



MIOMBO FOREST - ENVIRONMENT

News: *The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) signed two significant agreements on July 31, 2024, in Maputo- capital of East Africa's Mozambique.*

- These agreements focus on the protection of the miombo forest and the facilitation of trade in the border region between Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

What's in the news?

The recent Agreements

- These agreements focus on the protection of the miombo forest and the facilitation of trade in the border region between Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- The projects, valued at just over \$8 million, will be funded by Italy under the Mattei Plan for Africa, aiming to promote sustainable development and cooperation between the two nations.

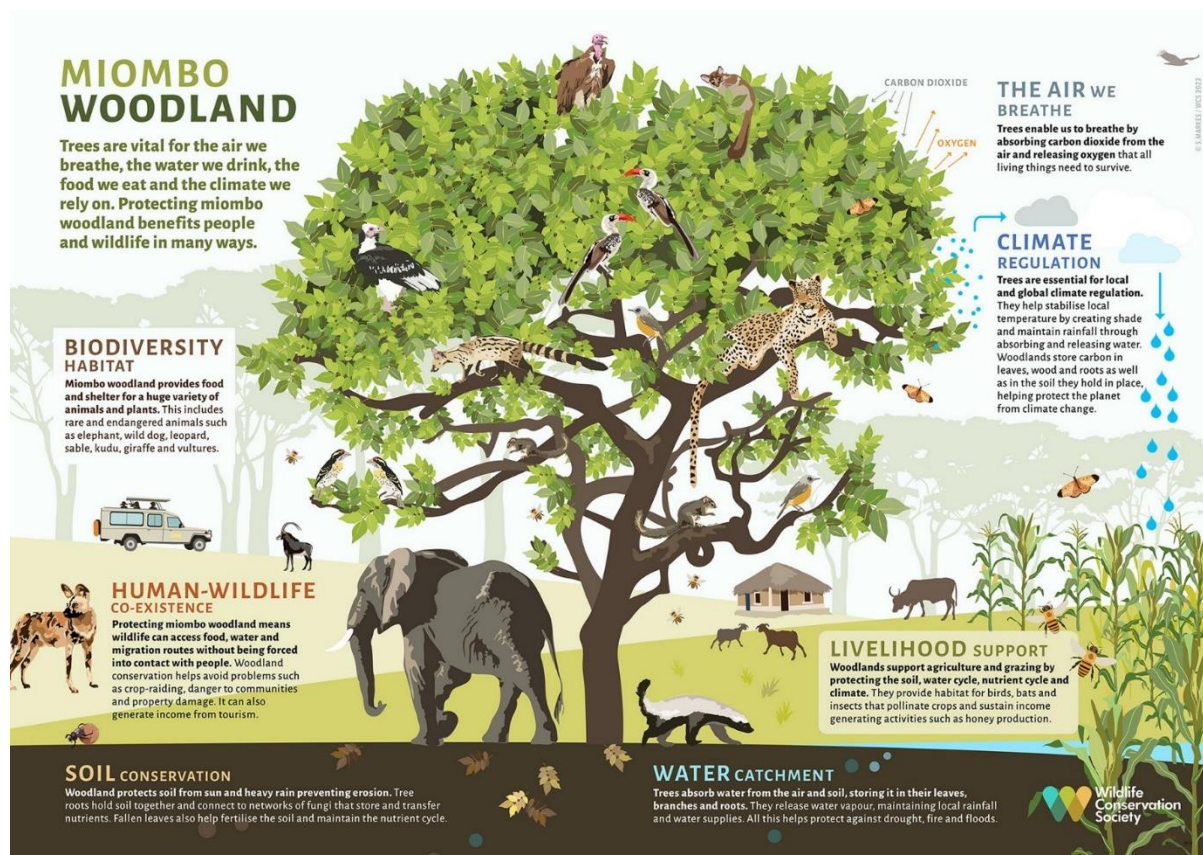
Projects

Integrated Transboundary Sustainable Management of Miombo Forests

- The first project, "Integrated Transboundary Sustainable Management of Miombo Forests," aims to protect, restore, and sustainably use the miombo forest shared by Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- The forest is crucial for millions of rural inhabitants, providing essential resources like firewood, food, and water.
- This project will focus on sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and enhancing community-based management practices.
- It aims to directly benefit 5,000 families, promoting gender equality and youth participation.
- This initiative aligns with the Protocol and the Maputo Declaration (2022) on sustainable and integrated management of miombo woodlands.

Zim-Moza Agriculture Value Chain & Trade Development Project (Zim-Moza ATDP)

- The second project, the "Zim-Moza Agriculture Value Chain & Trade Development Project" (Zim-Moza ATDP), focuses on developing the agricultural value chain and trade between Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- By improving market access, enhancing production practices, and fostering cross-border collaboration, the Zim-Moza ATDP aims to boost the economic prospects of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
- Key focus areas include citrus, pineapple, banana, coffee, macadamia, maize, and various horticultural products.
- The initiative will address trade barriers, support value addition, and enhance the competitiveness of agricultural products in local and international markets.



Significance of the Projects

- These projects represent a significant step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities.
- The miombo woodland, a vast African dryland forest ecosystem covering nearly 2.7 million square kilometers across southern Africa, including countries like Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, is a critical biome.
- It includes tropical and subtropical grasslands, bushlands, and savannahs, and maintains the Greater Zambezi, a vital transnational river basin.
- The agreements signed between FAO and AICS mark a significant advancement in the protection of the miombo forest and the enhancement of agricultural trade between Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- These initiatives, supported by Italy, aim to foster sustainable development, improve livelihoods, and build resilience against environmental and economic challenges in the region.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/africa/new-projects-to-safeguard-miombo-forest-boost-food-security-in-mozambique-zimbabwe>