

FGLG-Mozambique

Work plan 2013



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FGLG MOZAMBIQUE – Forest Governance Learning Group

WORKPLAN – 2013

CENTRO TERRA VIVA ESTUDOS E ADVOCACIA AMBIENTAL

1. INTRODUCTION

Forests in Mozambique and the world in general, have an important role in the needs of populations, protecting the environment as well as in economic growth.

According to the national forest inventory of 2008, about 70% of the country (54.8 million hectares) is covered in forests and other forms of firewood. The forest area covers about 40.1 million hectares (51% of the country), while other forms of firewood (bush, mangroves and forests with shifting cultivation) cover about 14.7 million hectares (19% of the country). Productive forests (able to produce wood) cover about 26.9 million hectares (67% of all forest area) and thirteen million hectares of forest is not favorable for wood production, of which a majority is found in National Parks, Forest Reserves and other Conservation Areas. The national deforestation rate was estimated at 0.21% a year between 1972 and 1990 (Saket, 1994) and it was 0.58% between 1990 and 2002 (Marzoli, 2007), which is equivalent to 219,000 hectares per year at the national level. The deforestation distribution varies between provinces, where it is greatest in the Maputo province (1, 67%).

The causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Mozambique are many and complex. Various studies state that agriculture (shifting and commercial), firewood and charcoal collection, residential space expansion are some of the main reasons for changes in forest coverage. Additionally and rarely documented, forest degradation is a result of commercial timber exploitation and other forms of selective tree cutting. These findings, clearly illustrate how deforestation has roots in sectors such as agriculture and energy, where local practices do not favor forest conservation. Within the forest sector, the causes of deforestation and forest degradation include weak implementation of legislation, timber and construction material demand, as well as uncontrolled fires associated to opening fields for farming and hunting.

In Mozambique, some actions carried out by government authorities resulted in the capture of 561 containers of unprocessed wood (approximately 10,000m³) which was illegally exploited and was on its way to being exported to Asia.

The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), being an informal coalition of citizens, non-governmental organizations, companies, academic institutions and other interested institutions, are looking to have a public approach to environmental questions, especially rational forest resource management. This is to be done in the sustainable development perspective, giving continuity to its strategic plan for the next years and under Centro Terra Viva's coordination. The activities to be carried out are described below.

The implementation partners or members of the Forest Governance Learning Group are - Micaia Foundation, Fórum Terra, Lupa, Livaningo, Kulima and academic institutions. Because this is a group that will be revitalized, there will be many monitoring meetings between these organizations where issues related to the forest situation as well as presentations of progress reports with lessons learned.

The implementation of this plan counts on technical and financial support from WWF, IIED and FGLG. Apart from these organizations, the Forest Governance Learning Group will have independent funds from its respective partners.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to strengthen good forest governance and to maximize the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of forest management.

Specifically, it intends to:

- Increase knowledge and participation of civil society in national forest legislation and its enforcement to protect forests while generating increased livelihood benefits for the forest-dependent poor;
- Promote income generation activities as an alternative source for the survival and well-being of local communities.
- Promote studies and research to support advocacy activities with the goal to spread sustainable use of forest resources;

3. ACTIVITIES

Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise - policy reforms, investment decisions and institutional arrangements in favour of secure forest rights and small forest enterprise.

Activity 1.1 Consultation forum on forest

This forum (held for the first time in 2012) will be maintained in 2013 with the co-participation of other interested and motivated organizations to discuss aspects related to forest legislation and other issues in this sector. The results of this forum will be presented and discussed in a debate with parliament representatives. Forum participation will include civil society members, FGLG members, governments, academics and other interested parties.

Output 2: Legitimate forest products - strategies to improve legality of forest products, institutionalise citizen engagement and contribute to broader forest governance improvement.

Activity 2.1 Conduct research on the benefits arising from the legislation that requires 20% of taxes to be handed back to community groups in forest extraction areas – and the socio-economic impacts of the current reality.

Research study will be produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholder groups across the country

Activity 2.2 Undertake a research study of the illegal harvesting of timber in the Rovuma region

A research report will be produced and disseminated to relevant government and civil society stakeholder groups

Activity 2.3 Experience exchange for small forest enterprises in the craft sector

In this activity, we will organize an exchange visit between Zavala and Djabula communities to exchange experiences in craft making. All expenses transport, accommodation and food expenses will be paid for by CTV.

Activity 2.4 Encourage creation of small and medium enterprises in forest and processing of natural product.

In order to encourage the creation of these enterprises, we will mobilize 5 representatives of the crafts group in Zavala, Massingir and Bárue communities to participate in a craft fair, organized by CEDART, in order to expose/show and sell their products

Output 3: Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry. Initiatives to combat climate change through action in the forest sector contribute to pro-poor forest governance and sustainability

Activity 3.1 Organise a public consultation (round table) on REDD+

A public consultation will be organized to include civil society organizations. This consultation will be held to discuss and acquire contributions for the decree on approval of experimental/pilot REDD+ projects. The goal, here, is to increase awareness about a legal instrument that could change the country's reality. By promoting public debates and consultations on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Carbon sequestration (REDD+) we will help to strengthen public inputs to the development of a REDD+ system that works both to protect forests and improve the livelihoods of those dependent on forest resources.

Activity 3.2 Participate in REDD+ strategy meetings

CTV as member of the REDD technical group, will always participate in meetings and other actions which aim to work on the National Strategy of REDD+.

Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness. Understanding improved in international networks and processes about effective action for improved social justice in forestry.

Activity 4.1 Revitalise the FGLG network

To create more group cohesion, coordination meetings will be held regularly with members of FGLG. This will involve thematic exchanges – through coordination as well as knowledge and experience sharing with respect to sustainable energy, carbon sequestration and benefit sharing arrangements that are being developed in REDD+ pilots.

4.0 ACTION PLAN AND IMPLIMENTATION MECHANISMS

Because this is a coalition of organizations and institutions concerned with forest issues and mitigation measures, the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) will have the role of coordinating activities and each member organization or institution is to participate in its implementation, contributing to fulfilling the coalition's objectives.

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise - policy reforms, investment decisions and institutional arrangements in favour of secure forest rights and small forest enterprise.			
Activity 1.1 Consultation Forum on Forests	Promote meetings / discussions with government and parliamentarians on forest policy and legislation	1 Workshop organized	CTV
Output 2: Legitimate forest products - strategies to improve legality of forest products, institutionalise citizen engagement and contribute to broader forest governance improvement.			
Activity 2.1 Research study on impacts of 20% tax to community	Conduct research on the benefits arising from the legislation that requires 20% of taxes to be handed back to community groups in forest extraction areas – and the socio-economic impacts of the current reality.	A research report will be produced and disseminated to relevant government and civil society stakeholder groups	CTV, Observatório do Meio Rural (OMR)
Activity 2.2 Research study on illegal timber harvesting in Rovuma region	Undertake a research study of the illegal harvesting of timber in the Rovuma region	A research report will be produced and disseminated to relevant government and civil society stakeholder groups	CTV, WWF
Activity 2.3 Experience exchange for small forest enterprises in the craft sector	Experience exchange (transport, accommodation, food)	Members of Zavala communities associations visited and shared their experiences related to sustainable use of natural resources.	CTV, LUPA
Activity 2.4 Encourage creation of small and medium enterprises in forest and processing of natural	Mobilization of 5 representatives of the crafts group in Zavala, Massingir and Bárue communities to participate in a craft fair, organized by CEDART, in order to expose/show and sell their products	Increased knowledge of customer requirements and design factors	CTV, LUPA

product.			
Output 3: Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry. Initiatives to combat climate change through action in the forest sector contribute to pro-poor forest governance and sustainability			
Activity 3.1 Organise a public consultation (round table) on REDD+	Contribute for the elaboration of the National Strategy and the Legal Framework on REDD+	Round table with civil society, private sector and other stakeholders	CTV
Activity 3.2 Participate in REDD+ strategy meetings	Participate in the national and international meeting on Forest and REDD+	Greater transparency in elaboration and implementation of legal instruments	CTV
Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness. Understanding improved in international networks and processes about effective action for improved social justice in forestry.			
Activity 4.1 Revitalise the FGLG network	Hold planning and coordination meetings with FGLG members	Communication and coordination between FGLG Members improved; 3 meetings organized	CTV