

Restorative forest management in miombo woodlands, Mozambique

We offer a chance to be involved within larger projects, funded by Vetenskapsrådet and Formas, to transform the tropical forest industry through the integrated forest–industry–market approach. Most tropical forest management is not sustainable. Nowhere is this more evident than miombo woodlands, which cover 350 million ha across Africa. The “Good Wood value chain model” seeks to change the timber markets and wood processing systems to enable sustainable and even restorative forest management. It works wonderfully in theory, but this project dives into the details of forest management necessary to turn this potential into reality.

Project site:

LevasFlor concession in central Mozambique: <http://www.levasflor.com/>



Status of the project:

Permanent plots were installed in 2022 to test the following silvicultural treatments: selective logging (ie, business-as-usual), small gap cuts, and large gap cuts, each with and without intermediate silviculture. There are three fire treatments.

Now, after a year, we need to continue the silvicultural interventions (ie, coppice reduction, thinning, controlled burning) and measure the outcomes thus far! Two dedicated Mozambique PhD students work in this area and have a lot of ideas!

Potential projects and activities:

- Re-measure plots to assess growth and survival
- Quantify regeneration and the effects of coppice reduction
- Biodiversity
- Fire management
- Wood characteristics and properties of msassa and lesser known species

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Notes:

- Only Swedish citizens are eligible to apply for MFS stipends
- Portuguese is spoken in Mozambique
- It's very good to do field work with a buddy!