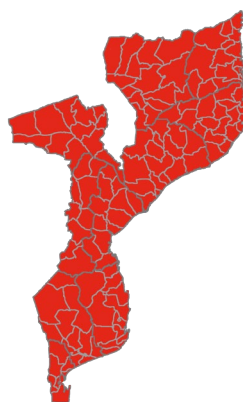




Local Governance

Advancing Land Use Rights and Natural Resource Benefits



Geographical focus: National

Target group: Local communities, local and central Government, private sector and service providers working in land and natural resources management.

Phase: 2

Since mid-2000, the Government of Mozambique has strongly encouraged foreign investment to stimulate the agricultural sector, thus the demand for land has dramatically risen. Between 2004 and 2009, land concessions of more than 2.5 million hectares were granted.

Despite the legislation considered progressive in terms of protecting community rights, many challenges remain:

- Poor public knowledge of the legislation;
- Divided governmental and investor commitments for implementing the law;
- Weak community involvement in the definition and implementation of the national land policy.

The strong pressure on land due to the boom in natural resources exploitation (gas, coal, etc.) is leading to increased tension and conflicts, especially in cases where resettlement is needed. Interventions are needed to promote fairer and more sustainable agreements between investors and communities for the socio-economic benefit of the communities.

Time-frame: May 2014 - December 2017

Budget:

CHF 5.260.000 - USD 5.738.220 - MZM 203.707.000

Implementing partners:

CTV- Centro Terra Viva for componente, ITC - Iniciativa de Terras Comunitárias, OMR - Observatório do Meio Rural for componente

Partners:

NAMATI, We Effect, Oxfam, WRI, SIDA-Sweden, DFID-UK, Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark

Responsible:

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Goal

Foster sustainable socio-economic local development through advancing land use rights and natural resource benefits.

Main Activities

- In selected districts, land delimitation and demarcation in benefit of the communities.
- Improve and test the models of partnership between the communities and private investor.
- Direct support to Districts and Administrative Posts on land and natural resources administration and management.
- Provide legal assistance to rural communities, concerning the rules of access to and use of land, to reinforce security of land possession and to establish beneficial partnerships between communities and investors.
- Promote environmental information/education to the users of land and natural resources.
- Ensure effective participation of the community consultations in the process of awarding of land use concessions to private investors.
- Accompany the community resettlement processes to ensure beneficial results to community households in the context of implementing private investments.
- Improve the participation of women in the rural economy, particularly their expanding roles in community land governance groups.

Impact

Improved linkage between community-based land and natural resources development projects and district development plans.

Results achieved

- A total of 910 community/association land delimitations/demarcations carried out. This represents more than 3.800.000 hectares of land secured for local communities and benefits for more than 134.700 rural families.
- Rural communities are better at defending their rights, opening up opportunities for the communities to share investment benefits and to improve their living standards.
- More than 600 small agricultural associations legalize their organization.
- Public debate over land and natural resource issues actively promoted, especially over benefit sharing between communities and investors, community consultation process and land leasing.
- A "community land delimitation model" developed as a national reference.

Expected Results

In priority districts:

- More economically profitable and inclusive investments are made to the benefit of communities as a result of socially and institutionally prepared community land delimitations, in line with district planning processes.
- ITC and other agents of change (service providers, district and provincial land administration authorities) carry out a more efficient community delimitation with stronger community involvement, increasing respect for the law.
- Local communities are better protected in terms of land rights, less subject to resettlement and effectively receiving part of the benefits from the exploitation of land and natural resources.
- Main gaps identified in land and natural resources legal frameworks and policies and their linkage with rural development, and recommendations for improvement are formulated and used in the dialogue on policies and advocacy.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are communities, women and men from rural areas. Indirect beneficiaries include Directorates and Departments of the Central and Local Governments, Local Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Academics, International Communities and General public.

Transversal themes

Promotion of gender equity around the access and use of land and natural resources as an explicit objective of the intervention.