

Indonesia

Rusleli teaches local farmers how to plant cocoa seedlings and use organic fertilizer at a self-help agricultural and rural training centre in North Luwu.

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Tracking projects using cutting-edge technologies

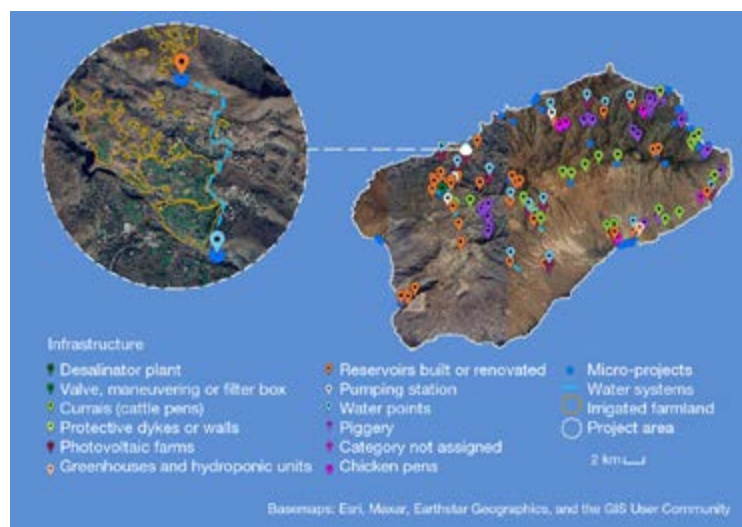
A thorough understanding of conditions on the ground in remote rural communities is fundamental to the success of IFAD-supported projects. That is why we are increasingly using cutting-edge geographic information system (GIS) technologies in IFAD-supported projects.

GIS allows us to pinpoint the location of communities and map project activities, even in highly remote rural areas, where many IFAD-supported projects take place. This provides us with precise data on locations and landscapes. It helps us to monitor progress and make informed decisions. It allows us to measure progress and assess impact. For example, a project that aims to improve pasture management needs to measure the boundaries and the type and timing of interventions to assess whether pastures have become more productive.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a precise map is surely worth many more.

To demonstrate, we can take a look at how GIS has enabled the Rural Socio-economic Opportunities Programme (POSER) in Cabo Verde to track the progress of its activities. One of the main aims of POSER is to increase the resilience of rural communities to the impacts of climate change.

The map of Santo Antão, the westernmost island of Cabo Verde, shows 12 different types of infrastructure the project has established. This includes water-related infrastructure such as water points, pumping stations and reservoirs. It includes parcels of land placed under climate-resilient practices, and infrastructure to support income-generating activities, such as farm buildings, cattle pens and greenhouses.



Map showing the investment locations of POSER on the island of Santo Antão.

The level of precision is remarkably high. For example, on recent high-resolution satellite imagery, it is easy to spot photovoltaic installations and other types of investments established by POSER. It is also easy to map water reservoirs the project has built or renovated.



Photovoltaic farms and water points established by POSER.



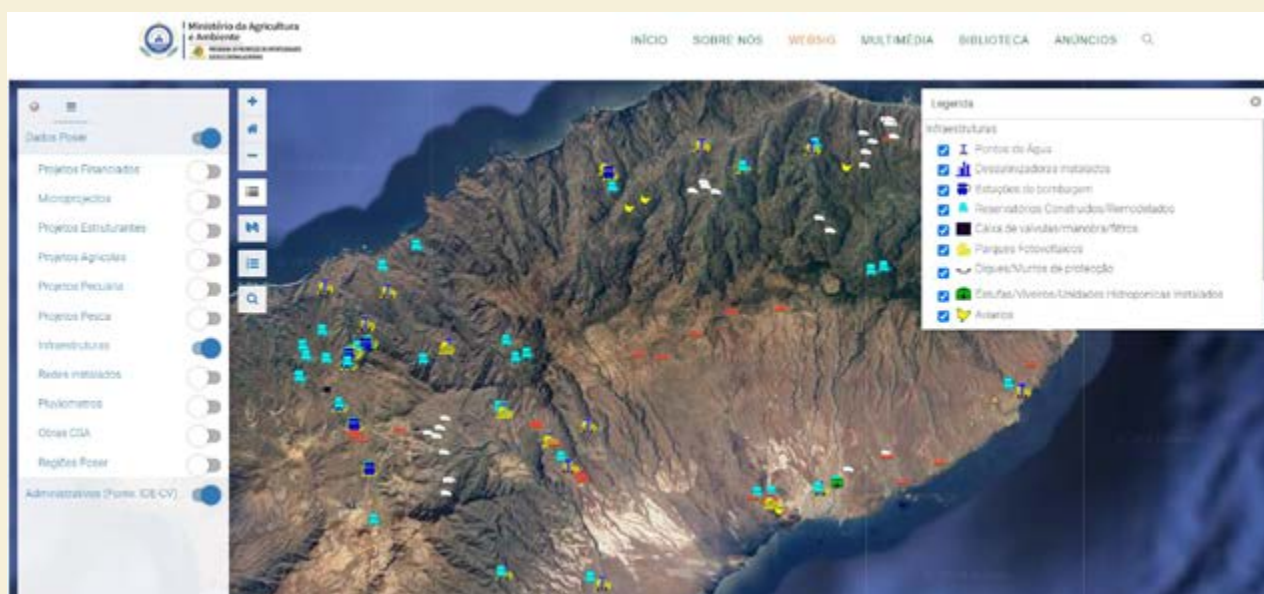
Reservoirs built or renovated by POSER.

The high-quality GIS data are available on the project's web map. Users can zoom in to explore what the project has achieved on the ground.

To collect, process and visualize field data, the project used free open-source software. The data were collected by field officers using tablets.

The web map has helped the IFAD country team with project supervision. The GIS data are also currently being used for an IFAD impact assessment.

To guide IFAD and our partners in applying GIS to map and monitor projects, we have produced a dedicated manual.



GIS data are available on the POSER web map.