



Republic of Mozambique



Drivers of Ecosystem Degradation and Ongoing Actions in Mozambique

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Country Profile

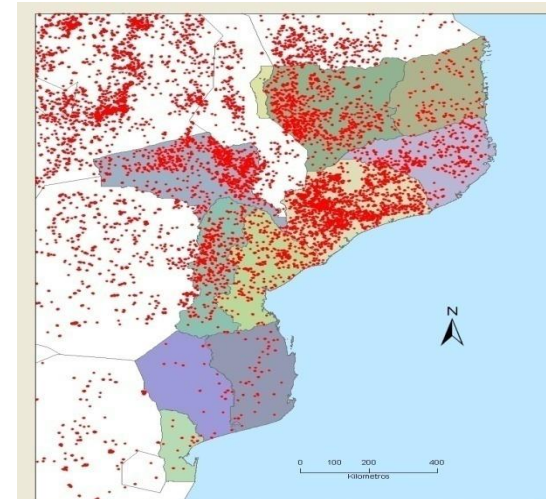
Size: 799,380 km²

- Location: East coast of Southern Africa
- Coast line: 2,700 km
- Population: ca. 22,000 inhabitants
- Predominantly agricultural economy (24% of GDP)
- 70% of population live in rural areas
- 53% of population are poor and rely on natural resources - ecosystems degradation



Key drivers of degradation of terrestrial ecosystem

1. Conversion, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats
 - Subsistence slash and burn agriculture, low input, low productivity: the increase of food production is a result of agricultural expansion (conversion of natural ecosystems into crop fields)
 - Inadequate land use planning (e.g. agriculture and settlements inside protected areas and in fragile ecosystems)
 - Uncontrolled fires



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- Fuelwood and charcoal (83% of the total energy consumed)
 - Logging of high-value timber species: changes in species composition and structure of ecosystem
 - Artisanal mining: habitat destruction, soil and water pollution



2. Overharvesting or overexploitation of particular species

- Excessive poaching – unprecedented decline in the abundance of keystone species (e.g. elephants)
- Selective logging
- Alarming charcoal production to supply the growing urban human population

4. Climate change effects that harm natural habitats or species

- Rise in sea level: saline intrusion in the main rivers – reduction of agricultural productivity
- Severe droughts
- Floods

3. Invasive non-native species that harm native ecosystems or species

- *Lantana camara* in rangelands
- *Mimosa pigra* (e.g. floodplain of the Gorongosa NP):
reduction in forage production and accessibility to large herbivores




Key drivers of degradation of marine, coastal and aquatic ecosystem


- Overfishing
- Destructive fishing techniques: impacts on populations and habitats (e.g. Trawling with small-mesh nets, mosquito nets, poison)
- Extraction of building materials, fuelwood and charcoal production: destruction of key habitats such as mangrove
- Pollution (e.g. deposits of sewage – fertilization of freshwater ecosystems, agricultural inputs)
- Alien species invasions (e.g. water hyacinth)
- Heavy sands mining in coastal areas



Actions to conserve biodiversity, mitigate its loss, and support its sustainable use

- Establishment of enabling policies to reduce ecosystem degradation (but, limited implementation!)
- Expansion of protected areas network (11% in 1995 to 25% in 2013)
- Re-introduction of wildlife species in protected areas
- Restoration of degraded biodiversity rich areas (e.g. Gorongosa Mountain)
- Implementation of the REDD+ initiative
- Development of aquaculture
- Agricultural intensification

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- Introduction of technologies for efficient charcoal production and utilization
 - Promotion of use of clean, renewable energies
 - Tree planting in response to presidency's call/speech
 - Establishment of Community-based Natural Resource Management Committees
 - Carbon trade initiatives
 - Increase in incentives for conservation (e.g. share of ecotourism revenues with local communities)
 - Environmental Impact Assessment for development projects

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- Public awareness and environmental education programs
 - Mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation issues into development planning



THANK YOU