

*This English text is a translation of Japanese version for the reference purpose only and in case there are any discrepancies between English and Japanese, the Japanese versions shall prevail.*

December 1, 2017

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Japan International Cooperation Agency

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**Opinion on the Investigation Report  
of  
the Examiner for the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social  
Considerations  
on  
The Support for Agricultural Development Master Plan for Nacala Corridor  
in the Republic of Mozambique**

## **1. Background**

“The Support for Agricultural Development Master Plan for Nacala Corridor in Mozambique” (hereinafter referred as “the Project”) which started in 2012, aims to formulate a master plan which will contribute to improve the livelihoods of the local residents, especially small-scale farmers, through sustainable agricultural development in the Nacala Corridor Area. Following “Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2010)” (hereinafter referred as “the Guidelines”), the Project had been implemented through careful dialogues with local residents and farmers, including dialogues with local communities, farmers’ organization in Mozambique etc. (more than 50 times during 2012 - 2013) and public hearings (41 times in 2015).

On April 27, 2017, 11 requesters submitted the Objection regarding the Project to the Examiner for the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (hereinafter referred as “Examiners”). Upon receiving the Objection, the Examiners conducted a preliminary investigation (May 17 – July 3) and investigation (July 4 – November 1), and we, the operational departments had explained our understanding, responses, awareness of the issues, policies for the actions, and other matters for each of the findings on the Objection. (Refer “The Operational Department report to the Examiners”<sup>1</sup> for the detail explanation to the Examiners.)

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/social\\_environmental/objection/c8h0vm0000b81di4-att/mozambique\\_01\\_05.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/objection/c8h0vm0000b81di4-att/mozambique_01_05.pdf)

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On November 1, the Examiners submitted the "Investigation Report The Support for Agricultural Development Master Plan for Nacala Corridor In The Republic of Mozambique" (hereinafter referred as "the Investigation Report") to the President of JICA. The Examiners concluded in its Investigation Report that JICA cannot be found to have committed violations of the Guidelines during the course of this Project, and the Examiners made proposals to JICA in light of the principles of the Guidelines.

## **2. Future undertakings of the Operational Departments**

Based on the Investigation Report concluding that "JICA cannot be found to have committed violations of the Guidelines", we, the operational departments, shall take the Examiners' proposals seriously and intend to work with sincerity to ensure to follow them. We will undertake the following action to the proposals.

Proposals:

(i) Promoting efforts to fill the lack of information and transparency

- We understand that, at the end of the interview, the Requesters strongly asserted the points that "the peasants should be involved in decision making" and "consultation with the stakeholders should be conducted in the communities." Taking full account of these points, JICA should, under the initiative of the organizations that represent the local peasants, such as UPC, continue to encourage conducting interviews properly to the peasants who are members of the communities and understanding the peasants' needs for the development plan, which aims to stabilize and improve the livelihood of the peasants in the future.
- JICA should, in cooperation with the Mozambican government, actively disclose information that it obtained so far through the entire Project and the results of the analysis. Especially, with respect to the issue on land grabbing which the Requesters particularly have strong concerns, JICA should make an effort to provide more appropriate information with respect to the countermeasures against land grabbing and to gain the peasants' understanding, at the community-level.

With the objective to contribute to improve the livelihoods of the local residents, especially small-scale farmers, through sustainable agricultural development, we will request and encourage the Mozambican government to conduct interview properly to the farmers and understand their needs to improve their livelihoods, under the initiative of the organizations that represent the local farmers, such as UPC.

In cooperation with the Mozambican government, we will make greater efforts to deepen local farmers' understanding of what the Project is all about, through disclosing the information and analytical findings obtained so far, including visible results stabilizing and improving the livelihood of the small-scale farmers. In particular, with respect to the

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countermeasures against land grabbing, we will make efforts to provide appropriate information and to gain understanding of local farmers.

Proposal:

(ii) Promoting discussions on the Project under the rules of participatory decision-making procedures

- With deep consideration of the Requesters' voice requesting a bottom-up system based on the opinions of the peasants, JICA should observe the process that the Mozambican government deepens discussions on the Project in accordance with the rules of the participatory decision-making procedures that are agreeable among the stakeholders. For such purpose, it is important to show an appeasement attitude such that the stakeholders meet directly and have a face-to-face discussion.
- In addition, upon the request of the Mozambican government, JICA should continue to assist in promoting the discussions of the Master Plan, if necessary.

Considering the need for the opportunity to hear out where small-scale farmers are able to participate and express their needs and opinions, which is pointed out by the Examiners, we will observe the process that the Mozambican government proactively deepens discussions in accordance with the rules of the participatory decision-making procedures that are agreeable among the stakeholders.

Upon the request of the Mozambican government, we will continue to assist in promoting such discussions of the Master Plan, as needed.

Proposal:

(iii) Appropriate approach by the Mozambican government

- JICA should continue to request the Mozambican government to give careful consideration to the Requestors to ensure that the government's treatment is not received as being authoritative or abusive of the Requesters' human rights.
- Further, JICA should cooperate with the Mozambican government so that the government can proactively and properly implement the proposals shown in items (i) and (ii) above.

As the Examiners points out, it is expected to create a relationship of trust by organizing a hearing where small-scale farmers can take initiatives and freely express their opinions, we will continue to request and encourage the Mozambican government to give careful consideration to ensure that the government's treatment is not perceived as being authoritative or abusive of the human rights.

We will also cooperate with the Mozambican government so that the government can proactively and properly realize what are proposed in items (i) and (ii) above.

End

