Mangrove forests valuation across selected estuaries in Mozambique: comparative assessment of ecosystem services, stakeholder engagement, value chains and resources management

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This document presents a descriptive and comparative assessment of mangrove forests goods and services (current and historical) and their values in selected five sites in estuaries in Mozambique namely Zambezi delta, Quelimane city (Bons Sinais River), Chiveve, Limpopo and Incomati. Interviews conducted with existing diversity of stakeholders (from cutters to transports, sellers, and different users), key informants and community members. Due to the nature and location of these sites either rural or urban, size of surrounding mangroves, the cultural habits of their communities, people benefited from the mangrove forest in different ways. The Zambezi delta and Quelimane, mangrove products are harvested for consumption but also for marketing purposes, various actors are involved, including transporters, wholesalers, retailers and sometimes middlemen. The results show that for small mangrove poles "laca-laca", profits are concentrated at wholesaler level (82.6%). For the larger poles and fish, a greater portion of profits goes to harvesters with 125.0% and 128.8%, respectively. At Chiveve River (within Beira Town) the community stated to benefit more from non-extractable products, such as protection against climate events (floods), green infrastructure within the city that provides good air and temperature, and the landscape beauty as linked to tourism. Since 2000, when massive floods and mangrove dieback hit Limpopo, the mangrove poles marketing came idle however, communities still entitled to exploit poles for their domestic uses as Limpopo mangroves got boost from the mangrove rehabilitation (up to 100 ha restored and same with sizable height for harvesting). Incomati mangrove undergone massive deforestation two decades ago; communities now improved some status and selective and controlled harvesting occur. This work distil messages and processes, provided during interviews and are presented to inform local governance and mangrove management in these sites.