

Loan for fauna and forestry

The end-November management board meeting of the *African Development Fund* (ADF, part of the *African Development Bank* group) granted a US\$12.5 million loan to Mozambique for a project to upgrade fauna and forestry resources (ION N° 602). The project, estimated to cost \$14 million in all, covers the management of natural forests by carrying out an inventory of forestry resources and defining plans for the issue of forestry concessions. It will also evaluate the amount and distribution of fauna to improve on management there too. A series of other actions will be worked out to promote setting up individual and communal forests, planting fruit trees and creating district nurseries. The final part of the project includes institutional support for Mozambique's national directorate for forests and fauna, and for forestry research.

The sites covered by the project are situated in the provinces of Cabo Delgado (in the extreme northern part of the country), Manica, and Sofala (where Gorongosa national park and Marromeu hunting reserve are located). Improving the natural forests involves 1.2 million hectares in Sofala province, in a zone between the Beira corridor and the river Zambesi (the districts of Cheringoma, Marromeu and Muanza), and another 1.1 million hectares in Cabo Delgado province, between Pemba and the Tanzanian frontier (the districts of Meluco and Mueda). The project section dealing with the collective utilization of forests covers four types of activity (tree planting, mangrove improvement, natural forest improvement, and soil conservation), and will be applied in the districts of Dondo and Nhamantanda, in Sofala province, and to Gondola and Manica in Manica province. A total of 3.2 million people live in these zones and some ten thousand families are expected to participate directly in the project.