



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN ANGOLA

The project aimed to address land degradation in southwestern Angola, particularly in Huambo and Benguela provinces, which are heavily affected by unsustainable practices such as shifting cultivation and overgrazing. Land degradation, a significant issue in rural Angola, was exacerbated by inadequate land-use planning, limited technological capacity, and insufficient integration of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. Despite its potential to reduce dependence on oil and food imports, the agricultural sector in Angola remains underdeveloped, particularly for small-scale family farmers. The project's primary goal was to reverse land degradation trends by combining sustainable land-use planning, decision making, and capacity building through participatory approaches. The strategy was based on three components: strengthening national capacity for land-use management, integrating SLM practices at local levels using agroecological zoning (AEZ) data, and developing financing options for SLM.

The project built on previous and ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded SLM projects in Angola (UTF/068/ANG, GCP/ANG/048/GFF and GCP/ANG/050/LDF) and worked synergistically with related initiatives, including national efforts under the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The project has three main components. The first is on capacity Building with a focus on strengthening the Center for Tropical Ecology and Climate Change (CETAC)'s geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial planning for land-use management and developing a decision-support system (DSS) to monitor land degradation, especially on Benguela and Huambo provinces. The second component aims to drive local SLM integration, promoting sustainable practices at the municipal and community levels, engaging local authorities and communities, and developing local SLM plans in demonstration landscapes.

The last component focuses on developing options for SLM financing, conducting economic analysis of land degradation costs, and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to support land restoration in Huambo and Benguela.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project made significant progress across all three major outcomes, with activities focused on building national capacity for AEZ, implementing SLM practices, and mobilizing funding for land restoration.

By integrating AEZ data and SLM practices into decision-making processes, the project empowered local stakeholders and improve land management, benefitting both individuals and institutions. The project engaged with local farmers, with a targeted approach to include women, and collaborated with national initiatives to create long-term solutions for land degradation. The project directly impacted 1 500 farmers and agro-pastoralists, with an emphasis on gender inclusivity, while indirectly benefiting over 1.5 million people. The project also aligned with broader national initiatives related to land degradation neutrality, biodiversity, and climate change.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 2 639 726

Duration
June 2020-December 2024

Resource Partner
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Partner
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest (MINAGRIF)

Beneficiaries
The resident rural population within the project's wider landscape, approximately 1.5 million people within rural communes

IMPACT

By restoring degraded land and promoting sustainable land management practices, the project enhances food security (SDG 2) and improves health outcomes (SDG 3) through better environmental conditions and more resilient agricultural systems. It also directly supports SDG 15 by combating land degradation, restoring ecosystems, and conserving biodiversity, ensuring long-term sustainability for communities in Angola. The focus on gender inclusion further strengthens the project's impact, empowering women and fostering equitable development.

ACTIVITIES

- The AEZ Unit at CETAC was established and equipped and now monitors over 358 841 hectares (ha) of land, including forests, grasslands, savannas, and croplands.
- A strategic plan was developed to guide the long-term implementation of AEZ and SLM practices at the national level, ensuring sustainability.
- A total of 732 individuals were trained in AEZ, GIS, SLM practices, and resource mobilization, with women making up 60% of the participants, promoting gender inclusion in SLM efforts.
- Ten SLM plans were developed and implemented across three municipalities, with 868 participants directly involved in co-designing sustainable solutions.
- A total of 1 831 ha of degraded land were restored through agroforestry and other sustainable practices.
- A WebGIS DSS platform was launched to enhance land use planning and decision making, integrating AEZ data for better resource allocation.
- The "Tchanjangombe Initiative" was developed and piloted in Chipipa to mobilize resources for expanding land restoration projects.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title

Sustainable Land Management in Target Landscapes in Angola's Southwestern Region

Project Code

FAO: GCP/ANG/055/GFF
Donor: 9798

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