

## MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique remains a highly forested country, but deforestation has been steadily increasing since 2000. The majority of deforestation and forest degradation is related to unsustainable agricultural practices and timber extraction. Mozambique's forests contribute with multiple social, economic and environmental benefits, which continue to be threatened in spite of current responses.

### Drivers of deforestation

<b>Smallholder farming</b> 	Small-scale agriculture is a major cause of forest loss <sup>[1,4]</sup> , accounting for 46% of biomass loss in one study of central Mozambique <sup>[1]</sup> . According to Global Forest Watch (GFW), small-scale agriculture accounted for more than 90% of total forest cover loss from 2001-2015 <sup>[5]</sup> .
<b>Fuelwood and charcoal production</b> 	Fuelwood and charcoal production are the next most cited drivers of deforestation <sup>[1,6]</sup> , including both local fuelwood collection <sup>[7]</sup> and charcoal production to meet urban energy demand <sup>[8]</sup> .
<b>Urban expansion</b> 	Urban expansion has been associated with 12% of deforestation in Mozambique <sup>[9]</sup> . According to GFW data, this was a small but consistent driver of permanent deforestation between 2001-2015 <sup>[5]</sup> .
<b>Small-scale timber extraction</b> 	Logging is a small but steady driver of deforestation <sup>[1,6,10]</sup> . Illegal logging has been a persistent problem <sup>[11]</sup> , but has also received government attention for reform <sup>[12]</sup> . Mozambique is among the top African timber exporters to China <sup>[13,14]</sup> .
<b>Large-scale agriculture</b> 	Large-scale agriculture is a very small contributor to deforestation <sup>[4]</sup> , limited to 3% of biomass loss for one study in central Mozambique <sup>[1]</sup> . Large-scale agriculture expansion into forest land has accordingly been much smaller than small-scale agriculture expansion in forest land <sup>[15]</sup> .
<b>Fires</b> 	Wildland fires have long been a cause of some deforestation in Mozambique, primarily linked to purposefully set fires for land clearing <sup>[16]</sup> .

- Primary cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation
- Secondary cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation
- Less important cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation

### Underlying causes

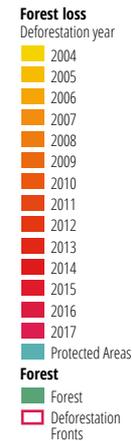
Underlying drivers of deforestation in Mozambique are broadly linked to technological (such as inefficient use of fuelwood), demographic (high demand for wood from urban areas), economic (inefficient commercial agriculture markets) and institutional factors (limited institutional and law enforcement capacity)<sup>[6]</sup>. Additional underlying drivers include urban energy demand,<sup>[11]</sup> population pressure and food insecurity<sup>[7]</sup>.

<b>Countries, region</b>	Mozambique, Southern Africa
<b>Forest type</b>	Subtropical forests
<b>Total area</b>	21.9Mha
<b>Forest area in 2018</b>	9.0Mha (40.9% of total deforestation front area)
<b>Forest loss 2004-2017</b>	0.3Mha (2.7% of forest area in 2000)
<b>Location of deforestation</b>	Mostly in the west and east, although relatively scattered
<b>Total forest core area in 2018</b>	2.8M ha (31.0% of forests in 2018)
<b>Fragmented forests 2000-2018</b>	1.5M ha (15.6%, of forest area in 2000)
<b>Accumulated burned area, 2002-2019</b>	5.0Mha (51.5% of forest area in 2000)
<b>Deforestation trend</b>	Increasing, with oscillations
<b>Future trends</b>	Small-scale agriculture is likely to remain an important driver of deforestation

### Key responses

<b>Land-use zoning —community forestry</b>	Zoning exercises have been conducted in several areas <sup>[4]</sup> . Integrated policies <sup>[17]</sup> and additional support for community forestry and agroforestry have been called for <sup>[18]</sup> .  As of 2005, Mozambique law requires 20% of proceeds from management of forests to be returned to local communities <sup>[6]</sup> .
<b>Recognition of IPLCs</b>	Community registration of land-use rights for local communities has been ongoing since the 2000s. Mozambique's legislation on community land-use rights is thought to be among the most progressive in Africa <sup>[19]</sup> .
<b>Timber legality</b>	Mozambique introduced governance reforms in the forest sector to limit illegal logging in 2018 <sup>[20]</sup> , and has implemented export bans on raw logs and total bans on several species <sup>[21]</sup> .
<b>Protected areas</b>	Protected areas in Mozambique, such as the Niassa National Reserve, have been found to have lower deforestation rates than surrounding areas <sup>[22]</sup> .
<b>REDD+ strategy</b>	REDD+ is often listed as a response option <sup>[6,18]</sup> , and the country has developed its national REDD implementation strategy <sup>[23]</sup> .
<b>Voluntary standards</b>	Mozambique had 60,000ha of FSC-certified forest as of 2015 <sup>[24]</sup> . This is a small area but represents the majority of planted forest land in Mozambique.
<b>Fire management</b>	Various fire management policies have been implemented, including both support for fire management in parks and community-based fire management.

- Deployment at wider scale
- Actively used and expanding
- Project-specific, experimental



## Main outcomes

Small-scale agriculture continues to be a primary driver of deforestation, while wood energy demand, illegal logging and urban expansion are important secondary drivers. Underlying drivers of deforestation related to limited institutional and law enforcement capacity indicate that deforestation may continue.

## Recommended future actions

- Implement policy and governance initiatives for curbing deforestation<sup>[25]</sup>, building on recent efforts around land-use zoning and timber legality.

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