

REFLOR-CV: BUILDING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN CABO VERDE

Component 2 *- Strategy and Action Plan -*

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1 INTRODUCTION

Reinforcing the proximity with communities

Reversing the effects of drought, soil erosion, and desertification trends in Santiago, Fogo and Boa Vista requires urgent action through both a landscape-level approach and the balancing of diverse stakeholders needs at central and local level. This entails the recognition that trees and forests are critical components of rural landscapes and that diversification can enhance ecological and socio-economic resilience, while accommodating different site conditions and land management objectives (FAO 2018¹). Therefore, the goals of achieving and maintaining an optimal forest cover and increasing ecosystem resilience in the three islands requires that forests, agroforests, and vegetation in general are managed for, and with the people. Such goal entails that the principles of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), which are listed in Box 1, be followed.

FLR is more than just planting trees - it is restoring a whole landscape 'forward' to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time (IUCN, 2017) in the context of a changing climate. Therefore, REFLOR-CV aims to develop an active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees, within a broader pattern of land uses (FAO 2018). At the same time, the coordinated activities developed in Component 1 contribute to increase societal participation and political and technical commitment towards the development of a common vision and of a shared set of values.

Box 1 – Social and ecological principles of the landscape approach

Ten principles of a landscape approach (Sayer, et al., 2013)

1. Continual learning and adaptive management
2. Common concern entry point
3. Multiple scales
4. Multifunctionality
5. Multiple stakeholders
6. Negotiated and transparent change logic
7. Clarification of rights and responsibilities
8. Participatory and user-friendly monitoring
9. Resilience
10. Strengthened stakeholder capacity

Principles of community-based FLR (IUCN, 2015)

1. Adequate social preparation
2. Strong community leadership
3. Transparency in handling funds
4. Sustainable livelihood and food security
(short- and long-term economic benefits)
5. Sufficient and timely release of funds
6. Adequate institutional arrangements and supportive policy environment
7. Land tenure security
8. Presence of extension officers
9. Women at the forefront

The objective of this document is to present the approach and action plan of REFLOR-CV for the involvement of local communities, and of civil society at large, in achieving ecological, social, and economic sustainability through FLR using Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The strategy is based on the involvement, empowering, and training of local stakeholders, namely Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) within a set of coordinated project activities that also increase the scientific basis and the political commitment at central and local levels.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/i8382en/i8382EN.pdf>

2 METHODOLOGY

Building a common understanding

2.1 Approach

FLR does not prescribe a single method within or across landscapes and countries. On the contrary, it aims at developing tailored approaches that fit individual landscapes depending on specific conditions. Thus, the selection of technical approaches such as reforestation, afforestation, ecological restoration, natural regeneration, assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting or agroforestry can be adopted across the mosaic of rural land use and customs.

The approach used in REFLOR-CV to ensure the adequate participation of local stakeholders follows the principles of FLR. As such, a participatory diagnosis was initiated with the CBOs of target zones identified as “Pontos de Estudo” by the National Technical Team (ETN). This diagnosis supports a learning process and improves the understanding of the best social settings for conveying messages, integrating the needs and concerns of local stakeholders, develop adequate benefits-sharing mechanisms, as well as effective grievances and conflict resolution channels. Simultaneously, the profile of civil society organizations for the involvement is defined, also identifying those strong community leaderships, especially by women, that can anchor subsequent initiatives. Additionally, adequate institutional arrangements for the implementation of community-based activities and involvement of NGOs are established, at the same time as local extension officers and focal points are identified.

2.2 Procedures

The steps taken to implement the approach are illustrated in Figure 1. The first step corresponds to the consultations performed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental (MAA), and namely the ETN and the European Union Delegation (EUD). After this consultation, the local delegations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (DMAA) were involved and the respective delegates, project focal points and forest technical staff were briefed to increase their awareness of FLR according the project’s overall objectives.

The consultation work with the DMAAs resulted in the definition of the set of civil society organizations that could be involved first. The criteria used for this selection was established by the DAs and was mainly based on the location of the communities comprising local associations; location of potential areas for FLR interventions; and knowledge of the respective communities and their leaders. In this procedure, those associations led by women were privileged. Then, a broad calendarization and prioritization for the progressive involvement of NGOs and more local associations was outlined based on the experience with the initial terrain operations and on other tasks planned in the project activities.

After REFLOR-CV started its work together with the initial set of associations and with the communities they represent, a tentative order of subsequent involvements was decided based on an evaluation of the results obtained so far and on the associated FLR technical objectives, which were also established jointly. This progressive procedure counts on the support of the associations as agents advocating for subsequent further steps and will eventually result in the coalescence of different initiatives and in the construction of a common vision (albeit based on different paths) for effective landscape restoration.

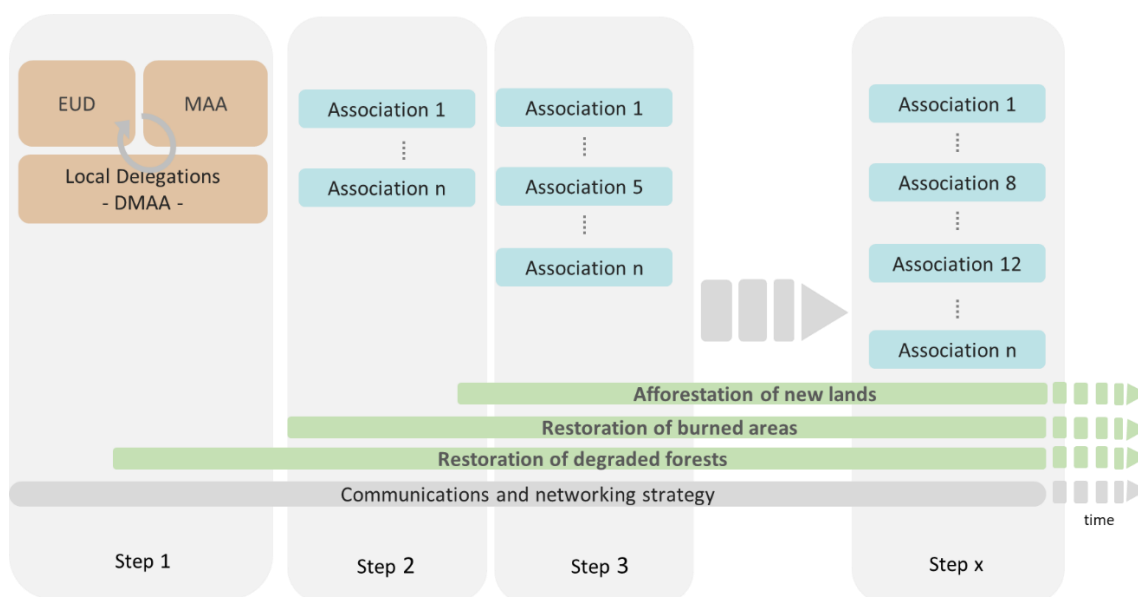


Figure 1: Illustration of the procedures for the construction of a common understanding on forests and climate change

3 DRAFT OUTPUTS

A preliminary needs assessment

Tables 1 through 3 present some preliminary results of the needs assessment performed with the CBOs involved in the project. This assessment supports the design and development of subsequent work.

The first two entries in Table 1 provide indicators regarding the profile of the communities to which each association corresponds. It should be acknowledged that more households are led by women than by men, and that this difference is even larger when analyzing the number of enrollments in the associations: there are proportionally more women members. This means that women could be more likely to understand the importance of communal resources and that they value the ability to participate. However, this fact remains to be verified with the development of further activities.

Contrary to what could be expected given the collected information on participation levels, the access of women to organizing and leading positions (as shown by the classification of the last three entries of Table 1) is limited. Even though this observation requires further data collection and analysis, it nonetheless confirms prior expectations. Therefore, this is a characteristic that must be considered when designing procedures and materials for participatory activities. A positive indicator resulting from this preliminary analysis is that most associations have regulatory instruments in place and that the level of employment is good.

The technical evaluation shown in Table 2 aimed at assessing the capacities for field operations. The results indicate that on average, local people are better equipped for soil preparations and clearing of invasive vegetation than for other SFM field operations. The production of seeds; the maintenance of nurseries; and the dispatching of seedlings are the weakest aspects and require special attention.

Table 1 - Social and gender characterization of the associations. The first two green entries show the number of individuals while the last two are a classification in an ordinal scale where 1 corresponds to low and 5 to very high (full engagement).

FATORES	Associação de Desenvolvimento de Cutelo Alto	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Chã das Caldeiras Montinho	Associação de Solidariedade e Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Mosteiro-Trás	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Pai António	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ribeira do Ilhéu	Associação Santa Tabanca da Baía Achada Leite	Associação para Desenvolvimento Integrado de Achada Ponta e Chão Grande	Associação para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Fundura	Associação dos Académicos de Rincão	Associação Para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Chã de Monte e Achada Fora	Associação Pé de Monte	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário do Planalto	Associação dos Amigos para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Serra Malagueta	Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento de Pedra Comprida
ASPECTOS SOCIAIS E ORGANIZATIVOS														
Agregados familiares (H)	44	158	5	79	95	14	14	60	62	14	38	74	34	9
Agregados familiares (M)	19	312	1	38	106	15	26	148	21	26	25	123	38	23
ASPECTOS DAS ASSOCIAÇÕES														
Número de pessoas associadas (H)	26	23	57	30	28	6	15	0	32	31	15	32	24	20
Número de pessoas associadas (M)	18	25	46	25	41	36	42	0	23	47	35	105	52	40
AVALIAÇÃO DO PERFIL ORGANIZATIVO														
Integração na Assémeia	2	2	2	2	2	3	2		2	2	3	2	2	2
Associados que pagam quotas	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Existência de estatutos Legais e regulamentos	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Participação de jovens homens e mulheres a nível organizativo	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Instalações próprias para sede e outras infraestruturas (viveiro, por	1	1	4	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	1
Acessibilidade aos principais centros urbanos	3	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	2
Actividade Principal dos Associados	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
Número de pessoas empregadas	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Serviços que presta: crédito, capacitações, outros	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
GÉNERO														
Participação das mulheres a nível organizativo	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Liderança das mulheres	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	2
Empoderamento económico das mulheres	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 2 - Assessment of SFM capacities in the associations. Scale: 0 – no knowledge; 1 – heard of the topic; 2 – heard of the topic and can reproduce some ideas; 3 – can apply but cannot explain; 4 – can apply and explain; and 5 – fully proficient at training level

ACTIVITIES		Associação de Desenvolvimento de Cutelo Alto	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Chã das Caldeiras Montinho	Associação de Solidariedade e Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Mosteiro-Trás	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Pai António	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ribeira do Ilhéu	Associação Santa Tabanca da Baía Achada Leite	Associação para Desenvolvimento Integrado de Achada Ponta e Chão Grande	Associação para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Fundura	Associação dos Académicos de Rincão	Associação Para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Chã de Monte e Achada Fora	Associação Pé de Monte	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário do Planalto	Associação dos Amigos para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Serra Malagueta	Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento de Pedra Comprida
Produção de Plantas	Sementes	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	4
	Viveiros	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	4	4
	Produção	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	4	4
Instalação de povoamentos florestais	Preparação do solo	2	3	2	2	2	4	1	3	1	2	3	3	3	4
	Plantação	3	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	3
Condução de povoamentos florestais	Limpeza e mondas	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	3
	Retanchar	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	3	3	3	3
	Desbaste e desramações	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	2

Table 1 - - Assessment of SFM capacities in the associations. Scale: 0 – no knowledge; 1 – heard of the topic; 2 – heard of the topic and can reproduce some ideas; 3 – can apply but cannot explain; 4 – can apply and explain; and 5 – fully proficient at trainer level at training level

	Associação de Desenvolvimento de Cutelo Alto	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Chã das Caldeiras Montinho	Associação de Solidariedade e Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Mosteiro-Trás	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário Pai António	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário da Ribeira do Ilhéu	Associação Santa Tabanca da Baía Achada Leite	Associação para Desenvolvimento Integrado de Achada Ponta e Chão Grande	Associação para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Fundura	Associação dos Académicos de Rincão	Associação Para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Chã de Monte e Achada Fora	Associação Pé de Monte	Associação de Desenvolvimento Comunitário do Planalto	Associação dos Amigos para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Serra Malagueta	Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento de Pedra Comprida	
Estrutura Organizacional															
Numero de associados/membros inicial	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	5	3	2	4	3	3	
Existencia de um estatuto e regulamento	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Possui uma sede ou espaço proprio para encontros	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	
Conselho directivo/integração de mulheres	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	4	1	2	4	2	3	2	
Conselho directivo/nivel de escolaridade	4	3	4	3	3	2	4	2	4	4	2	4	3	4	
Parceiros activos	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	
Competencias existentes na Associação/comunidade	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Administrativo financeiro															
Numero de empregados	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Contabilidade organizada/livro de registo	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	
Projectos em carteira actual	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1							
Montante geridos	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	4	2	
Serviços prestados aos membros	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	

In summary, and as expected, the initial needs assessment reflects the weak capacity of local associations for engaging in SFM activities. This is an aspect that was known from the very beginning of the project and, as reported in the ROM, justifies the priority given to the delivery of local trainings. Therefore, the capacity development program of REFLOR-CV is committed to reinforce social (including gender), technical and financial local capacities through targeted trainings and participatory activities integrated both horizontally (through workshops, community awareness-raising events, and participated SFM field operations) and vertically (through engagements of local and central official entities with NGOs, other associations, and individuals; advocacy; and a data transparency platform). This capacity development is to be implemented in a coordinated manner thus optimizing the overall participation strategy of the project.

4 ACTION PLAN

Actions for community involvement

The CBOs already mobilized for participation in the interventions and field work, as well as for capacity assessment activities, are listed as columns in the Tables 1 to 3. Similarly, the actions for community involvement in REFLOR-CV are displayed in Table 4. This table also provides an overview of the status of each action and a perspective for future tasks.

The actions included are:

1. Mobilizing communities: promote the ownership of forest benefits
 - Participatory assemblies mobilizing members for decision making regarding SFM activities
 - Sharing and circulation of awareness-raising materials regarding short and long term benefits of forest products and services, taking gender and climate change into account
 - Demonstration of SFM best practices
 - Training on monitoring and reporting capacities using simplified procedures
 - Establishment of a framework for collaboration between associations and NGOs.
2. Social dialogue and communication to promote interchanges of concerns and values among similar local communities
 - Intercommunity meetings to reinforce social capital and to support joint initiatives, e.g. through the REFLOR-CV fora.
 - Create the basis for a benefit-sharing mechanism among local associations
 - Grievances channels for recording complaints and promoting conflict resolution.
3. Knowledge and technical reinforcement to improve capacities and facilitate local forest management
 - FAO Field-schools and Forest Farm Facility approaches to facilitate technical learning
 - Participatory workshops, with a gender focus, regarding the forest restoration operations
 - Training actions on how to access and install innovative activities on SFM, namely through the private sector.

4. Financial reinforcement to facilitate the mobilization of financing for forest restoration, namely in the private sector
 - Establish income generating activities based on forest products and services, for example by micro-credit and NGOs funding
 - Entrepreneurial demonstrations and identification of potential partnerships for business taking forest sustainability into account
 - Concerted actions and advocacy to establish novel financial products adequate for local SFM initiatives.

5. Discuss and validate the co-management plans developed in REFLOR-CV
 - Apply the REFLOR CV forest operations kits for climate resilient management using adequate materials
 - Training actions on SFM for the forest co-management committees
 - Consultation activities for the development of the participatory forest management plans.

The CBOs were characterized and are fully involved, having provided their views on the priorities for forest restoration and established those topics of consensus to be addressed by REFLOR-CV, as displayed in Table 3. These tables will be used, not only for designing and implementing tailored trainings, but also as a basis for monitoring the progress of the learnings. It should be noted that the progress in learning will determine the level and type of responsibility assigned to each CBOs in the co-management plans to be implemented for the pilot sites.

The action plan presented is already a result of the needs and capacities identified during the process that lead to the production of the tables shown below. This plan will be revised at the end of each implementation year and will be adjusted according to the capacities progress of the CBOs, the inputs of involved NGOs and the novel approaches that may be available in the meantime. Moreover, the action plan reflects the new arrangements in the project's personnel (see the Consolidated Report on Human Resources, namely in Gender, Communication and Civil Society Engagement). The action also reflects FAO's previous experience ².

² <http://www.fao.org/tempref/docrep/fao/008/j4817e/j4817e00.pdf>

