



YAMBONE REDD+ PROJECT



Document Prepared by

Carbonsink Group S.r.l. - A South Pole Company

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1 PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Summary Description of the Project

The Yambone REDD+ Project is a forest conservation project, aiming at halting the deforestation pattern currently taking place. The project area is located in Chipanje Chetu, a community conservation area situated in the northern part of the Sanga District, in Niassa Province of Mozambique. This area suffers due to a long history of deforestation. In fact, from 2000 to 2020, Mozambique experienced a net change of -4.3 million of ha (-10%) in tree cover and in the same period the Niassa Province experienced a net change of -678'000 ha (-7.4%) in tree cover where the city of Lichinga had the most tree cover loss at 93'200 ha compared to an average of 28'000 ha¹. The main objective of the Yambone REDD+ Project is therefore the conservation of the Miombo forest, a complicated and delicate ecosystem that is subjected to deforestation by farmers and to degradation caused by human-induced wildfires. In addition, the project aims to improve the livelihoods of the five local communities, helping them to develop as sustainable a path as possible, assisting them in various areas, from improving agriculture techniques to healthcare and education access. Spreading over more than 650,000 hectares, the project area is home to five communities (about 8,000 people); in order to protect it, the contribution and the engagement of the communities is needed and it is integral to the project.

The Yambone REDD+ Project is designed and developed as a project that avoids unplanned deforestation and forest degradation and several activities for local community members are implemented and improved over time to prevent the deforestation patterns. In addition, local fauna and flora of particular importance to the ecosystem are being identified and monitored, demonstrating that the project brings biodiversity benefits as well. The implementation of the project is ongoing in the field from the first half of 2022, covering several fields, from patrolling activities for avoiding deforestation and poaching to education programmes and biodiversity monitoring. The activities implemented are carried out by employing members of the local communities, whose knowledge of the area and miombo ecosystem is central to the project.

In summary, the main objectives of the Yambone REDD+ project are therefore as follows:

- protection of forest and carbon stocks against unplanned deforestation;
- community development, focusing on sustainable practices;
- biodiversity enhancement, using the presence and behaviour of key species as a proxy

Finally, the Yambone REDD+ project foresees an annual average GHG emission reduction equal to 71,730 tCO_{2e} or a total reduction of 2,869,219 tCO_{2e} in a total project lifetime of 40 years.

In the first monitoring period (01-March-2022 to 29-February-2024) the Yambone REDD+ Project foresees to avoid the emission of 52,217 tCO_{2eq}.

1.2 Audit History

¹ Data source: www.globalforestwatch.org

The section is not applicable to the project at this moment due to this being the first submission by the project and first time applying for registration under the standard. The project is under development and this section will be updated at the time of project validation to include the monitoring periods.

1.3 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

Sectoral scope	Scope 14: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)
AFOLU project category ²	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
Project activity type	Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and Degradation (AUDD)

1.4 Project Eligibility

1.4.1 General eligibility

According to the VCS Standard v4.5 identifies six AFOLU categories eligible under the VCS Program are afforestation, reforestation and revegetation (ARR), agricultural land management (ALM), improved forest management (IFM), reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), avoided conversion of grasslands and shrublands (ACoGS), and wetland restoration and conservation (WRC). Further specifications with respect to eligible activities which may be included within methodologies approved under the VCS Program can be found in the VCS Methodology Requirements.

According to the VCS Methodology Requirements, v4.4: ‘Appendix 1 Eligible AFOLU Project Categories’ eligible REDD activities are those that reduce GHG emissions by reducing deforestation and/or forest degradation. The definition of what a forest is for the project has been defined according to the Mozambique government UNFCCC: CDM Designated National Authority forestry thresholds and ensured that the project area contained forested land for a minimum of 10 years prior to project start date. The project does not convert any native ecosystems and aims to avoid and halt deforestation and forest degradation as the main driver of deforestation and forest degradation is for slash-and-burn agriculture to open lands for agriculture. The project meets all the applicable rules and requirements under the VCS Program and project activities do not fall under ‘Table 1: Excluded Project Activities’ of the VCS Standard, 4.5.

The project is a REDD+ project and complies with the pipeline listing requirements and will be applying the VM0007 - REDD Methodology Framework (REDD-MF), v1.7 and will apply the latest and most relevant methodology VM0048 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, v1.0 upon at the next baseline reassessment or crediting period renewal, whichever is earliest and upon availability of activity data for the project area.

The project activities are categorised as “Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and/or Degradation (AUDD) according to the VCS Methodology Requirements, v4.4: ‘Appendix 1 Eligible AFOLU Project Categories’.

² See Appendix 1 of the VCS Standard

The methodology chosen and applied does not have scale or capacity limits and the project is not fragmented or part of another project and is located in a conservation area.

1.4.2 AFOLU project eligibility

According to VCS Standard v4.5, REDD is an eligible AFOLU project category. The standard requires that the land composing a REDD project, to be eligible as forest to estimate GHG emissions and VCU, the area must meet an internationally recognised definition of forest³ for at least 10 years before the start of the project.

The VCS Standard, v4.5, “*Eligible REDD activities include: Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and/or Degradation (AUDD): This category includes activities that reduce net GHG emissions by stopping deforestation and/or degradation of degraded to mature forests that would have occurred in any forest configuration.*”

The main objective of project activities is to reduce carbon emissions by preventing the conversion of forest lands with high carbon stocks to non-forest lands with lower carbon stocks. In addition, avoiding conversion of forests to cropland or pasture can reduce emissions of CH₄ that are associated with biomass burning used to clear the land. This project activity stops unplanned deforestation on forested lands and is thus eligible as a REDD activity. It reduces GHG emissions by stopping the deforestation of mature forests.

The project complies with the requirement for projects to avoid unplanned deforestation, in VM0007 - REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD-MF) v1.7.

1.4.3 Transfer project eligibility

Not applicable to the project, as the project or component project activity(ies) is/are not registered under another GHG program.

1.5 Project Design

- ☒ Single location or installation
- ☐ Multiple locations or project activity instances (but not a grouped project)
- ☐ Grouped project

1. Grouped Project Design

Not applicable to the project, as the project is not a grouped project.

1.6 Project Proponent

³ According to Mozambique’s definition of a forest, in REDD project activities ‘forest’ means a land with tree crown cover of more than 30 percent and an area of more than 1 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html>)

Organization name	Carbonsink Moçambique Lda (CSG Moz)
Contact person	Antonio Di Silvestro
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1.7 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	Carbonsink Group S.r.l. - a South Pole company (CSG)
Role in the project	Carbon credit certification process and marketing
Contact person	Tania Cencetti
Title	Regional Senior Manager, Technical, NBS, Climate Projects - Africa
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Organization name	Lipilichi Wilderness Investments Lda
Role in the project	Implementation partner
Contact person	Gary Tullis
Title	Director
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Organization name	Conselho do Gestão Comunitária do Program Chipanje Chetu (COGECO)
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Role in the project	Support implementation activities and community engagements
Contact person	Alfonso Mbuana
Title	President
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Telephone	
Email	N/A

1.8 Ownership

A comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and an Executive Agreement were agreed and signed between the project proponent and project partners.

COGECO is the community management council for the natural resources of the Chipanje Chetu community conservation area, representing the interests of the villages in all their interactions with the government, NGOs and private sector. The land in which the Yambone REDD+ Project takes place is called Chipanje Chetu, and it is recognised as a Community Conservation Area. The Communities own the rights on the land.

Lipilichi is the concessionaire for the management, exploration, conservation, improvement of the living conditions of communities and the development of tourism and ecotourism in the Chipanje Chetu community conservation area. The concession was granted to Lipilichi by the Government of Mozambique. The current concession is valid until 2030 and renewable after that date.

Carbonsink Group has the responsibility of providing guidance on how to implement the activities as per carbon standard requirements, also with the help of its local branch, Carbonsink Moçambique, which with its local presence acts as implementation facilitator, supporting implementation on the ground and providing guidelines on how to implement the activities.

The Agreement between the parties was also agreed and signed by the Government of Mozambique (Secretariat of State of Niassa Province), which acts as guarantor for the local communities.

According to Verra's definition of ownership, as stated in VCS Standard v4.5, section 3.7, being the local communities the owner of the rights on the land, Lipilichi having a concession in the area and an Agreement signed by all parties, makes project ownership clear, as it arises from *an enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutory, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or conservational or management process that generates GHG emission reductions or carbon dioxide removals which vests project ownership in the project proponent*. All the aforementioned agreements will be made available to the Validation and Verification Body.

1.9 Project Start Date

Project start date	01-March-2022
Justification	The first step was starting a dialogue between Carbonsink, Lipilichi, COGECO and local authorities to define the framework of the project and understand the level of commitment all the parties were eager to bring. After some months of exchanging ideas, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted, modified and eventually signed by the parties, on the 1st of March 2022 and the activities that avoids unplanned deforestation and forest degradation started to be implemented.

1.10 Project Crediting Period

Crediting period	☐ Seven years, twice renewable ☐ Ten years, fixed ☒ Other (40 years) In accordance with the VCS Standard 4.5 requirement for AFOLU projects, section 3.9.3 and 3.2.25 , the VCS project crediting period will be a minimum of 40 years.
Start and end date of first or fixed crediting period	01-March-2022 - 28-February-2062

1.11 Project Scale and Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

- ☒ < 300,000 tCO₂e/year (project)
- ☐ ≥ 300,000 tCO₂e/year (large project)

Calendar year of crediting period	Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
1-March-2022 to 28-February-2023	20,677
1-March-2023 to 29-February-2024	31,540
1-March-2024 to 28-February-2025	40,688
1-March-2025 to 28-February-2026	54,316
1-March-2026 to 28-February-2027	66,229
1-March-2027 to 29-February-2028	78,491
1-March-2028 to 28-February-2029	72,883
1-March-2029 to 28-February-2030	83,252
1-March-2030 to 28-February-2031	93,902
1-March-2031 to 29-February-2032	104,831

1-March-2032 to 28-February-2033	104,831
1-March-2033 to 28-February-2034	104,831
1-March-2034 to 28-February-2035	91,727
1-March-2035 to 29-February-2036	91,727
1-March-2036 to 28-February-2037	91,727
1-March-2037 to 28-February-2038	91,727
1-March-2038 to 28-February-2039	91,727
1-March-2039 to 29-February-2040	91,727
1-March-2040 to 28-February-2041	78,623
1-March-2041 to 28-February-2042	78,623
1-March-2042 to 28-February-2043	78,623
1-March-2043 to 29-February-2044	78,623
1-March-2044 to 28-February-2045	78,623
1-March-2045 to 28-February-2046	78,623
1-March-2046 to 28-February-2047	65,519
1-March-2047 to 29-February-2048	65,519
1-March-2048 to 28-February-2049	65,519
1-March-2049 to 28-February-2050	65,519
1-March-2050 to 28-February-2051	65,519
1-March-2051 to 29-February-2052	65,519
1-March-2052 to 28-February-2053	62,243
1-March-2053 to 28-February-2054	62,243
1-March-2054 to 28-February-2055	62,243
1-March-2055 to 29-February-2056	62,243
1-March-2056 to 28-February-2057	62,243
1-March-2057 to 28-February-2058	62,243
1-March-2058 to 28-February-2059	56,019
1-March-2059 to 29-February-2060	56,019
1-March-2060 to 28-February-2061	56,019
1-March-2061 to 28-February-2062	56,019
Total estimated ERRs during the first or fixed crediting period	2,869,219
Total number of years	40
Average annual ERRs	71,730

1.12 Description of the Project Activity

In order to achieve the core objective of the Yambone REDD+ Project, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by avoiding unplanned deforestation and forest degradation and ultimately the protection of the Chipanje Chetu forest and ecosystem. Many project activities have been designed and some of them have already been implemented, after the identification of the drivers that led and continue to result in the destruction of the forest. The project area where the project activities will be taking place are not within a jurisdiction covered by a jurisdictional REDD+ program.

The activities, which are listed below in no particular order of priority, may be directly or indirectly related to the conservation of the ecosystem, and have been designed to ensure an all-round management of the project, capable of guaranteeing, now and in the years to come, a complete and total protection of the forest.

Project Administration:

To best align to what a REDD+ Project implementation implies, the project administration went through a new organisational structure that has propelled managing partners into a new phase of development. This restructuring aligns with the core goal of creating meaningful employment and aims to use human resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. During the restructuring, Lipilichi's focus changed from primarily having a "tourism focus with a positive impact on conservation", to one with a "full-time conservation focus". Three major goals for the new structure include (i) generating a team-to-activity structure, (ii) facilitating stronger hierarchical structures with clear lines of communication and responsibility, and (iii) implementing a new pay structure that recognises skillset, leadership and hard work. This change has brought about much needed clarity on the future for all employees, who have responded positively to the new direction and are once more eager about what the future holds.

As a consequence to this profound renewal many people were newly hired, including new builders, drivers, wildlife rangers and hospitality staff. Not least, more administrative staff has also been hired, to help with the numerous new activities that need assistance.

Anti-Poaching & Forest Patrolling:

Patrolling activities have always been in place at Chipanje Chetu, perpetuated by Lipilichi's Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) closely guided by National Administration of Protected Areas (ANAC). These activities, now strengthened thanks to the Yambone REDD+ Project initiative, have as an objective the identification of illegal activities within the boundaries of the Project area, in particular deforestation, mining, logging and bushmeat poaching. To improve monitoring, communication and reporting of such illicit activities, technology has been boosted in patrolling daily activities, adding near real time capabilities that boosted the performance of the patrolling unit. To complement the implementation of new systems and technologies, a new patrolling plan has been implemented, in collaboration with ANAC, aimed at ensuring effective anti-deforestation and anti-poaching monitoring.

The adoption of new technology and systems has already shown the first positive results, making the patrolling unit able to communicate faster and more precisely the location of signs of illicit activities and to take action in a more efficient as well as effective manner.

Wildfire Management:

Fire is an important ecological factor in miombo woodlands. The strong seasonality in precipitation leaves the vegetation dry for several months of the year, lightning storms at the start of the rainy season can easily set the vegetation alight. However, in addition to being naturally fire prone, miombo is frequently burned by people to clear land for cultivation, to maintain pastures for livestock, or to drive game animals to positions where they can be easily hunted. Fire plays an important role in the miombo woodlands. Indiscriminate setting of fires, inappropriate agricultural practices, unplanned and uncontrolled settlements, if not urgently addressed will contribute significantly to the reduction of the natural heritage and destruction of the miombo forests. Many areas of miombo woodlands are still managed in traditional ways, with slash and burn farming systems dominating. This is the case of the Yambone REDD+ Project area, Chipanje Chetu. Bearing this in mind, the Project wants to adopt an Integrated Fire Management Plan, guided by ANAC and in particular with Niassa Special Reserve HQs in Mbatamila, and is currently undergoing a screening phase to select the appropriate provider. An Integrated Fire Management Plan incorporates different fire management activities in a strategic framework to reduce the overall impact of unwanted wildfire damage and promote the beneficial use of fire. It is developed to prevent and suppress wildfires and to protect and, in some cases, rehabilitate the ecosystem. In particular, the Yambone REDD+ Project aims at developing an Integrated Fire Management Plan that:

- takes into account the strategy to reduce the risk of wildfires and their impacts on the ecology of the Project area and the ecosystem services they provide;
- engages with communities' residents to improve their awareness and understanding of the role of fire and that will engender community support and participation in fire management;
- results in community buy-in on zoning areas for prescribed burning and that will assign responsibility so that wildfires detrimental to the reserve and its ecology will be reduced;
- will address fire prevention, protection, suppression and recovery as well as rehabilitation and research;
- will develop a simple Fire Danger Index (FDI) that informs communities in general of fire behaviour and fire danger and the effect of fire on the vegetation;
- will develop a Decision Support System (DSS) based on ecological data and fire history to assist Project managers and communities in making management decisions with regard to prescribed burning;
- will improve community on post-fire grazing management that will improve recovery and stability of the vegetation and will reduce the impact on the hydrology of the rivers and streams;
- will include training for Project personnel and communities in fire safety and fire management;
- will take into accounts the risk of wildfires that negatively impact the ability to store carbon.

Education Programme:

Over the years, the communities of Chipanje Chetu have received little investment in the way of educational support, causing very low literacy rates in the area (adult literacy was assessed as 43.4% in the latest survey undertaken by Lipilichi, but functional literacy is likely to be significantly lower). The Yambone REDD+ Project in collaboration with the Government's Education Sector, therefore includes a focus on improving school attendance and educational opportunities for young people, taking a long-term approach to developing livelihoods that do not rely on utilising natural resources. Bearing this in mind a

scholarship named Umi Wango ('My Life' in Yao dialect) has been instituted. The scholarship aims at assisting families to send their children to the secondary school in Macalodje, outside the Project area. The Umi Wango scholarship began in 2022 and will help local communities by providing transportation as well as financial assistance for school fees.

So far, more than 40 children benefited from this initiative and they were assisted with transportation using the Yambone REDD+ Project vehicle fleet, since for some of the kids, the distance from school to home is more than 120 kilometres. In the near future the plan is to get a school bus appointed to this particular initiative. In addition, upcoming plans include the beginning of a school feeding program in the primary schools of each village, to encourage attendance and retention and to improve nutrition and attention during classes, and providing assistance to high school graduates with vocational courses.

Biodiversity Conservation:

Biodiversity conservation and enhancement is one of the core activities within the Yambone REDD+ Project. As such, it is important to identify key species important to protect because of their role within the ecosystem and/or because of their importance as indicators of wildlife wellbeing. Moreover, the monitoring of these species is of primary importance to the Project, for it helps in assessing how the Project, *ie.*, the protection of the forest, is positively affecting the biodiversity. In fact, an indicator of a healthy ecosystem is the presence of key wildlife species. In this light, an increase in wildlife sightings will ultimately be the result of enhanced efforts to protect not only the forest but the landscape in general. Bearing this in mind, the Ecological Monitoring Department has been established. Over the next year, the team will expand, as the department will cover a range of portfolios including patrolling reporting, wildlife monitoring programmes, the management of human-wildlife conflict incidents, and general gathering of wildlife intelligence in the area. The team is also equipped with a central operations room, vehicle, and required technology such as laptops, data systems and data collection devices (Earth Ranger, Garmin InReach and SMART devices). Project partners already joined the Niassa Lion Coalition Project, run by the Niassa carnivore Project, which aims to do the following:

- Conserve large carnivores by promoting coexistence and shared respect for people;
- Secure source population;
- Reduce illegal mortality by identifying intensive protective areas.

Since the Yambone REDD+ Project area shares a border with Niassa Special Reserve, their lion population can be considered contiguous and it counts approximately 50 lions. To increase the Project monitoring capacity, two lionesses had been collared in strict collaboration with ANAC and relevant institutions and the project now has new daily information about population dynamics, habits and pride territories: this is key to conservation since it is now possible to ensure a pride breed successfully by sending patrols into the pride areas to ensure there are no snares. In the next future, two more collaring activities have been planned, in order to arrive at a total of 8 collared individuals. One other major goal for the near future for the Ecological Monitoring Department is to improve and standardise the reporting system.

Human-Wildlife Conflict:

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) is an issue that cannot be ignored, for it is a very sensitive problem and one episode is enough to compromise part of the Project. HWC is significant in the Project area, placing wildlife, property and people in physical danger and negatively impacting food security. Local

communities rely on the Yambone REDD+ Project under the guidance of ANAC and in particular the Niassa Special Reserve HQs, to avoid conflicts that can compromise their safety. For this reason, the Project partners decided to set up a Management Oriented Monitoring System, a system of incidents recording and reporting that helps in identifying a strategy and taking prompt action.

In each village, a Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) guardian has been selected by their committee and trained by project partners to begin collecting data. The guardians collect monthly information on fishing activities, human-wildlife conflict and special species sightings, as well as convey important information into their respective communities on: (i) way to reduce human-wildlife conflict, (ii) safe behaviours, (iii) and general conservation best-practice.

The data collected is then made available to the village through annual reports, that can then be used by the villages to make decisions about how best to live and farm within the Project area in a way that best mitigates negative outcomes. The data is also valuable to Yambone REDD+ Project partners and can be used in conservation management decisions. In fact, human-wildlife conflict is strictly connected to other project activities: for instance, the lion collaring activity brought a significant increase in the project monitoring capacity and it is now possible to alarm certain communities when it is observed that a pride is getting too close to their respective villages or fields.

COGECO Governance:

COGECO is an executive council of elected representatives from each of the five communities living in the Yambone REDD+ Project area. The relationship between COGECO and Lipilichi began way before the start of the implementation of the Yambone REDD+ Project and they met regularly to discuss the different conservation and community-related issues in Chipanje Chetu as well as how the two parties can work together for mutual benefit. This relationship further strengthens with the beginning of the Yambone REDD+ Project, being both parties partners in this project. As a consequence, one of the Project objectives and resultant activities is to bring governance training to COGECO and the villages committees, so that they can effectively manage their resources and fairly distribute the benefits flowing to the residents through the Yambone REDD+ Project.

The activity already began and in November and December 2022, with the help of a non-profit community organisation called Estamos, two training workshops were performed for COGECO members to improve concepts of governance and social auditing for a greater responsibility and accountability of local communities. Building this type of capacity in COGECO is becoming increasingly important as the Yambone REDD+ Project is resulting in increased levels of responsibility for decisions that affect the wider community and the dissemination of funds. The training was well received by COGECO members.

Self-Governed Community Programmes:

Self-governed programmes are activities carried out by community members with the aid of different actors. These activities were chosen together with the communities after a series of meetings, and are primarily focused on agriculture and livestock improvement. The outcome from the various committee meetings was that decreasing yields is the primary reason for farmers opening new fields (*machambas* in Yao dialect), leading to deforestation. Limiting this impact requires collaborative conservation agriculture interventions, including improved soil management practices, better seeds and the development of livelihood alternatives. The committees were assisted by the Yambone REDD+ Project

partners, who sourced options on various farming inputs to improve yield, and met with agricultural technicians from the University of Unilurio. The following self governed programmes were agreed on:

Seed Programme: each village has selected a crop of choice for which they will receive seed assistance. Nova Madeira has selected rice, and the other four communities selected maize. Each household will receive a bag of seeds to improve yield under the condition that the household does not clear a new field. The farmers have the opportunity of returning to the Project partners two bags of their agricultural product at the end of the season, qualifying them to receive two bags of seeds for the next agricultural season, in the hopes of expanding the programme.

Technical Assistance from the University of Unilurio: Unilurio has a campus just an hour and a half drive from Chipanje Chetu and have partnered with the Yambone REDD+ Project partners to design an agricultural impact programme for implementation over six months, using technicians and students to assist selected farmers in each village with the following programmes:

- WP1 - Livestock integration
- WP2 – Conservation Agriculture
- WP3 – Value Chain
- WP4 – Pest Management

Soil interventions: as inorganic fertiliser is bulky, expensive and not good for soil overtime, the Yambone REDD+ Project partners will work with selected farmers over the agricultural season and bring in technical experts to educate them in how to make compost in the village.

These activities have already started. The goal of this programme is to establish a sustainable system that can create improved benefits year on year for participating farmers.

1.13 Project Location

The Yambone REDD+ Project takes place in Chipanje Chetu, a Community Conservation area located adjacent to the Niassa Special Reserve in the Sanga district of Northern Mozambique. Chipanje Chetu (a shortened version of the phrase in the Yao language used to describe the objective of the process – Metinje Getu, Chipanje Chetu, Mbunju Mwetu or Our Bush, Our Wealth, Our Future) is a Community Based Natural Resource Management programme (CBNRM) initiative in the northern province of Niassa and in the northern section of that province – Sanga district⁴.

The area spreads over 665,524 hectares, home to five communities, namely, Lilumba, Maumbica, Nova Madeira, Matchedje and Segundo Congresso. Chipanje Chetu shares its northern border with Tanzania, the eastern border with Niassa Special Reserve, the western border with Lago District, while on the South it is open towards first the Posto Administrativo of Macalodje and then Lichinga.

⁴ The Southern African Development Community (SADC) recognizes CBNRM as an important strategy in the forestry and wildlife sectors. Article 12 of the Protocol on Forestry omits SADC States to: “Adopt national policies and mechanisms to enable community forest management, and Article 7.4 of the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement commits SADC States to establishing or introducing “mechanisms for community-based wildlife management”. For further information, please visit: https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00jrv1.pdf

The geographic boundaries of the project area, as shown below in Figure 1, are supported with geodetic coordinates that are provided in a KML file.

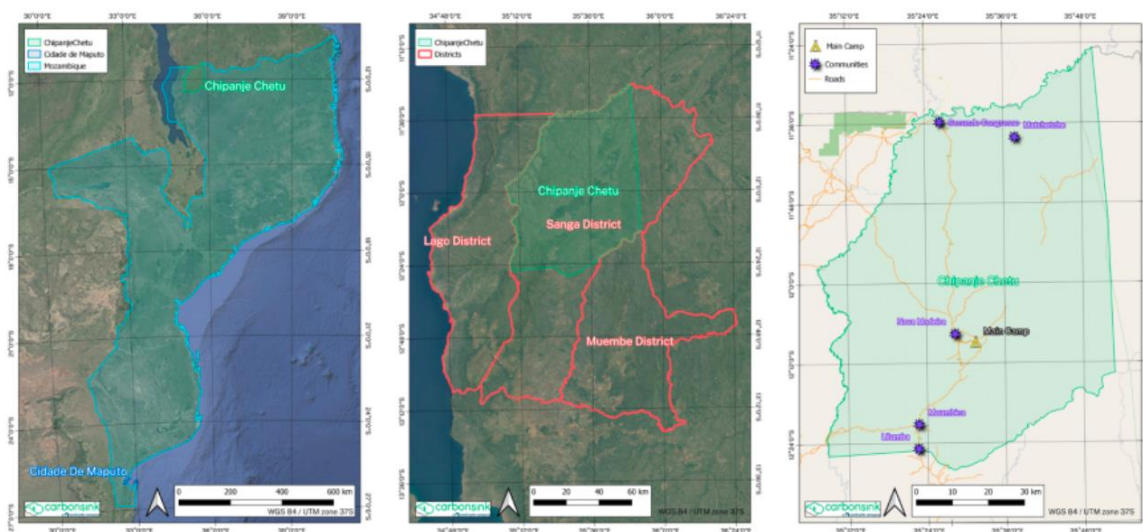


Figure 1: Location of the Yambone REDD+ project area and detail of communities and roads⁵

The project area is characterised by having two natural boundaries, the northern area is bound by the Rovuma River (Also the border with Tanzania), the western area is bound by the Messinge River, the Southern area is bound by the Sanga mountain range, while the eastern area is bound by the Lucheringo River.

The Chipanje Chetu area is also part of the Niassa-Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area (NSTFCA). The NSTFCA contains critical wildlife corridors that play a significant role for the stability of wildlife populations, in particular the African elephants, lions, African wild dogs alongside large ungulates, potentially black rhino, by allowing gene transfer among populations of wildlife between the two countries of Mozambique and Tanzania. There are few areas left in the world where wildlife species can move over vast areas and Chipanje Chetu, as the western buffer zone for the TFCA is critical to the sustainability of this system.

1.14 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

The conditions and the most-likely scenario to continue in the project area without the project would be a continuation of the drivers of the loss of forest cover and trees. The practice of land conversion, slash-and-burn or shifting agriculture is such that after 1 to 5 years in a field, a farmer will open a new field,

⁵ A KML and a map of the project area are also available in the supporting documentation

cutting trees and burning the vegetation in order to access fertile soils. Anthropogenic fires represent 95% of fires in Miombo woodlands; this is unsurprising as fire is widely considered an accessible management tool used for opening new agricultural fields, for the production of charcoal or for hunting purposes. Making the impact of uncontrolled wildfires much greater to Miombo woodlands that are already naturally susceptible to fires, according to multiple sources^{6,7,8}. The natural fires occurring every 3-4 years have an important function in maintaining structural and compositional elements in the ecosystem.

Charcoal production is a key driver of deforestation throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of charcoal production occurs within 2 km of main roads. Charcoal production has devastated the tree population surrounding areas that are closer to charcoal markets. Chipanje Chetu has little charcoal production other than for subsistence use however as the infrastructure and transport options in the area improve, charcoal production is likely to increase exponentially due to the type of vegetation, which is good for charcoal production, and the lack of alternative livelihoods. Along with illegal logging and illegal artisanal mining as a result of the increasing infrastructure and access it will bring to this part of the country the quantity of trees in the project area become increasingly attractive for these sorts of activities.

Ecosystem type

The Miombo woodlands is the most extensive forest ecosystem in the country of Mozambique thus representing a significant portion of national biodiversity. This ecosystem provides high-quality habitat for a variety of species, including large herbivorous and carnivorous mammals.

Current and historical land-use

The primary loss of forests in the project area is due to the communities practices of shifting and slash-and-burn agricultural practices to access fertile soil for subsistence agriculture activities, also because they lack effective fertilisers and farming technology. Extraction of wood for fuelwood and charcoal production, fire, timber trade and illegal mining exploration also occurs within the area, albeit to a lesser extent, still contributing to the degradation of the canopy.

Climate

The area has two predominant seasons. A 'wet season' occurs between December and April and a 'dry season' between May and November. These seasons are relatively abrupt with very little rainfall outside the wet season with little surface water outside the main river systems by October. Annual rainfall is around 1300 mm in the southern section of the plateau edge but decreases northwards towards the Rovuma basin to as little as 600 mm (Amaral, 1990)⁹ and can be highly variable in drought cycles and

⁶ Ribeiro, N.S., Silva de Miranda, P., Timberlake, J. (2020). Biogeography and Ecology of Miombo Woodlands. In: Ribeiro, N.S., Katerere, Y., Chirwa, P.W., Grundy, I.M. (eds) *Miombo Woodlands in a Changing Environment: Securing the Resilience and Sustainability of People and Woodlands*. Springer, Cham.

⁷ Mapaura, I., & Moe, S. R. (2009). Changes in the structure and composition of miombo woodlands mediated by elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and fire over a 26-year period in north-western Zimbabwe. *African Journal of Ecology*, 47(2), 175–183.

⁸ Ribeiro, N. S., Shugart, H. H., & Washington-Allen, R. (2008). The effects of fire and elephants on species composition and structure of the Niassa Reserve, northern Mozambique. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 255(5-6), 1626–1636.

⁹ Amaral, M. G. (1968) *O Povo Yao: Subsídios para o estudo de um povo do nordeste de Moçambique*. Unpublished Licenciatura Dissertation, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa.

floods. The maximum temperatures of around 30 degrees centigrade are registered between October and December and the minimums of 10 degrees or below between June and August.

Monthly Climatology of Average Minimum Surface Air Temperature, Average Mean Surface Air Temperature, Average Maximum Surface Air Temperature & Precipitation 1991-2020; Mozambique

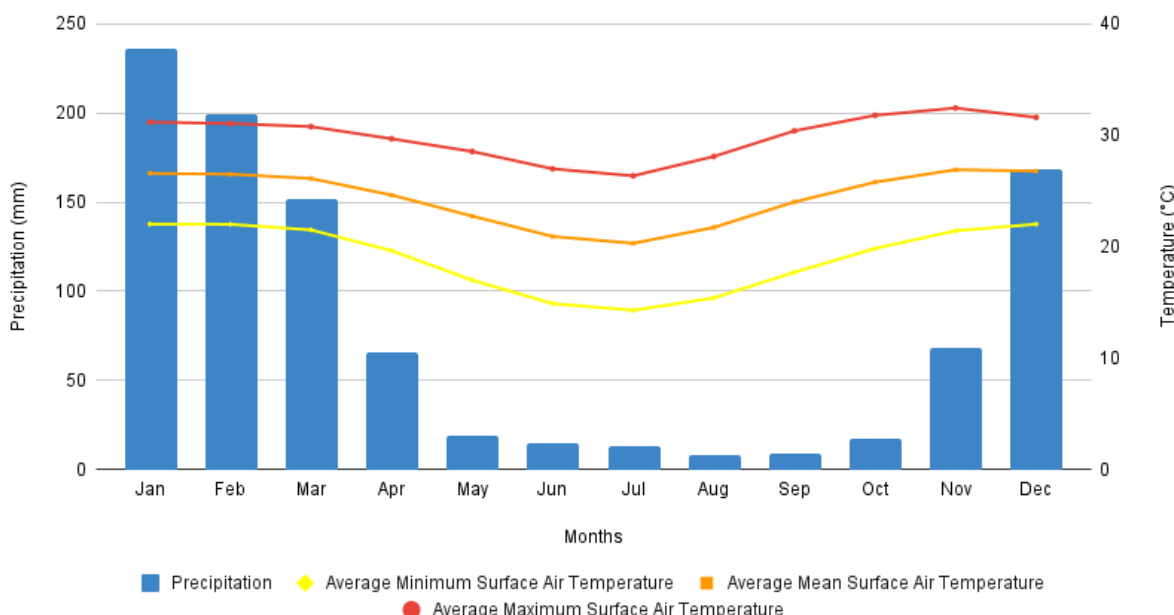


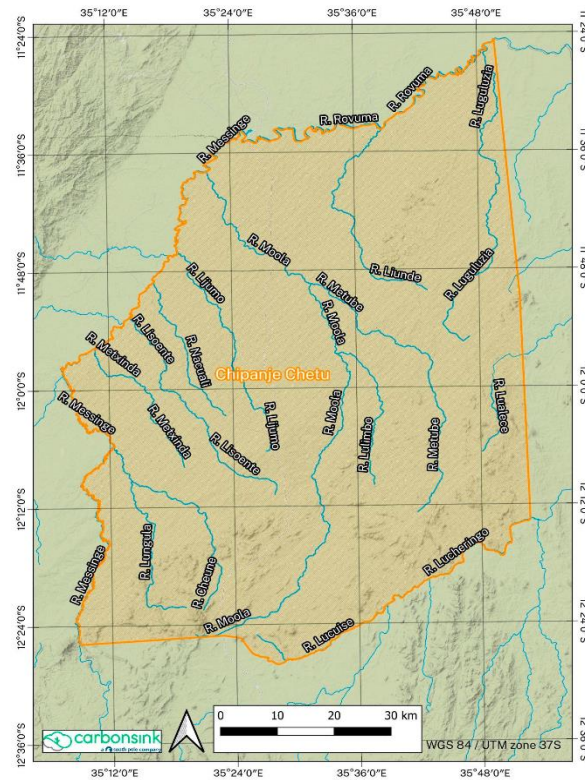
Figure 2: Monthly Climatology of Mozambique Minimum, Mean and Maximum Surface Air Temperature & Precipitation 1991-2020 (Data source: Worldbank Climate Change Knowledge Portal¹⁰)

Hydrology

The borders of the Chipanje Chetu area are the Messinge River in the west and the Lucheringo River in the east. The northern border is the Rovuma River and the frontier with Tanzania and the southern boundary is Sanga Mountain and the rivers flowing east or west from it (Anstey, 2009). The Moola river flows from its origin close to Mount Sanga through the central region of the Chipanje Chetu area until its confluence with the Messinge (please see, Figure 3 below).

The four major river systems of Messinge, Moola, Rovuma and Lucheringo not only form the boundaries of the area but are the sustaining force of the ecology of the area. These perennial rivers are the permanent water sources that wildlife and communities alike rely on during the dry season, and their annual flooding in the rainy season creates seasonal swamps and wetlands through the central areas of Chipanje Chetu which are rich in palatable grasses, fish stocks and available water that sustain bird, mammal, and reptile populations.

¹⁰ <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/mozambique/climate-data-historical#:~:text=Mozambique%20has%20a%20tropical%20to,between%20800%20and%201200%20mm.>



Topography

¹¹ Anstey, Simon. "Institutional change and community based natural resource management in Northern Mozambique." University of Zimbabwe (2009).

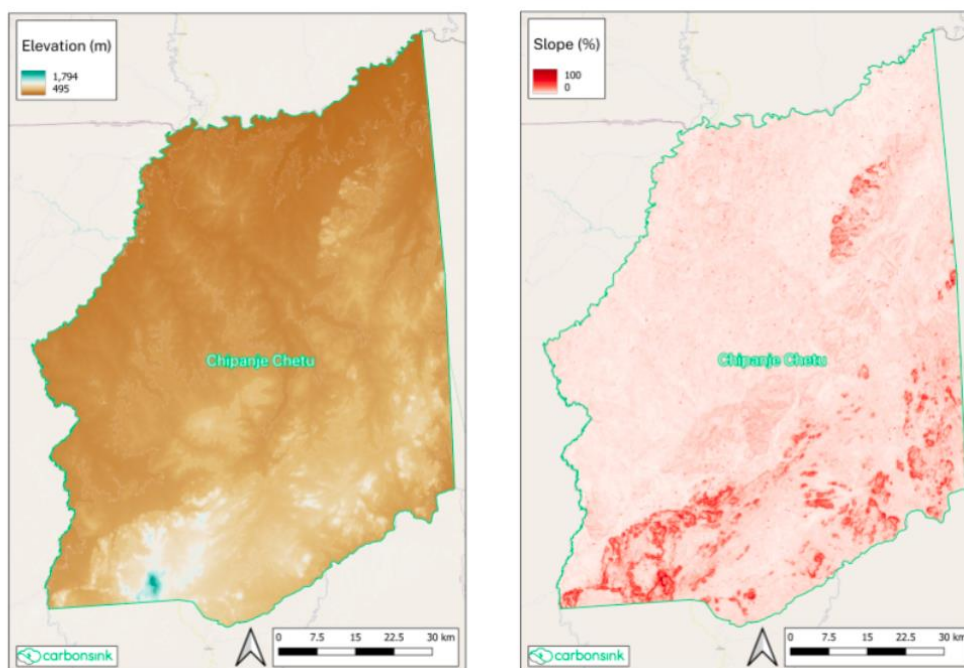


Figure 4: Elevation and slope maps of Chipanje Chetu - Yambone REDD+ Project Area

Soils

The soils in the Sanga district are predominantly clayey, red, deep and well-drained, associated with humid and sub-humid climates, occupying considerable patches in the high, very rainy regions of the Sanga Mountain Range. The soils in this area stand out for the high fertility and great agricultural potential, thus constituting the Agro-ecological Zone. Fersialitic soils of medium to fine texture, well drained and deep, in regions with favourable humidity conditions, associated with sub-humid climates are in close connection with the relief. These soils essentially originate from crystalline quartziferous rocks, unconsolidated sediments and unconsolidated sedimentary rocks. They are reddish on the tops, orange on the slopes and brown to greyish in the depressions (such as the strip along the Rovuma River, made up of greyish clay-loam soils). These soil-climatic conditions thus constitute the region corresponding to the Agro-Ecological Zone (Ministry of State Administration, Government of Mozambique, 2005).

The soil types found in the project area are mainly ferric luvisols and in the north of the project area, some chromic cambisols and to a very small extent ferric acrisols. Luvisols are soils where the clay content has been transported down from the surface layer of the soil and accumulates down the horizon, the luvisols typically have a brown to dark brown surface over a strong brown or red agric subsurface horizon; cambisols have clear horizon differentiation in colour, the structure in the soil layers and accumulation of carbonate material and acrisols are soils that have undergone weathering to great degree and are acidic with low base saturation (International Soil Reference and Information, 2022).

Vegetation

The vegetation is characteristically more densely wooded and semi-deciduous in the southern areas of higher rainfall and soil fertility. This woodland opens into more deciduous wooded grassland further

north, with open grassland along the wetland systems and closer to the Rovuma. The main drainage systems have thicker and more diverse riverine forest, with some montane forest and open grassland on Sanga Mountain.

Miombo woodlands are the most extensive forest ecosystem in the country of Mozambique thus representing a significant portion of national biodiversity. This ecosystem provides high-quality habitat for a variety of species, including large herbivorous and carnivorous mammals.

In particular, the Project area is occupied by miombo woodland (*Brachystegia-Julbernardia* spp.) characterised by an open canopy and a deciduous woodland dispersed vegetation with few large trees. The dominant tree species are: *Brachystegia boehmii*, *Julbernardia globiflora*, *Burkea africana*, *Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia*, *Crossopterix febrifuga* and *Diplorhynchus condylocarpon*. Many of these species are deciduous, losing their leaves during the long dry spell.

Species belonging to the Combretaceae family may occur and dominate in sandy soils and where disturbances such as fires are intense (Chidumayo, 1997)¹². Trees are 8 to 10 m high sparsely distributed in a canopy cover of not less than 20% of the ground and a very abundant grass/herbaceous component. The Miombo ecosystem is interspersed with open dambos and riverine forest along the existent perennial rivers. Crowns of trees are typically not interlocking and generally grasses are found below the trees making this a fire prone system.

1.15 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

Specific legal law/regulation	Summary of the law	Yambone compliance
Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, 2004	The Constitution reaffirms, develops and deepens the fundamental principles of the Mozambican State, and enshrines the sovereign nature of the democratic rule of law, based on pluralism of expression and partisan organisation and on respect for and the guarantee of fundamental rights and liberties of citizens.	All citizens, residents and employees linked to work and other activities in the Yambone REDD+ project in Mozambique comply with the highest law of the nation that is the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique.
Mozambique Land Law No. 19/1997	The purpose of the Land Law is to facilitate equitable and sustainable rural development by allowing negotiated private sector access to customarily acquired land, resulting in agreements that will benefit the local people. Furthermore, the individuals that have customary rights can also take their land out of customary jurisdiction. Private investors seeking new DUATs must consult local communities first.	This law marks the firm land tenure in Mozambique, which belongs to the state and the local communities exclusively. Nevertheless, permissions to use and manage the land (DUAT) is granted for considerable periods of time depending on the type of usage intended.

¹² Chidumayo, Emmanuel N. Miombo ecology and management: an introduction. Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd (ITP), 1997.

	Mozambicans can choose to keep their rights, or agree to terms with investors ('partnerships' under the Land Law) for ceding their rights to them. ¹³	
Mozambique Regulation of the land law No. 66/1998	Land Law Regulation; This Regulation applies to areas not covered by areas under the jurisdiction of Municipalities that have Services Municipal Registry Offices, with the exception of article 45, which is applicable throughout the national territory.	Local Communities of Chipanje Chetu Community Conservation Area retain full ownership of the project landscape.
Mozambique Regulation of the Forest and Wildlife Law No. 2/2002	Approves the regulation of the Forest and Wildlife Law No. 10/99, of July 7th, which establishes the principles and basic standards on the protection, conservation and sustainable use of resources forestry and fauna.	Chipanje Chetu's classification as a Community Conservation Area, means that principles linked to Forest and Wildlife protection are applicable within the project landscape.
Mozambique REDD+ Law No. 23/2018	Approves the Regulation for the Implementation of Projects Inherent in the Reduction of Emissions by Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Conservation; - Increase in Carbon Reserves, hereinafter referred to by REDD+ Regulation	The guidelines provided in this law steer the mandated project structure including Government and community relations throughout the entire carbon project cycle.
Mozambique Biodiversity Conservation Law No. 5/2017	The purpose of this Law is to establish the basic principles and norms on the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity throughout the national territory, especially in conservation areas, as well as the framework of an integrated administration, for sustainable development from the country.	Chipanje Chetu is a community conservation area and as such all initiatives undertaken within the landscape are reflected in the Biodiversity Conservation Law as a key mandate of the concessionaire during the tenure.
Mozambique Labour Law No. 13/2023	This Law defines the general principles and establishes the legal regime applicable to individual and collective relationships of subordinate work, provided on behalf of others and through remuneration.	All employees linked to the Yambone REDD+ Project and Lipilichi are to be regulated by Mozambique's Labour Law.
Mozambique National Strategy for Reducing Emissions by Deforestation and Forest degradation, Conservation of	The National strategy aims to define strategic actions that address the multisectoral causes of the conversion of forests to other uses in the productive sector and to increase the well-being of	The Yambone project objective is to avoid unplanned deforestation and forest degradation and the emissions, with the addition of specific actions and monitoring of

¹³ Tanner, C. (2010). Land rights and enclosures: Implementing the Mozambican land law in practice. Chapter 6, pp 107-108

Forests and Increase of Carbon Reserves Through Forests (REDD+) 2016-2030	rural and urban communities. This strategy provides an opportunity to align and harmonise sectoral policies, strategies and plans, promoting the ownership and integration of climate change and mobilisation of funds to carry out activities that result in greater agricultural productivity, greater efficiency in the use of energy, restoration of degraded areas and the management, protection and sustainable use of forests, a fact that requires the use of resources with minimal deforestation and forest degradation at the level of consumers,, requiring an integrated approach in the implementation of viable, inclusive actions and models, efficient and sustainable in an aggregated and global way.	the community and biodiversity components. The emission reduction is to be monitored, quantified and issued, but not only that other social and environmental indicators will be monitored as well. The revenues from the emission reduction will be used to finance project activities and income generation initiatives which will make the project sustainable environmentally and economically. The Yambone project is a public-private initiative that involves multi-sectoral stakeholders at local, district, provincial, national and international levels. The factors of deforestation in Chipanje Chetu have economic, social, and cultural causes therefore the engagement of all actors creates a platform for discussions and demand for solutions to address them.
Mozambique Regulation of Law No. 5/2014, of 20 June, amended and republished by Law No. 5/2017, of 11 May, Law on Protection, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.	These Regulations shall applies to all existing natural assets and resources in the national territory and within the waters under national jurisdiction, covering all public or private entities that directly or indirectly may influence the country's national system of conservation areas, in accordance with the provisions of Law Nr. 16/2014 of June 20, amended and republished by Law Nr. 5/2017 of May 11, the Law on the Protection, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.	Chipanje Chetu is a Community Conservation Area; and according to article 16 of this regulation the conservation objectives are: a) ensure the sharing of benefits resulting from the conservation of natural resources and their ecosystem services for the socio-economic and cultural development of communities and their maintenance for future generations; b) promote local awareness of the social, cultural, spiritual and economic value of its biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape. The project aims at achieving these

		objectives with the implementation of the activities and as a result of the effort of all stakeholders of the project.
Mozambique Environment Law, Law No. 20/97, of October 1st;	This law defines the legal bases for the correct use and management of the environment and its components, with a view to materialising a sustainable development system in the country.	The communities of Chipanje Chetu represented by COGECO are the guardians and users of the resources existing in the area, therefore responsible for protecting the environment to achieve ecological balance. The law highlights that environmental management is based on fundamental principles arising from the right of all citizens to an ecologically balanced environment, conducive to their health and physical and mental well-being.
Government Five-Year Plan 2020-2024	The Government's Five-Year Program (PQG) 2020-2024 focuses its government action on improving the well-being and quality of life of Mozambican families, reducing social inequalities and poverty, creating an environment of peace, harmony and tranquillity, with a strong stimulus for job creation.	To ensure the sustainable management and use of air, land, water and subsoil resources, the maintenance of biodiversity in harmony with national development needs, the Government establishes as one of the strategic objectives: - ensure the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Yambone REDD+ project's objective of reducing deforestation is in line with this strategic objective allowing the co-existence of people, wildlife in a more balanced ecosystem, as well as the recovery of habitats, restoration of degraded areas and protection of endangered species . In parallel, the activities of the project create job opportunities for the local people, empower women and youth, and provide possibilities for capacity building. The revenues from the emission reduction will be used for funding more activities which will make the

project sustainable environmentally and economically.

1.16 Double Counting and Participation under Other GHG Programs

1.16.1 No Double Issuance

Is the project receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals from a project activity under another GHG program?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.16.2 Registration in Other GHG Programs

Is the project registered or seeking registration under any other GHG programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.16.3 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

Has the project been rejected by any other GHG programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.17 Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

1.17.1 No Double Claiming with Emissions Trading Programs or Binding Emission Limits

Are project reductions and removals or project activities also included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.17.2 No Double Claiming with Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Has the project activity sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from another GHG-related environmental credit system? See the VCS Program Definitions for definition of GHG-related environmental credit system.

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.17.3 Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

Do the project activities specified in Section 1.12 affect the emissions footprint of any product(s) (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

☐ Yes

☒ No

1.18 Sustainable Development Contributions

1.18.1 Sustainable Development Contributions Activity Description

The Republic of Mozambique, according to the information provided by the Sustainable Development Report 2023, is ranked 149 out of 166 and has a SDG index score of 52.69 out of 100, this score is a measurement of the total progress towards achieving all 17 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2023, the country has “achieved” a single SDG (Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG number 12) with the trend indicating it as “moderately improving”. Progress has been made also regarding SDG 13, Climate Action; in fact, even if some challenges remain, the trend is positive and it is indicated as “on track or maintaining SDG achievement” (please see, Figure 5 below). For 13 SDGs “major challenges remain” with two other SDGs labelled as “significant challenges remain”. The trends observed for SDGs 1 to 10 and 14 to 16 have been categorised as “major challenges remain” and SDG 11 & 17 are classified as “significant challenges remain”. The trends show that 6 SDGs are “moderately improving”, another 6 SDGs trends are “stagnating” and three SDGs are “decreasing”, with trend information being unavailable for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

While making efforts in achieving the sustainable development goals, the country is also experiencing significant and major challenges.



Figure 5: Sustainable Development Goals achievements and trends (Source: Sustainable Development Report 2023¹⁴)

¹⁴ <https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2023/sustainable-development-report-2023.pdf>

In this context, Mozambique has been implementing structural reforms to strengthen its institutional capacity. The country has the means, the institutional arrangements, and national frameworks for sustainable development for the country¹⁵.

The Yambone REDD+ project wants to support to the country's efforts and contribute to the improvement of some of the SDGs. In particular, the Project contributes primarily to SDG 13 and 15 as a REDD+ project that aims to reduce emissions by avoiding unplanned deforestation and forest degradation activities. The project conducts other project activities that also aim to contribute positively to the other SDGs, namely SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 8 Decent work and Economic Growth. These SDGs are monitored through indicators that reflect the progress made by project activities, like the scholarships provided to local community's students, the number of local communities members hired by the Project, the workshops and trainings provided in several fields, from governance empowerment to conservation agriculture. Moreover, the Project activities pay particular attention to gender equality and women inclusion. It is not excluded that during the Project lifetime, new activities targeting other SDGs will be implemented and their progress monitored. New versions of the Project Document will be updated and reflect any new information.

1.18.2 Sustainable Development Contributions Activity Monitoring

The section of the project description document is a draft. Suitable and appropriate indicators will be identified, Table 1 will be filled accordingly and section 1.18.2 will be completed on the next version of this document (Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report).

¹⁵ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26314VNR_2020_Mozambique_Report.pdf

1.19 Additional Information Relevant to the Project

2. Leakage Management

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3. Commercially Sensitive Information

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

4. Further Information

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2 SAFEGUARDS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

2.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.1.2 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.1.3 Free Prior and Informed Consent

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.1.4 Grievance Redress Procedure

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.1.5 Public Comments

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.2 Risks to Stakeholders and the Environment

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.3 Respect for Human Rights and Equity

2.3.1 Labor and Work

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.3.2 Human Rights

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.3.3 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.3.4 Property Rights

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.3.5 Benefit Sharing

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.4 Ecosystem Health

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.4.1 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.4.2 Introduction of species

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2.4.3 Ecosystem conversion

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3 APPLICATION OF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Title and Reference of Methodology

Type (methodology, tool or module).	Reference ID, if applicable	Title	Version
Methodology	VM0007	VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD+MF)	1.7
Module	VMD0001	VMD0001 Estimation of carbon stocks in the above- and below ground biomass in live tree and non-tree pools (CP-AB)	1.2
Module	VMD0002	VMD0002 Estimation of carbon stocks in the dead wood pool (CP-D)	1.1
Module	VMD0007	VMD0007 Estimation of baseline carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas emissions from unplanned deforestation and unplanned wetland degradation (BL-UP)	3.3
Module	VMD0010	VMD0010 Estimation of emissions from activity shifting for avoiding unplanned deforestation and avoiding unplanned wetland degradation (LK-ASU)	1.2
Module	VMD0011	VMD0011 Estimation of emissions from market-effects (LK-ME)	1.2
Module	VMD0012	VMD0012 Estimation of emissions from displacement of fuelwood extraction (LK-DFW)	1.0
Module	VMD0015	Methods for monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and removals (M-REDD)	2.3
Module	VMD0016	VMD0016 Methods for Stratification of the Project Area (X-STR)	1.3
Module	VMD0017	VMD0017 Estimation of uncertainty for REDD+ project activities (X-UNC)	1.3
Tool	VT0001	VT0001 Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality in VCS	3.0

		agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) project activities (T-ADD)	
Tool	AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool	AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool	4.2

3.2 Applicability of Methodology

Methodology ID	Applicability condition	Justification of compliance
VM0007	Land in the project area has qualified as forest (following the definition used by VCS; in addition, see Section 5.1.2) for at least 10 years prior to the project start date. Mangrove forests are excluded from any tree height requirements in a forest definition, as they consist of 95 percent mangrove species, which often do not reach the same height as other tree species. Mangroves occupy contiguous areas and their functioning as a forest is independent of tree height.	Forests were selected based on Mozambique's Forest Reference Emissions Level for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Natural Forests, Version 10 January 2018 ¹⁶ : "In Mozambique, forests are defined as lands with trees with the potential to reach a height of 3 m at maturity, a canopy cover equal or greater than 30%, and that occupy at least 1 ha. This includes temporarily clearing forest areas and areas where the continuity of land use would exceed the thresholds of definition of forest, or trees capable of reaching these limits in situ"
VM0007	Baseline deforestation in the project area falls within either of the following categories: a) Unplanned deforestation (VCS category AUDef) b) Planned deforestation (VCS category APDef)	The baseline deforestation and forest degradation and activities identified in the project area fall under the category Unplanned deforestation - AUDef
VM0007	Leakage prevention activities include: a) Flooding agricultural lands to increase production (eg., rice paddies); and/or b) Intensifying livestock production through use of	None of the leakage prevention activities listed are implemented in the area. However other leakage prevention activities have been implemented such as conservation agriculture programmes and agriculture-related activities.

¹⁶ https://redd.unfccc.int/media/2018_frel_submission_mozambique.pdf

	feed-lots and/or manure lagoons	
VMD0001	This module is applicable to all forest types and age classes	The project aims to reduce GHG emissions by increasing and conserving tree and non-tree aboveground biomass by reducing deforestation and degradation
VMD0002	This module is applicable to all forest types and age classes	The project aims to reduce tree and non-tree biomass by reducing deforestation and degradation
VMD0007	The module is applicable for estimating baseline emissions from unplanned deforestation (conversion of forest land to non-forest land in the baseline case). The following conditions must be met to apply this module. The forest landscape configuration can be mosaic, transition or frontier. • The module must be applied to all project activities where the baseline agents of deforestation: (i) clear the land for settlements, crop production (agriculturalist), ranching or aquaculture, where such clearing for crop production, ranching or aquaculture does not amount to large scale industrial agri/aquaculture activities; (ii) have no documented and uncontested legal right to deforest the land for these purposes; and (iii) are either resident in the region (reference region—cf. Section 1 below) or immigrants. • Where pre-project, unsustainable fuelwood collection is occurring within the project boundaries, Modules BL-DFW and LK-	The project activities aim to avoid unplanned deforestation and forest degradation and to establish the baseline for such projects; this module is necessary for that.

	DFW must be used to determine potential leakage.	
VMD0010	This Module is applicable for estimating carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas emissions related to the displacement of activities that cause deforestation of lands outside the project area due to the avoided unplanned deforestation in the project area. Activities subject to potential displacement are the conversion of forest land to grazing lands, crop lands, and other land uses.	The project activities involve avoiding unplanned deforestation (AUDD) and the displacement of these activities must be monitored, since the pressure for deforestation in the project area includes the conversion of forest land into crop lands.
	The module is mandatory if module BL-UP has been used to define the baseline and the applicability conditions in module BL-UP must be complied with in full.	The module is mandatory if module BL-UP has been used to define the baseline and the applicability conditions in module BL-UP must be complied with in full.
VMD0011	This module is applicable for calculating market-effects leakage from projects that are anticipated to reduce levels of wood harvested from projects that are anticipated to reduce levels of wood harvested substantially and permanently. When project activities result in reductions in wood harvest, it is likely that production could shift to other areas of the country to compensate for the reduction, including activity shifting to forested peatland that is drained as a consequence of project implementation. This tool shall be used in countries where wood harvested happens on forested peatland regardless of the absence of peatland within the project boundary.	Project activities result in reduction in wood harvest, it is likely that the production could shift to other areas of the country to compensate for the reduction, including activity shifting to forested peatland as a consequence of the implementation of the project activities and the substantial and permanent reduction of wood harvest.

VMD0012	The module is applicable for estimating the leakage emissions due to activity shifting for projects avoiding degradation from fuelwood collection and charcoal production. Where fuelwood is collected or charcoal is produced for sale in the regional or national market, the market effects leakage must be considered using Module LK-ME.	Reducing the degradation of forests resulting from fuelwood collection and charcoal production is a part of the project activities and leakage emissions due to activity shifting from the project activities are included.
VMD0015	Strata as defined in the relevant baseline modules are fixed and may not be changed without baseline revision. The module is mandatory for REDD, CIW-REDD, RWE-REDD and stand-alone CIW project activities. Where selective logging is taking place in the project case: • Emissions from logging may be omitted if it can be demonstrated the emissions are de minimis using Tool T-SIG. • If emissions from logging are not omitted as de minimis, logging may only take place within forest management areas that possess and maintain a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate for the years when the selective logging occurs. • Logging operations may only conduct selective logging that maintains a land cover that meets the definition of forest within the project boundary. • All trees cut for timber extraction during logging operations must have a DBH greater than 30 cm. • During logging operations, only the bole/log of the felled tree may be removed. The top/crown of the tree must remain within the forested area.	The project is a REDD project and should apply the module should any logging activities occur in the project area

	• The logging practices cannot include the piling and/or burning of logging slash • Volume of timber harvested must be measured and monitored.	
VMD0016	For peatland rewetting and conservation project activities this module must be used to delineate non-peat versus peat and to stratify the peat according to peat depth and soil emission characteristics, unless it can be demonstrated that the expected emissions from soil organic carbon pool or change in the soil organic pool in the project scenario is de minimis, In the case of WRC project activities, the project boundary must be designed such that the negative effect of drainage activities that occur outside the project area on the project GHG benefits are minimised.	Stratification of Aboveground Biomass in REDD Project Activities
VMD0017	This module is mandatory when using methodology REDD+ MF. It is applicable for estimating the uncertainty of estimates of emissions and removals of CO₂-e generated from REDD and WRC project activities. The module focuses on the following sources of uncertainty: • Determination of rates of deforestation and degradation • Uncertainty associated with estimation of stocks in carbon pools and changes in carbon stocks • Uncertainty associated with estimation of peat emissions • Uncertainty in assessment of project emissions Where an uncertainty value is not known or cannot be simply calculated, a project must justify that it is using an indisputably conservative number and an uncertainty of 0% may be used for this component.	The module is mandatory when using the VM0007 REDD+ MF for the estimating of uncertainty in the estimation of emissions and removals in REDD and WRC project activities.

	Guidance on uncertainty – a precision target of a 95% confidence interval half-width equal to or less than 15% of the recorded value must be targeted. This is especially important in terms of project planning for measurement of carbon stocks; sufficient measurement plots should be included to achieve this precision level across the measured stocks	
VT0001	The tool is applicable under the following conditions: a) AFOLU activities the same or similar to the proposed project activity on the land within the proposed project boundary performed with or without being registered as the VCS AFOLU project shall not lead to violation of any applicable law even if the law is not enforced; b) The use of this tool to determine additionality requires the baseline methodology to provide for a stepwise approach justifying the determination of the most plausible baseline scenario . Project proponent(s) proposing new baseline methodologies shall ensure consistency between the determination of a baseline scenario and the determination of additionality of a project activity.	The project is under scope 14: AFOLU type project and should apply the tool in the assessment for additionality as a project seeking VCS certification.
AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool	This document sets out the procedures for completing a non-permanence risk analysis to determine the non-permanence risk rating (“risk rating”), which shall be used to determine the number of buffer credits that an AFOLU project shall deposit into the AFOLU pooled buffer account (the procedure for depositing buffer credits is set out in the Registration and Issuance Process). Risk ratings are based on	The project is under scope 14: AFOLU type project and should apply the tool for the non-permanence risk analysis as it seeks VCS registration

an assessment of risk factors that are added together to determine the total risk rating, as set out in Section 2. This document and the AFOLU pooled buffer account are subject to periodic reconciliation and revision based on a review of existing AFOLU verification reports and an assessment of project performance, as set out in the VCS Program Guide.

3.3 Project Boundary

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3.4 Baseline Scenario

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3.5 Additionality

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3.5.1 Regulatory Surplus

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3.5.2 Additionality Methods

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

3.6 Methodology Deviations

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

4 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

4.1 Implementation Status of the Project Activity

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ESTIMATED GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

5.1 Baseline Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

5.2 Project Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

5.3 Leakage Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

5.4 Estimated GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

6 MONITORING

6.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

6.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

6.3 Monitoring Plan

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

7 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

7.1 Data and Parameters Monitored

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

7.2 Baseline Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

7.3 Project Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

7.4 Leakage Emissions

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

7.5 GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals

The section is not applicable to the project description at this moment due to the project being under development and will be included in the next version of the Joint Project Description/Monitoring Report.

2. APPENDIX 1: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Use the table below to describe the commercially sensitive information included in the project description to be excluded in the public version.

Section	Information	Justification

3.

4. APPENDIX X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>

Use appendices for supporting information. Delete this appendix (title and instructions) where no appendix is required.

