Adaptation to climate change and improved livelihood of Zongoene community, xai-xai district, south of mozambique

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Abstract

Zongoene is located in coastal zone of Gaza Province. The area is subject to floods, regular sea water intrusion and prolonged droughts. The three key livelihood activities for this community are rain-fed crop farming, fishing and traditional livestock keeping. Mangrove forests in Limpopo river mouth are one of the most important livelihood resources for the Zongoene community. This resource that occur along the river banks and mud flats do not only provide an important breeding ground for fish, crabs and other marine resources, they are also source of firewood and building material used by local community. Thereby the destruction of mangrove had a great negative impact in fishery in particular and consequently affecting the livelihood of local people.

The project sought to address this problem by implementing adaptation activities to increase resilience, food security and income to local communities and also ensure the recovery and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystem and local natural resources.

Overall goal of the project

To contribute to the reduction of vulnerability by enhancing the adaptive capacity of Zongoene Community in Xai-Xai District

How did this ecosystem approach addressed and enhanced

Food security

Families that once were only depending on fishing activity at the sea are now involved in fish and crab farming and they are getting enough for consumption and also selling the fish and crabs they harvest. The income from the sale of these products is used to purchase food and other goods for the households, ensuring food security and increasing resilience of local communities to climate change. The project also provided seasonal labor for the household members involved in the activities. Investment in EbA is one of the most important keys to job creation opportunities that simultaneously contribute to poverty eradication and to sustainable long-term food security.
Climate Change adaptation

In Zongoene, Xai Xai district, Mozambique, many households were experiencing an average of four to five months of food shortage every year, affecting mainly fishers. Coupled with drought and changing climate, this coastal community needed to get food from other sources, such as sea. Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches such as fish farming, crab farming, and mangrove reforestation were used to address this food insecurity. These community-based and community-led interventions helped enhance the adaptive capacity, resulting in the establishment of fish ponds and crab growth cages, directly benefiting 98 households (490 people), including 10 households in crab farming, 20 households in fish farming, and 68 households in mangrove reforestation including four that are permanently involved in the mangrove nurseries.

Contributed to the ecosystems productivity
Mangroves provide a nursery area for many marine species, most of which are important for food, like fish, crabs, and shrimp. Reforestation of mangroves has ensured the normal functioning of this ecosystem, which has in turn increased fishery productivity and yield, ensuring enhanced food security.

Keywords: Adaption to Climate Change, Community Engagement, Ecosystem Services, Food Security, Livelihood, Resilience