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JOINT INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO REHABILITATE GORONGOSA

Minister of Agriculture João Ferreira, charged by the Mozambican government with directing activities for the rehabilitation of the Gorongosa area, freed from bandit control in the past 2-3 months, addressed a meeting in Maputo of UN agencies, religious organisations, and foreign governmental and non-governmental organisations represented in Mozambique to discuss the issue. At the meeting, on 6 November, representatives of various organisations indicated that they would be making proposals to their HQs for the financing of emergency aid programmes, covering food supplies, technical assistance, and also rehabilitation plans both mid- and long-term, especially in agriculture.

Some 25,000 peasants in the area are regarded by the authorities as having special difficulties. Mozambique's Natural Disasters office and Nordic and American organisations have already supplied some food products, warm clothing and agricultural tools and seeds. Minister Ferreira pointed out that Gorongosa had been one of the most productive parts of the country, producing 20-25,000 tons of maize a year for the market.

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