LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND REFORESTATION PROJECT IN NAMPULA

ENVIRONMENTAL PRE-FEASIBILITY AND SCOPING STUDY (EPDA): PUBLIC SUMMARY

August 11, 2024

Non-Technical Summary

Florestal do Norte SA (FdN), a subsidiary of Africa Forest Landscape A.S. (AFL), intends to implement a large-scale Landscape Restoration and Reforestation Project in the districts of Mecubúri, Ribaué, and Lalaua, in Nampula Province. The total investment over 12 years is estimated at USD 105,430,000.

The project has been formally submitted in accordance with Mozambique's Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (Decree 54/2015). It has been classified as a Category A project, requiring a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), preceded by an Environmental Pre-Feasibility and Scoping Study (EPDA).

The purpose of the EPDA phase is to:

- Determine whether there are any "fatal flaws" that could make the project unviable.
- Identify potential environmental and social impacts.
- Define the scope and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the full EIA.

Project Description

FdN plans to establish a 60,000-hectare landscape-scale reforestation project, including:

1. Restoration and Conservation of natural forests – 20,750 ha
2. Commercial plantation development (exotic species) – 27,000 ha
3. Small-scale plantations using native species – 2,000 ha
4. Support to smallholder farmers for:
    - Fruit orchards – 1,500 ha
    - Cashew plantations – 1,500 ha
    - Food crops – 1,500 ha

Plantations will be established on degraded and/or abandoned land. Species include eucalyptus and various fruit species (e.g., cashew, macadamia). All operations will comply with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards and VERRA carbon methodology requirements.

FdN has already secured positive land-use opinions for 10 parcels totaling 17,212 ha. The company will initiate additional DUAT applications for the remaining 42,788 ha, across 8 communities, which have already been identified.

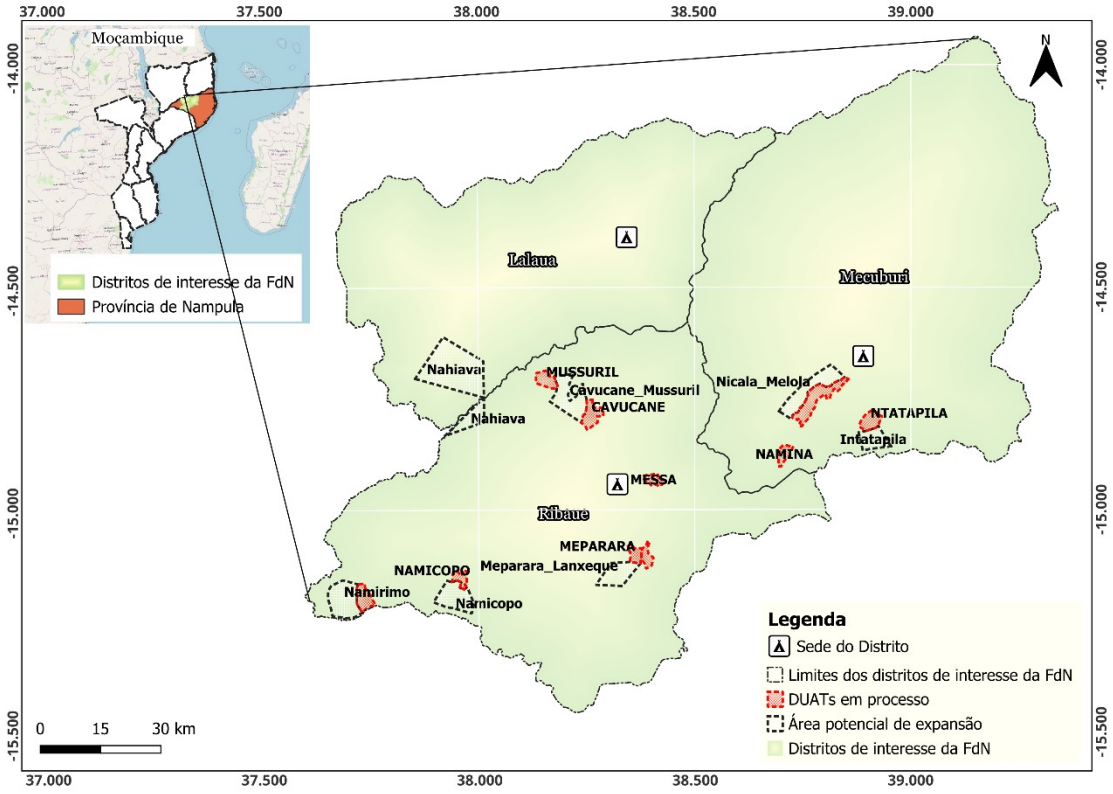

Figure 1 – Map of the Project area

Key Infrastructure and Operations

Activities include:

- Land clearing and mechanical preparation
- Planting
- Silvicultural maintenance (pruning, thinning, fire, pest & disease management)
- Firebreaks and access roads
- Offices, workshops, warehouses
- A large nursery (in Namina, Mecubúri District) with a capacity of 4 million seedlings per year

The project also includes community development initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods and ensuring local participation, contributing significantly to regional socio-economic development.
Approximately 1,600 jobs (permanent and seasonal) are expected to be created.

Environmental and Social Context

The project area was selected due to:

- Good agro-ecological conditions
- Relatively low population density
- Significant historical degradation from shifting agriculture

Vegetation consists of degraded miombo woodlands (3,780 ha within the DUAT area; 8,316 ha in the expansion area). Five species—*Brachystegia bussei*, *Diplorhynchus condylocarpon*, *Julbernardia globiflora*, *Brachystegia spiciformis*, and *Burkea africana*—account for 51% of the trees found and are culturally and economically important.

Extraction rates exceed natural regeneration, highlighting the need for active restoration.

Local livelihoods are based on subsistence agriculture, small livestock, forestry, informal trade, fishing, and hunting. Cassava is the dominant staple crop.

Fatal Flaw Assessment

No fatal flaws were identified that would prevent the project from proceeding.

However, the EPDA identified environmental and socio-economic issues requiring further assessment during the EIA, including potential negative impacts and mitigation measures.

Detailed Terms of Reference have been prepared for all required EIA specialist studies.

Key Impact Themes for the EIA Phase

The EIA must examine, among others:

Hydrology & Water

- Impacts of reforestation on water yield and water quality
- Potential reduction in groundwater recharge
- Protection of springs and catchments
- Climate change impacts on water resources

Soils

- Erosion risk and sedimentation
- Soil compaction
- Chemical changes (salinity, sodicity, alkalinity)

Biodiversity

- Loss or fragmentation of habitats
- Impacts on flora and fauna
- Spread of invasive species
- Dust and noise impacts
- Wildfire risk

Pollution & Waste

- Soil and water contamination from chemical use or facility operations

Socio-Economic Impacts

- Job creation and infrastructure development
- Increased disease transmission risk (especially HIV/AIDS)
- Loss or restriction of agricultural areas
- Impacts on livelihoods and cultural sites
- Raised community expectations
- Potential social conflict

Positive Contributions

- Carbon sequestration
- Restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Enhanced ecosystem services
- Improved local economic development

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on available data, desk studies, and fieldwork (hydrology, soils, flora, fauna, socio-economics), the EPDA concludes:

- No significant or fatal impacts are expected.
- The project has strong potential for positive environmental and socio-economic benefits**.**
- A full EIA is recommended, including:
    - Comprehensive impact assessments
    - Detailed mitigation and management measures
    - A full Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
    - A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) (where needed)

The consultant recommends proceeding to the full EIA phase.