



Project COMBO– Conservation, Impact Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets in Africa

Disclosure note for the results achieved until February 2018

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Background

The project COMBO, with 4 years of duration and funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Mava Foundation, which aims to reconcile economic development in Africa, including Mozambique, with conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. For that, a consortium formed by The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Forest Tends and Biotope, in the case of Mozambique, in partnership with BIOFUND and MITADER, are creating the necessary tools and mechanisms to achieve a policy of no net loss of biodiversity (NNL). This is based on the proper application of the mitigation hierarchy, including biodiversity offsets, in line with the national policies and strategies for this theme, international best practices and the roadmap developed for Mozambique in 2016 with the support of the World Bank.

The WCS/COMBO and MITADER signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2017 to establish an effective coordination between the Parties which allows to achieve the objectives of the COMBO project, with maximum benefit for both parties, namely: (a) reinforce the institutional capacity of MITADER to improve the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy in Mozambique and (b) ensure Government support and participation in carrying out the project activities and provide the necessary information for policies reforms aiming to expand the application of the mitigation hierarchy at national level.

COMBO project objectives

1. Support Mozambique Government in the identification, analyze and introduction of appropriate policies to encourage investment in development projects that result in no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity – giving support on the elaboration of regulations, technical guidelines, development plans and Strategic Environmental Assessments related with biodiversity;
2. Creating the enabling conditions for development projects to achieve no net loss of biodiversity by: i) supporting national planning processes, such as the case of SDNP; ii) identifying relevant biodiversity metrics; and iii) developing and implementing baseline and monitoring survey methodology related with the mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets, according with Decree 54/2015 of 31 of December;
3. Developing institutional, legal and financial mechanisms for offset implementation according with Decree 54/2015 of 31 of December and the roadmap existing for Mozambique;
4. Supporting the uptake of best practice in the public and private sectors, creating study cases and sharing the lessons learned of the private sector;
5. Developing national capacity through training sessions and the sharing of lessons learned with African and global experiences of no net loss activities.

Results achieved till February of 2018:

1. Launching the project and outreach of the thematic (101 participants)



2. Creation of the Steering Committee of the Project (MITADER/DINAB, WCS/COMBO, BIOFUND and AFD) and realization of the first meeting (07/17)



3. Creation of the Technical Advisory Board of the Project and the realization of the first meeting for sharing the information on the gap analysis carried out and collection of contributes (60 participants of 45 institutions)
4. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the BIOFUND for development of joint activities with the aim to increase the capacities of BIOFIN and the development of mechanism of biodiversity offsets in Mozambique.
5. Realization of 110 meetings to outreach the thematic and participation in 38 related events (10 such as speakers).



6. National and international Partnership Diagnosis with greater complementarity and greater synergistic potential, having identified the following projects/partners, beyond DINAB and the other institutions of MITADER that already engage in the project: CONNECT, BIOFIN, Natural Capital, PNDD/DINOTER, FNDS, SPEED+, LAUREL, World Bank, MAGTAP, BioNoMo, OSOL and INP.
7. Contribution for the review of national legislation and other relevant documents,



namely: new environment law, regulation for conservation law, regulation for environmental education, sea law, SESA for Oil, Gas and Mines; contribution for an opinion on an EPDA for a dam.

8. Elaboration of a gap analysis on the Policies, Laws, Capacity and Experience of Mozambique for the implementation of a policy of no net loss of biodiversity.
9. Elaboration of a Review and Gap Analysis to improve the Availability and Use of Data for Mitigation Planning Activities and Development Projects (3000 collected data, 1341 have been integrated in a metadata table for share with partners, featured for project CONNECT, also under the jurisdiction of MITADER).



10. Presentation of the two gap analysis to the Technical Advisory Board of the Project in a workshop where was presented 60 participants and 45 institutions and collection of their contributions for integration into the two documents.
11. Pilot survey with BIOFUND and UEM in Pomene National Reserve for the development of biodiversity metrics for support the offsets and coordination with the Natural Capital Project for sharing relevant information for the spatial planning (ongoing at MITADER).



12. Realization of a gap analysis to BIOFUND on their capacity to operationalize the financing of biodiversity offsets in Mozambique and support the improvement of their operations manual.
13. Elaboration of an analysis of options for the implementation of a mechanism of biodiversity offsets in Mozambique and establishment of a partnership with BIOFIN (ongoing at MITADER)
14. Signing of two Memorandum of Understanding with the private sector (Portucel and Shell) for the development of case studies on how these institutions are integrating the proper application of mitigation hierarchy of impacts in their projects.



15. Realization of 4 trainings in the thematic, having been trained 136 people (55 in Maputo in two trainings, 50 in Pemba, coming from Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula, and 31 in Inhambane)



Activities to be develop during the year 2018

During the year 2018 a set of activities will be developed that are fundamental for the continuation of the project, being essential that COMBO is aligned with the needs of MITADER, not only of the DINAB, but of the other institutions involved in the project, and duly coordinated with the various projects that are being inserted in MITADER, such as the case of CONNECT, BIOFIN, and Natural Capital. Of the activities to be carried out in 2018, the following stand out, for which is essential to establish a good communication and coordination between the referred institutions:

- Development of mechanism for biodiversity offsets that aim to answer the requirements of the regulation 54/2015 of 31 of December and that also constitute an alternative financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation in Mozambique, according with the needs of BIOFIN
- Support to the development of biodiversity offsets regulation according with the regulation 54/2015 of 31 of December and with the biodiversity offset mechanism referred in the previous point
- Support the elaboration of the legislation and plans related with the thematic of biodiversity
- Technical support to the National Plan of Territorial Development with the information on biodiversity obtained in the gap analysis performed in 2017 and properly transformed into a tool for support the planning, which referencing the most important biodiversity areas in Mozambique (including KBAs) and potential areas for offsets (which can be used by DINOTER for para incorporate in the PNDT) and which will be tested in a demonstrative landscape (e.g. Cabo Delgado, Inhambane or another one to define)



- Collaborative work with project CONNECT to make available the information obtained during the performed gap analysis of biodiversity
- Development of tools for determination of metrics necessary for the calculation of residual impacts and quantification of biodiversity offsets to include in the mechanism to be develop
- Development of technical guidelines for the proper application of mitigation hierarchy of impacts and the mechanism of biodiversity offsets (technical guidelines to support the regulation 54/2015 and the new regulation of biodiversity offsets)
- Preparation and implementation of a training program together with the BIOFUND for 4 training sessions for DINAB and other institutions of MITADER and other ministries related with the EIA procedures during the year 2018 (total of 40 trainees).

Acknowledgement

To all partners of the project, our sincere acknowledgement for all collaboration given until the moment, with emphasis on our members of Steering Committee (MITADER/DINAB, BIOFUND, AFD and WCS) and all members of our Technical Advisory Board.

