

## **Cutting Trees for Firewood Banned**

The Mozambican authorities have banned the cutting of trees for firewood in parts of the central province of Sofala because of the ecological damage the practice is causing.

The measure, taken by the Sofala provincial forestry department, particularly affects coastal areas around Beira city. Without the protection afforded by trees, parts of Beira are simply falling into the Indian ocean.

The cutting down of mangroves is even threatening the port of Beira, and the vital Beira corridor, the link between landlocked Zimbabwe and the sea.

The forest department also plans to embark on a major reforestation campaign to replace the trees already cut down in sensitive areas.

The measure will undoubtedly make it more difficult to obtain firewood and charcoal in Beira and cause an increase in the already high prices charged by sellers.