

Proposal to CEPF: (S13-162-TAN, Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for improved forest conservation, SATAFO)

Free Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples

Background to Project

Save Tanzania Forests (SATAFO) is implementing a project titled "Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for Improved Forest Conservation" in Kigoma forest (Mtapa village) and Limapanga forest (Mambegu village) in Wachingómbé district, Njombe region. The forest are owned and managed by the respective villages under community based forest management framework. The project is working towards achieving three key outputs which are (i) increased awareness of indigenous people on forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods (ii) the capacities of village leaders in forest management built and (iii) chains for sustainable livelihood-based enterprises developed. The project was launched in August, 2014 and was cordially received by the target villages. At present the project is undertaking a baseline study on the level of awareness in forest conservation and socio-economic status of the communities. Subsistence agriculture is the main livelihood activity which is conducted in conjunction with utilization of forest resources such as wild mushroom collection. The indigenous people in the project villages belong to the Bena ethnic group. According to the most recent data obtained from the village authorities, the Mtapa village has a total of 362 households with a population of 1339 people, out of whom 652 are males and 687 are females. Mambegu village has relatively high number of households and population, it comprises of 448 households and has a population of 1811 people, in which 856 are males and 955 are females.

Looking at the current life condition of these indigenous people and forests, SATAFO approached them with the aim of identifying the sustainable livelihood activities which can improve their lives. The communities suggested a number of livelihood activities that could be supported by the project which included beekeeping and poultry. The project staff introduced mushroom farming idea and was well received by the people. Mushroom farming is a new technology in the area, but once the communities get to understand how to undertake mushroom farming, a good number of them is expected to adopt the technology.

Consultations

A meeting was held between SATAFO and village councils of both Matapa and Mambegu villages. The minutes of the meetings and list of participants are attached to this form.

Project

The indigenous people are well informed about the project as they participated during project launching ceremony and through meetings with village leaders. Overall, the indigenous people has positively accepted the project. They are the key beneficiaries of this project and all the decisions regarding the project will made in consultation with them.