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Mozambique: Inclusive Land Governance

By:

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Mozambique





1. Country Background

- **History:** independence in 1975, civil war, socialist regime up to late 1980s, 1990s see post-war reconstruction and economic liberalisation, **aid dependence**
- More recently: **economic growth becomes significant** and sustained during first decade of 21st century, **especially in energy-mining**
- **Yet, poverty remains high** and urban-rural diverging



1. Country Background

- Relative political stability until late 2000s (although dominated by one party – Frelimo)
- Political settlement broken in 2013 with opposition returning to armed conflict.
- Rule of law increasingly weakened by Frelimo's consolidation of power and control over economic resources and the state



1. Country Background

Indicator	Area in Km ²	% of Total
Total Territorial of Mozambique	799,380	100.0
Protected Land (e.g. parks)	131,098	16.4
Forest Ecosystems	406,000	50.8
Arable land	360,000	45,0
Land under cultivation	58,420	7.3
Land for livestock	92,720	11.5
Delimited community land	21,218	2,7



2. Inclusive Land Governance

- The Mozambican economy registered its **most sustained growth period** in post-colonial times between 2004 and 2014 (Macha and Ross 2014). Much of this resulted from so-called **'megaprojects'** in the mining-energy sector, funded largely by foreign direct investment (Xiong 2014). **High commodities prices in international markets attracted investors** to Mozambique to explore its natural resource endowments – especially of coal, natural gas and heavy sands (Xiong 2014).



2. Inclusive Land Governance

So the government of Mozambique is among the governments of developing countries **complicit in promoting foreignization practices of natural resources**. Opted for a policy of concessions to receive large foreign investments as a way to generate revenue to the state, reduce poverty, provide jobs , food and energy security (News, 2012; Borras et al, 2011).



2. Inclusive Land Governance

Main challenges imposed

- Weak benefits for the exploitation of natural resources to local communities,
- The problem of communities resettlement,
- The problem of fair compensation,
- Land tenure security



2. Inclusive Land Governance

- Lack of transparency and accountability on the land management. Top – down approach are frequently used;
- Weak partnership between investors and communities,
- Increased the number of conflicts/expropriation of land and NRMs,



3. SDC Programme in Mozambique to Minimize the Situation

- Between 2010/2017 SDC launched a Land Use Right Programme in order to foster sustainable socio-economic local development through advancing land use rights and natural resource benefits. The main results include;

Outcome 1: more economically profitable and inclusive investments are realized in the benefit of the communities (men and women) as a result from socially and institutionally prepared community land delimitations, in alignment with district planning processes.



3. SDC Programme in Mozambique to Minimize the Situation

Outcome 2: community delimitation more efficiently and with increased community involvement in respect of the law,

Outcome 3: the land use rights of the local communities (men and women) are better protected, they are less subject to resettlement and effectively receive part of the benefits from the exploitation of land and natural resources.

Outcome 4: Main gaps in the legal framework and policies on land and natural resources and their link with rural development are identified, and recommendations are formulated for their improvement and used for dialogue on policies and advocacy.



3. SDC Programme in Mozambique to Minimize the Situation

- For these outcomes three partners have been identified as following;

Partner	Outcomes
■ CTV – Centro Terra Viva	■ 3&4
■ iTC – Iniciativa Terras Comunitarias	■ 1,&2
■ OMR- Observador do Meio Rural	■ 4



4. Inclusive Land Governance Case Study in Mozambique – Selected findings

- Scarcity and **low quality of data on land concessions** demarcation and delimitation that should be the basis for analysis and planning
- Dilemma 1: how far in the formalisation of rights?
 - **Invisibility of customary rights protected by law**
 - Yet, concerns that formalisation of rights/titling could **lead to dispossession**
- Dilemma 2: **protecting rights vs expanding opportunities**
 - Growing prominence of civil society and watchdog organisations in advocacy on land rights, community empowerment, delimitation of community land, conflict resolution, etc.
 - Yet, most work has focused on security of tenure but **little on expanding livelihood opportunities of land rights holders**



4. Inclusive Land Governance Case Study in Mozambique – Selected recommendations

- Putting pressure on government **to improve transparency in land administration**
- **Connecting land governance with broader rural development interventions** – beyond an excessively protective approach on land tenure
- **Promoting debate on the value of land that confronts** different perspectives and accounts for the complexity of land use (beyond a narrow economic production perspective)
- Expanding the research agenda
 - **In-depth analysis of impact of community delimitation** work (people's livelihoods; community empowerment, local governance)
 - **Changing dynamics of conflict over time** (longitudinal analysis rather than current anecdotal reporting of high profile cases)



5. Experiencies from the field visits- 2,4&6

- Water as source of conflict,
- The value of Land,
- The importance of information for decision make process regarding the area and quantity of the resources.
- First is a key to have a good plan so that you can have good use of territory .



6. Conclusions

- For the next 4 yr the outcome and results of the case study and the field visit will be integrated in our critical dialogue with partners,
- The MTR for our LUR program next year will also going to incorporate some of this outcomes.



Thank you/Merci