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Success Story

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Local Participation and Country Ownership Help Secure Land Rights in Mozambique

Since September 2008, the Millennium Challenge Corporation has funded the Mozambique Compact's Land Tenure Project. In March 2011, the project began land tenure regularization (LTR) activities in eight municipalities of northern Mozambique.

In the last year the project has mapped 45,018 urban land parcels and prepared titles for the right of use and benefit of land—known in Mozambique as a DUAT, or *direito de uso e aproveitamento da terra*—for 19,356 land parcels. Since November 2011, the municipalities of Cuamba, Lichinga, Mocimboa da Praia, Mocuba, Monapo, Nampula, Pemba, and Quelimane have issued 12,634 of these DUAT titles to beneficiaries.



Land title recipients in Lichinga City, Niassa Province, Mozambique.

This effort marks the first systematic and large-scale land regularization and titling program in Mozambique. The project's LTR process is well-organized: It uses municipal cadastral personnel for technical work and local officials and citizens as part of a local land committee to gather data on land occupancy. Each technical team completes a land survey and gathers data on about 40 parcels each day. Data on parcel boundaries and occupants are entered into geographic information system (GIS) and Microsoft Access databases, which are used to prepare a rights registry and DUAT titles. The results of data gathering and land surveys are posted in the community for public viewing for at least 30 days, giving the community an opportunity to verify or object to the proposed occupant to whom the DUAT title will be issued.

Millennium Challenge Account-Mozambique (MCA-Mozambique), the local entity implementing the compact, will soon announce a grant program that will be open to other northern municipalities. Municipalities not already included in the project will be able to apply for funds to complete land tenure regularization in their communities. MCA-Mozambique will select municipalities and contract private survey firms to complete LTR for about 10,000 land parcels located in a compact geographic area of the municipality. MCA-Mozambique's goal is to regularize tenure of 140,000 urban land parcels and 6,237 rural parcels by September 2013, when the compact is finished. MCA-Mozambique expects to complete LTR and issue DUAT titles for approximately 70,000 urban parcels and 3,500 rural parcels in 2012.

Communities in Niassa, Nampula and Zambezia provinces are benefiting from the Land Tenure Services project support for the *Iniciativa de Terras Comunitárias* (iTC), a grant program for the delimitation and demarcation of community land. Through this program, any community or group of community members wishing to formalize their land rights can apply for a grant. Once the grant is approved, the iTC contracts a service provider to delimit the land of the community. To date, 50 communities and community associations have benefited from the services to title their land.

The project is also supporting land use inventory mapping in the eight municipalities and 12 rural districts of northern Mozambique. As of February 2012, land use maps have been prepared for Mocuba, Monapo and Nampula municipalities, as well as Mecufi, Mocimboa da Praia, Monapo, and Nicoadala districts.

The project supports capacity building and improvement of land cadastre operations at the central, provincial and municipal levels. It is upgrading physical facilities, work space and technology. Provincial and municipal cadastral technicians have received training on the LTR process, use of land-surveying equipment, new surveying techniques, and GIS software. A land-information management system is being developed and is expected to be installed in these offices by June 2013, with migration of existing cadastral data expected to be complete by August 2013.

The project includes support for government efforts to improve land policy through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Land Consultative Forum. This body, comprised of government and civil society representatives, meets to discuss important issues impacting land policy and to provide the government with recommendations for modifications to current land policies. The Land Consultative Forum has met three times since its establishment in October 2010.

For more information on MCC's Property Rights and Land Policy programs, visit www.mcc.gov/land.