

# Acknowledgements

I always thought that writing the last words of my dissertation would be easy. But as I am writing this acknowledgements easy is not the right word. With years of hard work passing by there are lots of people who I would like to thank for their support.

First and foremost I would like to thank Roy Brouwer and Pieter van Beukering for providing me the opportunity to do my PhD at the environmental economics department and their support to bring it to a good end. Roy, a special word of thanks to you. Though working with you is at times slightly chaotic, I have enjoyed it. Your positive encouragements, feedback and comments were much appreciated.

Many thanks are also due to the members of the reading committee for reviewing this dissertation; Erwin Bulte, Henny Romijn, Frank van der Vleuten, Peter Lanjouw and Jan Rouwendal.

The work of my PhD was part of the IS-Academy on Renewable Energy in Africa (RENEW) and a large share of my time I have spent on the African continent working in Kenya and Mozambique. In both countries I had the honor to work with two amazing research teams who have done a great job in collecting data and assisting me in the field. A special thanks to the Mozambican team who after they got attacked during a field visit continued their work with great enthusiasm and dedication. I like to thank Rick Overmars for welcoming me at the SNV office in Maputo where I was able to work for 6 months on my research. Jan Cloin thank you for the meetings at the ministry and providing insights from a policy point of view. Although you found a new job half way the project we met again in Maputo. Thank you for the warm welcome over there.

When I started my PhD, little did I know about environmental issues and it took me quite some time to get used to IVM and its people. It was definitely no love at first sight. But with the years I learned to love the place and I can now honestly say I had a great time working at IVM. The great bunch of colleagues make the institute a fun place to work.

Rahul, we started working together on RENEW. Unfortunately you left too early for a new adventure. It was great sharing an office with you, discussing all the energy stuff I didn't know anything about, hanging out on the karaoke nights at Gils and hopefully we will work on a new energy project together in the future. Who knows if Maputo will "call us back". I would also like to thank Ike, Olu and Bianca with whom I shared my office. Girls, thanks for all the chats, though at

times we talked more than we worked. Majelle, Theo and Mehmet, thank you all for the interesting discussions, fun lunches and help whenever needed.

I would like to thank some dear friends who have been a great support over the years in- and outside of academia. Jiska, we both started a “phd journey” and although you were just a little bit quicker I can only say it was great to travel this road together. Having a good friend who knows exactly what you are going through is worth a million. Our road trip in Mozambique was a life changer in so many ways and will stay a dear memory forever. Esther, thank you for your wise words keeping me sane and realizing you cannot always work. Anna and Liz even though you both live far away, support is always just around the corner. Marleen, we met in Maputo and you made coming to the SNV office good fun. Off course the out of office time was a blast as well.

Mom and dad I cannot thank you enough for all the support of the past years. You encouraged me whenever I needed it and helped me out with all practical things back home whenever I was abroad again.

Angelo Chilaule, we met in Maputo shortly after I arrived and I can honestly say I don't know what I should have done without you! Most importantly, you managed to put a smile back on my face and shown me how beautiful and inspiring Mozambique is. We worked together on my research and your assistance has been of great value, Kanimambo! In February 2015 you moved to the Netherlands to build your life here with me. While you deserved all my time and attention getting settled in your new country, my mind was often drifting away, busy thinking about this book. Thank you for waiting patiently and giving me the space and support I needed to finish. Nevertheless, I do hope I have managed to make you feel at home and understand some of the crazy Dutch way of life.

Finally one very special person deserves explicit mention although she and this dissertation were born around the same time. Mia, you had to share your first weeks in this world with mama finalizing this book but with these last words all my time will now be yours. I hope that in the coming years I can show you some of Africa and that when you grow older you will embark on your own journey and will discover Africa in all its beauty.

Wageningen, July 2016