



Community-Led Tree Planting Programmes and Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Mozambique: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation Over Two Decades

Chimoio Fadiga^{1,2}, Mawamba Manjimbo²

¹ Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária (INIA)

² Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Maputo

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Correspondence: cfadiga@outlook.com

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Author notes

Chimoio Fadiga is affiliated with Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária (INIA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Mawamba Manjimbo is affiliated with Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Maputo and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Community-led tree planting programmes have been implemented in coastal regions of Mozambique to combat deforestation and enhance biodiversity conservation. The research employs both quantitative data from satellite imagery analysis and qualitative insights gathered through interviews with stakeholders and focus group discussions. Quantitative metrics include changes in tree cover density and species diversity indices, while qualitative data explore socio-economic factors influencing programme sustainability. A significant increase of 30% in tree cover was observed across the study area, particularly in areas where community-led programmes were implemented. Interviews revealed that improved livelihoods and enhanced environmental awareness drove continued participation in planting activities. The findings suggest that sustained community engagement is crucial for effective biodiversity conservation through tree planting initiatives. Policy makers should prioritise capacity building and financial support to sustain these community-led programmes, ensuring long-term ecological benefits. Community-Led Programmes, Tree Planting, Biodiversity Conservation, Mozambique

Keywords: *Geographic, Coastal, Community-Based, Conservation, Empirical, Participatory, Anthropology*

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