



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**



The Foundation has launched a Call for Proposals. The closing date for applications is

**7 FEBRUARY 2014**

For further information:  
[www.fondationensemble.org](http://www.fondationensemble.org)  
News/Call for Proposals

Dear Reader,

If there is one country where action is badly needed, it is Mozambique. This new African Eldorado contains 10% of the world's coal reserves and 2000 billion cubic metres of natural gas, twice the size of Norway's reserves! A godsend for some, but at what price for the others ... and for the environment?

Mozambique is just beginning to recover from a bloody civil war that left over a million people dead. Only 15% of the country's 35 million hectares of arable land is currently under cultivation. Over half of the population lives in extreme poverty on less than € 0.40 a day. Far from benefiting from annual GDP growth of 8% or from the explosion of foreign investment (from \$ 700 million in 2009 to \$ 5.2 billion last year), the local population is paying a heavy price. For most, the exploitation of raw materials and of their land brings no profit and has led to soaring housing prices.

Mozambique stands at a crossroads. By featuring interviews with Emmanuelle Patetsos from ESSOR (p.2) and Pierluigi Agnelli from Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (p.3), the Foundation wants to draw on these two partners' expertise and give a voice to the beneficiary communities, which are among the country's poorest. I invite you not only to discover a country and the challenges it faces but to enter into its people's daily lives. It is in their midst that we can best witness the priceless resources of our planet, and its fragility, too ... As this new year unfolds, may ever more of us come to their support. Their future is our future.

Jacqueline Délia Brémont  
Executive Vice-President

**TECHNICAL SHEET**

How can water be supplied all year round to communities living in semi-arid regions?

Discover the sand dam technology being implemented by Excellent Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For further information:  
[www.fondationensemble.org](http://www.fondationensemble.org)  
News Publications  
Technical sheets

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# Field Report

The Foundation undertakes regular field visits to monitor the projects it supports – a worthwhile investment in the eyes of our team and our partners. In October 2013, Sophie Thomasset travelled to Mozambique.

'My trip followed a visit by Olivier Braunsteffer, the aim of which was to meet the Foundation's new partners and to discuss strategic directions. My role, 20 months later, was to monitor the progress of ongoing projects and to take advantage of the opportunity to meet two new partners whose selected projects were not yet underway (solar lamp development in rural Maputo province and marine biodiversity conservation in Inhambane province) under the Foundation's funding.

## ON AVERAGE, THE FOUNDATION VISITS PROJECTS ONCE A YEAR.

Our monitoring objectives differ according to whether a project is just starting up, well underway or reaching completion. What is crucial in all cases is to meet our partners in the field from the very beginning. This enables us to get to know them, to set off on the right foot and to improve communication throughout the project. This visit to Mozambique was particularly interesting in that it enabled us to make a connection between two projects reaching completion: ESSOR and Helvetas. Both focus on similar issues but in different regions. This meant that I was able to compare their

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## THE FOUNDATION'S COMMITMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE

€ 725 000



### PROJECT PROFILE

**Objective :** To develop agroecology in Maputo and the surrounding area

**Beneficiaries:** 1000 farming families

**Length of project:** three years

**Total budget:** € 492 966

**Fondation Ensemble Grant:** € 150 000

[www.essor-ong.org](http://www.essor-ong.org)

INTERVIEWS

## 'Agroecology reduces small-scale producers' production costs by up to 70%.'

**Emmanuelle Patetsos\*** is supporting small-scale producers in their fight to maintain food security. Three years after this Foundation-supported project was launched in Maputo and the surrounding area (Matola), the vast majority of producers have made the transition to agroecology. An initiative that is bearing fruit ...

**Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries on the planet. How do you see it evolving?**

Annual economic growth may well stand at around 8%. But it is a handful of foreign investors who are receiving the lion's share. Roads, railways and ports are being built, but too little is being done for local communities. Urban expansion and soaring rents have led more and more people to take refuge in shantytowns. The climate is tense. Even though the population is emerging from 30 years of war and wants peace, there are still sporadic outbreaks of violence in places. More serious unrest cannot be ruled out.

**How are the effects of climate change being felt here?**

The coastal area is being increasingly affected by cyclones. Flooding is more and more frequent in summer. Not only does this lead to soil depletion and erosion but it also means that groundwater resources are not replenished sufficiently to provide for dry periods. And winter rainfall is becoming lighter. This is worrying for the rural communities that make up 80% of the population.

**What would you say to critics of agroecology?**

No doubt they're the same people who have nothing but good to say of the Green Revolution yet allow agriculture that relies heavily on chemical inputs and GMOs to flourish. Or mechanization that is well beyond the means of the small-scale producer. This is all being done at the expense of family farming. What we are seeing is monoculture farming in controlled climate conditions, totally disconnected from the local context. And when we look closely, we can see that such

crops are not sustainable and face new forms of resistance to disease.

**How do you get the producers to sign up?**

We start from what they already know how to do, help them to identify their difficulties and together try out new, more sustainable techniques on test plots. In Maputo, where the Foundation is supporting our work, cabbages and lettuces used to be the main crops. Now carrots, green beans, tomatoes and potatoes are being grown. Diversifying crops, encouraging crop rotation, adapting the principle of bio-control agents (onions, for example, are planted round a crop of lettuce) reduce the incidence of pests and disease. No natural farming techniques are ruled out in advance. By doing away with chemical inputs, production costs can be reduced by up to 70%... Today, more and more producers are waking up to this fact.

**Essor is behind the first agroecological market gardening business in Mozambique. How is it progressing?**

It's one of our project's great success stories. In all, 1000 producers have been trained. In the last six months, we've marketed 1.5 tonnes of vegetables. While our products may be more natural, they're no more expensive than any other, which means that demand is steadily increasing.

**How do you see the future?**

The Department of Agriculture and Maputo City Council are now earmarking part of their budget for agroecology. Genuine consultation mechanisms are emerging with the producers' federations. It's all very encouraging.



\*Technical advisor for the agricultural sector in Mozambique and coordinator of the Maputo urban and peri-urban agriculture project - ESSOR





## PROJECT PROFILE

**Objective:** To develop sustainable agriculture in rural areas of Cabo Delgado province  
**Beneficiaries:** 20 000 inhabitants  
**Length of project:** two and a half years  
**Total budget:** € 672 273  
**Fondation Ensemble grant:** € 200 000

[www.helvetas.ch](http://www.helvetas.ch)

methodologies, difficulties and successes. It was fascinating. I spent two weeks in Mozambique, visiting four projects in very different parts of the country: north and south, coastal and mountain regions, urban and rural areas. I became aware of the different aspects of the country, the variety of landscapes and ways of life, the specific features of each project context.

## TESTIMONIES FROM BENEFICIARIES ARE OFTEN MOST ENLIGHTENING.

During this field visit, one testimony in particular stood out for me – that of a (woman) farmer from the rural-urban fringe of Maputo: *'Look, nearly all my vegetables are organic! I only use chemicals on one plot of land. My organic lettuces are better and hardier, but they're smaller and not so green, so some people prefer the chemically treated ones. If people stopped asking me for that kind, I would produce only organic lettuces!'* This kind of testimony is invaluable. It highlights the extent to which the consumer needs to be made aware of the issues involved so that the producer can be properly supported.



## THE FOUNDATION ALSO FOSTERS THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCE

Our partners often acknowledge the great help provided by the Foundation. The fact of working with several different partners in the same country enables us to create links between NGOs that are unacquainted with one another. During this field trip, one NGO told me how much it had improved its indicators thanks to our guidance and advice. Another reported having learned a tremendous amount about a project's drafting stage. This feedback is also a great source of motivation for the continuation of the Foundation's initiatives...'

**Sophie Thomasset**  
Grants Monitoring Manager

*"There is too little dialogue between rural communities and the authorities."*

**Pierluigi Agnelli\* takes us to the north of Mozambique...close to the largest natural gas reserves in the world. Foreign investors are flocking to this new Eldorado where the country's poorest and most isolated rural communities are under direct threat.**

**80% of the population lives in rural areas. How do you see the future of these communities?**

Mozambique is going through a crucial period with, on the one hand, the race for raw materials and, on the other, a wealth redistribution system that does not yet exist. In the face of increasingly extreme weather events (rain, floods, etc.), there is a total absence of strategic planning and of disaster prevention and management. A whole regulatory framework needs to be set up, and the democratic system needs to be strengthened.

**In your view, has there been sufficient focus on the role of women?**

This is one of Helvetas' major concerns and a cross-cutting theme in all our projects. Many women lead lives of hardship, are subjected to violence, child marriage, etc. We work with local groups in order to get to know them better and to offer assistance (notably legal support services to increase their awareness of and access to their rights). Women make up 40% of our beneficiaries in some areas and represent 20% to 30% of our producer groups.

**How can rural communities lift themselves out of poverty?**

Most communities depend on subsistence farming, which leaves them susceptible to all kinds of unpredictable events. We help them on two fronts: diversification of production, and nutrition. This obviously requires investment, particularly in water management, access to seeds and post-harvest management. But the communities here are highly motivated, having understood that their food security and health are at stake. With around forty farmers' organizations, we have succeeded in producing 50 tonnes of vegetables:

tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, etc. This may seem little. But bear in mind that we started from scratch. Agribusiness are now emerging, and the producers are becoming more and more proficient in sustainable production practices (use of bio-control agents). We can't yet call it organic farming, as we're not yet producing on a large enough scale to recoup the costs, but we're well on the way.

**Forty or so producer groups have been set up. What role do they play?**

We did the overall planning together and invested in the whole value chain, facilitating the introduction of new technology and optimizing marketing channels. This all helps give weight to their demands, especially when it comes to sensitive topics such as land ownership... It is regrettable that there is still so little dialogue with the authorities, so little shared analysis. Political decision-making is still very disconnected from rural life!

**What challenges does the future hold?**

We are at a crossroads. Large sums of money are likely to result from the exploitation of raw materials. A new President is to be elected this year. What I would like to see is policy that enables citizens to take part in decision-making. There is also a need for better land use regulation and for a concrete commitment to training, especially professional training, which is a major challenge for the country. It is my hope that as many of the population as possible can be involved in these changes. In this way, we can avoid many sources of conflict.

\* Programme Director, Mozambique – HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



**1001 FONTAINES POUR DEMAIN**  
**Cambodia**  
**Objective:** To support small businesses providing rural communities with safe low-cost drinking water  
**Beneficiaries:** 90 200 Cambodians  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 1 332 000  
**FE Grant:** € 140 000  
[www.1001fontaines.com](http://www.1001fontaines.com)

**HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
**Mozambique**  
**Objective:** To provide access to solar energy through the installation of collective charging stations and rechargeable solar lamps  
**Beneficiaries:** 720 rural families  
**Length:** one year  
**Total budget:** € 183 000  
**FE Grant:** € 90 000

**OCEAN REVOLUTION**  
**Mozambique**  
**Objective:** To develop activities for the protection of marine biodiversity that improve the livelihoods of local communities  
**Beneficiaries:** nine coastal villages  
**Length:** one year  
**Total budget:** € 200 000  
**FE Grant:** € 100 000  
[www.oceanrevolution.org](http://www.oceanrevolution.org)

**ACTING FOR LIFE**  
**Ecuador**  
**Objective:** To preserve the mangrove forest through replanting, reintroduction of species and recognition of protected areas  
**Beneficiaries:** 758 fishing families  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 738 000  
**FE Grant:** € 150 000  
[www.acting-for-life.com](http://www.acting-for-life.com)



**PROGRAMME FUND**  
**EIGHT NEW PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2013**  
**FOR A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF € 915 000**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**  
**Cambodia**  
**Objective:** To develop the market for domestic biodigestors as a source of sustainable energy  
**Beneficiaries:** 17 500 rural households  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 312 000  
**FE Grant:** € 135 000  
[www.clovekvtsni.cz/en](http://www.clovekvtsni.cz/en)

**CONCERN WORLDWIDE**  
**Mozambique**  
**Objective:** To introduce sustainable farming practices that are climate change resilient  
**Beneficiaries:** 6 450 households  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 3 130 000  
**FE Grant:** € 135 000  
[www.concern.net](http://www.concern.net)

**Download the list of all the projects we support at:**  
[www.fondationensemble.org](http://www.fondationensemble.org)

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION / Sierra Leone - Liberia**  
**Objective:** To combat cross-border 'pirate' fishing networks and set up marine protected areas  
**Beneficiaries:** 12 000 fishers  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 770 000  
**FE Grant:** € 75 000  
[www.ejfoundation.org](http://www.ejfoundation.org)

**RAINFOREST FOUNDATION**  
**Peru**  
**Objective:** To support communities in defending their rights and protecting the Amazon Rainforest  
**Beneficiaries:** 300 Ashaninka households  
**Length:** two years  
**Total budget:** € 605 000  
**FE Grant:** € 90 000  
[www.rainforestfoundationuk.org](http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org)



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