

# COMBO Project

COnservation, impact Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets in Africa



The Wildlife Conservation Society, Forest Trends and Biotope have commenced a four-year project (2016-2019) which aims to reconcile economic development in Africa with conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This project is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Mava Foundation.

The project will work with governments, developers and industry to expand and improve the application of the mitigation hierarchy in four African nations: Mozambique, Madagascar, Uganda and Guinea.

## C1 Legal and policy framework

### 📌 Objectives:

- Assisting governments in the identification, analysis and introduction of appropriate policy to encourage investment in development projects that result in no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity.

### ⚙️ Activities:

- Identify the legal and institutional obstacles to implementing the mitigation hierarchy, including biodiversity offsets.
- Develop a participatory process with the Government of Mozambique to support the update of the country legal framework on the mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets.

### ✅ Results:

- Gap analysis on Law and Policy, experience and capacity for delivery of No Net Loss (or Net Gain) of Biodiversity in Mozambique.
- Workshop and synthesis of recommendations.
- NNL strategy and action plan for implementation.
- Guidelines for integrating best practice of mitigation hierarchy application and biodiversity offsets in the Mozambican legislation.

## C2 Planning and measurement tools

### 📌 Objectives:

- Creating the enabling conditions for development projects to achieve no net loss of biodiversity by: i) supporting national planning processes; ii) identifying relevant biodiversity metrics; and iii) developing and implementing baseline and monitoring survey methodologies.

### ⚙️ Activities:

- Identify gaps in available data on biodiversity and in the systems for national information collection and data management.
- Analyze options for integrating the mitigation hierarchy into land use planning.
- Analyze options for defining baselines and benchmarks necessary for the identification of offset requirements (metrics).
- Undertake demonstration activities employing mapping tools and measuring biodiversity in Mozambican landscapes.
- Create national guidelines for employing technical tools and approaches to implement a no net loss policy, complementing the current Road Map.

### ✅ Results:

- Data gap analysis to effectively apply mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets in the country.
- Workshop and guidelines for integrating mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets in spatial planning.
- Report on scientific options for baselines and benchmarks to support NNL.
- Demonstration activity on how to integrate the mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets at a specific Mozambican landscape.
- Set of guidelines for metrics and exchange rules, illustrated by the national-level analysis in the context of the existing Roadmap and building on the demonstration landscape example.

Project partners:



Project funders:



Institutional support:



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## C3 Implementation mechanisms

### Objectives:

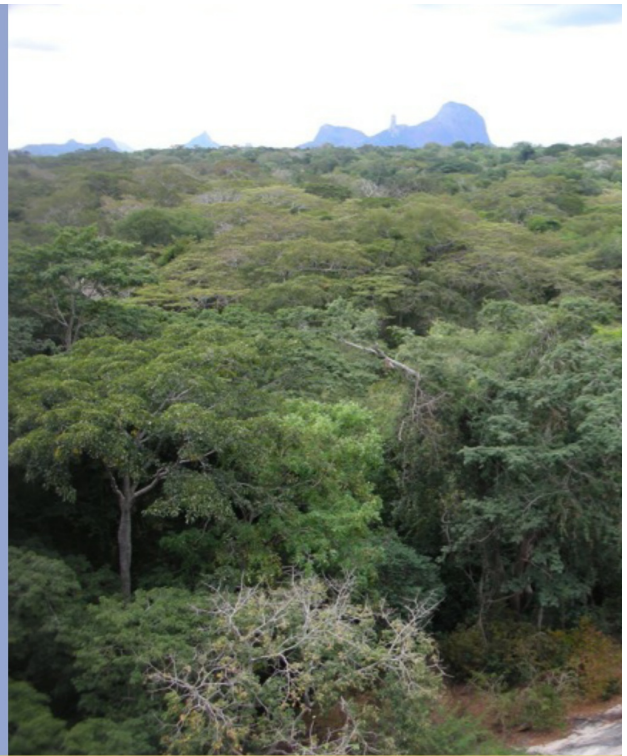
- Developing institutional, legal and financial mechanisms for offset implementation, particularly those linked with conservation trust funds to secure the permanence of conservation outcomes from the mitigation hierarchy.

### Activities:

- Develop appropriate tools for the implementation of offsets.
- Explore the potential of trust fund mechanisms for long term offset funding in Mozambique.
- Evaluate the potential of other innovative financing instruments to ensure the sustainability of offsets.

### Results:

- Guidance and specific templates and models for various implementation arrangements to reflect best practice, such as offset management agreements, easements, biodiversity management plans, performance based contracts, in coordination with government institutions, private sector and civil society.
- Establishment of agreements between conservation trust funds and industry operating in Mozambique on offset funding.
- Assessment for employing different financial instruments and guarantees to ensure the long-term financing of offsets in Mozambique.



## C4 Engagement with the private sector

### Objectives:

- Supporting the uptake of best practice in the public and private sectors, monitoring these initiatives and developing lessons learned.

### Activities:

- Develop protocols for collaboration with the private sector by developing pilot projects.
- Follow the progress of each pilot project through annual meetings and analysis of information shared by the companies.
- Prepare case studies for the pilot projects.

### Results:

- Establishment of voluntary agreements to assess project progress through the use of the Biodiversity Offset Standards.
- Follow-up reports on the pilot projects.
- Case study report on the lessons learned from the pilot projects.

## C5 Training, capacity building and outreach

### Objectives:

- Building national and regional capacity by sharing lessons learned drawn from African and global experiences of no net loss activities with a wide range of involved stakeholders.

### Activities:

- Design the training program and produce training materials.
- Organize and conduct training sessions.
- Organize and conduct an exchange visit to Madagascar.
- Develop the website and project communication.

### Results:

- Training program adjusted to the Mozambican context.
- Conduct at least 8 training sessions on mitigation hierarchy and biodiversity offsets to stakeholders from the several sectors of the Mozambican society.
- Synthesis report with the lessons learned from the Madagascar visit.
- Project website with training materials uploaded for online access.
- Regular reports and publications with case studies.



Project partners:



Project funders:



Institutional support:



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