



Sustainable Finance for Protected Areas System in Mozambique

Blue Forests Project

Workshop on Blue Carbon Project Cycle and Markets: Guidelines for Project developers and Policy makers

Organized by Worldwide Fund for Nature Mozambique Country Office

June 7th – 8th, 2016

Maputo, Mozambique

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Background

WWF and Government of Mozambique have been implementing the Project entitled *Sustainable Finance for Protected Areas System in Mozambique* in streamline with the Project *Standardized Methodologies for Carbon Accounting Mechanisms in Mozambique*¹. These projects are focused on mangrove forests of Zambezi delta and several studies have been conducted to understand the local dynamic of mangrove ecosystem and provide information to feed a project document (PD) for carbon financed markets.

The workshop brought together 40 participants including WWF representatives, Government partners, experts and relevant stakeholders working on mangrove initiatives in Mozambique as well as international experts on carbon finance projects (SILVESTRUM) for a training workshop on carbon finance mechanisms related to mangrove forests and jointly discuss about the feasibility for carbon financed projects in Mozambique.

The focus of this workshop was to improve understanding on overall procedures of carbon financed projects, promote discussions related to legal framework for mangrove carbon projects, explore potential local and regional synergies, assess the current technical capacity, in order to contribute for a common sense initiative that jointly will promote development of carbon projects and generate benefits to local communities, particularly in the case of Zambezi delta, central part of Mozambique.

Workshop Objectives

The main objective of this workshop was to build capacity on carbon projects and share understanding of:

1. Principles of Blue carbon projects
2. Recommendations on development of Blue Carbon Projects for project proponents and policy makers
3. Solutions to overcome the current challenges on carbon projects related to mangrove forests and the specific implementation of a carbon project in Zambezi delta
4. Identify opportunities for funding and develop elements to be included in proposals to potential donors

Expected Workshop Results

- Improved knowledge about concepts, requirements and carbon project financed mechanisms
- Discussion and critical reflections on feasibility of carbon projects in Mozambique including technical, social, political and finance details
- Sharing knowledge and strategic actions for developing mangrove carbon projects in Mozambique
- Identify opportunities for funding and partnerships

¹ Blue Carbon Portal: <http://blueforests.iwlearn.org/sites/mozambique>

Workshop Presentations and Discussion Points

The main focus of the workshop was based on a set of presentations guided by SILVESTRUM² and full meeting notes were captured accordingly.

Solani Mhango (WWF MCO Conservation Manager) opened with a warm welcome and some thoughts on importance of mangroves and focus on a meeting in the context of the Zambezi delta.

Within the project objectives, the workshop agenda was organized to proceed with presentations and discuss the following areas:

A. *WWF MCO Conservation Strategy* – presentation was made about the WWF MCO Country Strategy 2016 – 2020. Solani mentioned the WWF Mozambique’s vision for a future where negative trends are reversed reflects the spirit of WWF’s global Mission: Natural capital is well maintained and thriving, ensuring sustainable and equitable development for the wellbeing of the people of Mozambique. This vision is intended to be simple and relevant across a 3 main Landscapes (Rovuma, Zambezi and Seascape Program) with a wide range of ecosystems and species to be preserved and work through local partners. Mangrove are featured in the new strategy as an important ecosystem recognizing the benefits for climate change mitigation and livelihood of coastal communities.

B. *Overview of mangroves and carbon assessments* – Ms. Sidonia from MITADER made a presentation focused on the general importance of mangrove ecosystems in Mozambique. Emphasizing need of coordination amongst partners to achieve a common understanding for mangroves conservation.

C. *REDD+ in Mozambique* – country overview about REDD+ current status of REDD+ process and funding support throughout the process in Mozambique. Zambezi delta have started with a REDD+ project to collect experience. There is around \$40 million funding for REDD+ in Mozambique and there is in-house experience in the voluntary market.

D. *Recommendations to Project Developers and Policy Makers* – a set of presentations was undertaken to introduce the concept of Blue Carbon and the requirements to develop carbon projects, understanding carbon project procedures and Blue Carbon systems.

Workshop Summary Notes

The *first day morning session* was focused on an overview of current initiatives of carbon projects in Mozambique followed by a plenary feedback, and was noted that there’s is a need to influence Blue Carbon processes in Mozambique to ensure long term understanding amongst stakeholders. There is also a need to influence and harmonize the legal framework for carbon projects related to mangroves in Mozambique. Strength collaboration with REDD+ Unity might be a very good mechanism to streamline this initiative. The plenary feedback was around:

1. Key insights on carbon projects procedures
2. Legal Framework for mangrove conservation in Mozambique
3. REDD+ should consider inclusion of mangroves on carbon mechanisms

² SILVESTRUM www.silvestrum.com

The *afternoon session* was focused on introduction of Blue Carbon projects: requirements, procedures and communication. Information available on Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS³) webpage.

The *second day session* was initiated with a summary overview of the first day meeting and basically WWF representatives mentioned the importance of mangroves for Mozambique and the potential benefits of carbon projects for climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. The summary emphasized the need to strength local knowledge regarding to:

1. Common Understanding about carbon finance projects

- Capacity building of Government, CSOs and communities
- Communication Platform
- Explore potential revenue sources

2. Carbon projects require “degraded forests”

- Capacity building on carbon projects in order to have the same understanding about Blue carbon requirements
- Understand concept of Sustainable Management of Mangroves
- Engage/ empower local communities on natural resources management
- Assess carbon stocks and ecosystem services

3. Governance and Opportunities

- Legal Framework for carbon initiatives (e.g. Mangroves)
- Engage local Government on carbon initiatives
- Roadmap for carbon projects
- Take the opportunity of the Strategic Plan for Mangroves
- Seek for funding opportunities

Working groups were then formed to explore key questions raised during the plenary sessions structured around Blue Carbon Projects and Mangrove importance.

Group 1: Legal Feasibility

- *What is the current status of National Policy for mangroves?*
- *Land tenure and land right?*
- *Are there regional supportive initiatives?*
- Mangroves are protected under the Forest Law and fall under the MITADER
- Mangroves are not a priority for the conservation of the environmental police, there is some interest on aquaculture regulation that prohibits the transformation of mangroves into aquaculture lands; mangroves are covered in the different laws and regulations
- Mangrove National Action Plan is under development

³ VCS webpage: <http://www.v-c-s.org/>

- There are several National initiatives related to mangroves in Mozambique, IUCN is leading climate change resilience program in Quelimane, Mangrove restoration Program in Limpopo, Wiolab project in Lumbo, Mangrove reforestation Program led by MITADER in Beira around Chiveve area
- We need to build-up on existing experience on carbon financed projects in Mozambique take the example of Nhambita Project⁴

Group 2: Technical Feasibility

- *What is the local capacity on carbon methodologies?*
- *Which support is required to respond to this process?*
- *Existent opportunities for partnerships?*
- There are capable entities in Mozambique to lead carbon accounting and provide technical capacity on carbon projects at local level namely, Superior School of Marine Sciences of Quelimane (ESCMC), Center for Research of Coastal and Marine Environment (CEPAM), Provincial Directorate of Environment, National Administration for Conservation Areas, Municipalities, and others
- There are also CSOs organizations with expertise to provide technical support to carbon projects, ANAMA; KUKUMBI, KULIMA; ADEL Sofala, CCPs, SICAP and RADEZA
- Technical support providing trainings carbon projects, Institutional Support on (Lab analysis and financial support)

Group 3: Social Feasibility

- *Priorities for local communities?*
- *Potential drivers of change to consider– long run?*
- *Capacity building required?*
- Local structures for Natural Resources Management are in place. Co-management Natural Resources Committees are legitimated by Law and established at local level to work with local communities on NRM. However, the operationalization of those committees needs to be reviewed
- Mangroves are protected in Conservation areas protected by Conservation Areas Management Plan. However, outside the conservation areas mangroves are protected by Environmental Law
- Project areas around the Country have more possibility to engage communities allocated on NRM work
- Project proponents should ensure sense of ownership with local community on management of natural resources

⁴ Envirotrade Project (Nhambita Project in Sofala Province) – carbon project focused on plantation of indigenous trees through Plan Vivo Standard. The project was managed by Envirotrade (private company); Project was successfully implemented however it collapsed due to the carbon market prices after 9 years of implementation.

Opportunities and Way Forward

- There is a need to build-up on existent carbon initiatives and include blue carbon concept into the existent regional, national strategies for conservation, climate change policies, strategies and adaptation action plans
- Important to capture existent expertise on carbon projects and WWF knowledge and lessons learned
- Explore funding opportunities to provide support on framework and local structures
- Build resilience in coastal communities to improve food security and wellbeing through developing natural adaptation strategies for coastal communities through community led conservation of coastal ecosystems
- Build on existing policy mechanisms that support integrated coastal zone management including climate change resilient networks of marine protected areas, to ensure a priority focus on coastal ecosystems management
- Reduce current greenhouse gas emissions from degraded coastal ecosystems through improved conservation and restoration at local level
- Explore potential partnerships and harmonise Agendas

Network Information:

There are a number of key websites to have access to latest developments, science and publications, including:

- Blue carbon portal: bluecarbonportal.org
- Blue carbon blog: bluecarbonblog.blogspot.com
- VCS: <http://www.v-c-s.org/>
- Plan VIVO: www.planvivo.org



Figure 1. Workshop Participants. Credits: WWF MCO.

Peter Bechtel Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

Day 1 – 7th June 2016

	Time	Activity	Responsible
1	8:30-9:00	Participants registration	Facilitator
2	9:00- 09:15	Open Remarks	SILVESTRUM & WWF
3	09:15-09:45	WWF Conservation Strategy and Carbon Projects Initiatives	WWF – Rito Mabunda
4	09:45-10:15	Carbon Initiatives in Mozambique	MITADER
5	10:15-10:45	Blue Carbon Prospects for Mozambique – Setting the Scene	Steve Crooks
	10:45	Break and Networking	
6	10:45-11:00	Blue Carbon project Cycle	Igino Emmer
7	11:00-11:30	Recommendations to Project Developers and Policy Makers	Moritz von Unger
8	11:30-12:30	Discussions	Facilitator
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
9	14:00 - 14:30	Introduction to the Pre-Feasibility Assessment	Moritz von Unger
10	14:30-15:30	Discussions and Conclusions	Facilitator
	15:30-16:00	Closing Remarks	Facilitator
	16:00-16:30	Coffee and Networking	

Day 2 – 8th June 2016

	Time	Activity	Responsible
1	8:30-9:00	Participants registration	Facilitator
2	09:00-09:30	Summary from 1st Day Workshop	Igino Emmer
3	09:30-10:00	Blue Carbon Project Requirements	Igino Emmer

4	10:00-10:30	Q&A on Mozambique Blue Carbon Systems	Steve Crooks
	10:30-11:00	Break	
5	11:00-12:00	Questions and Discussion	Facilitator
	12:30-14:00	Lunch and Networking	
6	14:00-14:30	Group Work on Legal Framework, Ecosystem Services, Socioeconomics and Markets and Report back to workshop team	Facilitator
7	14:30-15:00	Way Forward and Final Remarks	Facilitator
	15:00-15:30	Coffee and Networking	

Appendix 2: Workshop Participants List

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