



THE HUMAN FACE OF THE RENEWABLES REVOLUTION

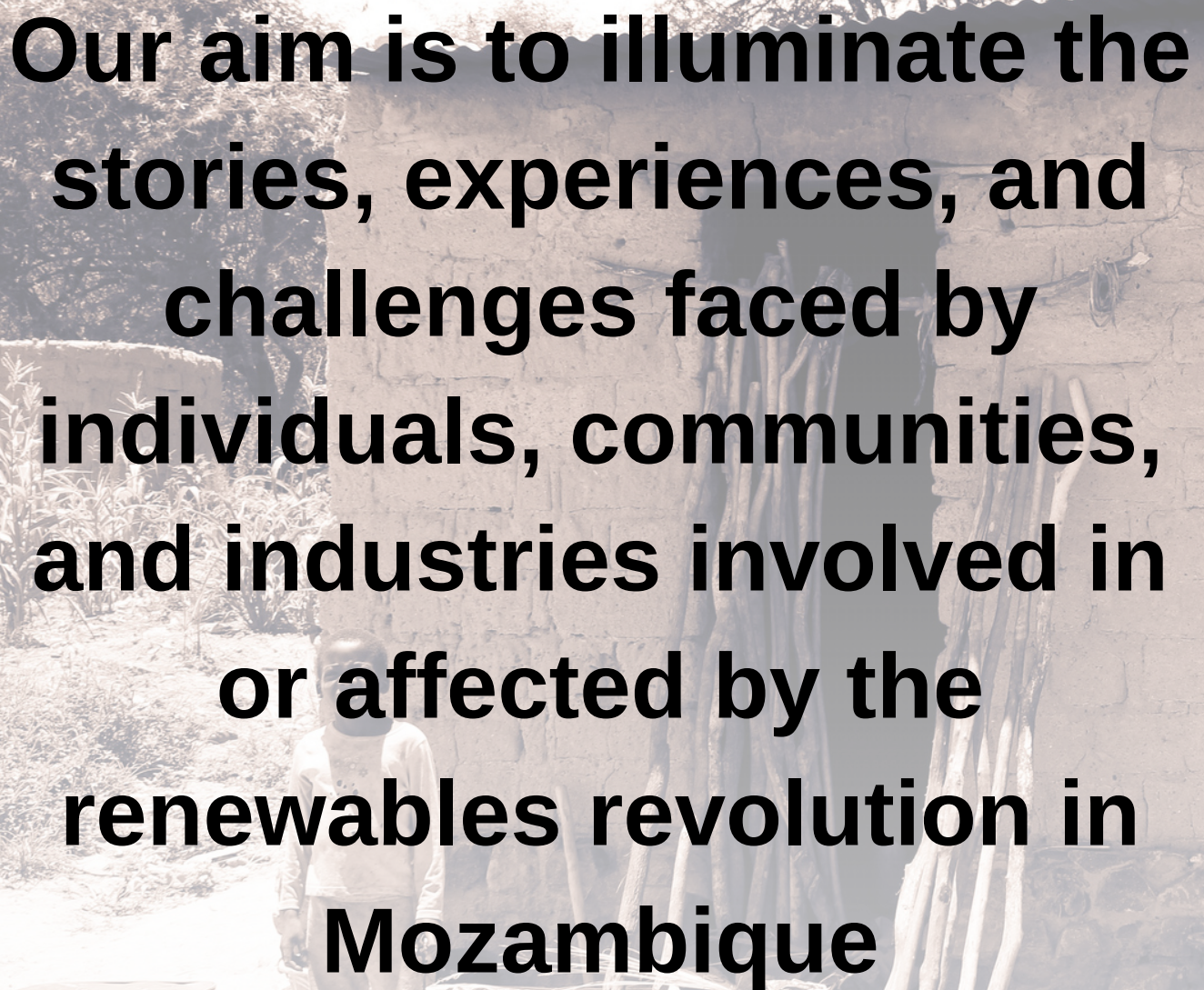
#PowerTracker: Investigating renewable energy across Mozambique



OXPECKERS
Investigative Environmental Journalism

cij

**OPEN CLIMATE
REPORTING
INITIATIVE**

A person is standing in front of a mud-brick wall in a rural setting. The wall is made of light-colored mud bricks and has some wooden poles leaning against it. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background shows some trees and a dirt path.

Our aim is to illuminate the stories, experiences, and challenges faced by individuals, communities, and industries involved in or affected by the renewables revolution in Mozambique

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Amade Abubacar
Nelsa Momade Pedro
Buanamade Assane

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What is #PowerTracker Mozambique?

The second iteration of the #PowerTracker training and professional support programme was a six-month project, culminating in a series of data-driven investigations by Mozambique journalists who investigated and tracked financial issues in the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy in the country. It was created and run by Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism, with the support of the Centre for Investigative Journalism's Open Climate Reporting Initiative (OCRI).

Why #Powertracker Mozambique, why now?

Renewable energy is on the rise in Mozambique, particularly solar and hydro-powered projects. The country is currently three quarters of the way through its five-year 'Energy for All' programme, in an effort to ensure that a further 10 million people have access to electricity by the end of 2024. A significant portion of this is set to come from renewable sources. #PowerTracker investigates how these projects are funded and how the money is being used. Our investigations demonstrated the need for tracking and interrogation of these projects, and have the potential to positively impact communities as the country transitions to cleaner and greener energy resources.

The team behind #PowerTracker Mozambique

Oxpeckers, in collaboration with OCRI, worked with a team of trainers, climate experts and data experts to bring the investigations to life. Mozambique journalists were invited to apply to participate in the programme, and out of more than a dozen applications, three grantees from the northern part of the country were chosen.

Oxpeckers: Fiona Macleod, Estacio Valoi and Roxanne Joseph

OCRI: Alice de Souza and Adeolu Adekola

Trainers: Sechaba Mokhethi (#PowerTracker alum), Carlos Serra (Mozambique lawyer), Daniel Ribeiro (Justiça Ambiental), Jamile Santana (Open Knowledge Brazil) and Omardine Zacarias Omar (Investigative journalist)

What the data shows

#PowerTracker data consists of original and unique datasets that are built by our team, and used to drive and compliment the investigations. They include the cost of projects, who is funding them and many other details.

Sources

#PowerTracker data was sourced from several different places, including media reports, company reports, academic research, government and other monitoring organisations.

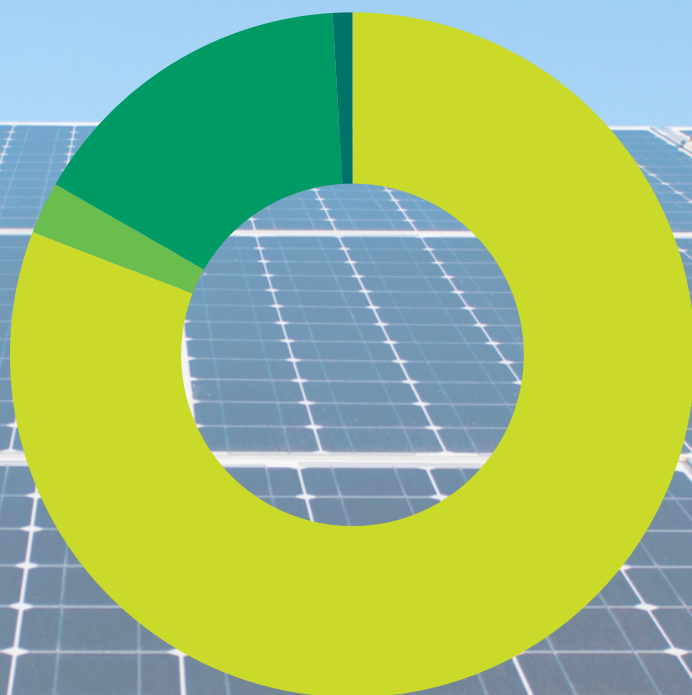
Findings

#PowerTracker journalists collected information on renewable energy projects throughout northern Mozambique

Here's what they discovered:

- 💡 Millions are being invested in northern Mozambique
- 💡 Hospitals can now provide life-saving treatment due to solar power
- 💡 Technical problems mean not everyone has access to renewables
- 💡 More than \$100-million has been allocated to renewable energy projects in the region, to date

■ World Bank
■ African Development Bank
■ European Union ■ FUNAE



and more.

Limitations

The datasets are based on what #PowerTracker journalists were able to access and verify at the time of publication. Some of the information may be outdated, and not all of the projects tracked have detailed information.

Sources

The datasets are open-source and are available to the public for use on our Get the Data section of the Oxpeckers website.

Contributions

If you spot a mistake in the data or would like to make a contribution, please contact us on oxpeckerspwertracker@gmail.com



Nampula far from renewable energy goals

Amade's investigation looked at how, despite a slew of keen investors to support solar power in northern Mozambique, development on the ground remains slow to take off. He found that in Nampula, there have been no statements from any main political office holders talking about renewable energy or solar panels, and the municipal council had not received funds for new energy.



“Our job is to publish information that attracts the attention of decision-makers, to ensure accountability and transparency.”

What is your advice for other journalists investigating renewable energy in Mozambique?

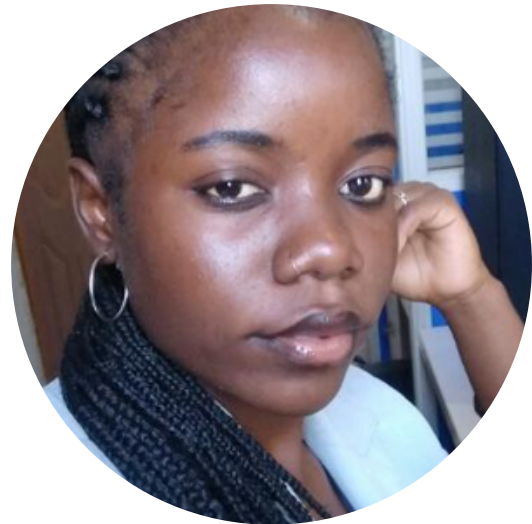
Keep writing, in order to keep the public as informed as possible. This also means showing progress and failures, all of which will attract the attention of decision-makers to take the correct and transparent measures, or decisions.

What impact has your investigation had so far?

The story was widely shared, across local and international media. It was also an important opportunity for local media to be empowered and upskilled.

Solar powers up lives in northern Mozambique

Nelsa investigated how the development of solar power in northern Mozambique has impacted the lives of communities in Nampula. Despite experiencing challenges to access official information, she collected and analysed data to better understand the country's PV solar power plan, between 2022 and 2030.



Through the programme, Nelsa learnt new data skills and how to create a dataset of one's own, when she successfully collected the necessary information from the municipal government.

“In some instances, communities rely on solar power to guarantee life.”

How does the agenda of COP28 relate to the findings of your investigation?

We are in a decisive decade for climate action and as a vulnerable nation, Mozambique needs to make progress when it comes to renewable energy. Next month, our government will share its Master Plan for adapting to climate change, estimated to cost US\$600-million. Mozambique is also positioning itself as not only providing energy to other countries in the region, but also in promoting green energy across the country. My investigation found that while the use of solar-powered energy sources is on the rise in the north, we are still facing challenges to get *everybody* access.

What impact has your investigation had so far?

The investigation was widely shared and republished by several local media outlets. It also led to increased awareness of climate change and its impacts, and gave Nelsa access to high-level climate and finance experts.

Solar's not shining for all in Cabo Delgado



Buanamade investigated the challenges and drawbacks of Mozambique's Energy for All programme. While it has made great progress in northern Mozambique, not everyone is happy with it. In mid-2023, a photovoltaic power plant was launched, at a cost of US\$56-million and was designed to benefit 140,000 people. However, Buanamade found that some residents continue to pay the same amount or more for electricity, now that they are connected to the plant.

He also highlighted the environmental impacts, such as the degradation of extensive arable land, caused by the power plant. His work suggested how instead of damaging ecosystems, it could be used to boost agricultural production.

“My work showed that the use of solar energy is important, especially in rural communities where national grid energy is not feasible.”

What lessons did you learn from being part of #PowerTracker?

When it comes to understanding and picking apart such complex issues, data is a handy tool to have in one's back pocket. I also very quickly understood how there are two sides to the renewable energy coin: on one hand, it can help so many people, but on the other, it can have negative environmental and socio-economic impacts.

What impact has your investigation had so far?

The investigation sparked curiosity among many journalists in the province, highlighting the lack of renewable energy reporting. Some activists have also shown interest, and aim to incorporate more work like this into upcoming projects that are set to be implemented in rural communities.

Nampula far from renewable energy goals

- [Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism](#), October 10, 2023
- [Moz24H](#), October 11, 2023
- [Zitamar News](#), October 12, 2023
- [Centro de Jornalismo Investigativo](#), October 15, 2023
- [Spotlight Global News](#), October 19, 2023
- [Integrity Magazine](#), October 23, 2023
- [e-Global Noticias em Portugues](#), October 23, 2023
- [Ikweli](#) (print and online), October 25, 2023

Solar powers up lives in northern Mozambique

- [Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism](#), October 17, 2023
- [Moz24H](#), October 17, 2023
- [Ikweli](#), October 18, 2023

Solar's not shining for all in Cabo Delgado

- [Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism](#), October 30, 2023
- [Moz24H](#), November 3, 2023



Solar panels at the health centre in Muíte facilitate communication for emergency issues and the conservation of vaccines. Photo: Nelsa Momade Pedro

- [#PowerTracker: How I did it](#) (training)
- [#PowerTracker: Moçambique e Justiça Climática](#) (training)
- [#PowerTracker: Storytelling com dados](#) (training)
- [#PowerTracker: Como contar boas histórias usando dados?](#) (training)
- [Investigating renewable energy in Mozambique](#) (webinar)

- [What #PowerTracker journalists found in Mozambique](#)
- [#PowerTracker zooms in on Mozambique's renewables](#)
- [Meet the #PowerTracker journalists](#)
- [#PowerTracker journalists tell stories with data](#)
- [Journalists liberate new #PowerTracker data to follow energy investments](#)



The photovoltaic plant at Ngãpa produces 200kW, and was designed for 800 household connections.
Photo: Buanamade Assane





#PowerTracker: Investigating renewable energy in Mozambique

We would like to once again thank the Centre for Investigative Journalism's Open Climate Reporting Initiative (OCRI) for its support. Without their continued support, #PowerTracker Mozambique would not have been made possible.

www.oxpeckers.org/powertracker

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