

**Environmental Impact Assessment
and
Environmental Management Plan**

Date: 1st Aug 2018.

CEPF Grant No – S18-524-UGA- KIWOCEDU

Grantee KIWOCEDU

Project Title – Community Restoration of Bamboos in Echuya Forest Reserve-
(CORB project)

Project Location: Bufundi Subcounty –Kacerere parish, the new Rubanda district
(formerly in greater Kabale district)

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization.** KIWOCEDU
2. Grant title. Community Restoration for Bamboos in Echuya forest reserve - CORB project
4. **Grant number.** S18-524-UGA- KIWOCEDU
5. **Grant amount** (US dollars). 30,000usd
6. **Proposed dates of grant.** 1/8/2018- 30th Sept 2019
7. **Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.** The project will be implemented in Africa, Eastern Afro-montane region, South Western-Uganda, Bufundi sub county, Rubanda District.
8. **Summary of the project.**

The overall goal or long term impact of this project is a rural community fully empowered as change agents and champions of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation for the benefit of all.

Specific objectives are:

- Increased knowledge for local men and women about biodiversity and ecological values of Echuya forest and their 4Rs-(roles, rights, responsibilities and returns) to ensuring its sustainable management and conservation as a precondition to their human well-being.
- Sustainable management, harvesting practices and wise use of *Yushaniaalpina* bamboo at Echuya adopted.
- Bamboo regeneration and regrowth promoted at Echuya.
- Increased capacity of KIWOCEDU to effectively and strategically implement 'conservation for livelihood' projects with integration of gender issues.

The main project results will be:

- Enhanced understanding of project stakeholders on CORB project; sustainable forest management, and gender issues in ensuring sustainable conservation of natural resources.
- KIWOCEDU's website operational and Information communication materials on sustainable forest management practices developed distributed to project stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- Increased skills and knowledge for atleast 270 community members in sustainable harvesting of forest bamboos and value addition to bamboo products as part of wise use of natural resources.
- 50 hectares of bamboo forest brought under sustainable forest management regime.
- 1.5 hectares of degraded area at Echuya enriched with 1667 bamboo rhizomes (bamboo domestication) as an approach to forest restoration.
- KIWOCEDU and partners' skills, learning and knowledge sharing facilitated and enhanced through joint project monitoring, reporting and planning, and sharing of lessons learned.

The project will be implemented in Echuya Central Forest Reserve, located in Rubanda and Kisoro districts, south western Uganda. Key beneficiaries are forest adjacent communities and National Forestry Authority (NFA). Main Implementing partners will be NFA, Bufundi Echuya Forest Conservation and Livelihood Improvement (BECLA), and Rubanda Local Government.

Project duration and cost: 14 months, 1 August 2018-30th September 2019

Total budget: USD 30,000.

9. Date of preparation of this document. **13th July 2018**

10. **Status of area to be impacted:** This section should describe the applicant’s understanding of the site.

The site for bamboo restoration is covered with short grass and shrubs, overgrazed and over bamboo harvested area. It’s an open area with almost no bamboo stands. The site from where to uproot bamboo rhizomes for transplanting has high concentration of bamboo.

11. **Approach:** This section will describe proposed actions during the project. Specifically, what do you intend to do and how will you do it?

3.2.0 of project activities focuses on bamboo restoration equivalent to 1.5 hectares.

Under this, the following activities will be done:

Activity	Method/Approach
Joint Planning meeting with CFM , Local government and NFA on bamboo restoration	Joint dialogue meeting involving the three partners will be held and activity plan developed for joint implementation
Demarcation of 1.5ha.of land to be restored	Selected BECLA CFM members will do the demarcation with technical guidance and supervision from NFA Manager and supervisor.
Pitting	GPS point will also be taken Spot pitting will be done by selected BECLA members under and KIWOCEDU and NFA’s supervision
Uprooting bamboo rhizomes	This will be selectively done at different spots by skilled selected CFM members, and under technical guidance form KIWOCEDU and NFA
Planting of 1667 bamboo rhizomes	This will be done in the dug pits by selected and oriented BECLA members with technical guidance form KIWOCEDU and NFA
Periodic maintenance of the restored area	Spot slashing and weeding around the planted bamboos will be done periodically as and when required to promote healthy bamboo establishment and growth.
Develop a joint management plan for the 1.5 bamboo restored area	During, joint planning meeting for this activity, a team comprised of representatives of the three parties will be selected to draft the joint management plan

Joint meeting will be held to review and agree on the joint plan before its operationalization.

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

- Disturbance of short grass and shrubs during clearing and pitting
- Holes created after uprooting bamboo rhizomes

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

- Spot clearing where pitting is to be done
- Spot digging where to plant bamboo rhizomes
- Tagging ribbons while demarcating instead of cutting trees/bamboos
- Covering holes with soil after uprooting the bamboo rhizomes
- Selective uprooting of bamboo rhizomes spread over a wide area to mitigate the impact

14. **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.

- Workers will be given gum boots and good tools for use while uprooting and transplanting.
- No much waste is anticipated, albeit the cut off bamboo tops will be taken home and be utilized by workers for multiple uses like bean staking and firewood.

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

- Use of skilled up rooters (who are CFM members of that particularly CFM zone where the activity will be undertaken), and who will be under close monitoring/supervision by both KIWOCEDU and NFA patrolmen/supervisor

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.

- The LOI was developed in consultation with and support of National forestry Authority (NFA), a government institution charged with management of all central forest reserves in Uganda. *Attached here is the authorization letter from NFA.*

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.

- KIWOCEDU team had a meeting with NFA Manager-Mr. Martin Mwodi to discuss the call for LOI. The LOI was there after developed with consent, ideas, and information from the Manager, in regard to the proposed CORB project.
 - Zoreka Keresi (KIWOCEDU staff) as a conservationist expert who has long served at Echuya was also involved in development of the LOI and other attachments as required by CEPF.
 - CFM leaders were also consulted on the possible viable and community driven solutions to the bamboo issues at Echuya and the proposed activities were bamboo restoration and liberation as planned in the CORB 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.
- The initial planned activity is an action and stakeholder engagement meeting with local leaders, project beneficiaries and other key project partners.
 - In this meeting, KIWOCEDU intends to disclose safeguard measure to all these planned safeguard document measures and get more views on how best this can be
 - 21st August 2018, – KIWOCEDU will have a meeting with BECLA Collaborative Forest management groups.
 - On 22 August 2018 – KIWOCEDU will Hold meetings with NFA, Local government leaders at district , sub county and parish to disclose the safeguards and agree on the way forward/
 - The outcome of these meeting is expected to go a long way in strengthening project implementation.
18. **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) 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.
- KIWOCEDU intends to be very transparent with regards to information about project implementation, the roles of every stakeholders and channels through which any foreseen grievances will be reported for corrective action.

- ☑ KIWOCECEDU will promote project ownership from inception phase by engaging all stakeholders in all activities of the project.
- ☑ Beneficiaries will be informed of their roles in the project including reporting that this is their project and any mistakes seen in the implementation phase should be reported through right challenges without fear or favor to the field officer, project team leader, local government official and CEPF Regional Implementation team. In relation to this, the contact phones of the responsible people will be availed to the beneficiaries through their leadership structures.
- ☑ A copy of the Grievance reporting protocol will be pinned On KIWOCECEDU notice board, LOCAL council chairman.
- ☑ Each of the leaders of the stakeholders will have a copy of the grievance reporting mechanisms (Batwa, CFM, NFA, and BECCLA
- ☑ The team leaders will explain the meaning of the grievance reporting mechanisms and how it should be used, and how they will be at liberty to express any grievance related to the manner in which the project will be handled.
- ☑ KIWOCECEDU will avail the contact numbers of the people through which beneficiaries grievances can will reported and responded to as follows
- ☑ The first level will be addressed to the field officer **Mr Zoreka Kereth** though his contact number + **256777048005**
- ☑ The second line of reporting the beneficiaries grievances with regard to project implementation flaws will be addressed with the project team leader **Turyahabwa Lorna +256773678942**
- ☑ If matters are not handled the beneficiaries will be required to push their grievances to the Local government chairman Mr. Nizeyiyi Joseph **+256772557161**
- ☑ If matters are still not well handled the beneficiaries can then contact the regional implementation team Leader **Maaike Manten** via her email Maaike.Manten@birdlife.org
- ☑ If she's not able to handle this they will be at liberty to report to CEPF headquarters via email cepfexecutive@conservation.org