIODES, KULIMA, ORAM and CTV). These readily accepted the invitation and promised to work to fulfill the FGLG objectives. The second meeting was an occasion for the organizations to update one another on their activities. In terms of participation, the last meeting was not very successful as it was planned. Only three organizations were present due to busy schedules and time constraints. At this meeting the idea to host a national conference was presented, which was to be named Civil Society Forest Dialogue. It was to respond to the cancelation of the National Forum on Forest Consultation, normally hosted by the government of Mozambique’s National Directorate on Land and Forests in the Ministry of Agriculture.

To revitalize FGLG monitoring visits were held in April. The visits were made to observe and monitor activities in the forest reserves in Manica- Moribane by Micaia Foundation and Nampula-Mecuburi by Fórum Terra. It was found that the projects taking place are bringing positive results in community organization for participative forest management.

b) Organize a Forest Consultation Forum

Because CTV is an organization dedicated to environmental studies and advocacy, every year, it looks to support and participate in all events related to its thematic areas, in this case, forums on forest and land consultations.

In 2012, for reasons, which were not made clear, the Forum on Forests was not held, as it had been for the past eight years. CTV found it pertinent to have these kinds of meetings and thus contacted WWF and other institutions to hold a meeting where the idea to have a national dialogue would be discussed. Given the scale, these organizations would also

discuss possible financial reinforcement. WWF agreed with the idea of the national meeting and offered to give financial support. As a result, the Civil Society Forest Dialogue was held with the objective to create a discussion space for civil society organizations and to find consensus within civil society to, in the end, improve the management of forest resources.

At the event, which was held in November, representatives from organizations from different provinces were present and shared their everyday experiences and knowledge in promoting sustainable development and the well being of the people.

During the Dialogue, participants analyzed the functionality of the forest legal framework as well as others related to forests, along with some recommendations aiming to minimize deficiencies in the applicability of these legal instruments. They also identified problems in the functionality of civil society organizations and steps to take so as to improve theirs and others' actions (Government, community and private sector). The Dialogue intends on establishing a permanent way in which civil society organizations will be organized to intervene in forest resource management activities through representation in consultation forums hosted by the government.

The Forest Dialogue hosted almost all of the organizations around the country working with land and forest issues (there is a strong link between the two areas due to the fact that success in the use of one greatly contributes to the sustainability of the other).

c) Crafts Fair

As a way to support small forest companies, two communities in Manica and Maputo provinces were invited to participate in the Crafts Fair organized by CEDARTE – Center for Craft Studies and Development - in December. The communities of Mpadagoma- Manica and Djabula-Maputo exhibited forest products crafts, giving them an opportunity to turn their work more known.

The fair, which lasted 6 days, is a way to show various ways in which one can use nontimber forest resources as well as it being a platform for exchange of experiences and knowledge. During the fair, the participants received compliments and suggestions as to how to improve quality, what types of crafts should be produced in the next edition as well as what products to use to conserve or increase resistance of the crafts (the materials are made from straw and are susceptible to attacks from insects).

d) Participate in meetings with the REDD+ technical group

Various meetings were held for the REDD+ technical group so as to finalize the RPP (Readiness Preparation Proposal). It was presented and approved in a meeting in March 2012 in Paraguay. There was also discussion around the need to create a proposal of a decree for REDD+ pilot-projects due to the fact that there is a great demand for implementing REDD+.

The process to formulate the decree has begun with collaboration from CTV, the only civil society organization. CTV sees this as an opportunity to influence with its everyday experience, to create a legal instrument that is adequate for the country's reality, keeping in mind in the environmental situation and the well being of the communities in the country. International workshops about REDD+ were also held. There were three regional SADC meetings about REDD+. In May, in South Africa, the objective was to discuss, with SADC member states, the need to introduce a system of Monitoring Reporting and Verification-MRV REDD+. Criteria for the selection of pilot countries were discussed (lasting 5 years with GIZ funds). The criteria included extensions of forest areas up to 26 million hectares with a greater index of deforestation and forest degradation. The other two meetings were held in Botswana and Namibia and CTV had the privilege of participating, representing civil society. This process resulted in four countries being indicated as pilot countries. These were:

Mozambique (Mopane forest), Malawi and Zambia (Miombo forest) and lastly Botswana (Baikéia forest). In December, a training session about social inclusion of REDD+ took place in Nairobi, Kenya where CTV also attended. These meetings are mechanisms for learning and experience exchange between institutions as well as between countries. They show that these countries share the same concerns with relation to natural resource and environment preservation in general.

e) Participate in seminars and workshops about forests

In June, CTV shared its experiences in the field on environmental information at the International Workshop about Forest Communication in eastern and southern Africa, which took place in Tanzania. The event was organized by FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania. The objective was to facilitate dialogue between communications professionals in the forest sector in order to develop techniques and skills as well as new contacts and partners. This event closed with the creation of a platform for sharing and updating experiences between countries of the region. The platform is a dynamic way of sharing information as well as a good way to administer and manage forest resources.

f) Research Reports Publications

In a public debate, where representatives from Government, academia, private sector and civil society were present, the report on charcoal production in Mozambique was presented. The report showed that charcoal production negatively contributes to deforestation when, at the same time, it is a source of income for communities as well as some individuals who have licenses for charcoal production and sale. The report also showed the urgency in the need to find alternative energy sources so as to improve access and to reduce pressure on forests. This report was written in a study conducted by Eduardo Mondlane University under the GFP- Growing Forest Partnerships initiative.

The study was conducted in 2011 and its dissemination in public environment debate form in March of 2012. The debate was a chance to reflect, keeping in mind that the 21st of March was made international forests day. In this event members of FGLG were present, as well as students and government representatives.

g) Education and Awareness

CTV organized other activities in collaboration with different collaborators and partners. One such activity was the Environmental Training and Education for the Assembly of the Republic Deputies in the following themes: Urban Solid Waste Management; Indicators for Environmental Monitoring and the Challenges imposed by the Extractive Industry.

Other activities included, environmental education for communities such as in Mungazine, Matutuine District, in Maputo, which involved schools. This activity aims to bring awareness to communities, schools and authorities about issues related to conservation and sustainable natural and forestry resource use. This location was key because it constitutes an area where there is a great level of pressure on forestry resources, due to extraction of medicinal plants for commerce in Maputo city without following the due extraction norms and regulations.

In 2012, CTV conducted other education and awareness activities that related to FGLG's objectives, where "Dicas Ambientais" (Environmental Tips) were disseminated on LED screen on the streets of Maputo. Also in the field of Environmental Education, CTV has a plethora of activities directed towards children. One of these is the production of books with short stories with environmental themes. For example: in the first group of stories, there is one focusing on forest conservation (*The Kind Forest* by Emília Salomão). This short story teaches that communities living around forests should use the forest resources in a sustainable way and when possible plant this valuable resource.

In terms of Environmental Information, various articles were produced, disseminated and some discussed in the Media (Newspapers, TV and Radio in the cities and in community

radio). In the discussions, various individuals were invited to comment from government and civil society, as well as in the private sector.

With relation to the Legal Assistance Center - GAAJ, CTV's initiative, there was support in creating a Network of Paralegals. This network is comprised of community members, some from organizations, who had previously participated in training and an updated training, which aims to empower communities with relation to knowing their rights to natural resource use. This activity is taking place in partnership with FAO.

The Land Campaign II was launched in a partnership between CTV, CEDET- Center of Development and Land Studies, as well as Kuwuka JDA - an organization dedicated to Environmental Advocacy and promoting debates around land access. With the same objective, a documentary was produced which illustrates the gaps in implementation of laws and dissatisfaction of communities as well as opportunities to improve administration and management of land and other natural resources.

3. Results and Impacts

The aforementioned activities contributed to strengthening the need for civil society organizations to coordinate efforts for a common objective (sustainable forest resource management), which resulted in the creation of the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG-Mozambique) Elaboration of the Decree proposal, for approval of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Pilot - Projects and Studies, which aims to Reduce Emissions by Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), resulted in regular meetings where CTV participated as member of the REDD+ technical working group. Here, CTV had some influence in the decree, bringing up issues related to gender that were not addressed in the document.

Through the Civil Society Forest Dialogue, recommendations were produced in order to be implemented by not only government but for organizations to take a proactive position in the implementation and monitoring of the activities taking place in natural resource management. The Dialogue joined efforts carried out by each forum, keeping in mind that the existence or destruction of a resource influences the existence of another.

An action plan was created to be implemented by civil society organizations working in the land and forest fields because it was concluded that civil society is the only hope for protecting natural resources and populations' well being.

4. Constraints and Challenges

Presented below, are the main constraints and challenges:

- Managing to involve and guarantee the continuous presence of different civil society organizations in the Forest Governance Learning Group;
- Weak coordination between government institutions, such as the Ministério para a Coordenação da Acção Ambiental (MICOA) and Ministério da Agricultura (MINAG) to coordinate REDD+ influences finalizing the REDD Decree;
- Turning the Forest Forum into a dialogue platform and where solutions can be found to improve, even more, the forest sector;