

Subject: Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions
Grantee: Fauna & Flora International
Project: Securing the Ntakata Forest as a Community-Owned Village Land Forest Reserve in Tongweland, Western Tanzania
CEPF application number #62590

A. Project Background

The unprotected forests of Greater Mahale Landscape are coming under increasing pressure from conversion, degradation and loss, resulting from clearance for cultivation, grazing, fuel wood cutting, charcoal production and fire that are current threats to the high value biodiversity of the area. The most significant future threats are likely to increase through opening of access to the area through road developments, where important forests will come under greater pressure for timber harvesting. There are also threats from the direct and indirect impacts of mining and the development of associated infrastructure.

The Tongwe people settled the project area as long ago as 500 BCE. Their centuries of settlement and use have built deep connections to the landscape from which they draw physical, cultural and spiritual sustenance. The Tongwe co-exist with the forest that defines in great part their ethnic identity and this has helped retain important areas of intact closed-canopy forest and broad-leaved miombo woodland mosaic (outside the Mahale Mountains National Park). These forests, of which Ntakata is one of the largest remaining intact areas, have high biodiversity and resource value with high levels of endemism.

The objective of the project is to help the Tongwe people to conserve the Ntakata forest, the best prospects for protection of which is through the involvement, support and ownership and tenure of the local villagers. Following a decision of the Mpanda district government, the area of the forest that is confirmed within village land will be established as a combined Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR), with the primary support of the Tongwe Trust. For the areas of the forest which are confirmed as laying on general land, a Joint Forest Management (JFM) agreement would be entered into between the adjacent village and the district government for the establishment of a District Forest Reserve (with the primary support of Frankfurt Zoological Society and a simultaneous and complementary CEPF-funded project).

Declaration and gazettelement of the VLFR is necessary in order to confirm legal tenure and provide assurance for the local communities, and in particular the villages within whose land the VLFR lies, that they hold nationally and locally recognized tenure, legal ownership of resources and responsibility for managing these areas. This is particularly important in relation to averting future threats to the forest and the resources and ecosystem services that it provides to local communities. Establishing a VLFR requires land use mapping, zonation and planning processes, preparation of formal agreements and bylaws on resource use and declaration by government at local/district and national levels. The areas of the proposed VLFR outside of the forest comprise a mosaic of undisturbed miombo woodland, wooded grassland, bamboo thicket, wetlands, and areas of Tongwe

settlements and subsistence agriculture, the uses for which will be zoned within the agreed village land use management plans.

Practical conservation actions and community based approaches will together support the medium and long-term conservation of the area's natural and cultural values. VLFRs are developed and established as part of village land use plans, the boundaries and bylaws for which are decided by the villagers themselves through their natural resource committees, councils and assemblies.

B. Participatory Implementation

The project has been designed through a participatory process involving the Tongwe Trust, the participating villages neighbouring (and comprising the village land underlying) the Ntakata Forest and their village councils, and the district government offices of the two districts within which the project area lies (Kigoma and Mpanda) in Western Tanzania. The Tongwe Trust holds the mandate from the villages of Mgambazi and Lubalisi to progress and invest in the conservation and protection of the Ntakata Forest, although the forest itself and its resources are owned by the villages as the forest is located on respective village land. The project also aims to reinforce the links of the Tongwe between cultural values of the forest and its effective conservation as a community-owned reserve. The project has received a confirmation of Free Prior and Informed Consultation (FPIC) as part of the preparatory process (see Annex), and the specified activities for the project provides for ongoing monitoring of FPIC through the initial inception meetings at which the will be village forest reserve programme presented and discussed.

The proposed project design is based ongoing work by FFI and the Tongwe Trust and Communities in securing Ntakata Forest against future threats, this having been done through meetings and consultation with Trust, and Village Governments of Mgambazi, Lubalisi and Lugonesi; this mechanism would be continued along the project implementation. The project will introduce a cultural values approach to community engagement, and will be founded on full participation; therefore community will be involved and consulted through their community representatives (Village Councils and Village Natural Resources Committee) who will be holding monthly meetings and forum with Tongwe Trust and FFI, in local language (Kiswahili) to discuss any issues connected to project.

All partners at different levels in project area will be consulted to ensure their active involvement in implementing the project and for the effective management after the project period. This will include a close collaboration with Frankfurt Zoological Society on complementary activities carried out within the three villages. Involvement of local communities in project activities would provide them with ownership to the project and additional income by being employed as Forest Rangers, and through environmentally friendly income generating activities (beekeeping, eco-tourism, etc.).

C. Criteria for Eligibility of Affected Persons

Affected persons will include those who reside in the villages of Mgambazi, Lubalisi and Lugonesi and assume legal ownership of the forests and natural resources land falling within them through the village land use planning process. This is clearly defined in Tanzanian government policy and the Tanzania Village Land Act.

D. Measures to Assist the Affected Persons

Measures to assist affected persons will follow national legislation and require the participation and consultation of all village residents in the development of village land use plans, decisions on land use boundaries and zonation for conservation, agriculture, resource use and livelihoods activities within the boundaries of village land. Bylaws restricting the use of resources (e.g. hunting or timber cutting within village land forests) will be facilitated and agreed within village governance structures with the approval of district officials and facilitation of FFI, Tongwe Trust and project partners.

E. Conflict Resolution

The project specifically adopts a Community-Based Conservation approach, which gives ownership and land tenure security to local communities, involves them in management decision making, and recognizes communities' rights over natural resources in sustainable way. Only activities with the support of local communities will be implemented. The FFI, the Tongwe Trust and its partners will set up of a project Management Team to oversee implementation of the project. The Management Team will hold monthly meetings, this forum providing a platform for the local communities to express their views and resolve any problems arising out of project activities, and the establishment of VLFRs and their bylaws and boundaries. The Management Team will involve representatives from Village Natural Resource Committee and Village Councils, and ensure that there is a mechanism available to any people with a complaint or grievance to address.

F. Implementation Arrangements

FFI is formally responsible for all elements of implementing this grant, in partnership with Tongwe Trust, the local partner Community Based Organisation having presence and staff working in all three target villages that will implement activities with the local village councils and district government officials and counterpart NGOs (e.g. FZS). FFI and Tongwe Trust will ensure that that all community members invited to meetings, are able to attend, and are given a proper voice during those consultations and that no village representatives or community groups are excluded. Tongwe Trust has a formal mandate from the Tongwe villages to development and implement conservation and monitoring activities within the Ntakata forest on their behalf. Originating from the Tongwe villages themselves, the Tongwe Trust staff are have experience in participatory mapping, planning, and boundary demarcation for village land, and carrying out community development projects. FFI will be responsible for all financial accountability, including the use of grants made to the Tongwe Trust for village-based activities. Arrangements for local travel and logistics, and maintain and building relationships with stake-holders in the project area will be handled by the Tongwe Trust.

30th March 2013

Free, Prior and Informed Consultation on, CEPF Grant 6259; Securing the Ntakata Forest as a Community-Owned Village Land Forest Reserve in Tongwe land, Western Tanzania.

Presented by: Said Katensi (Tongwe Trust)

I deliver this statement on behalf of indigenous people of Tongwe land and Tongwe Trust. In relation to proposed project (securing the Ntakata Forest as a community-owned village land forest reserve in Tongwe land, western Tanzania), we respectfully welcome it.

The establishment of Ntakata Forest as a Community-owned village land forest reserve will give local communities tenure security over natural resources and protection from emerging threats, for sustainable conservation and livelihoods.

FFI has been working with Tongwe Trust since 2009, FFI has been providing Tongwe Trust with technical and financial support to support local communities (village governments of Mgambazi, Lugonesi and Lubalisi village) to create Ntakata Forest as a Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR), so as to protect it, and secure communities rights over their land and natural resources.

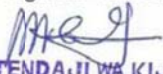
We hope proposed project will complete the process, and strengthening local communities' ownership of forest and its natural resources.

Thank you


Said Katensi
Tongwe Trust
P.O. BOX 442, Kigoma-Tanzania



Ratified by:


AFISA MTENDAJI WA KIJILI
HALMASHAURI YA KIJILI CHA MGAMBAZI
KIGOMA

1..... On behalf of local communities (villagers)


AFISA MTENDAJI WA KIJILI
HALMASHAURI YA KIJILI CHA LUBALISI
KIGOMA

2..... on behalf of local communities (villagers)