

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date: 15th July 2018

CEPF Grant: S18-454-TAN

Grantee: Sokoine University of Agriculture through FORCONSULT

Project Title: Establishment of Village Land Forest Reserves and Threats Reduction for Biodiversity Conservation in Ludewa Forests, Tanzania

Project Location: Ludewa, Njombe, Tanzania

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Sokoine University of Agriculture
2. Grant title: Establishment of Village Land Forest Reserves and Threats Reduction for Biodiversity Conservation in Ludewa Forests, Tanzania
3. Grant number: S18-454-TAN
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 50000
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 August 2018 to 31 September 2019
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Tanzania
7. Date of preparation of this document: 15th July 2018

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

While Ludewa forests play a significant role in supporting biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods a large part of its natural forests falls under Village Land Forests (VLFs) and therefore not protected. The recent CEPF funded work identified several threats in the forests including uncontrolled grazing, forest fires, illegal tree cutting, agricultural encroachment, mining and illegal hunting. These threats were noted to increase at great pace and it is likely that the impact may be huge in the near future if urgent actions are not taken. The most feasible and viable option for protection and sustainable management of these forests rests on CBFM where villagers are given power to take charge of protection and management of their forests. With CBFM, control and ownership of forests is devolved to the village government/Village Council. This project aims therefore to promote the 2 surveyed VLFs to be Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFs) under CBFM. In this project establishment of CBFM will go along with sister activities including fire management, buffer zones creation, bylaws development and enforcement and capacity enhancement to local government officials, CSOs and Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs). As a result of establishment of CBFM exploitation of natural resources will be regulated to improve condition of village forests, enhance ecosystem connectivity and functioning and improve livelihood in Ludewa.

B. Participatory implementation

This project is a continuation of previous project whereby stakeholders (e.g. communities, district councils/local authorities, CSOs and VNRCs) were fully involved in designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. All the stakeholders are aware and support the current project as during the previous project awareness on sustainable/wise use of forests to ensure supply of forest goods and services was raised. It is the same stakeholders who encouraged during the closing of previous project

that more work should be done to ensure that forests are protected. SUA team agreed with stakeholders that we should develop a joint proposal and work together to ensure that village forests are protected and managed sustainably through CBFM. We believe in participation and consultation and therefore considerable efforts and time to consult and provide (and receive) feedback is paramount. The implementing team is very aware that establishment of CBFM anchors in participation and this project puts strong emphasis on engagement of stakeholders through participatory approaches. We have had constant and effective communication and consultation even after the end of the previous project (in May 2017) and stakeholders are engaged in every step of this project. We provide details on progress to the stakeholders and we receive feedback from stakeholders too. This project uses existing representative local structures and institutions which are effective e.g. Village Assemblies (VAs), VNRCs and Village Councils (VCs) at the target villages in decision making process through for example open meetings e.g. during Village Assemblies and other official gatherings. Members of these structures are aware of the biological and social context and since they were involved in the previous project (2015-2017) they understand threats facing the forests. VNRCs are charged to take care of forests including organizing patrols, bylaws enforcement and implementation of management plans activities on behalf of all villagers. VCs are decision making bodies on behalf of all villagers while Village Assemblies are the highest governance level in the village. District and Regional authorities are involved actively in the project. Their main function is to provide technical guidance around CBFM.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The project will be implemented in 2 villages and therefore mainly local communities residing around these forests may somehow be affected. In most communities, extraction of timber and poles and charcoal burning (timber forest products-TFPs) is done by men as it is labour intensive. It is anticipated that those men who used to overexploit the natural resources from village forests will somehow be affected. On the other hand, women are often involved in collection of NTFPs including wild vegetables, mushrooms and firewood (less labour intensive activities) so the women who used to over exploit natural resources will also somehow be affected. Otherwise broadly speaking all members of local communities will still have access to natural resources following the procedure set by members themselves under CBFM arrangement. No any groups that will be denied access to the natural resources except certain persons or groups whose activities are clearly illegal, unsustainable and destructive, and those people using opportunistically the resources. There are no indigenous or forest dwelling people in the 2 villages. Potential vulnerable groups available may be mentally and physically handicapped people or people in poor physical health, and the very poor ones. During implementation of activities and decision-making processes special attention will be given to these groups to make sure that they are represented and heard. This is done through encouraging them and requests relatives and the community as a whole to support them to be active participants in the project activities and decision making.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

This project will not cause any involuntary resettlement as no villagers will be required to do so. This project will only restrict **over exploitation** of natural resources from the forests by putting mechanisms to regulate unwise use of the natural resources so as to sustainably benefit majority of community members. Once VLFRs are in place and operational, community members will still have access to natural resources in the forests meaning that they will still obtain their basic livelihood needs but they won't be allowed to over utilize the natural resources. Regulated utilization will ensure that human disturbances are reduced; forest health is maintained while at the same time community members utilize the resources sustainably for present and future generations. There are participatory measures to be put in place to assist affected communities including:

- i) Setting transparent, equitable, and fair ways of more sustainable sharing of the resources through setting standard frequency, quantity/volume of natural resources e.g. NTFPs to be harvested or collected over time
- ii) Educate and promote retaining/incorporating natural resources (e.g. wild vegetables and timber and fruit trees) in to agricultural fields to increase access to resources and functional substitutes
- iii) Encourage community members to venture into additional livelihood sources e.g. beekeeping and modern poultry
- iv) Provision of extension services to improve agricultural land productivity and incomes
- v) Obtaining employment, for example by becoming eco-tourist guides
- vi) Setting aside zones for conservation and for utilization in the forest management plan. This will ensure that fragile areas are preserved while other areas of the forests are used by community members sustainably.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Local communities are aware of and support the objectives of this project as project design and development has been participatory where all stakeholders have been actively involved. But in case there are grievances with the grantee from some of the community members they may first present their grievances to the Village Council which is a village level governance body and in case they are not satisfied they may present the grievances to the Village Assembly. If they are still not satisfied they may submit grievances to the District Council. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to Regional Implementation Team and other higher authorities (i.e. CEPF Secretariat and World Bank). This mechanism has initially been communicated to local communities and other stakeholders including CSOs, District and Regional authorities but it will be made clearer during launching and execution of the project activities. Contact information: FORCONSULT-SUA, P.O. Box 3009, Chuo Kikuu-Morogoro, Email: forconsult@sua.ac.tz, Tel +255785252550; District Council: Ludewa District Executive Director, P.O. Box 19. Ludewa-Email:ded@ludewadc.go.tz; the Regional Implementation Team: Bird Life International, L'aigle blanc opposite conversion center P.O. Box 2527, Nyarugenge, Kigali, Rwanda; and local World Bank office, Mirambo Building, 50 Mirambo St, Dar es Salaam; will be made publicly available, through public notices on each of two village notice boards in Swahili language.

F. Implementation Arrangements

This project uses participatory approaches in implementation of activities to bring sense of ownership, commitment, sustainability and expected impact. Different stakeholders will be involved in the project at different times and on different activities. Key stakeholders are local communities, local governance bodies (VNRCs, VCs, VAs), CSOs (MLADEA) and Local Government Offices (from e.g. natural resources, land, social welfare and public prosecution) who are already aware of this project. There will be launching of the project (to be organized by Felister jointly with the District Natural Resources Office) which will bring all stakeholders together to highlight salient issues of the project e.g. objectives, working modalities, what to expect and what not to expect, obligations/responsibilities of each stakeholder, time lines, budget, leadership, expected impacts and grievance raising mechanisms. Based on previous experience a convenient and cost effective location for launching is Ludewa town. After launching, VNRCs will be facilitated by implementation team-Sayuni and office of the public prosecutor to draft bylaws which will be presented to the Village Council and then to the Village Assembly for improvement and approval. Mladea (local CSO) will play a key role of educating, encouraging and mobilizing community members to provide inputs in to the draft of the bylaws. Local communities will have the opportunity to provide inputs at the Village Assembly. Community members will provide inputs and

feedback on the proposed bylaws. The approved draft of bylaws will then be tabled to the District Council (by VC chairpersons) which again will make a close scrutiny in close collaboration with the office of the district prosecutor. Upon acceptance and approval, the District Council Chairperson will sign the bylaws ready to be used in the villages. VNRCs will be the ones to enforce bylaws which will be reviewed after every 5 years.

In this project, VNRCs, CSOs, LGAs and VCs will be trained using participatory approaches on CBFM by the implementation team. Experience from other parts of the country will be shared. The issue of sustainable forest management will be central where issues such as records keeping, accountability, good governance, buffer zones creation, fire management and bylaws enforcement will be emphasized. VNRCs will be the sole responsible in implementation of management and harvesting plans on behalf of all villagers.

Management plans will use biophysical and socioeconomic data collected during 2015-2017. The grantee (FORCONSULT-Samora) will prepare management plans together with VNRCs and District Officials (connected to natural resources, land and social welfare) with information e.g. on zones, species, volumes, quantities, types, times. In addition, harvesting plans will be prepared to guide local communities how best harvesting should be done (by grantee, DNRO, VNRCs) and when to ensure sustainable forest management. These plans will be presented to the and VCs for improvement and will be presented again to the District Council for approval. Forests under CBFM will run for a period of 3 years of which is the monitoring and evaluation period after which the District Council in collaboration with District Natural Resources and Land Offices will initiate the process of declaration and gazetment. Once the Director of Forestry and Beekeeping is satisfied he/she will gazette the forest under CBFM through government notice.

G. Monitoring and Evaluation

Felister will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the safeguards in this project. She will send 2 reports to RIT, one after the 6-month (Feb, 2019/M7) of project implementation and the last at the end of the project (Sep, 2019/M14).