

Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan

Date 16th July 2018

CEPF Grant - S18-495-TAN-NT

Grantee – Nature Tanzania

Project Title Sustainable forest edge management for the conservation of the Long-billed tailorbird and endemic globally threatened biodiversity of the East Usambara Mountains

Project Location - East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization – Nature Tanzania
2. Grant title - Sustainable forest edge management for the conservation of the Long-billed tailorbird and endemic globally threatened biodiversity of the East Usambara Mountains
3. Grant number: S18-495-TAN-NT
4. Grant amount (US dollars) **49474.294**
5. Proposed dates of grant. **1st August 2018**
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken – **United Republic of Tanzania**
7. Summary of the project. Forest edges in East Usambara Mountains are fundamental in buffering forests and their range of ecosystem services from degradation and providing habitats for several endemic and globally threatened species. For instance, about 35% of the territories of the Critically Endangered Long-billed Forest Warbler occur along forest edges in the EUM. The abundance of this edge and gap-specialist bird is limited by disturbance due to agricultural encroachment and presence of an invasive tree species, *Maesopsis eminii*. By engaging them through agreements, farmers will allocate plots on their land that border the forest edges by (i) developing them for forest edge habitat protection and (ii) manually removing the invasive *Maesopsis eminii*. The project will potentially increase the habitat for the Long-billed Forest Warbler and other threatened species that inhabit the forest edge.
8. Date of preparation of this document **16th July 2018**
9. **Status of area to be impacted:** This section should describe the applicant's understanding of the site. The forests within East Usambara Mountains (EUM) in Tanzania are globally recognised for their exceptional biodiversity, supporting >80 endemic or near-endemic vertebrates. Among these include the restricted-range Critically-Endangered Long-billed Forest-warbler (LBFW). About 70% of EUM is designated as Forest Reserves, but long-term monitoring shows that unprotected forest-edge habitats, which provide a protective buffer but where habitat degradation is most rapid, putting pressure on native forests, are vital in themselves to endemic biodiversity including LBFW and can help protect and improve ecosystem services (ES). In addition, these forests are of critical importance to people, providing essential ecosystem services to local communities in the form of forest products, carbon sequestration and water quality
10. **Approach:** This section will describe proposed actions during the project. Specifically, what do you intend to do and how will you do it?

In the *Maesopsis eminii* plots, this is where *Maesopsis eminii* (invasive species) have massively dominated the area. In these plots, *Maesopsis* will be cut and removed to allow regeneration of indigenous tree species. Controlled amount of organic vinegar will be used to treat stumps of cut *Maesopsis eminii*. This is to prevent stump regeneration. Organic vinegar will be carried in 10 litres drum with tight lid to avoid spilling. Extra care will be observed when treating *Maesopsis* stump for not to spill vinegar into the forest or forest edge. The aim of this experiment is that this native vegetation will provide good habitat for most of the forest bird species, including the Long-billed Forest Warbler. Currently, direct and indirect observational evidence suggests that the invasive and exotic tree, *Maesopsis eminii*, limits the abundance of the Forest-Warbler and other forest specialist bird species, included Banded Green Sunbird and Amani Sunbird (both globally threatened).

Following Maesopsis harvest, all plots will be monitored for vegetation parameters and bird censuses will be done on all endangered species and forest specialists on monthly intervals for 14 months preferably in the morning hours. Each number of individual birds species found in and outside the plots and activities of the birds will be identified and recorded, both as census data as well as for breeding/nesting data within plots. For census data, we will record if the bird is perching, flying, or in the case of the Long-billed Forest Warbler, if it responds to the playback.

11. **Anticipated impact:** this section will describe the impact and how this impact has been determined.

Removal of the invasive Maesopsis eminii from the regenerating plots could disturb the native vegetation when trees are cut. The disturbance will be minimized by cutting off branches from the top down in small pieces and help local vegetation to be restored.

12. **Mitigation measures:** Describe measures that will be taken to mitigate negative impacts.

The impact from vegetation disturbance will be minimal and is unlikely to affect species. Maesopsis will be mechanically removed, we will first cut off branches, then cut the whole tree from the top to down in small pieces to minimize vegetation disturbance.

13. **Actions to ensure health and safety:** Describe actions that will be taken to ensure the health and safety of workers as well as the site. Include a description of waste management and/or disposal.

- i. Project Manager and field assistants will be trained for the risk that may arise during project implementation. This includes exposure to motorcycle accidents. Project Manager and field assistants will be required to wear helmets and other safety gears when riding motorcycle.
- ii. The field assistant will wear boots, and ropes to pull the trees to the right direction to avoid the damage of other non targeted trees. All these should be done during dry season and during the day time to avoid bias.

14. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This section aims to outline what steps the proponent will take to monitor and evaluate the impact of the proposed intervention.

- i. Monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the proposed intervention will be carried monthly and reported in the technical report. Suggestion for any changes will be provided as the project is ongoing.
- ii.

15. **Permission of the landowner:** Please verify permission of the landowner to undertake actions on the site, and verify that you have the required permits to undertake this work.

- i. The project team already has permission from the district and village government to conduct the activity. Plot management agreement with farm owners will also provide legal permission for project team to conduct the activity in their farm land. These documents will be shared to CEPF immediately when we sign the agreements with the stakeholders.

16. **Consultation:** This section aims to outline the range of informed consultations that the grantee has had both with experts to optimize the potential for success, and with stakeholders, particularly local communities, who are potentially affected by the proposed actions. Include dates of consultations.
- i. The project team has been implementing the projects in the EUM for more than years now. It is therefore that there is strong communication and consultation with communities and government authorities. The Muheza district office, Amani Nature Reserve, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group are all aware Maesopsis eminii cutting approach. Consultations with these stakeholders have been conducted during implementation of the previous similar project in the area. This project makes a continuation of that project.
17. **Disclosure:** CEPF requires that safeguard documents are disclosed to affected local communities and stakeholders prior to project implementation. Please describe efforts to disclose this impact assessment and environmental management plan and provide dates.
- i. The planned project inception meeting, training and workshop with local communities and farm owners, baraza (discussion) with local communities and public outreach through radios and newspapers will be used to disclose this information to local communities and other key stakeholders.

18. **Grievance mechanism:**

In case of any complaint, the issue will be discussed first with project manager nature Tanzania. (Victor Mkongewa) +255784623759, if the complain persist, the grievances should be reported and discued with the local governments (MD).Further more if the issue was not handled well should be reported to the Regional Implementation Team (Maaike.Manten@birdlife.org) if not satisfied the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org).

The above grievance mechanism will be made public through public notice in Kiswahili, at the ward office in Amani, and will also be communicated to stakeholders in the meetings.