

FACT SHEET

Integrated Land And Resource Governance Program - ILRG

STRENGTHENING LAND RIGHTS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN MOZAMBIQUE

USAID is partnering with private sector companies to improve gender-responsive land rights documentation and develop the capacity of communities to access and benefit from land.

Disputes over land are common in Mozambique, a country with a complex history of conflict, migration, resettlement, and land informality. Land in Mozambique is owned by the state, and citizens are provided legal, long-term land and resource use rights. While the country's progressive land law does provide communities and citizens with tenure security, the majority of Mozambique's rural population lacks the documentation, financial resources, and technical capacity to secure their rights in practice.

Balancing the need to support community land rights against a desire to increase private-sector investment in land has been challenging, and as a result, land policies meant to protect communities and smallholders have been implemented inequitably. Smallholder farmers often find themselves competing against private sector interests who garner state support because they have the means to be large-scale producers. This environment continues to make it difficult for undocumented smallholders to protect their land rights, invest into their land, and negotiate with the private sector.

In Mozambique, USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance (ILRG) program is working with communities, the private sector, and the Government of Mozambique to clarify and document land and resource rights, improve local land administration, and increase responsible land-based investments that benefit communities, with a special focus on securing women's land rights. The five-year program (2018-2023) works to raise awareness of land and resource rights and supports communities to settle complicated land and boundary disputes.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Support communities in documenting and administering land rights.
- Support gender-responsive, participatory mapping and documentation for small-scale farmers and the development of strategic value chains that benefit land-poor communities.
- Engage and partner with private sector actors to improve land management, utilization, and access for nearby communities.
- Shift gender norms around women's land rights at institutional, community, and household levels.
- Develop a better understanding at the community level of Mozambique's land laws.



IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

ILRG is pioneering new ways of working with the private sector to document and administer land rights for communities. ILRG is partnering with the agribusiness firm Grupo Madal to map and document land rights, as well as to grant land-use agreements and farming contracts to farmers living on and adjacent to Madal lands. ILRG is working with multinational forestry company Green Resources to help them divest of over 230,000 hectares of underutilized landholdings in a way that avoids elite capture and ensures local communities benefit from the land. To do this, the program is using low-cost, scalable models such as Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure (MAST) to record communities' legal rights and negotiate with a range of state and non-state actors over land and resource use. Through a network of NGOs and small companies, ILRG activities are reducing land conflicts and promoting sustainable land and natural resource use in economically viable ways.

RESULTS/CONCLUSION

By strengthening smallholders' and communities' land rights, ILRG has helped private sector firms reduce operational and reputational risks and expand their supplier base. Communities have gained clear boundaries and documented land tenure, giving them the security to invest into their plots and opening avenues for additional income earning potential.

ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Delimited **90 communities** covering over **457,000** hectares and benefiting more than **220,000 adults** (52% women) with more secure land tenure
- Delimited **8,064 family parcels** covering **9,665** hectares (60% in the name of women)
- Marked out **1,464 parcels** of Madal company land for **1,585 farmers** (87% women) to grow subsistence and/or commercial crops
- Planted **5,400 tree saplings** with **74 farmers** (65% women)



“Helping communities is not only a business decision, it is a commitment. We are not here just to earn money. Our idea is to share the land with the people who are using the land, and use that opportunity. It is not Madal who is helping the people, it is the people who are helping Madal.”

*João Lameiras, Grupo Madal's
Administrator in Mozambique*



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