PROJECT
TERRA FIRMA MOZAMBIQUE.

STRENGTHENING TENURE SECURITY IN MOZAMBIQUE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TERRA FIRMA'S CaVaTeCo APPROACH



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Photo credit: Terra Firma. Landholders review their plots on satellite maps in Maragra Sugar Estate. Manhica, Maputo Province

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2016, Terra Firma (TF) and its partners developed the Community Land Value Chain Approach (CaVaTeCo), an integrated methodology designed to strengthen community land delimitation and registration processes, while responding to the evolving needs of local communities. The approach establishes standardized procedures adaptable to different contexts, enabling communities to access land demarcation, formal documentation, and secure tenure rights. As noted by Tanner (2024), "CaVaTeCo takes a clear line on protecting and securing the land rights of communities and their poorest and most vulnerable members."[1]

Over the past nine years, CaVaTeCo has been implemented across several Mozambican provinces—Niassa, Nampula, Zambézia, Manica, Sofala and Maputo — and gradually refined through continuous learning and adaptation of its tools and community engagement methods. In the past three years, under the Land-at-Scale (LAS) programme funded by RvO on behalf of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Terra Firma has focused on consolidating field-tested practices, deepening collaboration with government, and scaling the approach in Zambézia and Sofala.

Evaluation and documentation efforts have generated valuable knowledge on CaVaTeCo's impact, relevance, and key strategies, captured through studies, surveys, and field reflections. To build on this learning, Terra Firma and KIT Institute co-facilitated a four-day Writeshop in November 2025, that brought together key stakeholders including partners, community members and government representatives, to reflect collectively on results, challenges, and lessons learned, and to formulate recommendations for improving and scaling the approach—particularly its integration into Mozambique's land governance system.

This document is the outcome of the above mentioned writeshop building on previous knowledge management activities. It synthesizes and documents the reflections and insights of the project's main stakeholders, who conducted a critical analysis of the intervention. The discussion centered on key lessons, insights, and recommendations derived from the implementation of the CaVaTeCo approach, with the aim of informing future initiatives and influencing policy processes in Mozambique and beyond.

[1] Tanner, C. 2024. Research in support of adapting and improving the CaVaTeCo and SiDiCa methodologies, workflows, and tools for community-driven rights registration and land administration in municipal areas - Quelimane and Mocuba Municipalities, Mozambique. Research report. Commissioned by the Netherlands Enteprise Agency (RvO).

2. HOW THE APPROACH IS WORKING: ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH PRACTICE AND ADAPTATION

2.1 Relevance and Impact of the Approach

The CaVaTeCo approach has proven to be highly effective in the low-cost formalization of land use and benefit rights (DUAT), allowing thousands of families and communities to have their rights locally recognized and mapped. Community delimitations and individual parcel registrations enabled many people to gain formal recognition of their land rights in accordance with the 1997 Land Law. The combination of participatory methodologies and digital technologies—such as the data collection forms and coordinate mapping—facilitated the involvement of community members themselves in implementation activities. The process helped increase tenure security and reduce boundary disputes, giving families confidence to invest in their farms and agricultural infrastructure, while also generating reliable data for updating the cadastral system.

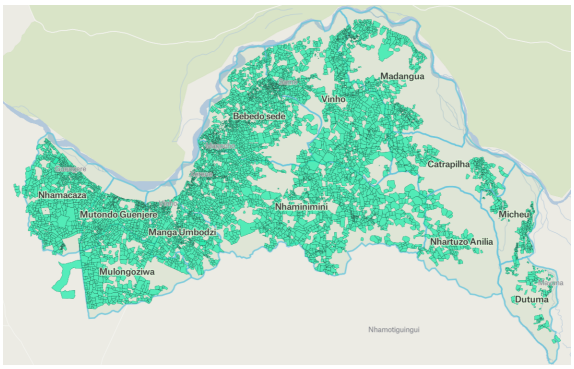
The CaVaTeCo approach has been continually adapted for use in a variety of contexts, with the steps and detailed procedures modified to facilitate uptake and relevance. From initial work in rural communities, CaVaTeCo has been used to facilitate communities in their negotiations with private sector investors involved in forestry plantations, farming and carbon credit schemes; with communities located in existing conservation areas, in buffer zones of conservation areas, and those which rely on habitats of high biodiversity such as mangroves; and in municipalities.

Results in districts such as Nhamatanda illustrate the scalability and efficiency of this methodology, which in just a few weeks registered thousands of parcels with cartographic quality and social validation (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Figure 1: 0 parcels mapped on 10/09/2025

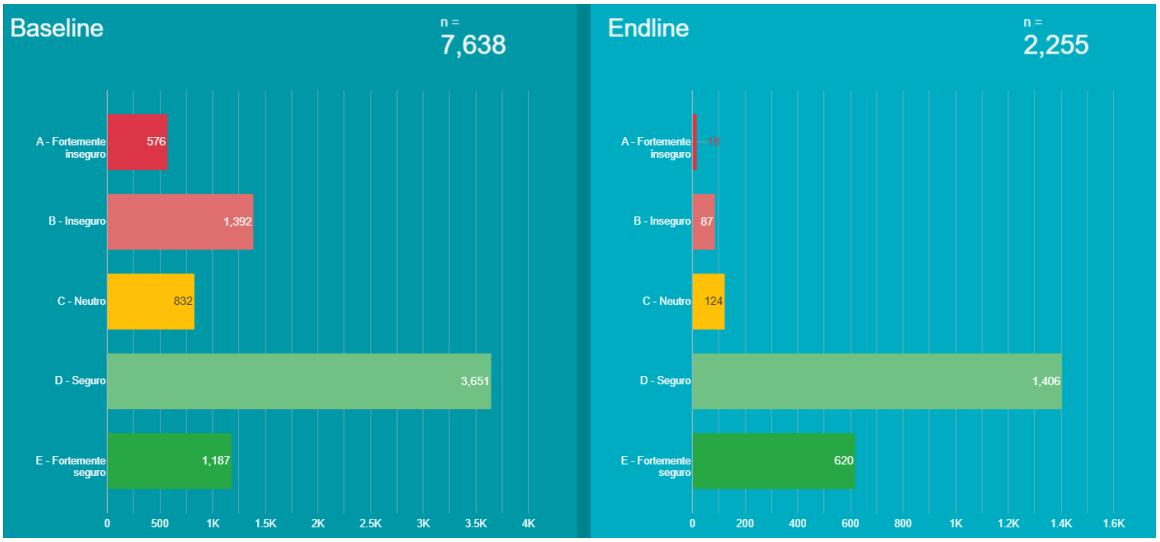


Figure 2: 9,624 parcels mapped by 31/12/2025



In terms of tenure security over their communities' common areas, many people reported feeling more secure after the activities (Figure 3), while in relation to family parcels, similar results were observed, with people reporting an increase in tenure security.

Figure 3: Increase in land tenure security



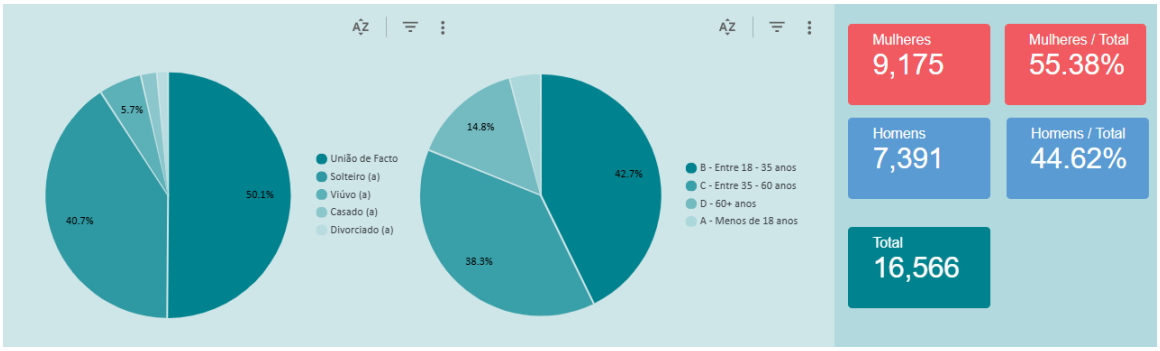
2.2 Communities and Associative Activities

The strengthening of institutional capacity, implemented through the creation and training of community land associations, is one of the key pillars of the CaVaTeCo. The registration and legalization of these local associations allow communities to organize themselves formally, representing their interests before the State and private sector in the defense and management of their territorial rights. These associations have negotiated co-management agreements for natural resources, established agreements with private sector partners regarding local infrastructure, and have participated in conservation and carbon projects. In Zambézia, 38 communities delimited through CaVaTeCo formed associations that signed agreements for the management of their mangrove areas under a carbon project and will benefit from the payments generated through carbon credits. The institutionalization of these structures has fostered a new model of local governance, based on partnership and mutual recognition between communities and authorities.

2.3 Gender and Social Inclusion

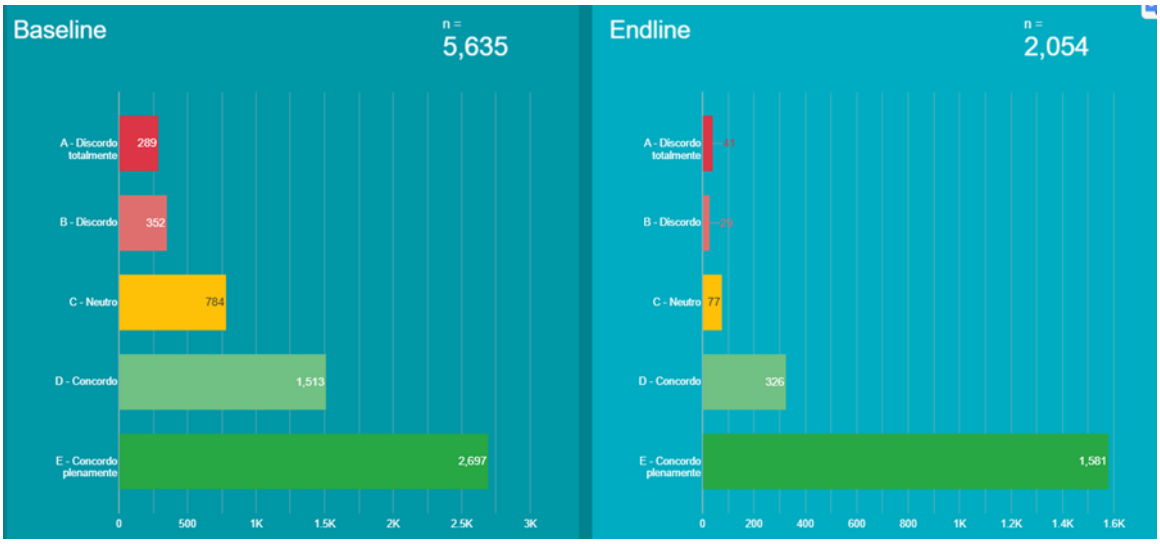
The implementation of CaVaTeCo incorporates a strong gender equality and social inclusion component, ensuring the active participation of women and vulnerable groups in all stages of the process. The approach has promoted transformative practices—such as joint participation of men and women in meetings—and resulted in a significant increase in female land ownership, surpassing 50% in some locations. In the Land-at-Scale projects being implemented by Terra Firma, more than half of those registered as landholders were women (55.38%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Age, Marital Status, and Gender of Landholders in Land-at-Scale Projects



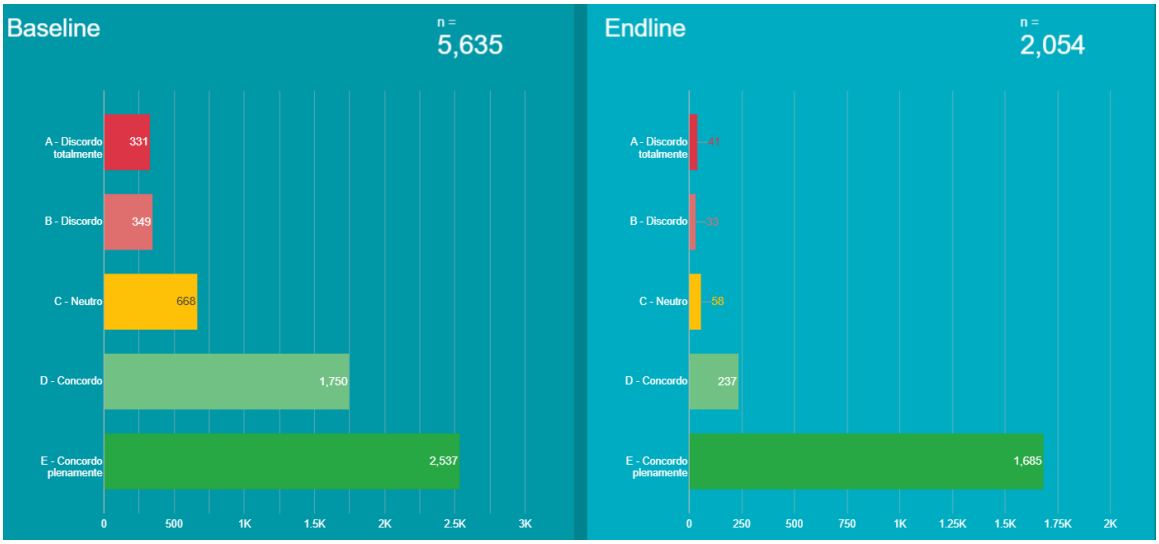
Monitoring data also shows a positive evolution in social perceptions about women's role in land control and decision-making, reinforcing the program's structural impact on social and economic equity. This significant change is reflected in the increased number of people who fully agree with the statement: "Women should be able to own and control land and resources in their own name." (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Change in attitudes regarding women and land



Within community associations, women's participation as founding members has improved their role in decision-making about land boundaries and resource use, ensuring that decisions were made consensually and with their active voice. Monitoring data also reveal a notable increase in people who fully agree with the statement: "Women should have the same access as men to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities." (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Change in attitudes regarding women's access to resources and opportunities



2.4 Tools, Procedures, and Capacity Building

CaVaTeCo consolidated a set of accessible digital tools and procedures—including streamlined registration forms—that have significantly improved the quality and efficiency of data collection and verification in the field. These tools not only facilitate the documentation of land rights but also integrate key elements such as assessing household resilience to natural shocks, generating richer datasets for understanding vulnerability, and facilitating development of land use plans that focus on increasing sustainable use and enhancing resilience. A major achievement has been the substantial investment in capacity building: hundreds of technicians, municipal and district teams, assistants, and community representatives were trained to use tablets with digital forms, record GPS points, interpret maps and satellite imagery, and capture data for submission to the central server. The visual interfaces and user-friendly design enabled local assistants and community members to actively participate in data collection and validation, strengthening local ownership and improving data reliability.

Training materials were structured to ensure the technical and practical preparedness of field teams, with modules and calendars covering tablet use, registration of people and of parcels, GPS operation, and map reading—materials now adaptable for municipal training programmes. Furthermore, support to municipal teams through the provision of computers and training in QGIS has enhanced their ability to work with the Digital Cadastral System. Together, these achievements have strengthened local technical capacity, improved data quality, and created opportunities to link land information with broader climate adaptation and disaster response efforts.

2.5 Systematization and Logistics

CaVaTeCo has established an efficient and transparent management structure, with internal policies and standardized formats that have improved coordination among partners and the traceability of

resources. Uniform partnership agreements and monitoring mechanisms ensure harmonization, transparency, and consistency across different projects and initiatives. Clear and robust systems for tracking staff time, vehicle and motorcycle use, and petty cash expenditures have helped establish a solid base for scaling up CaVaTeCo projects and initiatives.

The creation of a functional system for recruiting and training community assistants ensure local continuity and youth employment generation. Trained assistants acquire valuable skills in data collection and image interpretation and can continue registering new landholders and parcels while supporting cadastral maintenance as the SiDiCa system becomes operational.

Logistical strengthening—through acquiring more precise equipment and diversifying funding sources, including private sector partnerships—enabled the initiative to reach greater scale and sustainability. Resources are mobilized by combining public funds (Land-at-Scale, LAGO, MCC) with private financing (Blue Forest, BioCarbon Partners) to expand the approach.

Memoranda of Understanding with municipalities serve as models for future institutional collaborations. These agreements formalize the principles and scope of cooperation between Terra Firma and municipalities, recognizing the role of local communities and authorities in land management and clarifying the contributions of each party.

2.6 Documentation and Official Recognition

Dialogue with the Government led to significant advances in the formal recognition of community lands. Authorities were sensitized to accelerate the issuance of community delimitation certificates and to accept locally issued declarations by community associations as valid proof of DUAT. The political dialogue resulted in commitments to reduce delays and simplify procedures for issuing community delimitation certificates.

The use of the General Boundaries concept, aligned with the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration model, marks a modernization milestone in the cadastre. CaVaTeCo's implementation demonstrates in practice that this approach can simplify processes and reduce costs without compromising legal security or local legitimacy. Local authorities at the district level have fully adopted these methods, with growing recognition at provincial and national levels. This progress is reflected, for example, in the adoption of the New Land Policy (2022), which—based on CaVaTeCo implementers' proposals—incorporated article 127(iv):

> "The National Land Cadastre shall take into account initiatives led by local communities, through their traditional and other community authorities, that aim at identifying, mapping, and documenting land use and benefit rights acquired through customary occupation or good faith."

2.7 Partnerships, Government, and Companies

The establishment of formal partnerships with municipalities and government entities consolidated the integration of CaVaTeCo's results into official systems, especially through the introduction of SiDiCa. These agreements facilitated data sharing, practice harmonization, and coordination among different levels of government. At the same time, they created space for private sector participation in joint initiatives, such as carbon and sustainable resource-use projects, fostering a collaborative ecosystem that enhances the approach's impact and sustainability.

2.8 Project Contextualization and Adaptation

CaVaTeCo has demonstrated remarkable adaptability to different local contexts, reaching more than 200 communities across multiple provinces—covering agricultural, forest, and grazing areas—and establishing solid, well-structured associations. Implementation in partnership with initiatives such as Blue Forest exemplifies the potential for integration with carbon and conservation projects, where community associations help ensure that local populations benefit financially from sustainable resource management. These structures have become legitimate interlocutors in negotiations with agricultural, mining, and energy investors.

The creation of public results platforms promotes transparency and replicability, while the growing demand for new delimitations confirms the model's social and institutional credibility. Furthermore, the inclusion of this experience in technical training programs guarantees its continuity and expansion. For example, the Intermediate Institute in Land Administration (Instituto Médio em Adminstracao de Terras, IMAT) in Quelimane began to train students in CaVaTeCo in 2021, alongside courses its other subjects such as topography and land administration. IMAT admits about 20 students per year to its 3-year course, so over 100 students have already been exposed to CaVaTeCo. Many have done short internships in Terra Firma projects that use CaVaTeCo, while over 20 graduates subsequently took on full time roles in land projects that use CaVaTeCo (including 10 in Land at Scale). Others have been employed by client users of CaVaTeCo, including Quelimane Municipality. The current Year 3 students will graduate in March 2026, after which another set will begin Year 1 of the course.

3. MAIN CHALLENGES

3.1 Institutional and Political Barriers

While the CaVaTeCo approach has received strong support from communities and district governments, it continues to encounter resistance at the national and provincial levels. A central point of contention is the right of communities to document and confirm existing land rights through the issuance of written declarations. The National Directorate of Land often refuses to recognize these community-issued documents, insisting that only government authorities can issue proof of

rights. Conflicting interpretations of the Land Law, combined with this opposition, delay formal recognition of land rights and hinder wider adoption of the approach.

Implementation is further complicated by government inefficiencies, including repeated loss of data and delays in issuing community certificates. The authorities' insistence on extremely high-precision delimitation (<1 meter accuracy) adds technical and financial burdens that are unnecessary for securing tenure, particularly in rural areas. Addressing these challenges requires sustained engagement, advocacy, and ongoing efforts to align national regulations with practical, community-driven approaches to land documentation. Another institutional challenge relates to ongoing or secure funding. Terra Firma has faced repeated disruptions due to donor or prime contract issues, with activities frozen or cancelled mid-implementation in four past projects. To mitigate such risks, TF seeks to maintain a diverse funding base, pursuing support from multiple public donors (bilateral or multilateral) and, where appropriate, from private sector partners. TF is also exploring options for cost recovery, such as charging small fees for updating land records after the initial free registration, covering changes due to transfers, subdivisions, or inheritance.

3.2 Sustainability of Community Structures and Participation

The CaVaTeCo approach has focused largely on establishing Community Land Associations (CLAs), which tend to thrive during the period of active engagement and external support provided by donor-funded projects—typically lasting eight to nine months per community. However, sustaining these associations beyond the project cycle remains a major challenge. Once external facilitation ends, many associations slow down or become inactive, especially in the absence of clear benefits, ongoing capacity-building, or mechanisms for self-financing. In some cases, traditional leaders perceive these associations as a threat to their authority, which limits community participation and cohesion. In other contexts, however, local leaders have embraced them, integrating the associations as advisory or consultative bodies. CLAs that diversify their activities into income generation or community-based natural resource management (CGRN) tend to remain more active, though such diversification can sometimes dilute their primary mandate of securing and managing land and natural resource rights.

3.3 Social Inclusion and Gender Equity

One of the key social challenges faced by CaVaTeCo is fostering the active participation of women and other groups who are often excluded from decision-making processes—at home, within their communities, and in their associations—as well as from documenting and benefiting from their land rights. To address these barriers, the CaVaTeCo approach places strong emphasis on training and dialogue around gender and social inclusion. Encouragingly, women now make up more than 50% of the land titleholders documented through the Terra Firma project since its inception, a significant milestone in promoting gender-equitable access to land. This achievement can be partly attributed to the project's work in matrilineal areas, as well as to the repeated training events and discussions on gender equality conducted with communities.

Nevertheless, achieving genuine and sustained participation of women in leadership remains difficult. Some women elected to leadership positions within associations have quickly demonstrated their capacity and value, while others have been appointed primarily to fulfill quotas and face barriers such as lack of confidence, limited experience, and resistance from traditional norms. Changing deep-rooted social and cultural attitudes is particularly challenging when field teams must focus on the technical aspects of land delimitation and spend only limited time—typically eight to nine months—in each community.

To overcome these constraints, Terra Firma has implemented several mutually reinforcing strategies, including repeated gender and inclusion training, engagement of both female and male role models, deliberate inclusion of women in field teams, and advocacy for women's representation in leadership structures. For a period, Terra Firma also employed a full-time gender and social inclusion specialist to work across all projects. Although this arrangement did not continue, the organization recognizes the critical importance of maintaining continuous gender and social inclusion support. Plans are underway to reinstate such a role, ensuring that a dedicated specialist contributes to project design, provides ongoing technical guidance and training, and continues engagement with associations and partners even after the intensive delimitation phase has ended.

3.4 Technical, Operational, and Capacity Constraints

Implementation of CaVaTeCo faces a range of operational and technical challenges. Legal literacy is generally low among both community members and district officials, making repeated training on land, family, and biodiversity laws essential. While training materials exist, they often need further professionalization to be fully effective, particularly in rural areas where literacy levels are low. Para-surveyors receive only brief training, which may not fully prepare them for complex or sensitive contexts.

Freely available satellite imagery is a central tool, and participants—including those with limited literacy—generally learn to interpret it quickly. Yet in densely populated peri-urban areas with small plots and rapid changes, higher-resolution and more up-to-date imagery would improve accuracy and community engagement. Registration and parcel delimitation remain time-consuming, and field teams often operate with limited supervision. A "campaign-style" approach with clear deadlines could stimulate more active participation, allowing those who miss the initial period to register in subsequent years.

CaVaTeCo collects extensive alphanumeric and spatial data, which can support monitoring and planning by field supervisors and senior managers. However, some supervisors do not routinely use these data for analysis, and Terra Firma staff frequently need to highlight overlooked issues. More systematic approaches, such as weekly or fortnightly review calls, could enhance data use and oversight. Operational challenges are further compounded by procurement delays, equipment shortages, per diem disputes, and interruptions in funding, all of which can slow progress and reduce effectiveness.

3.5 Scaling Up and Institutionalization

Although CaVaTeCo has successfully documented land rights in over 300 communities across six provinces, confirming the rights of nearly 100,000 titleholders, scaling the approach requires deliberate engagement with national authorities, alignment among partners, and strategies for institutional adoption. National-level actors need training in the methodology, and MoUs with relevant ministries must clearly define roles, responsibilities, and incentives. Globally recognized fit-for-purpose approaches to land delimitation are not always accepted by government authorities, which can increase costs and reduce efficiency. Ensuring systematic replication, long-term adoption, and integration into government systems remains a critical challenge for expanding the approach beyond individual projects.

4. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons were drawn from the experience of implementing activities, reflecting on what worked well and what could be improved. This process involved discussions organized around specific themes: the relevance and impact of CaVaTeCo; community and association engagement; gender and social inclusion; tools, processes, and capacity building; operationalization and logistics; documentation and official recognition; partnerships with government and companies; and project contextualization and adaptation.

4.1 Community Engagement and Participation



One of the clearest lessons from CaVaTeCo is the power of meaningful community involvement. *When communities are genuinely included at every stage—from mapping boundaries to documenting land rights—the outcomes are more legitimate, accepted, and sustainable*. Participation not only prevents and resolves disputes, but also fosters trust among residents, local leaders, and authorities, strengthening social cohesion. At the same time, it became apparent that fostering participation requires more than formal meetings; ongoing dialogue, conflict mediation, and inclusive processes are crucial to ensure that all voices, including those traditionally marginalized, are heard.

4.2 Strengthening Tenure Security

Documenting and recognizing land use and occupancy rights has proven to be transformative for communities. Clear evidence of tenure reduces uncertainty, encourages investment in productive activities, and promotes sustainable use of natural resources. However, *securing tenure is not just a technical process—it intersects deeply with local norms, institutional capacity, and government recognition*. Achieving lasting impact requires balancing technical rigor with approaches that communities can realistically implement and sustain.



4.3 Tools, Procedures, and Strategic Value of Data

One of the most striking lessons from CaVaTeCo is the *power of reliable, up-to-date cadastral data.* Beyond supporting technical accuracy, these data have proven to be a strategic resource for local governments and other actors. In many project areas, the *information produced by CaVaTeCo has been used as a foundation for planning, designing new projects, and guiding land management decisions.* Its integration with other initiatives demonstrates the *potential for interoperability and reuse,* while updated maps contribute to *transparency and strengthen local capacity* for territorial planning.

At the same time, experience shows that *data alone are not enough. Success depends on ensuring that tools and digital platforms are accessible, understandable, and actively used by field teams and government actors*. Tablets, digital forms, and community-produced maps have improved efficiency and transparency, but *challenges remain in reconciling international standards for precision with national government requirements* and in providing training materials that are suitable for low-literacy audiences.

Reflecting on this, the lesson is clear: cadastral data are not just technical outputs—they are instruments for governance, planning, and empowerment—but their full value is realized only when combined with training, institutional support, and deliberate integration into decision-making processes.

4.4 Government Partnerships and Institutionalization

Strong collaboration with government at multiple levels has been essential, both for legitimacy and for operational success. Participatory planning, joint verification of boundaries, and capacity development for municipal staff strengthened local ownership. Yet, *formal recognition of community-produced documents, like declarations, remains a persistent obstacle*. Misalignment between project outputs and government procedures reveals the *importance of sustained dialogue and advocacy to align technical solutions with legal and institutional frameworks*

4.5 The Role of Associations and Local Institutions

Community Land Associations have emerged as a central mechanism for representation and collective action. They help communities manage land and natural resources, mediate disputes, and interact with government and private actors. Their success underscores the *importance of formal structures that enable communities to participate in governance.* Yet, sustaining these associations after project support ends remains a challenge. *Without ongoing support, financial resources, and structured monitoring, many associations struggle to maintain activity*, highlighting the need for strategies that embed autonomy and long-term capacity.

4.6 Gender and Social Inclusion

Terra Firma's implementation of the CaVaTeCo approach illustrates both *progress and limitations in promoting gender equality. 50% of the titleholders are women and women's participation in leadership roles has increased,* with at least half of leadership positions in associations held by women. Nevertheless, meaningful leadership remains limited in some cases due to lack of confidence, technical skills, and entrenched social norms. *Effective gender inclusion requires time, continuous support, and tailored capacity-building approaches*. Importantly, the project showed that *engaging men as allies and using diverse, context-specific methodologies can foster cultural change and support more equitable participation.*





4.7 Scaling and Adaptation

Expanding the implementation of CaVaTeCo beyond pilot sites highlighted the interplay between technical innovation and institutional readiness. Success depends on effective coordination, clear procedures, and repeated engagement with government actors. At the same time, gaps in administrative capacity, training, and logistics can slow scaling. The lesson here is that *technical methods, no matter how innovative, must be paired with strengthened institutional systems, standardized training materials, and adaptable policy tools to ensure sustainable, wide-reaching impact.*

Reflective Takeaways

Across all aspects, a few broader lessons emerge:

- Technical innovation and community engagement must go hand in hand with institutional and social investment.
- Sustainability requires building local capacity, fostering ownership, and embedding processes in existing governance structures.
- Cultural change, gender inclusion, and social equity take time and deliberate, iterative effort.
- Data and digital tools are powerful, but their impact depends on accessibility, user capacity, and alignment with local and national frameworks.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Increasing Relevance and Impact Through Advocacy and Scaling Up

Recommendation: Terra Firma should prioritize efforts to broaden the use and impact of the CaVaTeCo approach through *proactive engagement with national government, donors and the private sector.*

Specific activities should include:

1. National government:
    a. Formalize Memoranda of Understanding and undertake continued dialogue with the National Land Directorate (DNDT) and the National Land Use Planning Directorate (DNOT).
    b. Contribute to the process of developing appropriate regulations for the new Land Law.
    c. In collaboration with DNOT, establish partnerships with municipalities to share infrastructure and logistical support.
    d. Reorganize Terra Firma budgets to facilitate cooperation at the national and provincial levels, especially in monitoring and evaluation processes.
2. Donors:

   a. Work with the Embassy of the Netherlands to integrate the issue of land into food security agendas.
   b. Engage in dialogue with other donors to adopt the CaVaTeCo approach widely in their portfolios, including PRIMATerra, MAPEAR and SiDiCa (Dutch Embassy, GIZ, Swedes, SDC etc).
3. Private sector: Develop packages of services and products to stimulate private sector interest, such as socio-economic surveys and needs assessments that build upon CaVaTeCo's strengths of digital data capture, analysis and visualization of alphanumeric and spatial data, in ways that lead to uptake of CaVaTeCo more broadly.

5.2 Support to Associations

Recommendation: Develop a strategy to support the long-term capacity and functioning of associations, beyond the timeframe of short-term intensive land delimitation.

Specific activities should include:

1. Create longer term engagement with associations during life of Terra Firma projects and identify long-term support to associations beyond the life of Terra Firma projects.
2. Build the capacity of Terra Firma's senior technical team by developing expertise in support to associations and to gender and social inclusion.
3. Create a monitoring framework with clear indicators of a) association capacity and b) gender and social inclusion.
4. Establish a rapid response mechanism (e.g., hotline) with like-minded organizations to respond to urgent requests from communities for technical and legal support, involving partnership with other funded projects and organizations that can provide relevant assistance.

5.3 Gender and Social Inclusion

Recommendation: Build opportunities for women, youth, people with disabilities and others to hold leadership positions and to participate in decision-making in communities and associations.

Specific activities should include:

1. Increase the representation of women, youth and differently abled people in the Terra Firma team and in community associations.
2. Incorporate training on gender and social inclusion through integration into technical training (e.g. on associations, delimitation, land use planning etc) and through intensive focused gender and social inclusion workshops.
3. Provide routine refresher training for staff of Terra Firma and implementing partners.
4. Create a monitoring framework with clear indicators of a) association capacity and b) gender and social inclusion.

5.4 Tools, Procedures and Capacity

Recommendation: Terra Firma should ensure that all platforms, tools and procedures enable efficient and effective work with communities, and that TF staff and partners understand and use them correctly.

Specific activities should include:

Government engagement:

1. Share shapefiles of community delimitations with the government prior to official "*devolução*" meetings to promote technical dialogue, compare with official administrative boundaries and pursue acceptance of the most accurate data.
2. Develop and deliver training on the new Land Law and subsequent Regulations for government authorities.

Platforms, Tools and Data Use:

1. Create checklists to guide managers and supervisors from TF and implementing partners:
    a. To prepare for systematic start and end of each phase of the CaVaTeCo process
    b. To ensure timely delivery of required products to district administrative offices, SPAs and municipal authorities.
2. Improve the use of existing CaVaTeCo platforms within the Terra Firma team.
3. Improve documentation (procedures, tools, training modules, platforms), ensure high quality training and refresher training of service providers.
4. Make payments to service providers conditional on evidence that they are routinely using the CaVaTeCo platforms and data to monitor and guide field work.

'Campaign' approach: Introduce a 'campaign' approach to ensure that registration of claimants and delimitation of parcels is done systematically and within clear delimited timeframes.

Internal coordination: Hold systematic weekly meetings to align Terra Firma program and support teams.

SiDiCA: Develop a long-term financial sustainability plan to reduce reliance on donor projects.

5.5 Systematization and Logistics

Recommendation: To improve efficiency and to enable widespread uptake of the CaVaTeCo approach, continually ensure costs are contained while maintaining high quality.

Specific activities should include:

1. Develop, use and make available a set of professional training and technical guidance materials.

2. Increase the capacity of the Terra Firma support team (administration, finance, logistics, procurement, human resources) in Maputo and possibly in Quelimane.
3. Ensure all required equipment is catered for in budgets (equipment for local government partners, materials for community parasurveyors like bicycles, etc.), undertake equipment purchases at start of projects and speed up procurement processes.
4. Establish partnerships with district government and municipalities to share infrastructure and logistical support while enhancing working relationships (e.g. Terra Firma or implementing partner staff to sit in government offices, and at times to provide office equipment such as computers and printers).

5.6 Formal Recognition of Documentation of Land Rights

Recommendation: Influence national government ministries to recognize the legal validity of community confirmation of acquired land rights.

Specific activities should include:

1. Design a path allowing data from SiDiCa to provide the basis for government issue of titles, including data migration and template standardization, as included in LAGO.
2. Create mechanisms with Provincial Environmental Services (SPA) to accelerate the issuance of and to improve the quality of Certificates of Community Delimitation.
3. Involve provincial and national authorities (Governor, Secretary of State) from the outset of all projects to ensure buy-in and on-going coordination.

6. CONCLUSION

Since 2016, Terra Firma's implementation of the CaVaTeCo approach in Mozambique has shown that community-driven land delimitation and registration can be scaled effectively with strong local ownership, while generating reliable data to support national land administration. By establishing community land associations, promoting gender inclusion, building technical capacity, and integrating Fit-for-Purpose approaches within frameworks such as the new Land Policy of 2022, CaVaTeCo has strengthened governance, reduced conflicts, and enabled sustainable resource management. Its participatory and adaptable methodology provides a socially transformative model for equitable land governance, demonstrating that meaningful community engagement and technical innovation are central to securing land rights and fostering local development.

Challenges remain, however. Long-term impact and scalability are limited by institutional resistance, the sustainability of community structures, gender and social inclusion gaps, and capacity constraints. Lessons from implementation show that technical solutions alone are insufficient; lasting change requires strong government partnerships, ongoing support for community associations, iterative capacity building, and cultural change. Effective scaling also depends on proactive advocacy, robust tools and procedures, efficient logistics, and formal recognition of community-documented land rights. Addressing these elements holistically will enhance CaVaTeCo's legitimacy, sustainability, and broader adoption, ensuring enduring benefits for communities.



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