

Uncontrolled cutting of trees contributes to drought in Magude



Thousands of hectares have been destroyed in Magude district, specifically in Nhongane, a village 20 Km away from the district headquarter. This destruction is directly connected to the production of charcoal for commercialization and cutting down of trees for firewood for domestic consumption. The charcoal production is the main source of family income in the community.

People from the community know the risk behind cutting down trees, however, they do not have alternatives to face their vulnerable situation. For example, Mr. Fancisco Mtene Matusse, a father of four children stated that cutting down trees it is his only source of income.

I acknowledge that we are destroying our forest, and that this drought is a result of our actions, we cut down trees for firewood and charcoal. Each bank of firewood we sell at

the price of 400MZN (\$9) which is then used to buy food and water. Due to the lack of rain here, we cannot produce food and ensure our livelihood. Water is very expensive. We pay 10MZN for the gallon of 20 liters. "This is not easy for us. We suffering a lot. We are desperate and cry for help".

"We travel long distances to cut down trees"

Mr Francisco explains that the distance where the trees are cut down is very long. "We travel a distance of about 20 km, because nearby we no longer have trees, it is a desert. And after we cut down the trees, another very painful and monstrous process takes place to get the charcoal. We waited a week for the logs to dry up a bit. Then we put the logs on a bonfire for a few days so that we can have charcoal ready to be sold. The firewood for domestic consumption is loaded through our heads because we do not have transport "lamented.