Proposal to CEPF:

Reference nr: **???**

Title: Filling the gap: biodiversity surveys to increase long-term forest sustainability

Applicant: Matthias De Beenhouwer

Free Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples

Background to Project

Since when have you been working in the area?

This is the first BINCO project. However, MELCA has been working in the area since 2005.

What has been achieved so far?

MELCA has achieved, together with other actors, to recognize Sheka forest as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve

Who are living in the area?

Sheka forest lies within the SNPPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional state), a multitude of people from different origin lives adjacent to this forest. Amhara and Oromo people are present in small numbers while Shekachos are the most represented indigenous community of Sheka.

Which Indigenous People are present?

Shekachos are the most represented indigenous community. The Manjos are a smaller group of people, marginalized by other communities. The Oromo and Amhara people are relatively recent communities in Sheka.

How many?

This strongly depends on the estimates. In our study area estimates are around 60 households for the Beto kebele and 50 households for the Welo Shoba kebele.

What is their status, means of livelihoods, and what is the relation between your project and these Indigenous People?

Indigenous people are selling firewood and charcoal, and cultivating coffee in the forest. This project might indirectly lead to increased forest protection, which can further lead to less harvesting of forest produce (in the short term). This will be compensated for by an increase in

alternative income via eco-tourism, training, job employment and new projects (e.g. honey and coffee certification)

Project

Are the Indigenous People informed about your planned project?

Yes

Do they agree?

Yes

How will you involve them during the implementation of your project?

Training as guides and monitors: theoretical part

Assessing biodiversity: practical part

Will they be part of the decision-making process?

Yes