

Proposal to CEEPF 65708: Designing Management and Monitoring Plans for the Livingstone Mountain Forests

Process Framework

Project Background

WCS has been working with the communities adjacent to the biologically important Madenge, Mdandu, Mshola and Sakaranyumo forests since 2008 to understand their status and natural resource use in order to conserve them.

Livingstone forests

WCS's finding in 2008/2009 confirmed that the scenic forest reserves are very important for biodiversity and their catchment values. One species, the critically endangered Kipunji (*Rungwecebus kipunji*), Africa's rarest primate, has its stronghold population in these forests. The area is also home to Africa's rarest forest antelope, Abbott's duiker (*Cephalophus spadix*), in addition to numerous important amphibian and reptile species, many of them endemic and only recently discovered to science (many by WCS).

Social economic surveys from 150 households verified villagers' dependence on the reserves' resources for fuel, food and construction material. Some villagers around the reserve meet their medicinal needs through some of plants located inside the reserves.

Currently these forests have minimal protection and lack functional management plans. Their boundaries have not been clearly marked which allows encroachment through farming and fire. No managers have been assigned to work in the reserve which enables the blossoming illegal pet trade, particularly of smaller reptile species.

WCS carried out mass meetings with communities adjacent the forest to know how much communities are aware of different issues related to the forests reserve within their villages. From the meetings, WCS learned that communities are aware that they live adjacent to forest reserves that are important economically, socially, culturally and for conservation. The communities are happy to participate in management of the forests, including day to day monitoring of illegal activities inside them. They pointed out that boundaries are not clear and asked WCS to facilitate the authorities to resurvey and maintain the boundaries so the communities can better assist in the protection and management of the forests.

Project preparation

Preparation of this project took consideration of the following:

- Results from socio economic survey conducted
- Ideas from discussion with other partners - Ludewa District and Tanzania Forest Services (TFS)

The main objectives of the project are to:

1. Support community-based conservation activities based on the communities' own concerns of natural resource sustainability (proposal components 4 Management Plan Implementation: Community Participation and 5 Community Outreach);

2. Management planning for the forests (component 1 Baseline Surveys and Data Review, component 2 Data Evaluation and Management Plan Design, and component 3 Designing a Monitoring System)
3. Sustainability of natural resource protection by improving local capacity at different levels to implement the plans (component 3 Designing a Monitoring System; component 5 Community Outreach and component 6 Sub-grantee Management).

Participatory Implementation

There will be full involvement of villagers/villages, Tanzania Forest Service and Ludewa District Council in the implementation of the project. This will be done through consultative meetings and group discussions, and the management plans themselves will include procedures requiring community consultation.

Criteria for eligibility for affected person

Eligibility for affected persons in this project will be the villages that border the forest reserves and individuals who have farms that border the forest reserves. The main affected people will be the hunters, loggers and fuel wood collectors who rely on the forests for these resources. With funding from CEPF, we are already working with some affected members via our successful beekeeping project, and other affected persons will participate in tree nursery establishment under a WCS USAID-funded project.

Measures to assist the affected persons

WCS will work with TFS and Ludewa District council to make sure that the affected people, such as hunters, are involved in activities such as temporal labour to clear boundaries, guiding tours once tourism is developed and as village scouts for forest protection. They will also be allowed to continue collecting fuel wood and medicine following regulations set by TFS.

Conflict Resolution and Complaint Mechanisms

WCS is the only NGO working in the area, and over the years, it has built a strong relationship with communities such that villagers trust WCS. During awareness meetings, villagers raised their concerns on the lack of clear management of the forests, and WCS took these concerns to TFS which pledged to address them. To make sure that this projects is going forward, WCS always ensures the link between communities, TFS and the District Natural resource officers is strong in all matters related to forest conservation and community participation in forest management.

Implementation Arrangements

The implementation arrangements are summarized in the following table which indicates how different stakeholders will participate in the six key components of the project:

Component	Stakeholders involved	Roles and responsibilities
Baseline surveys and data review	WCS	Data review, design ecological survey and carry out biodiversity and resource use assessment
Data evaluation and management plan design	WCS	Lead the process of management plan
	TFS	Engage in the process
	Ludewa District Council	Engage in the process
	Communities	Engage in the process
Designing a monitoring system	WCS	Species and habitat survey and lead establishment of District Environmental committee
	Ludewa District Council	Engage in the establishing District Environmental committee
Management plan implementation: community participation	WCS	Lead sensitisation meeting with local communities, fire management system
	TFS	Engage in sensitisation, fire management
	Communities	Identify VEC members and participate in fire management system
Community outreach	WCS	Provide Environmental Education and lead in special events
	TFS	Engage in awareness
	Communities	Participate Environmental Education and Special events
Sub-grantee management	WCS	Identification of sub-grantee; training in agroforestry best practices
	Identified sub-grantee	Involvement in community-based activities, such as tree nurseries

Monitoring and evaluation

WCS will carry out three meetings—one each at the beginning, middle and end of the project—to assess the involvement of communities in the project. Before the communities participate in the development of forest management plans, the national forest act will be explained to them so that they are able to participate fully in the project. Minutes of meetings held will be kept for records, with all participants signing attendance sheets.