

Proposal to CEPF:

Reference nr: ETH 69: Sheka Forest (Metu-Gore-Tepi (KBA nr 224)

Title: *Scaling up alternative livelihoods income sources focused forest development and protection approaches in Bechi PA of Yeki Woreda, Sheka Zone, SNNPR.*

Applicant: *God for People Relief and Development Organization (GPRDO)*

Free Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples

Background to Project

Since when have you been working in the area? GPRDO has been working in the area starting 2000.

What has been achieved so far? The achievements include the followings:

- *Non-Formal Basic Education (NFBE) has been launched for the first time in Bechi Daget village of the Bechi Peasant Association and benefitted more than 200 school age children who had no access to school.*
- *The school started in NFBE has been supported to be scaled up to formal elementary school (Grade 1-4) and has been handed over to government. At present, the government is running the school assigning three teachers.*
- *The remnant indigenous tree species such as Hygenia abyssinica, Podocarpus grasillus, Croton macrostacheous, etc forest of the local has been protected and developed because of introducing into the area 'Participatory Community Forest Protection Approach' where men, women, youths, elderly and disabled people of the minority ethnic community groups (Menja, Mejenger, Keficho, etc) have been organized into eight forest protection groups corresponding to their delineated remnant forest area.*
- *Alternative livelihoods income sources, in the form of Non-Timber-Forest-Products (NTFPs), have been promoted for the minority ethnic groups (men, women, youths, elderly and disabled people) who have been solely dependent on forest and forest products as their only income sources. To this end, the introduced and promoted alternative livelihoods income sources include:*
 - *Improved beekeeping, honey processing, packing and marketing practices.*
 - *Improved high price fetching spice species such as hel, korerima, timiz, et.*
 - *Improved Coffee variety.*
 - *Improved rice sesame and potato.*
 - *Improved amaranth species etc.*

Who are living in the area? **They are minority community ethnic groups which include Menja, Mejenger, Keficho, Sheko, Oromo, Amhara, Bench, etc.**

Which Indigenous People are present? **The indigenous people are Menja, Mejenger, Keficho, Bench, Shecko, etc community ethnic groups.**

How many? **The total number of households is 325 (1,950 populations).**

What is their status, means of livelihoods, and what is the relation between your project and these Indigenous People? **Their status is poor and their means of livelihoods income sources is the local forest and forest products in such a way that they cut the remnant indigenous tree forest to sale as lumber or any other product (charcoal, etc). The relation between GPRDO's project and these indigenous people is that the lives of the indigenous people are dependent on forests and forest products. Therefore, GPRDO's project aim is to protect and develop the remnant indigenous forest tree species whereby the indigenous people are introduced with alternative livelihoods income sources which safely run by the indigenous people within forest areas in order to stop forest tree cutting and selling as the only means of livelihoods income sources for the indigenous people.**

Project

Are the Indigenous People informed about your planned project? **Yes, they are.**

Do they agree? **Yes, they are.**

How will you involve them during the implementation of your project? **They will be involved directly in implementing jointly planned activity plans. The type of participation include serving as a member of the local development committee, implementing project plans individually and in a group, actively participating in other social activities important for the achievement of the project objectives such regularly running and participating in community conversation meetings and the like.**

Will they be part of the decision-making process? **Yes, they will be. This is because of all the project implementation process will involve them and as such it will not be done without involving them as the aim is achieving project objectives through empowering the local communities.**