

Mabu CEPF 62584

Involuntary Restrictions – Process Framework

Proposed Project: Mount Mabu Conservation Project

Applicant: Fauna & Flora International

A. Project background

The project is aimed at the conservation of the biologically significant forests of Mount Mabu, northern Mozambique. Biological studies conducted by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, BirdLife International, FFI, IIAM and Justiça Ambiental (JA!) since 2005 have shown that the 8,000 hectare mid-altitude wet forest at Mount Mabu has a rich fauna and flora comprising:

- The most extensive continuous mid-altitude wet forest in southern Africa (approximately 7880 hectares) – Spottiswoode et al, 2008, Timberlake et al. 2012, Bayliss et al. in prep.
- 1 new species of snake (*Atheris mabuensis*) and 2 other probable new species (*Philothamnus sp.* and *Dispodaboia sp.*) – Branch & Bayliss, 2009.
- 2 new species of chameleon (*Nadzikambia baylissi* and a new species of pygmy chameleon (*Rhampholeon sp. nov.*) – Branch & Tolley, 2010; Branch et al. in prep.
- 4 new species of butterfly (*Baliochila sp. nov.*, *Cymothoe sp. nov.*, *Epamera sp. nov.*, and *Leptomyrina (Gonatomyrina) sp. nov.*) and 4 new subspecies – 201 species in total were identified – Congdon et al. 2010; Van Velsen in prep.
- 2 new species of vascular plant (*Helixanthera schizocalyx* and *Vepris sp. nov.* near *V. bachmannii*) – 250 species collected in total.
- 7 globally threatened bird species including the 2nd only population of the Namuli Apalis (*Apalis (thoracica) lynesii*), Mozambique's only endemic bird species. The 7 IUCN Red listed species are Southern Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus* (Near Threatened), Spotted Ground Thrush *Zoothera guttata* (Endangered), Cholo Alethe *Alethe choloensis* (Endangered), Gunning's Akalat *Sheppardia gunningi* (Near Threatened), Swynnerton's Robin *Swynnertonia swynnertonii* (Vulnerable), Dapple-throat (*Modulatrix orostuthus*) (Vulnerable), Namuli Apalis *Apalis (thoracica) lynesii* (Near Threatened). A total of 127 species of birds identified in total - Dowsett-Lemaire, 2010.
- First record for Mozambique of the long-tailed pouched rat (*Beamys major*)
- A new species of horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophous mabuensis*) – Mondjem et al. 2011; Taylor et al. 2012.
- A possible new species of woolly bat (*Kerivoula sp.*)

This rich biodiversity including endemic and range-restricted species makes Mount Mabu an important conservation priority in northern Mozambique.

No minority group claiming indigenous people's status exists in or in the vicinity of the Mount Mabu project area and no people live within the Mount Mabu forest itself – an area (approximately 8,000 ha) of mid-altitude rainforest most of which lies at an elevation of between 950-1400 m. There are scattered homesteads at very low density in the transition woodland area in the foothills of Mount Mabu starting at 300 m constituting the four dispersed communities of Nangaze, Limbue, Mvava and Macuerra. These are chiefly comprised of Lomwe and Yao people (Bantu linguistic group) who immigrated to the area to take advantage of economic opportunities resulting from the establishment of tea plantations in what was then Tacuane District on the lower slopes of Mt Mabu in the 1930s. By 1961 there were three tea estates in the area and two tea factories (compared with a total of 21 estates and 14 factories in Gurué and Milanje districts). During this period Mozambique was one of the major tea producers in Africa, with a greater acreage under tea than Kenya or Malawi. Tacuane is the local administrative centre which is approximately 15 km from Mount Mabu.

During the war for independence and subsequent civil war in Mozambique, the economic situation deteriorated and the tea estates in the Mount Mabu area ceased production in 1982 due to insecurity (the Cha Madal factory and most of the infrastructure was destroyed in that year). Communities in the area have therefore reverted to subsistence agriculture, relying on natural resources for their livelihoods, and economic infrastructure remains poorly developed. Most of the agriculture is based on shifting agriculture in which areas of woodland are cleared and burnt. This enables crops to make use of the concentrated fertility for a few years after which it is left fallow and a new area is cleared for agriculture.

Since the foothills around Mount Mabu are lightly populated, there is currently little pressure on the natural resources of the forest itself although this could change (e.g. if logging operations commenced). Local people respect the forest and maintain cultural traditions. For example, local elders perform traditional ceremonies prior to entering the forest. The forest is frequented by hunters, particularly using gin traps that are made locally using scrap metal although concern has been expressed by local communities that overhunting has depleted the fauna in the area and it appears that most large mammals have been extirpated. Local people also use the forest for non-timber forest products such as honey, mushrooms and medicinal plants. The mountain forests also act as a natural sponge, regulating the flow of water which is found in numerous streams and rivers upon which local communities depend. The derelict tea estates to the south and east of Mount Mabu have recently been bought by a private company Mozambique Holdings. There is potential for the tea estates, if rehabilitated, to require water for irrigation and possibly small-scale hydro-electricity generation. Rehabilitation of the tea estates would provide employment and economic activity in the area which could attract immigrants.

Justiça Ambiental (JA!), the main implementing partner in the project has had a history of strong engagement with the communities and stakeholders surrounding Mount Mabu since 2009, has regularly met with local communities and, in consultation with them, has appointed a community member as a key focal point and contact person who has been provided with a mobile phone to facilitate communication. JA! have helped to raise awareness of community rights under Mozambican law, conducted participatory social and economic surveys, supported the formation of a community association, raised community capacity, identified and demarcated the areas under the jurisdiction of each community, documented local issues and maintained communication regarding the status of the proposed community association for the management and conservation of Mount Mabu forest resources. In all cases, involvement of local communities has been vital to the project but at the same time FFI and JA! have been very careful not to raise unrealistic expectations in the communities.

The planned activities with potential impact can be categorised into the following themes:

- Inception meeting designed to meet the requirements of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) will raise awareness of the values of the area, and the role of communities in establishing, management planning, implementation and monitoring of a community protected area.
- Participatory development of a management plan for the area, including surveys of the community land-use and forest usage to assess community needs will provide baseline information for the planning process. Such planning processes take time and effort to produce satisfactory results and it is important that it is inclusive. Special attention will be paid to vulnerable groups such as women and the elderly and infirm to ensure that their needs are taken into account. It is anticipated that a community-based organisation will be

established under the laws of Mozambique to provide an institutional framework for the planning, conservation and livelihoods elements of the proposal.

- Capacity building, including further awareness raising about government regulations and the rights and responsibilities of local communities will include a trip by community members to Malawi (Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust) to demonstrate a model of best practice will raise expectations in the community.
- Implementation of alternative livelihoods linked to nature conservation outcomes will potentially have an impact on potential additional sources of income for local people and reduce the pressures on natural resources. JA! will guide this process which will broadly follow a participatory Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) approach.

B. Participatory implementation

The area planned for the Mount Mabu conservation area consists of state-owned land for which local people have usufruct rights. All land in Mozambique belongs to the state but under government legislation, local communities can enjoy designated rights over use of the land provided that this is done through legally constituted community associations (community-based organisations CBOs). This process has already commenced.

Intensive participatory planning will be used to develop a land-use plan in which it is envisioned that the chief agricultural areas will be at lower altitudes and a community conservation area will be established for the mid-altitude rainforest lying above 950 m in altitude. The main thrust of the conservation area will be to ensure that the rainforest habitat is maintained and while, in consultation with local people, this may lead to the restriction in exploitation of endangered species (IUCN red-listed species), people will still be able to enter the forest to follow traditional practices.

This includes hunting. Preliminary discussions with local leaders and hunters has indicated that the community perceives that overhunting has affected the number of target species in the area. Establishment of a local hunting association, comprising mainly local hunters, may lead to restrictions on the species, geographical area where hunters may operate or seasonal restrictions (e.g. avoiding hunting during the breeding season). The primary concern in establishing a Mount Mabu conservation area is not to restrict such hunting, but if supporting such activities leads to more sustainable forms of hunting, this should be to the benefit of both the wildlife as well as local communities.

Consultation will be conducted primarily in local languages, with local translators used on those occasions when personnel from JA! or FFI are present for monitoring and evaluation. In the long term, participatory bio-monitoring by local communities can help to provide a feedback mechanism to guide management. Under the time frame of this project, there will not be enough time to ascertain the impact of community management on the wildlife or natural resources.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

It is not anticipated that any individuals will be eligible for compensation measures as involuntary restrictions will mainly apply to illegal or unsustainable practices. The consultation process will involve all stakeholders, and in particular will include everyone living in the communities adjacent to Mount Mabu. Special attention will be given to ensure that the process is transparent, fair and balanced and that vulnerable groups are represented in the consultations and planning.

In any case, since the process will be participatory and driven by communities, any restrictions will be agreed through consensus, where possible. Traditional rights and access to the forest and natural resources will be respected.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

It is not anticipated that the activities of the project, and in particular conservation activities related to the Mount Mabu forest, will require compensation. The process is participatory and through consultations with the surrounding communities, any impacts on local livelihoods will be identified and ways found to mitigate them.

For activities based on participatory land-use planning, some regulation of economic activities may be required to ensure that planned livelihoods are sustainable. Technical assistance will be sought from agricultural experts to improve land and natural resource use with the objective of enhancing local livelihoods. This may include activities such as bee-keeping, eco-tourism development, and support for more sustainable and productive agricultural activities.

For potential activities linked to eco-tourism, due to the remote nature of the site, difficulty of access and lack of tourist infrastructure, it will be important to keep expectations in check. The community-based organisation will be consulted to ensure that any potential sources of income (e.g. guides, porters) are fairly distributed among the four communities living adjacent to the mountain.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

Preparatory work to date on the site has included extensive consultation with communities and stakeholders and a good rapport has been established. In the first place the project will seek to develop plans in a participatory way and through consensus.

The establishment of a transparent and effective community-based organisation (CBO) to support project implementation is an important aspect to (a) reduce conflict and (b) to provide mechanisms for initial conflict resolution. In particular, the statutes and constitution of the CBO will establish the primary mechanism for resolving conflicts and addressing complaints.

Both FFI and JA! have extensive experience in establishing such community-based organisations and will draw on this experience in helping to develop the necessary procedures and train the communities on this aspect of the work.

The field coordinator based at Mount Mabu will provide an avenue for escalation of issues of conflict or complaint where individuals are not satisfied with the resolution proposed by the CBO. Finally, regular meetings between the external programme coordinator and stakeholders including local communities will provide an opportunity for any outstanding issues to be addressed.

F. Implementation arrangements.

FFI will be responsible for project management and oversight which will be coordinated from the FFI head office in Cambridge, UK, supported by the FFI Country Representative in Mozambique. Financial oversight and reporting will be coordinated by the FFI team based in Cambridge using standard FFI financial procedures. IIAM will provide oversight from the Mozambique government perspective. JA! is the local non-governmental organisation and chief implementing partner in the project.

FFI and JA! project leaders will meet regularly in person or electronically to ensure that the project is on track and to consult on any issues that may arise. Through this process they will agree on implementation activities, including conflict resolution and mitigation strategies, ensuring that free, prior and informed consent safeguards are built into the planning activities and that the capacity of the CBO (to be established) is raised to be able to address such issues. In addition to the community member already engaged as a focal point for communities, a field coordinator with technical expertise will be appointed to ensure smooth implementation of project activities. JA! will be responsible for day to day management of the field coordinator, and for participatory planning and community consultations as an integral part of project implementation. Communities and other stakeholders will hold responsibility for engaging with the process and to put forward their views on the issues connected with the conservation of Mount Mabu and the Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) activities.