



Empowering Civil Society

Environmental organization – ama
Cabo Delgado - Mozambique



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 - The Area following independence 1975-1990
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Identity of ama



Vision:

A protected and conserved natural environment by the sustainable use of natural resources, for the well being of the communities.

The Environmental NGO – associação do meio ambiente (ama) was founded in 1990 in the Capital of the most northern Province of Mozambique, Cabo Delgado, by a group of young People with special interest in the conservation of nature and natural resources in constant degradation.

Since then ama grew and developed into a major local actor in strengthening and sensitizing **local communities** regarding their participation in decision making processes and the sustainable management of nature and its resources (forests, marine, mineral and hydrocarbon resources)

Strategic areas of ama



Promotion of community participation and consultation

- Promotion and strengthening of basic community organizations
- Creation and strengthening of participative and consultation mechanisms
- Strengthening of local councils in accountability and good governance
- Promotion and strengthening of the district planning processes

ama's interventions in these processes are backed by no 1 of article 78 of the Mozambican Constitution

After independence in 1975 the political party Frelimo introduced:

- A socialist state with a centrally planned economic system
- One party system with a central state control over all activities

The Article 3 of the 1975 Constitution states that the Peoples Republic of Mozambique is lead by the politic line of Frelimo, which represents the leader of the State and Society.

Approval of the 1990 and 2004 constitution:

- Establish a democratic state and social justice
- Introduce market economy, the principles of separation and interdependence of powers and political pluralism

Article 73 of the 2004 constitution advocates political engagement by democratic participation of the Mozambican people.

The Constitution of the Republic, the laws and respective regulations include rights, responsibilities and orientation for community participation

- Local Bodies of the State should ensure the active participation and consultation of citizens and encourage local initiative in seeking solutions to their problems.
- The existing organizations are Local Community Councils, the Community Forums and Local Committees.
- In the Local Councils, representatives of civil society shall participate in the planning of development priorities and in exercising supervision and use of resources, but also go into dialogue with representatives of the State.
- The Local Committees shall mobilize the identification of problems and priorities and the finding of solutions on a community level.

Committees for Community Development “CDC”

The Local Committees for Community Development “CDCs” support the operationalization of the process of identifying priorities and finding solutions to community problems and needs.



The CDCs are composed by:

- All clans of the village
- Traditional and official structures
- Religious leaders
- Local authorities
- Councils of fisheries
- Associations of producers, fishermen, miner
- Committees of management of natural resources, water and sanitation

The gap between the legal and real situation

Although Mozambique has started reforms with the aim of establishing a decentralized system of administration at the service of the citizens and developed a legal framework favorable to this process

- it is still difficult to access information and knowledge of the legislation on decentralized planning by communities and governments at senior level administrative posts and localities,
- there is still a lack of knowledge of the mechanisms of community consultation and participation by communities which hinders their involvement in the ongoing process of decentralization,
- the legislation gives the government responsibility for the creation and support of local councils at the expense of the committees for community development (CDCs) and all actions with a focus on these committees are delegated to civil society organizations,

...continuation on the gap

- still there is a lack of capacity of the committees for community development in planning, coordinating and implementing their plans,
- the guidelines for Local Councils regarding the monitoring of district development plans are not yet fully respected,
- a lack of accountability by the district authorities to communities, as well as by the committees for community development to communities themselves can be registered,
- there are villages, districts and administrative posts where local councils, consultation and community participation are not functioning and no structures are in place and especially women's participation in decentralized planning process, is very fragile.

Conservation Agriculture and Food Security

- 589 farmers trained in techniques of Conservation Agriculture (minimal soil removal, mulching, crop rotation, intercropping, etc..), of whom 250 are men and 339 women
- 240 farmers trained in the production of quality seeds (42 men and 198 women)
- individual producers trained and assisted in conservation techniques of production which resulted in the construction of at least 200 silos and barns
- 15 management committees of Natural Resources and 7 Fishing Community Councils supported in the process of establishment and legalization

Promotion of community participation and consultation



- ama has more than 11 years of experience in developing and implementing actions in the area of decentralization and empowerment of civil society organizations for effective participation in the processes of decision making and planning
- by the end of the year 2011 ama has facilitated the establishment of more than 85 Committees for Community Development
- ama has been supporting the Committees for Community Development in increasing the number of Community Development Plans and Internal Regulations
- these bodies together have a total of 2.493 members, where 33% are women and 67% are men, and all these members at the community level were trained in the modules on basic laws of the decentralization process in Mozambique

Nº	District	Nº CDCs	Nº Plans	Nº Regulations	Nº Men	Nº Women	Total Members
1	Ancuabe	33	33	33	431	257	688
2	Chiure	22	22	22	564	239	803
3	Montepuez	30	30	30	687	315	1002
4	Total	85	85	85	1682	811	2493

Table 2. General information about the members of the participation processes

Source: Data base of ama 2011

- besides modules of legislation, ama promotes training in areas related to the process of interconnection between the committees for community development and advisory councils of different levels, but also on subjects of planning, leadership and management, the role of the different committees in this process and the responsibilities of governing bodies, group dynamics, and district planning instruments.

Inclusion of the community problems, worries and necessities



- ama promotes discussion meetings involving the committees for community development, local councils and government bodies
- these meetings are special experiences of participation, freedom of expression and dialogue between members of the local governing authority and members of the committees for development
- in 2011 at least 20 committees for development shared their community development plans with the government authorities
- now there is need for monitoring to verify if these concerns were actually included in the governmental plans and annual budgets of 2012

Women's participation in the committees

- In order to boost women's participation in the mechanisms of participation, ama realizes an annual survey to ascertain the level of representation and participation of women.
- The outcome of the survey is shared with the organizations, especially with their leaders to raise awareness of the need for involvement of women. As a result all committees for development, with which ama has been working, the rate of women's participation is above 30%



The current strategic plan of ama defines the areas of monitoring and advocacy of public policies as crucial for the next five years. First priority actions will be:

- Consolidate alliances with networks and platforms provincial, national, regional and international.
- Training of employees, members of ama and of the thematic groups in the province, especially in the topics of monitoring and advocacy.
- Development of concrete monitoring actions (collecting evidence) to support public policy advocacy.
- Intense work in and with the networks and platforms of civil society organizations for monitoring and advocacy in the areas of natural resources, hygiene and sanitation and community participation.

...more challenges...

- Looking out for and establishing connections with organizations that already have experience in dealing with monitoring and advocacy tools such as social auditing and reporting of citizen card, for possible trainings.
- Sharing experiences with organizations around the world about the work in different countries and especially learning from organizations in similar situations when dealing with the exploitation of mineral resources and hydrocarbons on a large scale, as Mozambique, and Cabo Delgado specifically are becoming the scene of discovery of huge quantities of gas and other mineral resources





Thank you very much for your attention!



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