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**Ecosystem Restoration
Verification
Report for:
Eden Reforestation Projects**

in

Maputo Province, Mozambique

Report Finalized:	23 March 2022
Audit Dates:	26 November to 2 December 2021
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Verification issue/expiry:	22 March 2023
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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent verification audit conducted by a team of specialists representing Preferred by Nature. The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the ecological, economic, and social performance of Eden Reforestation Project restoration initiative in the Maputo Province (Mozambique) as defined by the established Ecosystem Restoration Standard by Preferred by Nature.

Dispute resolution: If Preferred by Nature clients encounter organisations or individuals having concerns or comments about Preferred by Nature and our services, these parties are strongly encouraged to contact relevant Preferred by Nature regional office. Formal complaints and concerns should be sent in writing.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eden Reforestation Projects is a non-profit association whose objectives are:

- (i) Promote and protect forest ecosystems through reconstitution and reforestation
- (ii) Raise awareness in communities about the preservation and conservation of forests
- (iii) Fighting poverty by employing the most deprived people and those without opportunities in the communities where the project is developed, and
- (iv) Promote development in deprived communities through the execution of agroforestry projects.

The Associação Eden Reforestation (which is the name of the Organization in the country) started restoring mangrove ecosystems with a pilot project in October 2018. The legal ownership of the land under the scope of this auditing is by the Government of Mozambique. Currently 8,985 hectares of land are under responsibility of the Eden and the organization has documented rights for reforestation programs.

Preferred by Nature is a non-profit organisation that for more than 25 years has worked to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate. With the rising relevance and actions towards restoration initiatives, there is increasing need from funders, investors or other stakeholders seeking to monitor the progress. Verification against the Standard allows project managers to communicate about the efforts and demonstrate resources are invested in the right direction, taking into account the social and environmental conditions of the restoration areas.

Preferred by Nature has thus conducted a field audit to evaluate the ecological, economic, and social performance Eden Reforestation Project restoration initiative in the Maputo Province (Mozambique) as defined by the established [Ecosystem Restoration Standard vs.2.0](#), as part of the last round of field tests before finalization the Standard. The field audit lasted for 3 days, preceded by a stakeholder consultation process that continued throughout the audit as well. The methodology consisted in triangulating the verification of existing files with the various Eden responsible staff, interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries, and the field visit observations. With no major specific stakeholder concerns having been raised, the sites were sampled based mainly on the type of management, the degradation drivers, the size, and the age of the plantations. Four sites were selected: Mahubo, Djabissa, Katembe, and Mungazine.

The main issues identified to be corrected by Eden are:

1. Clarity on the organization's environmental, social, and economic desired restoration outcomes, goals and objectives restoration plans for the next 5 to 20 years.
2. Evidence of longer-term resources (5 and 20 years) to implement the Restoration Plan, while explanations on a Forest Guard Endowment Fund in place in perpetuity have been provided in the discussions at closure of the report that would help respond to this criterion at the next audit.
3. Improvement of the Restoration Plan to consider contextual aspects as required in the standard.
4. Lack of a continuation strategy, i.e. clarity on how the organization is planning to continue empowering the communities after the project leaves.
5. Access to first aid kits and parts of the basic protective equipment for all workers.
6. Adaptation of the monitoring system after development of point 1 above.
7. Clarity on the resources for implementation of the Monitoring Plan over a 5-year period, while currently financial and human resources are available and in place.

Eden reforestation projects has been verified as meeting the standard and will need to close the above issues, expressed as Non-Conformity Reports, in a one year period in order to maintain this recognition.

1 AUDIT CONCLUSIONS

1.1 Audit Recommendation and verification decision

Based on Organisation's conformance with verification requirements, the following recommendation is made:

- Verification approved:
 - Upon acceptance of NCR(s) issued below
- Verification not approved:

Additional comments, including issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate and explanation of the conclusion reached: NA

1.2 Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

Note: NCRs refer to non-fulfilment of a requirement. In simpler terms this means that some part of the standard has not been correctly fulfilled and need to be corrected in the deadline (from the closure of the report) in order to maintain the verified status.

- Check if no NCR(s) have been issued

NCR: 01/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.6.2
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Eden Reforestation Association has annual planting targets that are outlined in its annual monitoring reports and organization reports. No information was nevertheless available on the organization's environmental, social, and economic desired restoration outcomes, goals and objectives restoration plans for the next 5 to 20 years.	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 02/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.6.6
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Copies of the organization annual budget for the previous and current financial years were available at the company's office in Maputo and were checked by the auditor. The current annual budget for 2021 was witnessed and provisions to meet the costs of future fees in the budget such as for INSS was included, but no evidence of longer-term resources (5 and 20 years) were provided.	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	<p>After the field visit, during the final round of report review by Eden, the Organization has provided further explanation stating that for every partner-sponsored site, Eden reserves ten cents per dollar raised into its Forest Guard Endowment Fund (FGE). The Guard Endowment is governed by an Eden board-approved policy and subject to the rules of California's Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA). Both the board policy and UPMIFA regulations are designed to guarantee that the FGE will be held in perpetuity. Eden withdraws up to 4% of the endowment fund balance annually for the express purpose of supporting perpetual guard operations at completed sites.</p> <p>This information helps to answer this criterion and would be subject of further review at the next audit.</p>

NCR: 03/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.6.7
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organization has provided documented annual restoration plans, but they do not include the majority of the contextual aspects gathered in 1.4.	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months

Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 04/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.6.8
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The audit team has not been provided with any continuation strategy. How the organization is planning to continue empowering the communities providing e.g., capacity to manage the project, resources, infrastructure, etc. after the project leaves, remains unclear.	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 05/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 3.13
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
<p>It was found in the field that all field teams had at least one member trained in first aid measures in the event of an accident at work. However, not all team members had access to a first aid kit.</p> <p>Also, the field observations indicated thought that the situation is to be improved in terms of basic protective equipment (e.g., boots, hats, or T-shirts) for recently employed workers, as they had either old protective equipment, i.e., punctured boots and torn shirts, not equipment at all, or that they were not using it on the day of the visit.</p>	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months

Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 06/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 4.2
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The monitoring reports were checked by verifying the monitoring database at the Monitor Department in Maputo office. The desired restoration outcomes over an initial 5-year period and a longer term, 20-year period, in connection with the environmental, social, and economic goals and objectives have not been provided to the audit team (see also NCR 01/22). Monitoring system will need to be updated after these shortcomings have been addressed and longer term outcomes developed.	
Corrective action request:	Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR: 07/22	
Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 4.2.2
Report Section:	Annex 1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organization has an annual financial budget in place for 2020/21 that includes provisions for monitoring. Annual budget is mainly showing costs, not incomes. Budget is given for the whole year but also includes a monthly breakdown but does not cover a 5-year period nor all the aspects to be included as per the Restoration Plan requirements in the standard.	
Corrective action request:	Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	12 months
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	PENDING

Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

1.3 Observations

Note: Observations are issued for the early stages of a problem which does not of itself constitute a non-conformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future non-conformance if not addressed by the organization; observations may lead to direct non-conformances if not addressed.

No observations

OBS: 01/22	Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.5.2
	Report Section	Annex 1
Description of findings leading to observation:	Minutes of meetings held with the government and local communities are available at Eden's Maputo offices. Eden also has documentation that demonstrates authorization by the local government to commence restoration activities. Nevertheless, meeting minutes need to be improved to include a detailed list of all participants, which could be useful for future tracking and involvement.	
Observation:	The Organization should complete de documentation on the community meetings, especially to track participation.	

OBS: 02/22	Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 1.6.4
	Report Section	Annex 1
Description of findings leading to observation:	Restoration techniques are evolving with the observations and monitoring done also in other Eden projects, e.g., in Madagascar. That said, the stakeholder interviews revealed that there are other projects that hasn't been contacted for this purpose (e.g., National Agency for Environmental Quality Control, Eduardo Mondlane University, and other partners are undertaking a project to restore mangroves and support the communities).	
Observation:	The Organisation should expand their stakeholder activity to further include the lessons learnt from the analysis of restoration projects in similar settings and conditions inside and outside of Mozambique. The parties engaged with should be documented by the Organisation as part of this.	

OBS: 03/22	Standard & Requirement:	ER standard vs. 2.0, 3.16.1
	Report Section	Annex 1
Description of findings leading to observation:	Socioeconomic Livelihood Surveys are currently being implemented at the restoration sites: most of field data have been collected (the surveys are conducted annually) and the data are still being analysed, so there is no finalized or documented evidence yet that there is good social and economic benefits to the local communities from the activities on restoration sites. Documenting the results is planned to be part of the results from the socioeconomic surveys that the	

	auditor checked, though. Since the teams have only recently been trained in administering the surveys, and most of the sites haven't hit the annual mark in order to produce a report of results, and observation is raised to ensure correct follow-up on this important matter.
Observation:	The Organisation should ensure the social benefits and impacts to the local communities are credibly assessed and monitoring, and then fully documented, with concerns and follow-up actions noted where applicable.

1.4 Stakeholder consultation

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation strategy was the following:

- To ensure that the public is aware of and informed about the assessment process and its objectives; and,
- To assist the field assessment team in identifying potential issues; and,
- To provide diverse opportunities for the public to discuss and act upon the findings of the assessment.

This process is not just stakeholder notification, but to the maximum extent possible, detailed and meaningful stakeholder interaction. The process of stakeholder interaction does not stop after the field visits, or for that matter, after even a certification decision is made. Preferred by Nature welcomes, at any time, comments on verified projects and such comments often provide a basis for field assessment.

For this Eden Mangroves restoration project, meetings or telephone interviews were held with stakeholders based on request by the auditor in the field. These aimed to clarify any issues raised, obtain additional information where necessary, and obtain the views of key stakeholders.

Specifically, the stakeholder consultation has focussed on the National Directorate of Forestry, the two main international environmental NGOs, one national NGO, a labour union, the main university, and then the local communities.

The National Directorate of Forestry is responsible for all forest resource management in the country, including mangrove. The Forest National Director was informed on the certification process on 19th November, and a discussion was held with his representative.

For the WWF and IUCN, the national projects coordinator were notified by phone about the verification process underway. A meeting was held between them and the auditor on 22th November. There were conversations at several moments at the forestry engineering Department of Eduardo Mondlane University. Finally, a number of individual and group interviews were done during the field visits, per the table below.

Stakeholder Type (NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	Stakeholders Notified (#)	Stakeholders consulted directly or provided input (#)
National/International NGOs	3	3
Local/Regional NGOs	1	1
Local Community members	0	26
Government Agency	2	2
Labor Union	1	1

The table below summarizes the issues identified by the assessment team with a brief discussion of each based upon specific interview and/or public meeting comments.

Principle/Subject Area	Stakeholder comment	Preferred by Nature response
1: Planning	There is no disclosure of the activities carried out by Eden. Also, the Associação Eden Reforestation does not participate in meetings with other organizations to share and discuss about activities that are carried out in the country on this same topics, i.e. reforestation, restoration, and community involvement.	The Associação Eden Reforestation is a newly established organization in the country (officially started its mangrove restoration activities in April 2019). During the establishment phase of the organization, Eden's management team contacted most of the key stakeholders. However, there is a need to re-establish these contacts and find a mechanism to better disseminate the organization activities and experiences (good practices, problems, and challenges), as well as learning from other experiences. OBS 02/22.
2: Tenure & Security	No comments.	No response needed.
3: Implementation	No comments.	No response needed.
4: Monitoring and Reporting	Stakeholders have very little information regarding the monitoring activities carried out by Eden. Government authorities (National and provincial Forestry Directorates) receive regular and timely information about the restoration activities carried out by Associação Eden Reforestation.	On the first comment, the audit team has raised OBS 02/22. On the second, it is indeed agreed that government forestry and fisheries sectors at provincial and national levels are informed in detail about the activities carried out by Eden, as this was recognized by the technicians interviewed. However, part of the interviewees recognize that there is a need to improve the way information is disseminated, which connects with the comment on section 1 (Planning) and OBS 02/22.

1.5 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalization

NA

2 AUDIT PROCESS

2.2 Verification Standard Used

Standards Used (including version):	Ecosystem Restoration Field Verification Standard Version 2.0
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2.3 Audit Team and accompanying persons

Name	Role and qualifications
Mário Paulo Falcão	Field Auditor for Preferred by Nature based in Maputo-Mozambique. PhD Forestry - Forestry Management and Economics, (Stellenbosch University, South Africa); M.SC. Forestry - Forestry Finance, (Stellenbosch University, South Africa); BSC Honours Forestry engineering, (Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique). He has conducted 9 FSC forest management and chain custody audits in Mozambique for natural forest or commercial plantations forests, participating as local expert for environmental and social issues.
Mateo Cariño Fraisse	Auditor supporting from desk. Mateo is Land Use Program Manager at Preferred by Nature. As Forest engineer with a master's degree in Rural and Tropical Forestry, Mateo has gained extensive experience in forestry and carbon auditing (FSC, PEFC, CCB, VCS, Gold Standard, Plan Vivo, Carbon Footprint Management, etc.) and projects over 20 years globally. He has been training in forestry auditing and is currently leading the PbN FER Initiative. Mateo speaks Spanish, French, English, and Portuguese. Mateo reviewed the draft report and will approve any verification statement that is released for this restoration project. He did not conduct field work.
Richard Zell Donovan	Report reviewer. Richard is a senior forestry specialist with a Master's in Natural Resources Management & Administration, with an emphasis on forest hydrology and community forestry. He provided technical support prior to the field work and reviewed the draft report.

2.4 Audit Overview

Note: The table below provides an overview of the audit scope and auditors. See standard checklist annex for specific details on people interviewed and audit findings per site audited.

Site(s)	Date(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)
Maputo	November 26 2021	- Introduction and planning meeting at Eden office in Maputo	Mário Paulo Falcão
Maputo office	November 29, 2021	- Opening meeting where the auditing process was explained and discussed. The working plan was presented and adjusted	Mário Paulo Falcão and Mateo Cariño Fraise
Mahubo	December 01, 2021	- Visit the planting sites - Interview 4 employees - Interview 2 community members	Mário Paulo Falcão
Djabissa	December 01, 2021	- Visit the planting sites - Interview 4 employees Interview 2 community members	Mário Paulo Falcão
Katembe	December 01, 2021	- Visit the planting sites - Interview 4 employees Interview 2 community members	Mário Paulo Falcão
Mungazine	December 01, 2021	- Visit the planting sites - Interview 4 employees Interview 2 community members	Mário Paulo Falcão
Maputo	December 02, 2021	- Stakeholder interviews (WWF, IUCN, MozBamboo, Government officers) - Maputo closing meeting	Mário Paulo Falcão and Mateo Cariño Fraise
Total number of person days used in the field: 8 (not including days spent in preparation, travel, or post-field work analysis, writing and review)			

2.5 Description of Overall Audit Process

The audit has been postponed few times due to several issues, including COVID but also internal Eden matters.

The methodology consisted in triangulating the verification of existing files with the various Eden responsible staff, interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries (Eden staff and line field employees, local communities) and the field visit observations. The audit organization and process happened few weeks after a similar assessment for Eden in Madagascar, so the process benefited from these learnings in terms of how the organization works.

For the choice of the sites, the audit team based the selection on the following criteria:

- Presence of plantations of different ages included the first plantations,
- Type of degradation drivers (mainly cutting for service wood by external people; cyclonic damage; cutting for energy wood or other use),
- Management regime,
- Representativeness in relation to size (surface area), and,
- Availability of time and accessibility.

After analysis, the sites below were selected.

2.5.1 List of sites selected for evaluation

Site	Rationale for Selection
Mahubo	<p>Planted area: 645 ha, the 4th biggest planted area in the scope area.</p> <p>Planting: October 2020 up to June 2021.</p> <p>Degradation drivers: extraction of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal) and poles, cattle grazing during the dry season.</p>
Djabissa	<p>Planted area: 783 ha, the 3rd biggest planted area.</p> <p>Planting: October 2020 up to July 2021.</p> <p>Degradation drivers: extraction of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal) and poles, cattle grazing during the dry season.</p>
Katembe	<p>Planted area: 1421 ha, the 2nd biggest planted area.</p> <p>Planting: October 2020 up to July 2021.</p> <p>Note: This area is the closest site to Maputo city.</p> <p>Degradation drivers: Illegal extraction of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal) and poles, fishing, uncontrolled fires, urbanization through the occupation of mangrove areas for housing and infrastructure, pollution either through spillage or improper handling of oils in ports affecting the survival of mangroves and the effect of climate change, through rising mean sea levels and natural disasters such as floods.</p>

Mungazine	<p>Planted area: 405 ha of planted mangrove.</p> <p>Planting: October 2020 up to July 2021.</p> <p>Degradation drivers: extraction of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal) and poles, pollution, uncontrolled fires.</p>
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2.5.2 List of management aspects reviewed by assessment team

Type of site	Sites visited	Type of site	Sites visited
Road construction		Illegal settlement	
Soil drainage		Bridges/stream crossing	
Workshop		Chemical storage	
Tree nursery	1	Wetland	4
Planned Harvest site		Steep slope/erosion	4
Ongoing Harvest site		Riparian zone	4
Completed logging		Planting	4
Soil scarification		Direct seeding	4
Planting site	4	Weed control	
Felling by harvester		Natural regeneration	4
Felling by forest worker		Endangered species	
Skidding/Forwarding		Wildlife management	4
Clearfelling/Clearcut		Nature Reserve	
Shelterwood management		Key Biotope	
Selective felling		Special management area	
Sanitation cutting		Historical site	
Pre-commercial thinning		Recreational site	
Commercial thinning		Buffer zone	
Logging camp		Local community	4
Native reference sites		Permanent Monitoring Plot	4

3 Organization DETAILS

3.2 Organization specific background information

Ownership and land tenure description (legal and customary)
Land in Mozambique is owned by the Mozambican state (Land Law Decree 66/98 of 15 th July 1998). Land users must acquire the DUAT (Right of Land Use and Benefit) which is normally granted by the government for a period of up to 100 years, renewable. Eden Reforestation carries out its activities to restore degraded forests in multi-use areas that are owned by the government. The restoration activities do not require a DUAT, however, the Associação Eden Reforestation has to get permission from the local authorities and communities. All restored areas do have permits (MoU or letters signed) issued by the government. The scope of this verification included degraded mangrove forestry areas in Maputo province. These areas have been exploited to produce poles, firewood and charcoal, and cattle grazing mainly.
Legislative and government regulatory context
<p>Mangroves are forest according to Forest Law 1999 on forestry legislation. They are under the jurisdiction of the National Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Land and Environment. The forestry and conservation laws apply to their management. They may be subject to a logging regime through government-approved permits and by paying a fee per volume harvested. They can be subject to management transfer to the applicant communities by the Forestry Law. The regulation of this management is based on a required management plan and management rules endorsed by the forestry service. This also requires that the Government of Mozambique successfully implement a REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) process.</p> <p>The stakeholders in the REDD+ implementation process in Mozambique are as follows.</p> <p>The general coordination of actions on climate change in Mozambique is the responsibility of the Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA), through the National Directorate of Climate Change (DMC) and, at the same time, it functions as a focal point for the Climate Convention. Likewise, the DMC is responsible for coordinating the Inter-Institutional Group on Climate Change (GIIMC), which is composed of representatives of Ministries/Institutes whose mandates cover areas and/or sectors relevant to climate change and representatives of non-governmental actors, private sector, civil society, academia, and other types of social communication.</p> <p>The main relevant laws and regulation in Mozambique in which Eden operates are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- INSS, 2009. Social Security Compulsory Legislation. Labour Ministry, Government of Mozambique,- GOV, 2007. Labour Law no. 23/2007. Labour Ministry, Government of Mozambique,- Land Law Decree 66/98 of 15th July 1998,- MADER, 2004. Legislation of Agrarian sector. Government of Mozambique,- MINAG, 2005. Forestry and wildlife legislation Manual. Government of Mozambique,- Forest and Wildlife Law and regulation,- Administrative Law 30/2001 of 15th October, and,- Environmental Law 20/97 of 1st October.
Environmental Context
Mangroves in Mozambique cover an area of approximately 396,080 hectares and occur mostly in sheltered shorelines and river estuaries. The highest concentrations of mangroves

occur in central Mozambique, in the deltas and estuaries of large rivers. There are nine mangrove species in Mozambique. The major uses are for building materials and firewood. Major threats to mangroves include over exploitation for firewood and clearing of mangroves for solar salt production. Potential threats also include oil pollution, uncontrolled coastal migration by rural people or communities, and industrial development along the coast. The rate of mangrove deforestation is estimated as 1,821 hectares per year, and is highest in Maputo and Beira provinces. Conservation and management of mangroves in Mozambique falls under the Forests and Land Legislation Act, which envisages community participation in the protection of natural resources. Mozambique is currently developing a national mangrove management plan.

Socioeconomic Context

Mozambique is located on the eastern coast of Africa between latitudes 10°20'S and 26°50'S. The climate is essentially tropical, with a somewhat sub-tropical climate in the south. Two main seasons can be distinguished: a warm rainy season from October to March and a cooler dry season from April to October. The average annual rainfall in the coastal areas is around 1,173mm (National Institute for Meteorology, 2000). The 2,770 kilometer long Mozambican coastline can be divided into three main regions; the sandy coastline in the south, estuarine in the central region, and coralline with coral limestone in the northern region of the country. Mangroves occur mostly in the central estuarine region.

The area where mangrove occurs in Mozambique are around urban centers or in remote rural areas. Mangrove wood is used for collecting firewood and felling logs for construction for domestic and commercial purposes. Mangrove exploitation is mostly done in an unsustainable manner. Illegal logging for logs, poles, and firewood to cook limestone is done by the local communities. The degradation of mangroves following illegal logging destroys fish, shrimp, crab, and oyster habitat. The legal responsibility for protecting mangrove and law enforcement is under the forestry sector. Since the intervention of Eden on the degraded areas all forms of cutting have stopped. When community members become an employee of Eden, their economic situation improves but they also typically continue their activities as fisherman and farmers in agriculture. Their socioeconomic condition is better or improves, because the catch is better after mangrove restoration. The main barrier for development of most of the site is the remoteness, weak law enforcement and the distance from the market. Apart the fisheries products, which have a big market, it is difficult to invest in other products with a sustainable value chain.

3.3 General overview of the organization and scope

The Associação Eden Reforestation, which is the name of the Organization in the country, is a non-profit association whose objectives are:

- (i) Promote and protect forest ecosystems through reconstitution and reforestation,
- (ii) Raise awareness in communities about the preservation and conservation of forests,
- (iii) Fighting poverty by employing the most deprived people and those without opportunities in the communities where the project is developed, and,
- (iv) Promote development in deprived communities through the execution of agroforestry projects.

The Associação Eden Reforestation started restoration activities with a pilot project in October 2018, but officially started its main project in April 2019, restoring mangrove ecosystems. From April 2019 to June of this year, 43,965,534 trees have already been planted in 17 planting sites of mangrove.

The legal ownership of the land under the scope of this auditing is by the Government of Mozambique. Currently 8,985 hectares of land are under responsibility of the Eden and the

organization has documented rights for reforestation programs. The next table indicates the name and the size of the areas.

South Zone of Maputo (districts)	Sites	Area (ha)
Marracuene	Muntanhana	331
	Xefina	375
Matutuine	Madjuva1	621
	Madjuva2	120
	Bela Vista Tree Sister	322
	Bela Vista Carlton One	455
	Tsolombane	471
	Djabissa	783
	Mungazine	405
	Mahubo	645
Boane	Chilhale	3036
Maputo-Province	Katembe	1421
Total		8985

The areas under the scope have the following seven species of mangroves: *Avicennia marina*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* are the most common, but there are also *Sonneratia alba*, *Lumnitzera racemosa* and *Xylocarpus granatum*.