

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Date: February 2019

CEPF Grant: US dollars 34.904

Grantee: Muloma Women's Development Association (MUWODA-Sierra Leone)

Project Title: Demonstrate Sustainable Livelihood in Communities for conserving Yawri Bay Areas.

Project Location: Yawri Bay Areas, Bumpeh chiefdom , Moyamba district.

Grant Summary

Grantee Organization.

Muloma Women's Development Association (MUWODA-SL)

Grant title.

Demonstrate Sustainable Livelihood in Communities for conserving Yawri Bay Areas.

Grant number –CEPF-----

Grant amount (US dollars).34.904

Proposed dates of grant. September 2018-August,2019

Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Date of preparation of this document. February, 2019.

Introduction:

The proposed project area within the Yawri Bay in the south western Sierra Leone is a shallow coastal wetland with 9,100 hectares of intertidal and flat land that extend along 60 km of foreshore. The interland are primarily mangrove swamps interland with creeks stretching about 24,505 hectares .The Yawri Bay is located in Moyamba district bounded by three chiefdoms :Ribbi, Bumpeh and Kagboro

MUWODA is presently collaborating with the Royal society for the protection of Birds (RSPB) to implement the Yawri Bay Area project which aims to conserve this key Biodiversity Area by supporting communities to manage their forests while improving livelihoods. .Based on discussion with community members, we know that the communities are interested in conserving their forest and in sustainably using NTFPs to improve their livelihoods. The conservation goals are reinforces by MOUs between MUWODA and the individual communities commit to conserving their community forest and sustainably using the NTFPs and MUWODA commits to continuing to support the communities to improve their livelihoods.

The Yawri Bay project is expected to end September, 2019. This proposed CEPF project will work in creating awareness, building the capacities of the communities to embed community environmental/conservation management practices in their lives specially, the project will:

- A. Enhance collective community involvement and participation in the conservation of the Yawri Bay key Biodiversity Area.
- B. Promote sustainable forms of natural resources use through knowledge and awareness raising and access to sustainable livelihood projects activities.

Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:

The following provides an overview of the kinds of activities that have been undertaken thus far:

Engagement activities about the Yawri Bay and CEPF project generally:

- ❖ Consultation with local leaders to introduce the Yawri Bay project, particularly with the District council.
- ❖ Projects launch meetings with local leaders in the project areas-Ribbi, Bumpeh and Kagboro chiefdoms and with key stakeholders in Moyamba.
- ❖ Introductory town hall meetings in each project community.
- ❖ Meeting with all Chiefs in the three chiefdoms to introduce the Yawri Bay project. The chiefs formally blessed the project at this meeting.
- ❖ Town hall meetings in various communities to introduce senior staff from MUWODA.
- ❖ Quarterly meetings of the project steering committee consisting of senior representatives of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security, MUWODA, local leaders and local government officials to exchange and consult about project activities.

Engagement activities about community Forestry (Yawri Bay KBA).

- ❖ Series of meetings in each community including town hall meetings to describe communities roles in conserving the Yawri Bay KBA, Conservation issues and forest management.
- ❖ Workshops with communities' leaders to learn about and implement conservation practices.
- ❖ Meeting with school authorities, parents and students on formation of school Nature clubs and tree planting in each project community.
- ❖ Systematic informal meetings of project staff with individuals and small groups throughout each project community.

Engagement activities about livelihood activities.

- ❖ Focus group discussions with women about preferred livelihoods activities.
- ❖ Focus group discussions with men about preferred livelihood activities.
- ❖ Town hall meetings to share information about different livelihood activities.
- ❖ Focus group discussions with hunters and bush meat traders to consult about the bush meat trade and preferred alternatives.
- ❖ Meetings on the sustainable use of the forest for NTFPs and formation of rules and regulations.

Project Stakeholders: The key stakeholder groups for CEPF...are:

- ❖ Fifty (50) project communities in the Ribbi, Bumpeh and Kagboro chiefdoms, Moyamba District.
- ❖ Important sub-groups within the community chiefs, youth leaders, Women leaders, Elders, Women, Youth farmers, Hunters, Fishermen, Bush meat traders.
- ❖ District Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security staff.
- ❖ Traditional authorities for the project are a (paramount chiefs, section chiefs, town chiefs) .

- ❖ Government authorities for the project area (District council chairman, Resident Minister Etc.)

Stakeholder Engagement Program: MUWODA's approach to stakeholder engagement in the CEPF project is to integrate stakeholder engagement with all other activities. There is therefore no stand-alone stakeholder engagement program but all activities include stakeholder's engagement. The goals of the stakeholders include:

- ❖ Ensure the long-term success of the project and project activities through the active support of all stakeholders.
- ❖ Ensure that all activities are designed to reflect the reality of the situation in the project area and contribute to meeting the objectives of community members.
- ❖ Ensure that there is general consensus for each decision that needs to be made throughout the project.
- ❖ Ensure that all stakeholders have a good understanding of the project and what it is trying to achieve so that they can make informed decisions with respect to activities supported by the project.
- ❖ Ensures ownership of the project by community members and thus contributes to its sustainability. Multiple methods will be used for all stakeholders engagement and will vary from one activity to another. These methods includes:
 - ❖ Focus group discussions about livelihood activities with men and women separately: discussion about livelihood activities at town hall meetings: informal discussion with community members.
 - ❖ Participation in the activity was formalized in a within agreement with MUWODA outlining the responsibilities of community members and MUWODA.
 - ❖ Relevant traditional authorities were kept up-to date about progress through discussions with project staff.
 - ❖ Feedback from the participants was obtained through focus group discussions.
 - ❖ Interviews with participants on community radio.
 - ❖ Senior stake holders are provided with updates given at sector meetings. Inter-Agency meetings as well circulation of project reports to Government authorities.

Consultation methods: As stated above, multiple methods will be used for stake holder engagement and will vary according to activity and stake holder group. Consultation with stake holders will take place throughout the life of the project and consultation methods will again vary according to activity and stake holder group. The consultation methods that have been used previously and which we expect to continue to use in the future include.

- ❖ Town hall meetings with the whole community or particular sub-groups_e.g. men, women.
- ❖ Focus group discussions with specific groups e.g. groups of men to discuss livelihoods activities.
- ❖ Town hall meetings that include participatory_methods.
- ❖ Discussions at meetings of stake holders such as the inter-agency forum.
- ❖ Informal discussions with community members.

- ❖ Key informal interviews e.g. interviews with some individual hunters.
- ❖ Workshops e.g. a workshop with the school Nature clubs.
- ❖ Suggestion boxes installed besides the project bulletin boards.
- ❖ Survey/questionnaire e.g. questionnaire for participants in a training activity: before and after the activity.

Other Engagement Activities: In a very real sense, all of the community-based activities in CEPF are engagement activities.

As noted above MUWODA has signed MOUs with the individual communities in which communities commit in conserving the Yawri Bay area and MUWODA commits to continuing to support the communities to improve their livelihoods. CEPF Enables MUWODA to honor this commitment, thereby engaging the communities in this conservation work, as well to provide training to the community forest management bodies developing their capacity to effectively govern the community forest on behalf of the communities. Specific activities include:

- ❖ Forest friendly livelihoods activities including beekeeping, intensification of rice production etc.
- ❖ Training to alternatively manage the community forest.

Timetable: As noted above, stakeholder engagement is integral to all project activities and all project activities incorporate stakeholder engagement. Therefore the schedule for stake holder engagement is really the same as the schedule for the whole project. Some upcoming key activities to note include:

- ❖ Discussion of CEPF... with District council: September 2018, Moyamba.
- ❖ Future District council meetings: October, December 2018: January, March, May, July 2019.
- ❖ Town hall meetings with communities to introduce the project: September/November 2018.
- ❖ Focus group discussions in communities on livelihood activities: July 2019(communities).
- ❖ Formation and training of school Nature Clubs: September/November 2018:January/March 2019 (communities)
- ❖ Election of community Forest governance structures and assorted training: September 2018 to July 2019. (Communities).
- ❖ Signing of community Forest management and assorted training: September 2018 to July 2019.

Resources and Responsibilities: As stake holder engagement is integral to all activities and all project activities in corporate stake holder engagement, all staff at all levels will carry out stake holder engagement relevant to their particular area of responsibility. For instance, the Project Manager has responsibility for project wide stake holder's engagement activities such as the town hall meetings noted above to introduce the project in communities and inter-agency and District council meetings .Forest Management Specialist and Environment Education Specialist have responsibility for carrying out trainings in the communities where they work.

Given the way in which stake holder engagement is integrated within all project activities ,there are no resources allocated specifically to stake holder engagement but are included as part of all budget items.

Grievance mechanism: The project will provide local communities and other interested stake holders with the means by which they may raise a grievance with MUWODA, the CEPF Regional Implementing Team, the CEPF secretariat or the World Bank .Affected local communities will be informed of the objectives of the project and the existence of a grievance mechanism. The email address, telephone number, and physical address of MUWODA, the CEPF Grant Director will be made publicly available through announcement on community radio, public meetings, through notices placed on community bulletin board s,etc.

We will share all grievances and a proposed response with the Regional Implementing Team and the CEPF grant Director within 15 days. If the Grievant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the Claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank Office.

Monitoring and Reporting: Stake holder and their partly involvement in the monitoring of project impacts will take place through the following activities:

- ❖ Baseline and end-of project socio-economic survey administered with all households in the project area.
- ❖ Focus group discussions and /or questionnaire with participants in all livelihood training activities.
- ❖ Before and after self-assessment by MUWODA staff of their ability to support community livelihoods activities and support community based forest monitoring.
- ❖ Before and after self –assessment by community Forest Management bodies of their ability to manage their community forests.
- ❖ External end-of project assessment of community forest management bodies capacity.
- ❖ External end-of project evaluation of the CEPF..... activities and will include focus group discussions and key informant interviews with stake holders.