

## Press Release

## Criterion Africa Partners Completes Investment in Mozambique Fibra Lda

December 11, 2023 - <u>Criterion Africa Partners</u> (CAP) announced that it recently completed an investment in <u>Mozambique Fibra Lda</u> (MozFibra), a subsidiary of Mozambique Tree Farming Pty Ltd (MTF) operating from the Beira port.

MTF was established over ten years ago by a group of South African entrepreneurs with decades of experience as members of NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited, a successful farming cooperative that supplies timber domestically to SAPPI and Mondi, and for export to global woodchip customers producing pulp and paper products. The MTF founders pursued the opportunity to replicate the South African tree farming cooperative business model in Mozambique through the establishment of eucalyptus plantations in the Investimento Florestal de Moçambique Lda (IFM) company and the development of a wood chip export facility in the Beira port.

CAP's investment in MozFibra aims to fortify existing infrastructure, enhance operational capacity, and optimize efficiency. This initial investment is anticipated to be followed by additional capital injections, both for the construction of a wood chip mill as well as for planting up to an additional 20,000 hectares in Sofala and Manica provinces. This expansion will bolster MTF's wood production capabilities, addressing the rising global demand for timber products and contributing to the development of a thriving forest industry cluster in the Beira Corridor.

## About Criterion Africa Partners

Criterion Africa Partners is an independently owned private equity firm investing across the forestry value chain in sub-Saharan Africa since 2010. The firm advises two funds with assets of US\$275 million from institutional investors including prominent European Developmental Finance Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks.

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