



About This Guide

The **Community Land Value Chain (CaVaTeCo)** in Portuguese) is an approach that can improve tenure security and management of community lands and natural resources in the context of large-scale land investments. CaVaTeCo provides the conceptual base for work in Mozambique's Districts of Namarroi and Ile in Zambézia Province by ORAM and Terra Firma. This project is part of **DFID's LEGEND Challenge Fund**. This Fund enables civil society agencies to test innovative approaches to land, and to show companies how they can implement practical approaches that secure community land rights and livelihoods and the sustainability of land-based business investment.

A key feature of CaVaTeCo involves participatory delimitation of family land, leading to formal recognition by community associations of the owners' rights of occupancy. Experience with the delimitation of the first 3,500 family land parcels, covering nearly 18,000 hectares in 10 communities, shows that widespread participation by owners of contiguous parcels enable faster work, greater coverage, and lower costs.

Active participation by neighbours enables faster work at lower cost:

1. **Strong community sensitization and acceptance is crucial**
2. **With contiguous parcels and active neighbours, little time is spent looking for witnesses**
3. **Delimitation of one parcel reduces work needed for adjacent parcels**
4. **Teams spend more time on delimitation, less on searching for the next parcel, owner and witness**

Family land delimitation benefits enormously from active participation and collaborative amongst neighbours. In the best-case scenario, a group of adjacent neighbors all want to have their contiguous lands delimited, and all show up on the same day to run through the process. In these cases, the delimitation process is faster, the field teams can usually do more parcels per day, and costs per parcel are lower.

This is because, upon finishing delimitation of one parcel with a neighbor as witness, the parties can swap roles. The witness to the first parcel steps up as owner to the second parcel, and the owner of the first parcel serves as witness to the second parcel. The boundary line separating the first and second parcels, having just been sketched and mapped with all present, does not have to be re-worked. If the third adjacent neighbor is present, the process repeats itself, with the owner of the second parcel witnessing delimitation of the third parcel, and information on their joint boundary does not have to be collected again.



In Mulumassi community, in the south of Ilê District, the light blue-shaded shapes show a large block of contiguous parcels, representing nearly 100% participation by neighbours in the delimitation process. The gaps indicate land owned by people who decided not to delimit their land; land owned by people who were not present or were not able to participate in this first round of delimitation; and land that is reserved for community use (such as sacred forests).

With active participation by immediate neighbours, little time is spent searching for witnesses. Delimitation of adjacent parcels on the same day means shared boundaries do not have to be reviewed again, saving more time. Once the parcel is finished, the team immediately turns to work with the already-present neighbours.

At left: Delimitation of contiguous family lands in Mulumassi (scale 1:6,500).

If adjacent neighbours do not delimit their lands, isolated parcels must be delimited as virtual ‘islands.’ When someone does not want to participate, he or she may also not be willing to serve as a witness to boundary with neighbors who do participate, so finding witnesses can be time-consuming. After the first parcel is done, the team must skip to a new parcel, and delimit the entire boundary of a new ‘island.’

It is essential to have good community sensitization and widespread acceptance of the initiative before delimitation begins, starting with support from local government and traditional leaders. Land conflicts among neighbors, or concerns about external investors “grabbing” land, may inhibit participation. However, transparent public delimitation can also be accepted as a way of resolving boundary disputes, or confirming rights before external investments take place.



Above: Scattered parcels in Enhumua.

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of DFID.



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