

Proposal to CEPF: (reference nr, title, applicant)

Free Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples

Background to Project

Since when have you been working in the area? What has been achieved so far? Who are living in the area? Which Indigenous People are present? How many? What is their status, means of livelihoods, and what is the relation between your project and these Indigenous People?

LUPA started working with the Carruca community around Mt Namuli for the first time in May 2014 (17 – 30 May). During that time we achieved confirmation of the willingness of the people to create a natural resources committee in order to control the use and management of the resources. (For example, in the rainforest at the mountain where trees have been cut for construction and firewood.) Our forthcoming fieldwork report/conservation plan details all the socio economic ways of living of the community and their priority to develop the Namuli region. The majority of the people living in the area are natives of the area--people born and living in the area. The people living in the specific community which we worked with number 1436 people.

Most of the people living in the area are unemployed and for their survival use the land to produce crops and sale locally and in Gurue town. The relation between our project and the people is in a way to train and capacitate on the use and management of natural resources in a sustainable manner, also introduce best practices particularly in agriculture of conservation.

Consultations

Which consultations have taken place to date? How, when, with whom? Do you have any documentation (letters, minutes of meetings etc) with regards to these consultations?

LUPA did consultation directly in the community through interviews with different people, including the leaders of the region, during the fieldwork. The first day, a meeting with the all community was organized in order to explain the objectives of the work. After the meeting 3 groups were divided: men, women and young people. In each group elaborated a map of natural resources, infrastructures and the main problems affecting the area. After this activity all the groups joined in a plenary to present the results and coming to harmonization and consensus.

At that point, 10 people were selected by the community, 5 men and 5 women to assist the survey during the field work (interviews and visits crops field)—our representative group.

Environmental education was carried out with the community and at school followed by an exercise on environmental monitoring action plan which was culminated with a construction of 2 latrines.

The representative group also visited the high camp with Ukalene productions and scientists and had a progress meeting and Q and A with the full project mid-way through the field time. Then, at the end of the field time the representative group, LUPA, and the full Lost Mountain team had a meeting with the whole community to close the fieldwork time with a presentation and question period.

Beside the social preparation done, various institutions in Gurúe were contacted with the objective of finding what were the actual situation of development in Namúli region and future plans. The institutions contacted were: SDAE, SDPI, District Administration of Gurúe, Administrative Post of Gurúe and the Municipality. The main objective of these consultations with the institutions mentioned above was to present the project to them, and hearing from them the current and future situation with Namuli region in terms of development. These were done in May in Gurue with the heads of each institution.

In terms of letters or minutes of them meetings we did not have it. But notes were taken and written on the main report of the fieldwork (forthcoming).

Project

Are the Indigenous People informed about your planned project? Do they agree? How will you involve them during the implementation of your project? Will they be part of the decision-making process?

Yes, our first step (which we completed before starting to work with the people) was a meeting with the whole community with the objective to present the project and make sure that everyone understood and agreed with the intention. At the end of this meeting the project was welcomed and the representative group was chosen in a meeting with all the community. The above consultations also occurred which were opportunities for discussion about the project.

In the future, we will be working with that representative group (or a different one if a new one is formed). We will work with them in the decision making process and carry out the workshops about environmental education, field work on the best practices in the conservation, field visits for exchanging experience and monitoring action using a plan. Our fieldwork visit to Namuli was for the purposes to gather information and interview the community to be able to create an informed plan and thus did not end with presenting the community a full plan for implementation. That would have been disingenuous to do during this phase. Instead, we have a plan to finish our report, consult with other organizations and advisors, and then apply for funding to implement the next phase—the first step of which will be to go back to the community to collaborate on implementation.

During the fieldwork, LUPA and the community identified problems and concerns about the use and management of natural resources. A table of priorities on those problems and concerns was written down with the consensus of all communities members. This data is in the forthcoming report.

We are now actively searching and applying for funding for the next steps. Once we find that funding, we will plan a trip to the field in order to make a plan of activities including the selection of the people who are going to be directly involved and make sure that this plan is also known by the institutions mentioned above.

In addition, in the future a representative from LUPA will be working going to field in order to assist the implementation of the project. A focal point will be selected from the community in order to carry on with the activities in case this person from LUPA has to travel or any other reason.