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## USAID COUNTRY PROFILE

### PROPERTY RIGHTS AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

## MOZAMBIQUE

### OVERVIEW

Mozambique is a large, sparsely populated country in southern Africa with a coastline nearly as long as the eastern seaboard of the United States. Following a 16-year civil war that began shortly after independence from Portugal in 1975, ending in 1992, Mozambique achieved political and economic stability and began to experience rapid growth from its small economic base. One important indicator of the country's potential was the fact that in the first year of peace, with mostly small family farms, agricultural production grew by some 19 percent.

With substantial assistance from international donors, Mozambique began rebuilding its war-damaged and neglected infrastructure, investing in health and education and laying the political and institutional foundation for continued economic growth. An important part of this foundation includes laws governing land and forest use that recognize customary rights held by communities and their members, while also encouraging investment.

Yet despite rapid post-war growth, more than half the population remains poor. Absolute poverty declined to its current level in the early 2000s but has remained stagnant since then, while inequality has increased dramatically. The high growth rates achieved in the early 2000s have also stagnated since 2015 as the country has been hit by a major economic crisis linked to falling world commodity prices, currency devaluation, and a government debt scandal involving sovereign-backed commercial loans worth around \$2 billion USD—pushing the Government of Mozambique's debt burden into the unsustainable category (Kroll 2017). The crisis has drastically reduced state capacity to invest in and run the economy and social sectors and has exacerbated political instability and absolute poverty.

Political stability and democracy established since 1992 have also gone into reverse, with a low intensity armed conflict starting up again after the 2014 elections. Smallholders were displaced in affected areas, although a fragile ceasefire has held for the past year. The ruling party (the Mozambique Liberation Front) and opposition party (the Mozambican National Resistance) are actively negotiating a solution to achieve lasting peace.

Agriculture accounts for around 25 percent of Mozambique's GDP (2016 estimate), while extractive industry and manufacturing contribute the most to economic growth (CIA 2017; World Bank 2018a). The agricultural sector still consists primarily of smallholders farming limited amounts of land under rain-fed cultivation. Most irrigated land is used by a small number of commercial farmers on large tracts of land, including former colonial farms. The number of medium-sized farms has grown, though they

struggle with high transaction costs and difficult access to markets. Recent years have seen a number of large-scale land allocations that have raised concerns about local land rights and the rule of law. While in legal theory land rights are relatively secure for communities and smallholders, the reality is that rights remain vulnerable and are easily captured by powerful elites close to the governing core of the country. This has resulted in increasing instances of conflict between smallholders and government or private sector agriculture, logging, and mining enterprises.

About a half of the land area in Mozambique is forest area, and the country's legal framework supports traditional uses of forest and forest resources, the harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products, and the creation of community-based forest enterprises. However, the regulatory framework tends to favor national and international companies over small and medium businesses. Poor rural populations have strong incentives to work with illegal operators who are looking to extract high value lumber at minimum cost, resulting in a rate of deforestation that has reached alarming levels in many areas.

Mozambique has significant deposits of gas, titanium, aluminum, coal and diamonds. The civil war prevented the development of the minerals sector, but this has changed since 2000. Historically, most mining has been done by small-scale and artisanal miners, who continue to operate without effective environmental and health safeguards. Several very large investments in coal and natural gas have transformed the sector, along with 2014 revisions to the Mining Law intended to protect small operators while also creating the conditions for large-scale enterprises. A notable feature of the legislation is that it effectively overrules local land rights through what is essentially a 'national interest' approach. The government has invested in major public infrastructure to facilitate the growth of the mining sector, although the economic crisis has impacted plans to consolidate this investment. It remains unclear what impact this growth may have on artisanal and small-scale operators, who receive little government support. New foreign investments in titanium and offshore oil and gas are moving forward.

## KEY ISSUES AND INTERVENTION CONSTRAINTS

- **Institutional development.** A newly elected government in 2014 created the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER). This important move replaced the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) and integrated land and rural development, previously managed under the agriculture and state administration ministries. MITADER has separate national directorates for the environment, land, and forests and promises better coordination between these closely related areas with a single, unified development strategy and a renewed focus on improving law enforcement. MITADER is also embarking on a significant update of the progressive 1990s legislation governing forests, land, conservation and the environment. Progress has, however, been hampered by the country's weak economic state and institutional base inherited from past governments. Plantation forestry remains at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA), creating a new institutional and coordination challenge. A proposal to combine all land-related institutions- such as the land and real estate cadastre, territorial organization, and land use planning- is being promoted by some government officials and civil society. *Donors may want to support the establishment of a unified Land Administration Agency and help support development of strategies to promote the financial sustainability of the land sector to the wider economy.*

- Implementation of the Land Law.** Mozambique's 1997 Land Law reasserts the state's ownership of land and provides that individuals, communities and entities can obtain long-term or perpetual rights to land, even without formal documentation of those rights. This right is known by the acronym DUAT, from the Portuguese *Direito de Uso e Aproveitamento dos Terras*. While in theory, the law provides communities and individuals with strong tenure security over their land, the majority of Mozambique's millions of rural residents lack the capacity to secure their rights in practice—despite significant civil society and government efforts to raise awareness of rights at local level. Those who are aware of their rights often lack the financial and technical support necessary to assert and use those rights effectively. Furthermore, the dual objectives of Mozambique's progressive Land Law—to protect and support rural community and smallholder land-rights while encouraging an inclusive and rights-aware private investment process—have been implemented unevenly. Local land rights remain vulnerable to capture by elites who often enjoy state support on the grounds that they have greater capacity than smallholders to bring unused resources into production. These conditions make it difficult for communities and individual landholders lacking formal land documentation to defend their land rights against third parties, make long-term investments in their land, or meaningfully engage in negotiations with the private sector. While some reform can address ambiguities in the Law, far more attention is needed to increase the government's implementation capacity and enable an integrated approach that develops and provides accessible services for communities and allows them to fully realize the potential of their land. Several large donor-backed projects have targeted the land-rights issue, including the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Land Tenure Services Project and the DFID-led multi-donor Community Land Initiative. The Land Tenure Services Project supported policy and legislative review through a new Land Policy Consultative Forum established by Government of Mozambique (GOM) decree in October 2010. The project also supported practical Land Law implementation with public outreach and dispute resolution, community rights registration, and the regularization and titling of individual DUATs. That said, more support could help the Government strengthen the land governance system. *Donors could help develop a services center model, or upgrade and consolidate district-level capacity, to deliver land and natural resource services to communities and their members. Donors could help private and civil society actors build awareness of the various legal instruments that individuals and communities can use (such as natural resource inventories, land delimitation services, and legal aid) to secure rights. Donors could support the government to train public officials and local community leaders in facilitating more inclusive development opportunities that promote and mediate community-investor partnerships that involve access to and use of local land. Specific attention should be paid to developing and offering services to meet the needs of women, elders and marginalized groups.*
- Registering land-use rights related to small and medium-size holdings.** Until the MCC Land Tenure Services Project, most donors engaged in land issues in Mozambique supported public awareness building and delimitation of community-held DUATs acquired by customary occupation. Less attention has been paid to small and medium-size individual-held DUATs, whether the land user seeks individualized rights to land within a collective DUAT held by a community, or seeks access to agricultural land through a government-granted DUAT. Both customarily-acquired and government-granted DUATs are equivalent under the law, and their delimitation and registration creates a public record of community-held and managed areas, and of individual land parcels. Between 2012-2016, individual land use registration increased ten-fold, with the number of formal DUATs rising from approximately 45,000 in 2011 to 150,000 in 2013, 270,000 in 2015, and 490,000 in 2016. This was

achieved with important contributions from MCC's Land Tenure Services Project as well as other initiatives promoted not only by the government, but by civil society organizations, other donors and private companies. In April 2015, the GOM launched a large-scale program—Terra Segura—to secure land rights and issue DUATs to five million individuals and four thousand communities by 2019.

*Donors could help support and extend Terra Segura or provide complementary activities with a particular focus on: supporting district-level land use planning which integrates community DUAT registration and land management functions into the public land governance structures; improving the land information infrastructure; and activities that focus on the rights of women farmers and smallholder enterprises.*

- **Dispute resolution.** Mozambique has a system of about 1,600 community courts that evolved separately from the formal court system. The community courts are highly accessible, and community members often bring land disputes to these forums even though the adjudicators do not receive professional training and the procedures and outcomes lack consistency. *Donors who have been assisting the government in strengthening its formal court system and improving judicial administration could help support and deepen on-going efforts to develop effective mechanisms and forums to resolve land disputes. Donors could assess the community court system and options for strengthening the informal system and linking it to the formal system. Particular attention should be paid to community court functions related to land disputes, including the interface between customary and normative legal systems, the use of formal documentation and records, the use of community courts by non-community members, and the relationship of community court officials to their government counterparts. Donors could also support and fund community-level legal services, through training of and support to community paralegals, who can assist in directing claims to higher level courts when necessary.*
- **Land Law revision.** In 2010, the GOM created a Consultative Forum on Land to serve as a platform for multisector dialogue on land issues and to assist in the legislative reform process. Nine sessions were held between 2010 and 2017. There is broad consensus among Forum participants that the essentials of the 1997 Land Law should not be changed. However, at the November 2017 Forum meeting, members agreed to prioritize the massive titling of DUATS and recommended that the GOM develop and improve the institutional framework governing land, and look to revise the Land Law to allow for transferability of DUATs (MITADER 2017). A 2007 study commissioned by USAID identifies several areas for potential legislative reforms, including removing constraints on transfer of rural land rights, developing appropriate authorization fees and taxes for land grants, allowing investors to recover and profit from real property improvements at the end of approved use periods, and moving the government away from its present direct-management role towards a facilitating and enabling role in land management and administration. A key issue is to limit government discretionary powers when reviewing existing and new project proposals and when DUATs are transferred between third parties. The Forum offers a good platform for achieving these reforms. Progress has been made by adopting rules for resettlement processes and creating supporting regulations and in measures to combine land administration and land use management. Members of civil society are calling for the development of legislation on community land governance functions, community consultations with investors and other land management tasks. These changes would help communities and the private sector, which is increasingly interested in working with out-growers and neighboring communities in a responsible and secure local environment. *Donors can continue to provide technical assistance and support to the government as it engages in the process of collecting input on legislative reforms in the land sector, including proposed language and revisions.*

- **Forestry law and forestry sector SME development.** Mozambique has significant forest resources and a substantial number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in the forestry sector. Yet weak governance—characterized by low institutional capacity and a lack of transparency, limited participation of stakeholders in decision making, and inadequate benefit sharing with local communities—has fueled deforestation and forest degradation (Aquino et al. 2017). An estimated 76 percent of all global timber exports from Mozambique in 2013 were illegally cut in excess of reported harvests (EIA 2013). Most commercial operators work outside the formal law to avoid concession requirements, and establish relationships with poor rural residents to illegally extract unprocessed timber directly for export. In late 2017 a new Forest Law was drafted to replace the 1999 Forest and Wildlife Law that remains in force (wildlife and conservation issues were addressed and updated in the 2014 Conservation Law). *USAID and other donors could assist the government with reforming and unifying the current legal framework (as proposed in the draft law) and assist with plans to encourage SMEs to move into the formal sector. This revised legal framework should seek to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to support the sustainable use of forest resources by all forest users. It should also ensure the participation of all community members—especially women and marginalized groups—in forest enterprises and ensure that some returns generated by commercially-oriented forestry activities, including new carbon sequestration projects, flow to communities.*

PROFILE PREPARED JUNE 2018

FOR MORE RECENT LITERATURE:

[www.land-links.org/mozambique](http://www.land-links.org/mozambique)

Keywords: Mozambique, tenure, land law, land reform, property rights, land conflicts, water rights, mineral rights

## SUMMARY

Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975 was followed by 16 years of civil war. The war displaced millions of people, destroyed infrastructure and prevented significant investment in several sectors, including agriculture and mining. As the country emerged from the war and entered a period of national reconstruction, the government turned its attention to creating a legal framework governing land that recognized customarily-acquired and managed community rights while also encouraging investment. The resulting 1997 Land Law was progressive: land is owned by the state which then allocates a legal right to all land users, known by the acronym DUAT. Local people and communities acquire DUATs through customary and 'good faith' occupation. These DUATs are perpetual over land used for subsistence and

household economy purposes.

Grants of 50-year renewable DUATs are available at little

cost for investors and others seeking land for agribusiness

and other development, subject to approved

development plans and environmental licensing.

Investors are legally required to consult with communities

and agree on terms of how a DUAT will transfer from one

group (the community) to the other (the investor). However,

the implementation of the law has been hampered by a

chronically weak public land management and land

administration sector, and by well-connected elites.

Corruption contributes to poor law enforcement. Legal

reforms are needed, but structural issues also need to

be addressed, otherwise ineffective implementation is

likely to continue.

### Box 1. Macro Indicators

	Year	Score
Population, total	2017	28,861,863
Population ages 0-14: 15-64: 65+ (% of total)	2015	45: 51: 3
Population growth (annual %)	2015	2.9
Rural population (% of total population)	2018	70
Population density (people per sq. km)	2015	35.5
Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)	2015	58.8
Land area (sq. km)	2017	786,380
Surface area (sq. km)	2017	799,380
Arable land (% of land area)	2016	6.4
Agricultural land (% of land area)	2014	63.5
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	2015	0.4
Irrigated land (% of cropland)	2003	2.6
Forest area (% of land area)	2015	48.2
Nationally protected areas (% of total land area)	2014	10.9
Internal renewable surface water resources (cubic kilometers per year)	2016	97.3
External renewable water resources (cubic kilometers per year)	2016	117
Crop production index (2004-2006 = 100)	2013	163.7
Livestock production index (2004-2006 = 100)	2013	128.85
GDP (current USD)	2016	11.1 billion
GDP growth (annual %)	2016	3.7
Agriculture: industry: manufacturing: services, value added (% of GDP)	2015	25.2: 23: 10.3: 52.8
Ores and metals exports: imports (% of merchandise exports: imports)	2015	38.5: 6.5
Net ODA received (% of GNI)	2014	12.6

Sources: CIA 2017; FAO 2016; INE 2017; World Bank 2018a; World Bank 2017b

To date, most of the population has not benefited sufficiently from the legal reforms of the 1990s and early 2000s, with more than half of the population remaining absolutely poor. Most agricultural producers are small farmers growing primarily for their own consumption. On average, farmers hold between one and two hectares of land and use limited inputs. They also rely on access to communal land and forest resources to meet their vital needs. Their long-term strategy often requires access to (and

therefore secure rights over) much wider areas to facilitate long-cycle crop rotation and shifting agriculture. Productivity is low and technology is rudimentary, primarily due to limited access to credit and extension services. Most irrigated land is used by a small number of large commercial farmers, primarily growing sugarcane and other crops such as cotton and tobacco. The law requires government approval of projects to use land, and approval of any transactions that involve a change in land-use rights. This cumbersome process constrains the development of an open and transparent formal land market. Former colonial farms and large tracts of long-term land use rights acquired for investment are often only partially used. In many cases, private investors who acquired rights at favorable terms hold large parcels for future use or speculation. The government's failure to require investors to prepare commercially viable development plans and demonstrate their ability to use the land, coupled with lax enforcement of the Land Law audit provisions, have contributed to the underutilization of land. This is exacerbated by a land tax system which does little to promote the most efficient use of land resources. Negative results include small family farms that are denied the use of land that was once theirs, while potentially more efficient medium-sized (10-100 hectare) farmers find it hard to secure the land they need.

While the 1997 Land Law provides communities and their members with a legally secure land use right, the law has been inadequately implemented in most areas. Local officials and communities are often unaware of the law governing the land rights of communities and individuals. Registration of customary and good faith occupancy rights is voluntary, and few communities or individuals have the financial and technical support necessary to delimit their land and register their rights to obtain a formal DUAT. As a result, third parties are either unaware of or ignore existing local rights. In many cases, the required consultation between investors and communities is complied with only in form, not in substance. Communities are often inexperienced in negotiation skills, and lack adequate legal support in consultations with investors.

In cities, the majority of residents live in informal settlements with limited public services. The Land Law provides a basis for long-term residents to formalize their rights, but most are unaware of the process and those who are aware consider the costs prohibitive. Meanwhile, there is an active informal (illegal) market in land use rights in both urban and rural areas. Although a DUAT cannot legally be sold, land users can sell improvements on the land as private property. This provides a loophole for a de facto land market through the sale of very basic improvements for large amounts of money. The government does not recognize these transactions, yet also fails to prohibit them. As a result, it forgoes the opportunity to raise revenue from fees or taxes on these transactions and on the long-term use of land for private use. These revenues could contribute to the sustainability of land administration services, and support public investment in other key areas such as social services, basic water, sanitation and roads.

Mozambique has yet to take advantage of its abundant surface and groundwater resources. Civil war, neglect, and lack of technical capacity have led to the destruction and decay of water distribution and irrigation infrastructure. Overall access to a safe water supply is low at 49 percent of the population, with a large disparity between urban coverage (80 percent) and rural coverage (35 percent) (UNICEF 2014). The country has significant potential for irrigation—estimated around 3.1 million ha—yet only 118,000 ha were actually irrigated in 2012 (FAO 2016). The country's vast territorial marine waters have also been underutilized. At the same time, there are numerous accounts of illegal fishing in territorial waters.



Nearly half of land in Mozambique is forest land, and the legal framework governing the sector is reasonably progressive. Local communities have rights to use the forest and forest resources for traditional purposes, and they can obtain licenses to harvest timber and non-timber forest products. The legislation supports community forest management and some projects (with significant and on-going NGO and donor support) have created successful community-based forest enterprises. However, the regulatory framework generally works against small and medium businesses and, as a result, most operate in the informal sector. This means that the most valuable forest concessions are held by national and international companies. Illegal logging is rampant in the country as operators work through poor local residents to extract unprocessed timber for export. Measures have been taken to ban the export of unprocessed timber logs and a moratorium was established for timber exploitation through licenses which lack appropriate environmental and other requirements. In 2016, a process to review the forestry and wildlife legislation was initiated by MITADER and a new law has been drafted.

Mozambique's minerals sector suffered from lack of investment throughout the country's civil war and has only recently begun to develop. The country has significant deposits of several minerals, including titanium, aluminum, coal and diamonds. The government is concentrating on the development of infrastructure, such as railways, port expansion and creation of electronic data sources to support the industry.

## I. LAND

### LAND USE

Mozambique has a total land area of 786,380 square kilometers, comprising three geographic areas: (1) a plateau and highland region running from the northern border to the Zambezi River (27 percent of total land); (2) a middle plateau region that extends south of the Zambezi River to the Save River (29 percent); and (3) a low-lying coastal belt running south from the Save River to the southern border (44 percent). The northern and central areas of the country have tropical and subtropical climates; the south is dry semi-arid steppe and arid desert climate. The dominant vegetation is woodland, and about a quarter of the country's woodlands and forests are generally free from cultivation. Average annual deforestation is 0.35 percent, representing an annual loss of nearly 140,000 hectares (World Bank 2017a; FAO 2005; ARD 2002). Terrestrial protected areas comprised 21.6 percent of Mozambique's land area in 2016 (World Bank 2018a)<sup>1</sup>.

Mozambique's coastline is 2,515 kilometers long, and a wide range of marine products are available and marketed. The domestic market is mainly confined to the marine and coastal areas, although aquaculture production is increasing. Fishing contributes to approximately three percent of GDP and about 850,000 families depend on fishing for part of their income (UNCTAD 2017).

The country's population is estimated at 28.9 million (INE 2017), approximately 70 percent of whom live and work in rural areas. During the 16 years of civil war that followed the country's independence from

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<sup>1</sup> Terrestrial protected areas are totally or partially protected areas of at least 1,000 hectares that are designated by national authorities as scientific reserves with limited public access, national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries, protected landscapes, and areas managed mainly for sustainable use (World Bank 2018a).

Portugal in 1975, much of the rural population migrated to urban centers and across international borders to escape violence. Following the declaration of peace in 1992, many returned to their rural homes, relying on subsistence farming, forest products and the development of cash-cropping to support their livelihoods (Hatton et al. 2001; ARD 2002; FAO 2005). Population displacement continues, though at a lesser scale, as a result of low intensity warfare that started in 2014.

Agricultural land makes up 63.5 percent of Mozambique's total land area, and agriculture remains the main economic activity for most of the rural population. An estimated 90 percent of producers are smallholders cultivating rain-fed land. Most smallholder production is concentrated on staple food crop production (maize, pigeon peas, cassava and rice) for household consumption. The balance of production is cash crops (such as cotton, tobacco, oil seeds and tea) and vegetables. Tree crops, especially coconut and cashews, are grown by smallholder farmers and are a significant source of income in coastal areas of the central provinces of Nampula, Zambézia, and in the Inhambane and Gaza provinces north of Maputo. Much of the country's soil is nutrient-poor. Most smallholders have limited inputs, and yields are generally low. Smallholders also raise cattle, pigs, chickens and goats, although cattle production is limited by the prevalence of the tsetse fly in two-thirds of the country (ARD 2002; World Bank 2009a; FAO 2005; USDOS 2010; FAO/WFP 2010; FAO 2013).

The remaining 10 percent of producers are commercial farmers producing crops for the national market and export. Major agricultural exports are cotton, cashew nuts, sugarcane, tea and cassava. Large commercial operations cultivate an estimated 100,000 hectares, including about 40,000 hectares on industrial sugarcane plantations (35,000 hectares under irrigation) near sugar mills in the southern part of Maputo and the Sofala provinces (ARD 2002; USDOS 2010; FAO/WFP 2010).

Approximately 32.8 percent of Mozambique's population lived in urban areas in 2016, with annual urban population growth estimated at 3.8 percent. Around 75 percent of urban residents live in unplanned informal settlements, many without access to safe water and sanitation. Most urban residents are engaged in subsistence agriculture at the outskirts of cities or in the informal labor market. About half the urban population lives on less than \$1.25 a day (UN-Habitat 2009; UN-Habitat 2008; World Bank 2017b; Negrão 2004).

## **LAND DISTRIBUTION**

Mozambique has an ethnically diverse population, with about 70 percent of the population belonging to one of three ethnicities. The Makhuwa (or Makua-Lomwe, 37 percent of total population) live primarily in the regions north of the Zambezi River. The Tsonga (23 percent) tend to live in the regions south of the Zambezi River, while the Shona (9 percent) live mostly in the central regions. Smaller groups include the Makonde, who live primarily along the Rovuma River on the northern border with Tanzania, and the Yao (or Ajawa), who live in the northwest Niassa Province. Other groups include the Nguni, Maravi and Chopi. Europeans, Indians and Euro-Africans comprise less than 1 percent of the population (USDOS 2010; Joshua Project 2010). Land ownership does not appear to disproportionately favor particular ethnic groups.

Landholdings in Mozambique tend to be either smallholdings or very large concessions on the scale of hundreds or thousands of hectares. The average farm size in Mozambique ranges between one and two hectares, and approximately three-quarters of all agricultural holdings are less than two hectares (INE 2011). Smallholders depend upon access and user rights to extensive communal grazing and forest

resources, and to arable land to support long-cycle crop rotation and shifting agriculture. There are relatively few medium-sized (10–100 hectare) landholdings.

At independence in 1975, the vast majority of Portuguese colonists left the country, and the state nationalized large colonial farms and attempted to organize peasant producers into agricultural collectives (cooperatives). Most farms failed to meet expectations for productivity. To promote agricultural production, the government offered the state farms and other large tracts of land at little or no cost to investors

<b>Box 2. Land Tenure Indicators</b>		<b>Score</b>
<u>Millennium Challenge Corporation Scorebook, 2017</u>		
- Land Rights and Access (Range 0–1; 1=best)		0.81
<u>International Property Rights Index, 2017</u>		
- Physical Property Rights Score (Range: 0–10; 0=worst)		4.625
<u>World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Index, 2017</u>		
- Property Rights (Range: 1–7; 1=poorly defined/not protected by law)		3.5
- Ease of Access to Loans (Range: 1–7; 1=impossible)		2.9
<u>Agricultural Census, 2009-2010</u>		
- Gini Concentration of Holdings, 2009-2010 (Range: 0–1; 0=equal distribution)		0.45
<u>World Bank Group, Doing Business Survey, 2018</u>		
- Registering Property-Overall World Ranking (Range: 1–181; 1=Best)		104
<u>World Bank Group, World Development Indicators, 2017</u>		
- Registering Property-Number of Procedures		6
- Registering Property-Days Required		40
<u>World Bank Group, World Development Indicators, 1998</u>		
- Percentage of Population with Secure Tenure		...
<u>Heritage Foundation, 2017</u>		
- Index of Economic Freedom-Property Rights (Range 0-100; 0=no private property)		40
<u>Economic Freedom of the World Index, 2017 (2015 data)</u>		
- Legal Structure and Security of Property Rights (Range 0-10; 0=lowest degree of economic freedom)		3.97
- Protection of Property Rights (Range 0-10; 0=lowest degree of protection)		4.40
- Regulatory Restrictions of Sale of Real Property (Range 0-10;0=highest amount of restrictions)		7.47

who had the capital and experience to operate commercial enterprises. From the late 1980s through the early 1990s, the state awarded an estimated 2.8 million hectares in concessions. Concessions were generally awarded with little regard for customary rights or the land use practices of local communities. In some cases, entire villages were included within concessions granted to third parties (Tanner 2002; Norfolk and Tanner 2007; NAI 2007).

Following the end of the civil war in 1992, demand for land grew on the coast and in areas with fertile soil, access to markets and good roads. State concessions were again readily available and investors were not required to demonstrate their financial ability to develop the land. Often, they paid only administrative fees for rights to use the land. Reliable comprehensive information regarding large land concessions is limited, but records from the period 2001 to 2003 indicate that the government received 5,500 applications for land, covering 3.9 million hectares. It is impossible to say to what extent concessions encompass land held by local communities. However, in line with underlying precepts of the Land Law, and its recognition of customary and good faith occupancy rights even without formal documentation, it is likely that most concessions are over land that was, or is still legally occupied by local communities (NAI 2007; Tanner 2002; Norfolk and Tanner 2007).

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

**The 2004 Constitution of Mozambique** provides that the ownership of all lands and natural resources vests in the state, and that all Mozambicans shall have the right to use and enjoy land as a means for the creation of wealth and social wellbeing (Article 109). The Constitution further provides that the state shall recognize and protect land rights acquired through inheritance or by occupation, unless there is a legal reservation or the land has been lawfully granted to another person or entity. The Constitution also recognizes state, municipal and community public domain over land and natural resources. Despite government guidance to do so, the legal regime for community public domain has yet to be developed or approved (GOM Constitution 2004).

**The 1997 Land Law** was drafted with the objective of supporting and protecting the land rights of communities, women and smallholder farmers while also encouraging investment—reasserts the state’s ownership of land and provides that individuals, communities and entities can obtain long-term or perpetual rights to land. This right is known by the acronym, DUAT from the Portuguese *Direito de Uso e Aproveitamento das Terras*, or the ‘the right of land use and benefit of land’. A DUAT protects the customary rights of communities to their traditional territories and recognizes the land rights of communities and individuals acquired through customary systems and good faith occupancy, even without formal documentation of those rights. Community land use rights are legally equivalent to rights granted by the government to individuals and entities. A Technical Annex to the Land Law includes a process for identifying and recording the rights of local communities and good-faith occupants (Norfolk and Tanner 2007). Article 24 of the Land Law, and constitutional provisions regarding community public domain, give the ‘Local Community’ clear and devolved land and natural resources administration functions within their delimited areas of jurisdiction. The Land Law further provides women and men in Mozambique with equal legal rights to hold land. Nationals have unrestricted rights to access land, while foreign individuals and entities must have local residence and an approved investment plan. Land use is free for family uses, local communities, the state, and smallholder associations and cooperatives (GOM Land Law 1997; Norfolk and Tanner 2007).

**The 1998 Rural Land Law** provides rules for the acquisition and transfer of use-rights. These rules provide for private property developed on the land to be marketable (i.e., ‘improvement’ or ‘*benfeitorias*’), with the transfer of the underlying DUAT then subject to a discretionary approval process by the state. This mechanism facilitates and supports the current informal land market, where basic assets are sold for large sums. Ironically, it also frustrates the emergence of a formal land market that would allow individuals, groups and some business entities to access credit for investment purposes, as the discretionary power of the state introduces an element of uncertainty, making investments riskier (GOM Rural Land Law 1998).

**Decree No. 1/2003** establishes new provisions for the National Land Registry and Real Estate Cadastre, and procedures for the registration of inherited land use rights and secure rights to customary rights-of-way (GOM Decree No.1/2003).

**The 2006 Urban Land Regulations** apply to existing areas of towns and villages and to areas subject to an urbanization plan. The Regulations governs the preparation of land use plans, access to urban land, rights and obligations of owners of buildings and DUAT holders, and transfer and registration of rights (GOM Urban Land Regulations 2006).

## TENURE TYPES

Two main categories of land are prevalent in Mozambique:

- a. Public lands (state and municipalities): The Constitution determines which lands are held under state public domain, and over which no DUATs can be issued. Parties interested in occupying public land may apply for a special license.
- b. Community lands: Most rural land is held by communities, who have perpetual DUATs based on their traditional occupancy. Delimitation and registration of this land is voluntary as communities are not required to delimit or register their land to assert their DUAT (LANDac 2016).

The DUAT is the only recognized holding and use right over land, and it can be held individually or collectively. According to the Land Law, a DUAT can be acquired in three ways:

1. Customary occupation following customary norms and practices (this applies to local communities and individuals and households within them);
2. Good faith occupation (after using the land for at least 10 years uncontested); or
3. Adjudication and allocation of a 50-year lease by the State.

Occupancy-based DUATs can be registered with the National Directorate for Lands (DINAT) of MITADER to give notice and formal documentation of rights, but do not need to be registered for the holder to assert and defend the use-rights to occupied land (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; GOM Land Law 1997; GOM Land Regulations 1998). DUATs obtained by customary and good faith occupation are perpetual and do not require plans for exploitation (use) of the land. However, if communities want to formally register their DUAT, they must prepare an exploitation plan. Members of local communities can obtain DUATs for individual plots within the community land, but have to go through a process of consultation with their local leaders.

The large areas of land that fall within the remit of local community DUATs, but which are not covered by individual customarily acquired DUATs are classified as community public domain. This means that the respective local community has land and natural resource management powers devolved to it by the State. Other areas of public domain land include: the large totally and partially protected areas, such as National Parks and official hunting reserves; public utility land including airports and roads; and all land required for public service infrastructure and government. Most of the latter areas fall within the public domain of municipalities, while parks and reserves fall under state public domain and are now managed by the National Conservation Agency. According to the Constitution, DUATs cannot be allocated in public domain spaces, raising questions over how DUATs are in fact allocated in areas of community public domain. The amount of land comprising partially protected areas (buffer zones of roads, rivers, railways, airports and defense facilities, power lines, etc.) is unknown, and the same applies to areas of community public domain.

In terms of acquiring a DUAT from the State, there are no minimum or maximum sizes of land, though grant applicants must prepare an exploitation/land use plan. For areas over 10,000 hectares, this plan must include the terms of any partnership agreement negotiated with the existing DUAT holders (local communities and/or individuals). If the application for a DUAT is accepted, the land must be surveyed,

and boundaries determined, and the DUAT issued must be registered in the cadastral register maintained by DINAT. The state issues a provisional grant for either two years (to foreign persons or entities) or five years (to nationals). If the exploitation/land use plan is fulfilled, the grant becomes final. If the plan is not fulfilled, the land reverts to the state, unless the investor provides a justification. If land rights are revoked due to lack of fulfilment of the exploitation/land use plan, the state receives rights to any improvements made to the land and the grantee has no right to compensation (GOM Land Law 1997). Registration of a DUAT obtained by grant creates a presumption of legitimacy of rights and is presumed to prevail over a conflicting unregistered DUAT.

## **SECURING LAND RIGHTS**

In urban areas, most residents (approximately 62 percent) access land through the informal land market, either by leasing land held by DUAT holders or, more commonly, through buying the ‘improvements’ on the land (resulting in an informal land market). Leasing and buying land are both technically illegal under the current constitutional framework and formal law. However, any ‘improvement’ made on the land, as opposed to the land itself, is considered private property, and can be bought, sold or mortgaged. (NAI 2007; Norfolk and Tanner 2007). Other means of accessing urban land include customary rights systems such as inheritance or borrowing (19 percent), state allocation (13 percent) and good-faith occupation (6 percent).

In rural areas, most land is held by communities and individuals with unregistered DUATs acquired through customary and good faith occupation.

As of 2016, only an estimated 951 of 5000 rural communities in Mozambique had delimited their lands; an area of approximately 17,256,257 ha. Among these 951 communities, 763 have completed files to register their DUAT while only 387 communities have completed the registration process (DINAT 2017). DUAT registration requires eight procedures, an average of 42 days and a payment of approximately 11 percent of the value of the property registered. The state is required to process applications for DUATs within 90 days, though there are no consequences if the deadline is not met. Costs vary by the extent and location of land, but as of 2003 the average cost of delimitation and registration of community land was estimated at about \$8,000. (CTC 2003; Chilundo et al. 2005; Norfolk and Tanner 2007; Tanner 2002). Recent information puts the cost at approximately \$4,500 (Topsøe-Jensen et al. 2017). Further, the process requires the applicant to have an identity card, which many residents do not have and can acquire only by navigating additional procedures. The actual registration process is also considered expensive and inconvenient because the registry office is either in Maputo or in provincial capitals (NAI 2007; Norfolk and Tanner 2007; World Bank 2010a). As a result, the vast majority of registered DUATs are held by wealthy and corporate right-holders who understand and can work within the formal legal framework.

A great advance of the 1997 Land Law was the introduction of a legal requirement that all investors seeking land must consult with the relevant local community to see if the land is in fact available; and if it is not, then they must negotiate terms with the existing DUAT holders to gain access (GOM Land Law 1997; Akesson et al. 2009). The consultation process and resulting agreement presents an opportunity to encourage local participation in rural development in partnership with new investors. In practice, investor consultations with communities have tended to be quite limited and have had little positive impact on planning for development. Challenges to local participation include communities’ lack of

knowledge regarding their land rights and investor's obligations, low participation in decision-making among community members, including women and marginalized groups, and lack of capacity among local government officials charged with managing the process. Communities that have had the benefit of NGO support have fared better than most in this process (Tanner and Baleira 2006). Civil society has called for the development of a law on community consultations to improve how the consultations are conducted and help prevent disputes and tension between communities and investors (Cotula et al. 2009; Norfolk and Tanner 2007; Dobrilovic 2011). Pilot projects implemented by NGOs are working to reduce the time and costs of community consultations by giving a more prominent role to community authorities and community members in most phases of the delimitation process (Tankar and Rafael 2015; Terra Firma 2013).

Although unregistered land-use rights obtained by occupancy are widely recognized and viewed as akin to ownership, they remain invisible on official maps, and government officials are generally unaware of the extent of these rights. The increasing demand for land by investors makes such 'invisible' rights vulnerable to allocation by the state to third parties. The question of land occupation is therefore controversial: communities and NGOs supporting community rights contend that little if any land is unoccupied in Mozambique, while government has reported that as many as seven million hectares are available because they are vacant or under-used (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; Kanji et al. 2005; Adams and Palmer 2007; AfDB 2008). As such, many investments in Mozambique are controversial and subject to protests by affected communities and NGOs, mainly for failing to conduct proper consultations and failing to fulfill promises made to communities. Lack of rigor in law enforcement regarding community consultation, combined with a lack of adoption of guiding instruments such as land use plans and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), are apparent in investments involving economic and/or physical resettlement. In most cases, consultations are carried out in a cursory manner. The result is that the Land Law is used to give an impression of legitimacy to the granting of land over areas where local rights exist and that are important for local livelihoods (Tanner 2010).

Some of the most controversial investments include projects in the biofuels sector (ProCana Biofuels), mining (Vale Mozambique Mineral Coal; Kenmare Heavy Sands), hydrocarbons (Anadarko Gas) and commercial agriculture (ProSavana and Wanbao). In 2009, the government cancelled a DUAT that had been provisionally granted to ProCana for the development of 30,000 hectares for biofuel production in Massingir District, Gaza Province. Only 800 hectares had been developed at the time that the DUAT was cancelled. The project resulted in communities losing grazing land, constrained access to local water sources, and loss of a planned wildlife reserve—issues that resulted in negative media coverage and delayed the land development. The government's cancellation of the DUAT was, perhaps, less evidence of the government's systematic analysis of investor compliance with development plans than an indication of poor tenure analysis and lack of planning prior to granting the DUAT in the first place, and the government's vulnerability to local and international pressure (Weltz 2009; Gunter 2010). Other projects have also been controversial and subject to protests due to poor consultation processes. The government is seen as solely concerned with investor's interests at the expense of community rights, while investors are seen as taking advantage of government weaknesses and apparent willingness to bypass procedures that would ensure adequate consideration of community rights and interests and respect to the rule of law.

## INTRA-HOUSEHOLD RIGHTS TO LAND AND GENDER DIFFERENCES

In general, Mozambique's formal law supports and protects women's rights to land. The 2004 Constitution provides for the equality of men and women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, and prohibits discrimination based on sex. The 2004 Family Law provides for the equality of women by recognizing that women and men have equal rights to administer marital property and have equal rights to devolve and inherit property. The 1997 Land Law gives women the right to participate in all land-related decisions and the right to register DUATs individually. However, the primary formal law governing inheritance and succession (the 1966 Portuguese Civil Code) favors men over women for inheritance and management of marital property. Formal courts continue to apply the Succession Chapter of the 1966 Portuguese Civil Code.

<b>Box 3. Land and Gender Indicators</b>	<b>Score</b>	
<u>OECD: Measuring Gender In (Equality)—Ownership Rights, 2014</u>		Despite the progressive framework supporting the equality of women, customary law and traditional practices continue to dictate most women's social and economic rights in Mozambique, including access to land and access to secure tenure. The formal law allows for joint ownership of marital assets and the right to register land individually, but few women (and
- Women's Access to Land (to acquire and own land) (Range: Score 0-1; 0=no discrimination)	.5	
- Women's Access to Property other than Land (Range: 0-1; 0=no discrimination)	.5	
- Women's Access to Bank Loans (Range: 0-1; 0=no discrimination)	0.0	
<u>FAO: Holders of Land Classified by Sex, 2015</u>		and especially rural women) have any assets in their names. Women generally obtain access to land through their birth families until they are married, after which time they access land through their husbands. Under customary law, women generally do not inherit land. In patrilineal societies in the southern regions, land passes from fathers to sons and, in the absence of male offspring, to close male relations such as uncles. Even in matrilineal societies found in the northern regions of the country, land passes to male members of the female line (Schroth and Martinez 2009; Hendricks and Meagher 2007; Alfai 2007; van den Bergh-Collier 2003).
- Percentage of Female Holders of Agricultural Land	23.1	
<i>Sources: SIGI 2014; De la o Campos et al. 2015</i>		

Without assets, and dependent on relationships with men for access to land, women are extremely vulnerable. Widows and divorced women in both patrilineal and matrilineal areas are often at risk of losing their homes and access to agricultural land. In some cases, families will provide land, but the women will be considered socially subordinate and so they are provided with land of poor quality. Village leadership is generally male-dominated and may offer women little support (Schroth and Martinez; Alfai 2007; van den Bergh-Collier 2003).

Other cultural barriers also negatively affect women's land rights in Mozambique. In general, women have lower literacy and lower levels of formal education than men and are less likely to be aware of their rights. Women are often excluded from, or poorly represented in, local governance bodies and thus have more limited access to information. Women tend to have less experience with administrative procedures and are less likely to invoke the legal system to support their rights. However, when legal assistance and support is provided to women, widows in particular benefit. In a 2006 program operated by the Association of Women Legal Professionals in Nampula, the most common cases brought were widows seeking land and housing taken when their husbands died. In most cases, widows received some



benefit as a result of the intervention (Schroth and Martinez 2009; Waterhouse 2001; Alfai 2007; Hendricks and Meagher 2007; FAO 2017).

## **LAND ADMINISTRATION AND INSTITUTIONS**

The former National Directorate of Land and Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture was integrated into the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER). Responsibilities for land management and administration within MITADER fall under the National Directorate for Land (DINAT) and the National Directorate for Territorial Planning and Resettlement (DINOTER). At the national level, the DINAT is the regulatory authority, charged with holding and organizing the national land cadastre records (including SiGIT, the digital Land Information Management System) and, in the case of large-scale land applications over 1000 ha, responsible for processing applications for approval. The DINAT also provides technical guidance to the cadastral services of the provincial administrations and the decentralized municipalities. For rural land, the Provincial Service of Geography and Cadastre (SPGC) has primary operational responsibility. The municipality cadastre services issue DUAT documents for occupants of urban areas. DINAT shares responsibilities for land cadastre services with the Housing Registry Services (*Conservatoria do Registo Predial*), located within the Ministry of Justice (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; CTC 2003; LANDac 2016).

In general, Mozambique's land administration bodies lack capacity to perform their statutory functions (Burdick 2016; World Bank 2017c). In some cases, land administration personnel have maintained a top-down or investor-focused approach and have failed to accept the participation of local communities in land management and development decision-making (World Bank 2017c). In some areas cadastral authorities at provincial and district levels appear to believe that they are primarily responsible for serving the interests of investors. In other cases—and particularly in local offices—personnel have not received adequate training and support. Most public resources allocated to land administration are devoted to supporting outside investment in urban and rural areas, while relatively few resources are available to help communities delimit land and prepare for consultations with investors (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; CTC 2003; Dobrilovic 2011; CTV 2017).

NGOs and donors have played a significant and ongoing role helping the government implement the 1997 Land Law. With the exception of a small government-sponsored pilot program conducted at the time the Land Law was passed, NGOs and donors are primarily responsible for building community awareness of land rights and helping communities and local governments delimit community land and register community DUATs. A 2016 assessment conducted using the World Bank's Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) provided specific recommendations for institutional reform to improve performance of the land management and administration sector, with particular attention given to protection of rights, and to effective and sustainable land use.

## **LAND MARKETS AND INVESTMENTS**

Demand for land in Mozambique is increasing, especially in urban and peri-urban areas, rural areas with access to markets and infrastructure, and those areas that might leverage tourism. In urban areas, DUATs can be transferred automatically with the sale of buildings and other improvements. In rural areas, government permission is required to transfer a DUAT. Relatively few people transfer land use rights through formal channels. In urban areas, many parties are unaware of the requirement of registering land rights transactions. The cost of registering transactions is high and the process is

cumbersome. In rural areas, the requirement for prior government approval of the transfer invites a highly discretionary government evaluation of land use, which creates a risk that the DUAT will be forfeited. In addition, the Land Law does not specifically provide for partition of land under a DUAT, creating uncertainty as to whether the holder of a DUAT can transfer a portion of a specific land parcel (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; Tanner 2002; World Bank 2010a).

The informal land market is active in urban and peri-urban areas, and several studies suggest that the number of transactions is increasing, especially in areas with basic infrastructure and urban growth. Individuals with formally and informally acquired DUATs are transferring all or some portion of their land use rights through rental agreements, loans and subdivisions. Land speculation is occurring in some areas. Those with financial capacity buy plots by buying whatever infrastructure might be in place on the land (even a rudimentary wall will do). They then secure their rights through construction of a sub-standard house or building and sell the plots for higher prices. There is less evidence of an informal market in agricultural land, but the modest capacity of land administration offices and lack of registered DUATs covering smallholdings suggests that an informal market exists and is growing in the absence of efforts to support the development of a formal market in rural land (Norfolk and Tanner 2007; NAI 2007; World Bank 2017c). Land researchers have called for state intervention on this issue to recognize and regulate the currently illegal land market.

#### **COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS BY GOVERNMENT**

Article 82 of the Constitution provides that the government can expropriate land only for reasons of public necessity, utility or interest and that the government must pay fair compensation to the landholder(s) (GOM Constitution 2004).

Under the 1997 Land Law, the right to use property may be lost in four circumstances: (1) failure to carry out the investment plan in connection with which the DUAT was issued; (2) revocation for reasons of public interest; (3) expiration of the term of use, if any; and (4) renunciation by the titleholder. Where use-rights have been lost, the rights revert to the state (GoM Land Law 1997, Art. 18). In cases of revocation for reasons of public interest, the government is required to conduct an expropriation process and pay a fair indemnification and/or compensation before land use rights are extinguished. The law does not specify procedures or standards for establishing fair compensation, though the government did approve a decree to regulate compensation in the context of involuntary resettlement. This legal instrument must be combined with the legislation on territorial zoning and planning (Law No. 19/2007 of July 18, and by Decree no. 23/2008 of July 1) as well as the regulation on involuntary resettlement.

Compensation amounts and procedures for land expropriations are often agreed to by the principal stakeholders on a negotiated case-by-case basis. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in some cases displaced people have received land and assets of equal size and value to those taken. There is considerable doubt, however, whether such cases are representative of the norm (Swedish Geological AB 2003). Furthermore, in the case of involuntary resettlements, displaced people should be compensated in a way that puts them in a better position and with better condition than those they had in their places of origin. NGOs and others have claimed that, aside from including compensation for loss of land use rights, compensation packages should also include the value of other intangible assets such as social cohesion and networks, spiritual linkages to the land and ancestors, etc. (CTV 2017; World Bank 2017c).

## LAND DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS

Land disputes are relatively common in rural areas where concessions have been granted within or near a community's traditional territory. Because the Land Law does not require communities to register their rights, local governments and investors often fail to recognize the extent of community land and the nature of community land uses, and community consultations are often ineffective. The lack of knowledge of community rights and lack of understanding among parties of procedures necessary to approve investment projects is a leading cause of disputes. Other causes for disputes in rural and urban areas include boundary disputes, inheritance and intra-family rights and land transactions (CTC 2003; Unruh 2001; Hendricks and Meagher 2007; Kanji et al. 2005; Salomão and Zoomers 2013; World Bank 2017c).

Mozambique's formal court system has jurisdiction over land-related disputes. The country's system includes an administrative court to hear challenges to state administrative actions, and district courts, provincial courts and a supreme court. At all levels, the formal court system suffers from a lack of skilled administrative personnel, lack of qualified judges, and inadequate facilities and equipment. The litigation process is lengthy (the average contract enforcement action consumes more than 1,000 days), requires parties to be represented by lawyers and includes high fees (10 percent of the estimated value of the claim). The judicial system has historically lacked independence and has been plagued with corruption (World Bank 2017c). Since the early 2000s, more focus has been placed on legal education, and judicial training programs, particularly through the Center for Legal and Judiciary Training, which has helped to strengthen the judiciary at all levels (CTC 2003; AfDB 2008; FAO 2017). Legal training on land and natural resources management has been provided to other government sectors such as district administrators and public attorneys, police commanders, among others (FAO 2017).

The Institute for Legal Assistance and Support (*Instituto de Patrocínio e Assistência Jurídica*) is a state institution created in 1994 to provide pro bono legal assistance to the poor. The Institute has offices in the provincial and some district capitals but has lacked necessary financial support to ensure adequate staffing and skills (Alfai 2007). With the same purpose, the Lawyers' Bar Association also established a department for provision of pro bono legal assistance which has also intervened in the mediation of land disputes. Many civil society organizations, such as Centro Terra Viva (CTV), Justiça Ambiental (JA) and Forum Mulher also provide legal assistance to rural communities on land issues.

The Constitution recognizes legal pluralism whenever fundamental rights are not contradicted, resulting in a legal regime that combines formal and customary law. Most rural lands, representing the majority of the national lands, are managed by customary law and by traditional authorities. Mozambique also has a system of about 1,600 community courts that evolved separately from the formal court system, and these handle civil and criminal matters, including land disputes. Community courts are staffed by elected community members. No training is required, and community courts apply a local and often highly inconsistent blend of formal law, customary law and other informal norms. There is no established link between community courts and the formal judicial system. Parties to disputes are free to initiate an action at the district court without exhausting remedies available in community court (Hendricks and Meagher 2007; Ikdaahl et al. 2005, Monteiro et al. 2014).

Most of the population uses informal mediation and conciliation processes to resolve disputes. Elders, traditional leaders, neighborhood heads, district officials and many NGOs provide informal dispute-resolution services. Some bodies, such as district administrators, provide arbitration and adjudication

services, and some provinces have special dispute-resolution commissions supported by technical advisors on issues such as delimitation processes. Most disputes are resolved in these forums, particularly in rural areas where access to another forum would require significant travel and expense (Alfai 2007; CTC 2003; Hendricks and Meagher 2007, Monteiro et al. 2014).

### **KEY LAND ISSUES AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS**

In 2006, a Community Lands Initiative (*Iniciativas para Terras Comunitárias*, or ITC) was established along with a dedicated land fund. This initiative involved supporting efforts to strengthen the land rights of rural communities and development of the technical capacity at the community level to manage land sustainably. The fund supports community land delimitations and development of community projects. The funded activities are implemented by NGOs, the private sector and government bodies. ITC initially focused on Cabo Delgado, Maniça and Gaza provinces. With MCC funding, the fund was expanded to include Niassa, Nampula and Zambezia provinces. The fund is demand-driven and therefore able to respond to particular needs—a flexibility that, for some land analysts, potentially allowed it to support other identified land-related public needs to the neglect of community land delimitation (De Wit and Norfolk 2010; Nhancale et al. 2009). In October 2016, ITC was institutionalized and transformed into the Community Lands Foundation (ITC-F) and it expanded its geographic focus to the whole country.

In 2010, the GOM created a Consultative Forum on Land to serve as a platform for multi-sector dialogue on land issues and to assist in the legislative reform process. Nine sessions were held between 2010 and 2017. There is broad consensus among Forum participants that the essentials of the 1997 law should not be changed. However, at the November 2017 Forum meeting, members agreed to prioritize the massive titling of DUATs and recommended that the Government develop and improve the institutional framework governing land and look to revise the Land Law to allow for transferability of DUATs (MITADER 2017).

Government support to the agricultural sector focuses on the Strategic Plan for Development of the Agricultural Sector (PEDSA 2011–2020). This initiative aims to increase domestic production of main food staples and integrate the markets of different regions to strengthen agricultural value chains. The strategy is consistent with the more general Action Plans for the Reduction of Poverty (PARP 2010–2015), which prioritize increasing agricultural productivity and integrating the sector into the rest of the economy. The strategy does not directly address agricultural land access or land tenure security (FAO/WFP 2010). Land tenure security in the context of land-based investments, including agriculture investments, has been addressed by the Consultative Forum on Land, which approved specific land governance guidelines in the 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security and the 2012 African Union Land Policy Framework (FAO 2012). In 2014, the Government approved the National Development Strategy (*Estratégia Nacional de Desenvolvimento*) which highlights the need for sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. However, it doesn't include specific guidelines for the land sector.

In 2015, MITADER launched the Terra Segura program, which has three main objectives: (1) to consolidate the land administration and management system; (2) to protect local community rights while promoting citizenship and sustainable development; and (3) to deliver information about individual and community land rights in general. As part of Terra Segura, the Government has pledged to deliver five million DUATs in the next five years and 4,000 community delimitations. The aim of Terra Segura is to

help delimitate and secure the tenure of mostly poor, rural populations by mapping their land and registering their DUATs for free. With the assistance of the development of the *Sistema de Gestao e Informacao de Terras* (SiGIT) land information management system from MCC, Mozambique has expanded the pace at which it has granted DUATs, successfully granting about 300,000 DUATs since the beginning of the Terra Segura program.

## **DONOR INTERVENTIONS**

USAID was an initial supporter of land initiatives in Mozambique through its support to a program of applied research on land-tenure issues, conducted by the Land Tenure Center at the University of Wisconsin. The research supported by the Land Tenure Center, together with national research commissioned by UNDP, fed into a wider policy review process ahead of developing new land legislation. An FAO project supported the creation of a new Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Revision of Land Legislation. The FAO worked with the government to guide formulation of the 1995 National Land Policy. This Policy formally established the key principles of recognition of customary rights and land management procedures, the underlying tenets of the consultation process and a more inclusive, rights-based development model.

The National Land Policy was then given concrete force by the development of the new Land Law by the Inter-Ministerial Commission, again with FAO and Land Tenure Center support and involving a wide range of national stakeholders. FAO has since been a strong strategic partner supporting the implementation of the law. Working with the Center for Legal and Judicial Training (CFJJ) of the Ministry of Justice, the FAO trained national and local level judges in the new land and natural resources laws that appeared in the latter half of the 1990s. It then went on to work with the CFJJ to develop a paralegal training program in land and other related laws, including environmental and physical planning laws, and investment and tourism legislation. This program grew to incorporate training for local government officials and NGOs on the legislative framework and delimitation process, and the concept of negotiated and inclusive development with land plot delimitation and community consultation at its core. A manual for paralegals and communities was one notable output from this work.

Overall, this program trained 1,200 paralegals who work in provincial associations. In some provinces, such as in Cabo Delgado and Inhambane, district paralegals' associations are being created with technical support from local NGO Centro Terra Viva (CTV), who took over this component from the CFJJ when FAO funding was terminated (Tanner 2010; Adams and Palmer 2007; CTC 2003; NAI 2005). Finally, from 2010 to 2014, a dedicated women's rights component was added to the FAO-supported program, training women paralegals and supporting women's associations in the countryside to defend women's land rights and secure DUATs for women individually and in associations (Tanner and Bicchieri 2014).

The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) managed a \$507 million compact with Mozambique's government. The compact included a \$39 million Land Tenure Services Project that worked to: improve the policy framework; upgrade land information systems and services; help communities and individuals register land rights; and improve the accessibility of land for investment. (MCC 2007; MCC 2009; Adams and Palmer 2007). One major achievement was the development and deployment of the *Sistema de Gestao e Informacao de Terras* (SiGIT) land information management system. This system is currently maintained by the government, but with difficulty, particularly with reference to technical assistance and

basic IT infrastructure. However, it does provide a cornerstone for building an improved land governance system in the country.

USAID's 2014-2019 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Mozambique prioritizes inclusive economic growth and private sector investment to increase agricultural productivity and expand agribusiness and tourism. The Strategy also aims to increase equitable access to land and tenure security to help create an improved business climate to attract investment and create jobs (USAID/Mozambique 2015). USAID currently supports the Support Program for Economic and Enterprise Development (SPEED+) in Mozambique. SPEED+ is providing expert technical services to the Government of Mozambique to support economic and structural reform in the areas of agriculture, trade, business enabling environment, energy, water and biodiversity conservation. Specifically relating to land administration, the activity is providing support to MITADER to lead an inclusive process to revise a number of land administration regulations and norms, including technical norms for issuing DUATs, how community consultations must be carried out, and when investor's DUATs will be revoked. The activity is also supporting private sector public debate around more controversial issues of land as an economic asset, transferability of DUATs, and sub-leasing. The 2017 USAID Responsible Land-Based Investment Project supported Africa's largest sugar producing company (Illovo Sugar Africa Ltd.) to secure land use rights for individuals and farmer association members in the area surrounding its Maragra Estate.

The U.S. Government's Feed the Future FY 2011-2015 Multi-Year Strategy for Mozambique identified the need to support land use planning and management to bolster climate change adaptation and private sector investment. The Strategy also identified the need to support policy initiatives that advocated for freely transferable land titles, available for use as collateral, with particular emphasis on women's equal rights to land (USG 2011).

The African Development Bank (AfDB) also had a program to assist the government in the development of the judicial and administrative systems relating to land rights, in part to assist the government in resolving land-related disputes and speed up the processing of applications for land use rights. The AfDB has also assisted the government in updating the land registration system, but progress has not been reported (AfDB 2006; AfDB 2008).

The MCC Land Tenure Services Project supported policy and legislative review through a new Land Policy Consultative Forum established by Government of Mozambique (GOM) decree in October 2010. The project also supported practical Land Law implementation with public outreach and dispute resolution, community rights registration, and the regularization and titling of individual DUATs. During project implementation, in the rural areas a majority of DUATs were either issued to women, or women acquired the right together with men.

The Land Tenure Services Project was followed by support to DINAT from the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden. The Swiss Development Cooperation has recently approved its new strategy for the period 2018-2022 with continued support reserved to the land sector.

## 2. FRESHWATER (LAKES, RIVERS, GROUNDWATER)

### RESOURCE QUANTITY, QUALITY, USE AND DISTRIBUTION

Mozambique has 104 identified river basins and shares nine major river basins with other countries. The basins mostly carry water from the central African highland plateau to the Indian Ocean. The rivers have a highly seasonal, torrential flow regime with high waters during three to four months and low flows for the remainder of the year. In addition, Mozambique shares two large lakes with neighboring Malawi: Lake Niassa (Lake Malawi) and Lake Chirua (Lake Chilwa) (FAO 2005).

Mozambique has abundant renewable groundwater sources at around 17 cubic kilometers per year. Annual internal renewable surface water resources are estimated at 97.3 cubic kilometers. External renewable water resources are around 117 cubic kilometers per year, primarily from the Zambezi River, which enters Mozambique from the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. With an installed capacity of 2,060 megawatts, the Cahora Bassa Dam on the Zambezi River in Tete Province is the largest hydroelectric plant in Southern Africa (FAO 2005; FAO 2016).

The country receives an average annual rainfall of 1,032 millimeters, which varies widely across the country and from north to south. The north and central regions receive up to 2,000 millimeters of rainfall per year, the coast receives 800–1,000 millimeters, while the southern inland and border areas receive as little as 500–600 millimeters per year (FAO 2005; NEPAD 2004).

The main source of water in the country is surface water, although people rely on groundwater for drinking water in urban centers and many rural areas. Agriculture accounts for 87 percent of water use, while 11 percent of water withdrawals are for domestic uses and two percent for industry. The country has an estimated irrigation potential of 3.1–3.3 million hectares. The country has significant potential for irrigation—irrigation potential was estimated to be around 3.1 million ha by the FAO- especially in the central provinces, yet in 2012, only 118,000 ha were actually irrigated (FAO 2016). Most of the irrigation potential is in the northern and central regions (60 percent of the potential is in Zambezi Province). The southern regions have the greatest need for irrigation, but only a small share of suitable land (World Bank 2009b; FAO 2005; FAO/WFP 2010).

Overall access to a safe water supply is low at 49 percent, with a large disparity between urban coverage (80 percent) and rural coverage (35 percent) (UNICEF 2014). Most rural water is provided through piped village systems and boreholes with hand pumps. At any given time, up to 35 percent of the rural systems are not functioning because of poor management, and donor-financed water and sanitation sector interventions often fall quickly into disrepair. An estimated 36 percent of the population obtains water from unprotected wells, and cholera, dysentery and other waterborne diseases are chronic problems (AllAfrica 2010; USAID 2006; Water-Technology 2010). A severe drought affecting most of southern Africa over the last three years has led to a water crisis in the capital city of Maputo and low rainfall has left a dam that supplies the city with most of its water to just 19 percent of capacity. In rural areas, the lack of water has wiped out crops and killed livestock. As a result, the food security and nutritional situation in the country went from 1.5 million food insecure people in March 2016 to 2.1 million in November 2016 (SETSAN 2017).

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Mozambique's 2004 Constitution provides that all water resources are owned by the state. Similarly, the 1991 National Water Law provides that all water is a state-owned public good. The Water Law also defined the general principles for water resource management. The state is responsible for managing water resources for the benefit of the entire population. Priority for water-use is given to human consumption, sanitation and environmental needs. Water management is based on a river basin approach: water in the same basin should be managed to benefit all states involved, and research, exchange of information and project development should be prepared and conducted jointly (FAO 2005; FAOLex 1991; ADCM 2011).

The 1995 National Water Policy was adopted to guarantee a sustainable water supply and proper sanitation. The policy reformed and clarified the administrative, regulatory and development roles within the water supply and sanitation sector. In combination with the Water Tariff Policy, the National Water Policy established a commercially-oriented regime designed to support cost recovery and long-term sustainability of the water supply system. The policy is primarily focused on urban areas but does encourage private-sector participation in water supply and distribution, including existing irrigation and hydroelectric schemes (FAO 2005; USAID 2006).

In 2007, the National Water Policy was revised to address the following issues:

1. Vision, principles and objectives for the sector;
2. Water uses (human consumption and sanitation; economic development; and environmental management (floods and droughts)); and
3. Integrated water management (assessment of water uses; planning of river basins' management; management of shared water basins and infrastructures).

In the same year, the government approved the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Water Sector to guide the implementation of the Water Policy and set priorities for water resource management, water supply and sanitation, investment, and private sector participation in the water sector (ADCM 2011).

In 2002, the National Irrigation Policy and its Implementation Strategy were adopted. The policy states that:

1. Water resources, although renewable, are not inexhaustible and therefore it is necessary to manage them in a sustainable manner;
2. Water is an economic resource that deserves an appropriate economic and social value;
3. The government will focus on ensuring integrated water management for multiple purposes in agriculture and rural development with a special emphasis on irrigation systems for the family sector to transform what is primarily subsistence farming to production that is gradually integrated in the market;
4. The government should promote decentralization and greater participation of the beneficiaries, communities and the local authorities in the integrated water resources management; and



5. The role of women in agriculture must be acknowledged and supported through their participation as beneficiaries of irrigated agriculture (FAO 2005).

In December 2015, the Regulation for Licensing of Private Water Providers in the Supply of Potable Water (Decree 51/2015) was approved, creating the opportunity for greatly expanded and well-regulated, safe and efficient access to water throughout the country. Although private water providers (PWWPs) were previously unregulated and unlicensed, they started offering water services in the early 2000s and have been growing rapidly. To take advantage of this private sector initiative, while also ensuring health and safety standards are met and consumer protections are enforced, the GOM approved Decree 51/2015, providing a formal framework for licensing and regulation of PWWPs throughout Mozambique. The licensing process is assigned to local authorities, giving them the primary role in planning and overseeing investment in water supply infrastructure in their areas of jurisdiction. Licensed private suppliers are allocated an exclusive operation area for a period of 5 years, thus reducing potential conflicts between private providers, and facilitating the acquisition of financing to invest in the improvement of their systems (USAID 2018).

### **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND INSTITUTIONS**

Government restructuring after the 2014 elections included the water sector's institutional framework. In 2015, the former National Water Directorate (DNA) was split into the National Directorate of Water Resource Management (DNGRH) and the National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation (DNAAS). These entities were integrated within the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and Water Resources (World Bank 2016).

DNAAS is responsible for water supply, sanitation and waste water treatment in rural areas. Separately, DNGRH is in charge of the development, conservation, and sustainable use of water resources from watersheds for various uses such as household consumption and agriculture. Other institutions at the national level are: the Water Regulatory Council (CRA), which is the sector's regulatory body; the Water Supply Investment Fund (FIPAG), which is the water supply utility responsible for supplying water to large cities and towns; and the Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Management Agency (AIAS), responsible for supplying water to secondary cities/small towns and sanitation services to all urban areas including large cities (UNICEF 2017; World Bank 2016).

At the sub-national level, the Provincial Directorates of Public Works, Housing, and Water Resources (DPOPHRHs), the Regional Water Resource Management Agencies (ARAs), and the District Services for Planning and Infrastructure (SDPIs) are responsible for sector administration (UNICEF 2017). At the provincial level, the DPOPHRHs oversee the implementation of water supply and rural sanitation programs. At the regional level, Mozambique's five ARAs regulate the use of river basin waters, control irrigation systems and collect water fees within their jurisdictions. At the district level, SDPIs oversee small water projects and supply systems (UNICEF 2017).

The government body charged with coordinating activities relating to irrigation is the National Irrigation Institute (INIR) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA). The INIR oversees policy, strategic and operational issues related to irrigation (INIR 2014; FAO 2016).

At the regional level, Mozambique is a party to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on shared water courses and has signed several agreements related to the management of the

different water courses that the country shares with its neighbors (DNGRH 2016). Several basin commissions were created at which Mozambique is represented.

### **GOVERNMENT REFORMS, INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS**

Mozambique's water supply and sanitation sector has implemented policy and institutional reforms that have increased its capacity to provide urban WSS services. Reforms have improved water-supply regulation, dependability and quality, as well as the financial viability of many urban service providers. However, the achievements have largely depended on outside donor funding, and reforms have not reached rural areas. An evaluation by the AfDB identifies continuing issues as including: (1) the ability of the sector to mobilize funding through growth of implementation capacity; (2) adoption of monitoring and evaluation systems; (3) reduction of dependence on outside funding sources by increasing cost-recovery strategies; and (4) balancing urban and rural sub-sector budget allocations and expenditures (AfDB 2009).

With the assistance of donors, the government created a water and sanitation sector working group to help coordinate government implementation of water and sanitation projects and donor initiatives. A technical subgroup, the Water and Sanitation Group, includes representatives from major sector donors, international NGOs and private-sector firms. The Group is a forum to discuss and evaluate sector progress (USAID 2006).

In 2007, the Government initiated the establishment of a National Water and Sanitation Information System (SINAS), integrated into DNAAS. SINAS is an information management system designed to cover rural and urban water and sanitation as well as water resources management and water resources development. The mission of SINAS is to create a robust institutional network of information on the water sector that seeks to identify, analyze, disseminate, use and store data and information for management, planning, policy formulation and decision-making (Macario and Buhl-Nielsen 2015).

In 2009 Mozambique received a \$27 million loan from the AfDB to fund the Niassa Provincial Towns Water and Sanitation Project. The project, which was implemented over four years beginning in 2010, was designed to improve access, quality, availability and sustainability of water supply and sanitation services in two provincial towns, Cuamba and Lichinga. The project included support for institutional development, rehabilitation and extension of the water supply scheme (AfDB 2009).

The World Bank and the Japanese Government have supported the Government of Mozambique's Sustainable Irrigation Development Project (PROIRRI). The objective of the project is to increase agricultural production and raise farm productivity with new or improved irrigation schemes in the provinces of Sofala, Manica and Zambezia in Mozambique (World Bank 2017d).

## **DONOR INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS<sup>2</sup>**

USAID supported interventions that integrated water and sanitation into existing PEPFAR, health and hygiene programs. As part of a 5-year (2008-2013) compact between the MCC and the Government of Mozambique (GOM), the \$13 million Rural Water Supply Activity (RWSA) was designed to increase sustainable access to improved water supply in six of Mozambique's districts in the northern provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado. The RWSA installed water points to increase access to improved water sources in 614 rural communities. In addition, RWSA mobilized water committees to maintain the water point infrastructure as well as provide community-based training in improved sanitation and hygiene practices (MCC 2014). The MCC's \$203 million Water and Sanitation Project focused on six cities and two mid-sized towns in Zambezi, Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces to rehabilitate and expand urban water supply and sanitation systems (MCC 2014).

The USAID SPEED+ project is facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Regulation for Licensing of Private Water Providers in the Supply of Potable Water (Decree 51/2015) (USAID 2018).

The World Bank's ongoing Mozambique Water Services and Institutional Support Project aims to increase water-service coverage in key cities in Mozambique, and strengthen the institutional and regulatory capacity for water services and emergency response in the Northern, Central and Southern regions.

The related \$6.5 million Water Sector Contracts Output-Based Aid for Coverage Expansion Project (2007–2011), a World Bank-funded project designed to increase piped-water access to over 468,000 poor Mozambicans living in five cities by providing an output-based subsidy to private operators after their delivery of functioning yard-taps and demonstration of continued service for a period of time. Approximately 29,000 yard-taps were scheduled to be installed, each of which would serve three households. As of the end of 2009, project staff believed that the objective of increasing yard-taps connections for Maputo would be achieved because a private operator was in place and the connections demonstrated to be sustainable. However, in the other four cities the private sector had expressed little interest and the project could require restructuring (World Bank 2009b; World Bank 2009c).

## **3. TREES AND FORESTS**

### **RESOURCE QUANTITY, QUALITY, USE AND DISTRIBUTION**

Nearly half of Mozambique's land area (38.1 million hectares) is covered with forest. Most of the forest is miombo woodlands, a dry tropical forest dominated by open broad leaf trees with grassy understory. Most of the tall and medium forests are located in the northern and central regions of the country. Other closed-canopy forests can be found along rivers and in mountainous areas along the western border with Zimbabwe and Malawi. The drier southern part of the country is primarily savanna grassland and thorn scrub vegetation with less than 20 percent tree cover. Mangrove forests cover an estimated 400,000 hectares along the coast. The mangroves provide critical habitat for fish and crustaceans and

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<sup>2</sup> This illustrative list of donor interventions is not meant to be exhaustive.

have been subject to significant degradation around Beira, Maputo and the Zambezi Delta. About 10 percent of the country's forests are in protected areas (ARD 2002).

The World Resources Institute (WRI) Climate Analysis Indicators Tool calculated the carbon emissions at an estimated 68.1 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2014, mainly due to the land-use change and forestry sector (59 percent) and agriculture (27 percent). Also according to WRI, Mozambique's GHG emissions increased by 11.7 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> (21 percent) from 1990 to 2013. The average annual change in total emissions during this period was 1 percent (WRI CAIT 2017).

Forests have contributed over \$300 million to Mozambique's GDP in recent years (World Bank 2017a). Both the formal and informal sectors are engaged in production of timber, non-timber forest products and forest services. As of 2007, the country had granted 156 timber concessions covering about 1.6 million hectares. Forests also make a significant contribution to the local economy and livelihoods. Fuelwood from forests supplies about 80 percent of Mozambique's energy, and bush meat is a major source of protein. Rural households sell fuelwood, charcoal, forest foods, honey and medicinal plants. Forests provide a source of income and subsistence that is especially critical in times of flooding, drought, conflict and unemployment (FAO/WFP 2010; Nhancale et al. 2009; ARD 2002; De Wit and Norfolk 2010).

Fire is traditionally used to manage forestland and vegetation and to clear land for agriculture. Countrywide, almost 40 percent of Mozambique's forests are affected by fire each year; in the northwestern and central parts of the country, 74 percent of forests are burned every year. An estimated 90 percent of fires are intentionally set by humans. The practice is controversial: fire is a traditional method of adding nutrients to the soil, revitalizing forest species and preparing land for cultivation. However, fire is often uncontrolled and can cause significant forest degradation while also opening the forest to illegal logging and charcoal production. In 2002, the government estimated that 50 to 70 percent of logging was illegal, and that only 1–5 percent of charcoal production was registered, costing the government \$4–6 million annually in lost revenue (World Bank 2008; FAO 2008a; FAO 2008b; Del Gatto 2003). In 2012 the government issued a decree with tighter requirements for timber exploration and a national audit was ordered. In 2013 it rejected a proposal for a complete moratorium, but in 2015 the issuing of licenses for logging was suspended. Log exports were also suspended. A special closed season for particularly endangered species, such as the *Swartzia madagascariensis* (locally known as *pau-ferro*) was enacted.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The 1999 Forestry and Wildlife Law and the 2002 Forest and Wildlife Regulation set out the principles and basic rules governing the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources. The following principles guide the interpretation and implementation of the Forestry Law:

1. Mozambique's natural forest and wildlife resources are the property of the state;
2. Economic and social development policies and policies on the preservation and conservation of biodiversity should involve local communities, the private sector and civil society in general, with the objective of achieving sustainable development;

3. Assessments of impact should precede introduction of animal and plant species and modern technologies into the forest;
4. Anyone damaging the flora and fauna must mitigate or compensate the state for the damage;
5. Conservation and sustainable use of the forest shall be within the framework of decentralization and consistent with customary practices;
6. Local communities and their residents can use forest and wildlife for subsistence purposes, provided they do not conflict with regulations on endangered species, hunting and other practices;
7. The private sector shall be encouraged to participate in the management, conservation and exploitation of forest resources with a view to increasing added value and stimulating greater development for local communities;
8. The country will promote forest research and education, including exchange of knowledge between local communities to build their capacity to manage and conserve forest and wildlife resources; and
9. Mozambique will work with other countries and international organizations for the protection, conservation and management of forest and wildlife resources (GOM Forestry Law 1999; Nhancale et al. 2009).

With respect to local communities, the 1999 law contains exactly the same definition as the 1997 Land Law. By extension, this means that the communities and rights referred to in the forestry context are spatially and institutionally the same as those that are delimited under the Land Law Regulations and Technical Annex. This has important implications for determining which communities must be consulted by forest and wildlife investors as well as by agricultural investors; and which communities share in the distribution of a percentage of public revenues generated by these investments.

The Forestry Law recognizes three forest types: (1) conservation forests, which are within protection zones and subject to special management regimes; (2) productive forests, which have plant formations with high forestry potential and are located outside protection zones; and (3) multiple-use forests, which have plant formations with low forestry and are located outside protection zones (GOM Forestry Law 1999).

Protection zones are delimited areas maintained for the preservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems. Conservation areas, including those under community management, make up 13.2 million hectares. Biodiversity conservation areas and activities are regulated by the Nature Conservation Law (Law No.16/2014, from June 20).

National parks, national reserves and zones of historical and cultural use and value are within protection zones. National parks are total protection zones, and all forest and agricultural exploitation, mining, hunting and any other use that modifies the landscape or may disturb the flora and fauna is prohibited. National reserves have all the protection of national parks, except that some forest resources may be exploited, subject to license requirements and a management plan, and provided the use is not detrimental to the purpose of the reserve. Forestland and resources within zones of historical and cultural use and value may be used in accordance with the customary practices of the local communities (GOM Forestry Law 1999).

The Forestry Law promotes the development of plantations for conservation and for commercial, industrial and fuel-producing purposes. The Forestry Law requires parties causing forest degradation or deforestation to rehabilitate the area in accordance with applicable regulations (GOM Forestry Law 1999).

The Forestry Law authorizes the government to impose penalties—including fines, imprisonment, and compulsory restoration of damaged forestland—for violations of the law and supporting regulations. Forest burning is punishable by imprisonment. However, enforcement of prohibitions and restoration requirements is weak (GOM Forestry Law 1999; Nhancale et al. 2009; Norfolk 2004).

In 2013, a decree was approved for regulating and guiding REDD+ projects, which aim to sequester carbon and market the Emissions Reductions that result on world carbon markets. Weaknesses in this decree have led to the development of a new REDD+ decree, recently developed and approved by the government. Other legislative reforms with impacts on the forestry sector include the announced review of the environmental law. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation was revised and a new version approved through Decree No.54/2015, of December 31.

In 2016, the Government launched a process to review the Forestry Law and prepare a National Forest Program. Indications are that the general principles remain much the same, with improvement made to the licensing regimes and incorporating international standards on sustainable use and issues such as carbon sequestration. Also in 2016, a new law enforcement agency, the National Agency for Environmental Quality Control, was created and MITADER mandated a moratorium on new forest concessions for two years. In December of the same year Mozambique's parliament passed new legislation, in the form of amendments to the Conservation Law of 2014, banning exports of unprocessed timber logs and levying an export tax on unfinished or semi-processed timber products (ICCF 2016; Aquino et al. 2017).

## **TENURE ISSUES**

Forestland and forest resources are the property of the state. Individuals and groups can obtain rights to use and benefit from the forest through occupancy or specific authorization. All rights to use and benefit from the forest require an exploitation license, except where exploitation is for personal consumption. There is no direct and consequent connection between the rights to land and the rights to forestry resources. Local communities have the right to use forest resources to meet subsistence needs without payment of any fee and can designate forest areas of cultural significance (GOM Forestry Law 1999).

Two types of licenses are available: simple licenses and forestry concession contracts. Simple licenses are available to national operators and local communities and allow for exploitation in productive and multiple-use forests for commercial, industrial or fuel-producing purposes. The terms of simple licenses are subject to species, quantity and time limits set by the forest department and must be consistent with the forest management plan. Applicants for simple licenses must present proof of technical capacity, a hand-drawn map of the proposed area, an estimate of timber resources and proposed extraction volume, and a record of consultation with local communities in the area. There are 630–1266 simple license holders in Mozambique (GOM Forestry Law 1999; Nhancale et al. 2009). More recently, a ban has been implemented with regard to these licenses.

Forestry concession contracts are available to individuals, corporate entities and local communities for exploitation of productive and multiple-use forests. Applications require preparation of a forest resources inventory, a topographical map and evidence of the technical and industrial capacity to process timber within the concession area. Applicants must also consult with local communities and prepare a management plan. Concession contracts are limited to a 50-year period, with 5-year renewals. Studies suggest that the requirements for concessions are not rigorously applied by forestry officials. It is estimated that there are around 166 forest concession operators in the country (GOM Forestry Law 1999; Nhancale et al. 2009). One result of this two-tier licensing system is that most commercial operators work outside the formal law to avoid the concession requirements and establish relationships with poor rural residents to illegally extract unprocessed timber directly for export.

Weak governance—characterized by low institutional capacity and a lack of transparency, limited participation of stakeholders in decision making, and inadequate benefit sharing with local communities—has fueled deforestation and forest degradation in Mozambique (Aquino et al. 2017). An estimated 76 percent of all global timber exports from Mozambique in 2013 were illegally cut in excess of reported harvests (EIA 2013). Forgone tax revenues from illegal timber exports were estimated at \$540 million between 2003 and 2013 from unreported wood exports, mainly to Asian markets. A recent MITADER assessment of forest operators revealed a low level of compliance with key forest management environmental and social standards and found that only 39 percent of forest concessionaires in Mozambique demonstrated minimum compliance (Aquino et al. 2017).

The Forestry Law provides that local communities will receive a percentage of any amounts received by the state from the exploitation of forests and wildlife. Current regulations set the rates at 20 percent of forestry tax revenue the government derives from concessions and 50 percent of the value of fines paid for forest law violations. Despite its potential to contribute significantly to rural incomes, in practice communities report that they do not receive the legislated benefits, or that they end up losing benefits they previously enjoyed, because companies reduce their access to forest resources to offset the required 20 percent tax (GOM Forestry Law 1999; FAOLex 2010; Del Gatto 2003; Norfolk 2004; CTC 2003).

## **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND INSTITUTIONS**

The National Directorate of Forests (DINAF) of the MITADER is responsible for the issuing of licenses, protection, supervision, conservation and management of forests and the monitoring of consumption by communities (Presidential Decree No. 13/2015). The Provincial Forests and Wildlife Services Office under the control of the Provincial Directorate of Lands, Environment and Rural Development is responsible for cutting licenses, forest concessions and implementation of forestry laws at the provincial level (MITADER, *estatuto orgânico*).

The Forestry Law establishes local resource management councils (*Conselhos Locais de Gestão de Recursos Florestais e Faunísticos* or *Comités de Gestão Participativa*) composed of representatives of the local community, private sector, forestry-related associations and government officials. The purpose of the councils is to protect, conserve and promote the sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources. The councils are charged with responsibility for ensuring that local communities benefit from the exploitation of forest resources. The law specifically permits the state to delegate forest-management responsibilities to local communities, associations or the private sector (GOM Forestry Law 1999; Del Gatto 2003).

## **GOVERNMENT REFORMS, INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS**

Mozambique's National Strategy for Forestry and Wildlife Development, introduced in 1997, provides for community-based forest management and supports local job-creation through requirements for local processing of forest products. The strategy envisions local communities forming Community Management Committees (CGC), which are intended to represent community interests regarding forest resources and enter consultations and negotiations with the forestry department and investors on behalf of the local community.

CGCs have been created in some areas, and local small and medium forest enterprises developed. However, the strategy has not included capacity-building for local forestry officials or local communities and as a result has remained largely unimplemented. Enforcement of requirements for community consultation and participation in forest management is generally poor. Moreover, the government has not supported legislative efforts to provide communities with commercial rights to forest resources (Nhancale et al. 2009).

Mozambique's Action Plan for Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA I and PARPA II) identified the forest sector as an area for potential growth and contribution to GDP, with an emphasis on sustainability through the use of production technologies that conserve the environment. PARPA II (2006–2009) also recognized the role that micro, small and medium enterprises can play in community development and economic growth. The Plan identified the need for institutions supporting SMEs; analysts also noted the importance of simplifying the regulatory scheme governing forest concessions and eliminating barriers to the competitiveness of SMEs to operate in the global forest-products market (such as lack of technical expertise, equipment and collateral) to encourage informal operators to move into the formal sector (Nhancale et al. 2009; IMF 2007).

In 2016, the GOM created a National Sustainable Development Fund to finance natural resource management and environmental protection initiatives and passed a law banning the export of logs, which had been one of the leading causes of deforestation. Mozambique has made sustainable management of natural resources a key component of its Five Year (2015-2019) Development Plan (African Economic Outlook 2017).

In response to weak forest governance, MITADER has pursued measures to strengthen governance and reduce illegality in the sector. The package of measures includes policy, operational and investment interventions. The initiative *Floresta em Pé* was developed as part of the National Sustainable Development Program, and stresses the importance of forests as a means of rural development. In 2015, the government led an evaluation of forest operations, with the aim to ultimately revoke licenses or concessions of operators who did not meet minimum legal standards.

## **DONOR INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS**

USAID's 2014-2019 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Mozambique identified the need to support improved biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable natural resource management (water systems, forests, and wildlife). As an example, from 2008-2014 USAID supported the Gorongosa Restoration Project, and continues to have an active partnership with the park. Gorongosa National Park is home to hundreds of bird and plant species, some of which can be found nowhere else in the world. The forest is threatened by slash-and-burn agricultural practices. The reforestation project



has doubled the number of tree nurseries, conducted awareness-building meetings with more than 8,000 local people and replanted trees on 50 hectares of land on the mountain. Overall, USAID projects have been responsible for restoring an estimated 400,000 hectares of forest in Mozambique (USDOS 2010; USAID/Mozambique 2015).

FAO and the Government of the Netherlands provided early support for the National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife's (DNFFB, the institution that preceded DINAF) development of community forestry in the late 1990s and early 2000s. With the assistance of the FAO, the African Safari Lodge Foundation, NGOs and donors, communities in forest areas have delimited their land and established contractual relationships with investors, such as hunting concession and tourism operators, in exchange for benefits such as a share of revenue, employment opportunities and use of forest products. In Sofala Province, community land rights are registered over a significant part of the Gorongosa National Park, as well as in buffer areas. In the Massingir region of Gaza Province, the Swiss NGO Helvetas assisted the local community in delimiting its land and establishing the Covane Community Lodge, which operates as a community-developed tourist facility (De Wit and Norfolk 2010; Mansur and Zacarias 2003).

Mozambique has several community-based carbon sequestration projects. One of the largest involves 9,800 hectares of community land bordering a national park in Sofala Province. In exchange for avoided-deforestation, reforestation and agroforestry activities, community members with individualized plots are receiving employment opportunities and a share of carbon revenue paid over seven years. The project also funded the delimitation of the community land. The project manager, a private company operating several projects in Mozambique, receives one-third of the carbon revenue (Envirotrade 2010). With the assistance from the World Bank, a study is being conducted to evaluate the payment to the country for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. A new REDD+ emissions reduction project is also being developed for the northern province of Zambézia, which will tie in with land rights activities being conducted by a sister project to develop and diversify agriculture and new value chains.

The World Bank's 2017-2022 Forest Investment Project is working to improve the practices and enabling environment for forest and land management in targeted landscapes in Mozambique. The project has three components including: promoting integrated landscape management; strengthening the enabling conditions for sustainable forest management; and project coordination and management. The project will include land certification efforts and promote small-scale forestry as a means for carbon sequestration and economic development (World Bank 2018b).

## **4. MINERALS**

### **RESOURCE QUANTITY, QUALITY, USE AND DISTRIBUTION**

Mozambique has abundant quantities of natural gas, coal, aluminum, titanium, heavy sands, graphite, and precious stones. The country also has known deposits of pegmatite, platinoids, uranium, bentonite, iron, cobalt, chromium, nickel, copper, granite, fluorite, diatomite, emeralds, tourmaline and apatite (EITI 2010; AfDB 2006; Yager 2009).

The extractives sector is a key driver of improved economic growth in Mozambique. Extractives maintained growth of 16 percent in real terms in 2016. This trend continued in early 2017 with a 41 percent expansion in output driven by sizable foreign direct investment and recovering commodity

prices. As one of Mozambique's main natural resources, natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) development are expected to be an important catalyst for economic growth of the country. Natural gas is also one of the important fuels in power generation in Mozambique (World Bank 2017e).

The mining sector in Mozambique is another major sector and includes coal, titanium ores, precious and semiprecious stones, and gold. Alongside its potential to contribute to economic growth, the sector has experienced many difficulties since 2014 due to the downturn in global commodity prices combined with the high cost of production in Mozambique, the absence of reliable infrastructure and foreign exchange problems. The situation has started to improve since 2016 with the commissioning of the Nacala railway by Vale mining company (World Bank 2017e).

Coal exported in the first quarter of 2017 accounted for 33.4 percent of all exports, and generated revenues of \$326.1 million, an increase of 200.5 percent over the first quarter of 2016. Production is expected to increase from 8.7 million tons in 2016 to 13 million tons in 2017 and 18 million tons in 2018. New activities are seen also in the non-coal sector and several new mines (including gold, iron ore, and graphite) are in various stages of development (World Bank 2017e).

Mozambique has a large artisanal and small-scale mining sector. The formal law supports the sector by restricting activities to nationals, designating specific areas for artisanal and small-scale mining, and imposing regulations on working conditions. However, at least in some areas, the regulations are not enforced, and the majority of the sector (as much as 70 percent in central Mozambique) operates informally. Absent government control, artisanal miners are subjected to exploitative working conditions, including health hazards from the use of mercury to extract gold from mineral ore. In addition, soil and water sources are polluted with heavy metal and chemicals used for processing. Technicians working for entities that buy gold from artisanal miners are also exposed to levels of mercury vapor up to 35 times higher than WHO guidelines (Blacksmith Institute 2010; Dondeyne et al. 2009). Artisanal mining for gold and precious stones has also been done under precarious security conditions and several fatal accidents caused by collapse of ill-prepared underground tunnels have been reported.

## **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Mozambique's 1990 Constitution and 2002 Mining Law provide that all mineral resources are the property of the state. The Mining Law states that all mining activities must be conducted in accordance with rights granted in the form of permits and licenses, and all mining activities shall be conducted with recognition of registered and unregistered land use rights recognized by the 1997 Land Law. Mining operations have priority over other land uses whenever the economic and social benefits of mining operations are higher. Land right-holders must be compensated for loss of land use rights and any damage caused to their land or improvements as a result of the mining operation (GOM Mining Law 2002).

The Mining Law classifies mining activities for purposes of determining standards for environmental management of mining operations. Basic environmental rules must be followed for all activities, and more extensive activities require environmental impact studies and plans (GOM Mining Law 2002).

Mozambique's Mining Law and the regulatory framework that was in force until 2014 did not require state participation in mining operations. Mining operations were not subject to an annual surface tax and a production tax based on the value of the output (GOM Mining Law 2002; Business Monitor

International 2009). In 2014, both the mining and the petroleum laws were revised to address the social, environmental and economic implications of the large-scale projects being approved in the last decade. These are Law No. 20/2014 and Law No. 21/2014.

## **TENURE ISSUES**

The revised mining and the petroleum laws aim to: (1) improve state control over mining and hydrocarbon activities; (2) increase state intervention in the businesses; (3) increase the government revenue from investments in the sector; (4) strengthen social and environmental safeguards; and (5) secure benefits to affected communities as result of stricter controls. The mining law was approved through Law No. 20/2014, which revoked Law No. 14/2002. The petroleum law was approved through Law No. 21/2014, which revoked Law No. 3, 2001. Both laws have implementing regulations, found in Decree No. 31/2015 (mining) and Decree 34/2015 (petroleum). The government most commonly awards rights for medium and large-scale operations for prospecting and exploration licenses and for mining concessions. Prospecting and exploration licenses are valid for an initial five-year period. License holders may extend a license for up to three years, after which the license holder needs to acquire a new license or convert a license into a concession. License holders must submit annual reports to MIREME that provide an overview of the previous years' activities and expenditures and a work plan and budget for the coming year. Mining concessions are valid for an initial 25-year period and may be renewed until the mine has been "exhausted" in economic terms (Pimenta and Cabeçadas 2016). Under the Mining Law only Mozambican individuals or companies may be awarded mineral rights. The sector is important for the country's economic development however, the World Bank notes that this positive contribution to the economy will also depend upon significant infrastructure development (World Bank 2017e). The Petroleum Law allows for non-exclusive, non-renewable two-year concession contracts as well as exclusive rights for prospecting and production concession contracts. In addition, the law provides for oil and pipeline system concessions and infrastructure concessions. The Petroleum Law addresses Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) production, which is projected to be an important source of revenue for the Mozambican government by the end of the 2020s (World Bank 2017e).

## **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND INSTITUTIONS**

The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME) oversees mining activities and hydrocarbon exploitation, including the issuance of permits. The administering bodies within the Ministry are the National Directorate of Mines (DNM) and the National Directorate of Petroleum. Environmental issues related to mining are the responsibility of MIREME and MITADER, respectively (GOM 2015).

In 2009, the government established a state-controlled mining company, the Mozambican Mining Company (EMEM). The principal objectives of EMEM include: (1) exploring geological mining, production and trade of mining products; (2) advising, consulting and undertaking research, and (3) prospecting for mining resources (Business Monitor International 2010). The 2014 Mining Law calls for the creation of a High Authority for the Extractive Industry, though this entity has yet to be established.

## **GOVERNMENT REFORMS, INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS**

Government objectives for the mining sector are to: (1) substantially increase participation of the Mozambican private sector in mining activities; (2) attract increased private investment by strengthening the legal and fiscal regime; (3) conduct research and inventory of mineral resources; (4) promote improvement of the livelihoods of populations engaged in small-scale mining enterprises; and (5) ensure environmentally sustainable mining practices. The government has been successful in attracting foreign investment in large-scale mineral resource development projects. For example, Brazil's *Companhia Vale do Rio Doce* (Vale) is investing an estimated \$1.3 billion in a coal mining operation in the Moatize Basin and anticipates producing 40 million tons of coal a year. Several foreign companies are exploring for gas in the Rovuma Basin and in Sofala Province (IMF 2007; African Economic Outlook 2010; African Economic Outlook 2017).

The government is addressing the need to develop mining infrastructure, including construction of railways and improvement of ports. The government is also taking steps to speed up the awarding of mining licenses by making maps and mining license data available online. The creation of an electronic database intends to streamline the process investors must navigate in order to determine the availability of areas for reconnaissance and exploration. A mining cadastre has been available online. However, there are no reports of how the government is progressing in its plans to improve the livelihoods of small-scale and artisanal miners or ensure environmentally sustainable mining practices (Business Monitor International 2009; AllAfrica 2008; IMF 2007).

Mozambique was approved as a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in May 2009, a global initiative supported by a coalition of governments, private companies and civil society. By establishing and enforcing standards for companies to disclose what they pay and for governments to disclose what they receive from extractive industries, EITI helps countries manage mineral resources for the benefit of the entire population. With support from the World Bank, Mozambique has established a multi-stakeholder group to implement EITI in Mozambique. Mozambique completed the validation process in 2012, and has been producing regular reports (ITIEM 2017). In October 2016, the EITI Board declared Mozambique compliant with EITI standards, implying that the country has committed to transparency with regard to management of resources, including gas and coal (African Economic Outlook 2017). In spite of this, Mozambique has earned a failing score from the National Resource Governance Institute due to the poor enforcement of its financial and environmental regulations on private companies and limited implementation of the Right to Information Law. GOM's handling of the sector has revealed legal and human rights violations around licensing, land tenure, re-settlement of local communities, and has raised concerns related to environmental safety and impact on biodiversity. CSOs such as the Center for Public Integrity and CTV are increasingly involved in pressuring the government to: improve transparency related to natural resource management and revenues; regulate extractive industries; and raise awareness of community rights to land and natural resources.

## **DONOR INTERVENTIONS AND INVESTMENTS**

USAID supported the development of the draft Mozambique Conservation Law and advocated for the GOM to consider the consequences of extractive growth in priority landscapes for full consideration of environmental-economic costs when the GOM considers the benefits to exploiting mineral resources (USAID/Mozambique 2015).

AfDB invested in the MOMA development mega-project, which includes a titanium mining component. AfDB and the World Bank have also supported capacity-building within the government institutions overseeing minerals development and Mozambique's participation in the EITI.

The environmental group the Blacksmith Institute worked with the former Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Manica Province to identify and train staff who will train artisanal miners on techniques to reduce exposure to toxic mercury vapor and the release of mercury into the environment. The project introduced bowl- and pipe-shaped mercury retorts, technologies that reduce the exposure of operators to mercury fumes and minimizes the open release of mercury. The project expected to build: (1) an Amalgamation Centre to store amalgamation tailings; (2) a small mill made of gas tanks to amalgamate their concentrates and avoid manual amalgamation; and (3) a PVC filter that can be attached to a bicycle wheel to remove excess mercury from amalgams while avoiding manual contact with mercury (Blacksmith Institute 2010).

In 2013, the World Bank launched the ongoing Mining and Gas Technical Assistance Program (MAGTAP) to strengthen the capacity and governance systems of key institutions to manage the mining and hydrocarbon sectors in Mozambique (Mikhaylova 2017). Other key donors supporting extractives sector governance reforms include DFID (a co-financier to MAGTAP) and NORAD who is supporting gas sector reforms under the Oil and Development program. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNDP are supporting a power, gas, and extractives technical assistance projects.

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