

**Social Assessment**

**20 June 2016**

**CEPF Grant 66314**

**Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes**

**Promoting Energy-Efficient Stoves for Sustainable Conservation of Cyamudongo Forest, Phase  
Two**

**Rwanda**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes
2. 66314
3. \$40,000
4. 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017
5. Rwanda
6. Document prepared on 20 June 2016

**7. Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The project will work in the surrounding of the Cyamudongo forest, in five cells and three sectors of Rusizi district. Per Rwandan designation, the country does not refer to “indigenous people” because of connotations and history. Instead, we refer to Historically Marginalized People (HMP). The cells where these HMP live are, Mataba in Nkungu Sector and Gaseke cell in Nyakabuye sector. This involves HMP from the following villages, which together have an official population of 150 people:

- 1) Rwamaraba
- 2) Rutegamatwi
- 3) Njambwe

All of the beneficiaries and people implicated in the project are “local” to the area, some of them being Historically Marginalized People. For many years ago the HMP have been living in Nyungwe natural forest where they used to hunt and women and children used to collect fruits, firewood and medical plants for sick ones. In the year 1970-80, they have been forced leave the forest. They have been evicted from their homelands and offered neither compensation nor plan of their social integration. Due to lack of land and other livelihood opportunities, HMP are among the poorest population around Cyamudongo forest.

However, with some support of Local Government, RDB and partners including WCS, REDO and ARECO, this group is being integrated where by some of them per now knows how to read and write and they started sending their children to school. They have also engaged in agriculture which will improve their livelihood.

Their daily activities are pottery, agriculture and they work as porters in the area, HMP speak Kinyarwanda language which is spoken in the whole country. These people live in villages but the Government of Rwanda gave them land for agriculture practices.

**8. Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

Per the proposal to CEPF, the project will distribute high efficiency cook stoves to stakeholders surrounding the Cyamdungo forest, then measure the relationship between use of stoves and expected decreased pressure on the forest. Recipients of stoves will include both HMPs and non-HMPs.

**9. Potential impacts:** This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

The project is expected to have positive impacts on the HMP living in the project sites, and these are embedded in the project design. Expected results include promotion of improved livelihoods where they will be trained on business planning and improved awareness of the benefits of conservation. There are no anticipated negative impacts from the project.

**10. Participatory preparation:** This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

The project will build the capacity of local people and groups to participate in conservation of Cyamudongo Forest regarding the use of energy efficient stoves. Thus, this project is built around a livelihood improvement process that enables HMP to take part.

ARECO is both the implementer of the project and a stakeholder in the region. Its members will participate in processes like other stakeholders, but as the implementer, the group will not control the outcome of community-based decisions or decisions by the tribal authority.

As part of the proposal process and as part of the project design, ARECO has engaged community members and government representatives. Stakeholders include Rusizi District department of Environment and District department of forestry, Rwanda Development Board (RDB)/ Nyungwe Park Authority in community conservation department Natural Resource Authority (RNRA) in charge of forestry, Wildlife Conservation Society, local authorities, cooperative members and communities.

ARECO has received explicit endorsement from Rusizi District to do this work, and ensured it is welcome to work in the area through numerous and ongoing conversations with the other stakeholders.

ARECO has been working in this area for the past year and been in consultation with the communities throughout this period. As the previous CEPF grant came to a close in August 2015, we led meetings with the local communities, Rusizi District Authorities and Sectors and the head of Nyungwe National Park, with Dancilla, Aloys and Valens. The communities in general, receiving and not-receiving, were expressing their wish of an extension phase, when next steps have been discussed, being aware about the possible extension of the project. Different suggestions came from the mayor of Rusizi District and RDB/Park Authority. An expression of their need have already begun in the phase of the stove distribution. Meetings were conducted in Kinyarwanda.

Consultations with the communities on their desire to see this project continue has been held via the field monitor Valens, who held meetings with local communities from the end of the first phase till February 2016, during his work on the follow-up monitoring.

Through the time of the submission of this proposal from February till June 2016, ARECO has held consultations mostly via phone contact. In June 2016 Aloys and Eva from ARECO and Damascene from REDO have been in Cyamudongo forest, meeting the cooperative of Nkungu, the environment officer of Rusizi District, the park authority Norbert, deputy chief warden of Nyungwe National Park communicating the plans of the project. They all expressed their consent on the extension phase.

**11. Mitigation strategies:** This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

ARECO will explain the scope of the project to all stakeholders and ensure that community expectations are realistic. Participant expectations will be regularly checked and the project scope reiterated where necessary.

ARECO will work within this social context by acknowledging and involving HMP. ARECO also recognizes the role of local environmental knowledge and custom in understand conservation threats and finding solutions.

ARECO's approach to the promotion of the project activities is participatory, makes use of local knowledge, and responds to local needs and concerns. For example, selection of particular beneficiaries and identification of sites will be done in a transparent and equitable manner that ensures equity and conscious design.

**12. Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

Social impact monitoring is built into the project design .Development of monitoring protocols of use of stoves with the contribution of stakeholders. These protocols will be proposed by the consultant who will identify relevant indicators to use for monitoring the changes. The project will report on and address any unexpected positive or negative changes that occur in the communities as a result of the project.

Selection of community representatives will ensure an equitable balance of men and women. Findings will be compiled into brief annual reports for CEPF per the logical framework. ARECO will adapt the project if any negative impacts occur.

**13. Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities should be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director should be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices or other appropriate means in local language(s). Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account ([cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance may be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. Please describe the grievance mechanism that you will use for your project, and how you will ensure that stakeholders are aware of it.

HMP and other local communities and stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to ARECO or CEPF about any issue relating to the project. During baseline and technical evaluation, the stakeholders will be informed about this possibility and be provided with contact information for ARECO and CEPF Secretariat. ARECO will post publicly, raise at meetings, and provide documentation providing the phone number and e-mail of Dancilla Mukakamari (director of ARECO), the RIT representative of BirdLife International in Rwanda (Jean-Paul Ntungane), and CEPF.

**14. Budget:** This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

ARECO has budgeted an appropriate amount for publishing materials with grievance procedures.