

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

June 12, 2021

CEPF Small Grant

Greening Economies, Environments and Lives in Fifteen States of West Africa-Sierra Leone

Using Apiculture to Improve Livelihood of the Gola Rainforest Communities

Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms, Gola Rainforest National Park, Sierra Leone

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Greening Economies, Environments and Lives in Fifteen States of West Africa-Sierra Leone
2. Grant title: Using Apiculture to Improve Livelihood of the Gola Rainforest Communities
3. Grant number: N/A
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$24,995.80
5. Proposed dates of grant: June 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms (Gola Rainforest Communities), Sierra Leone
7. Date of preparation of this document: June 12, 2021
8. **Introduction** (*This section will briefly describe the project including design elements and potential social and environmental issues. Where possible, include maps of the project site and surrounding area.*)

The main objective of this project is to support two local communities in the periphery of the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) with the development of sustainable income generating activity based on apiculture. Through Participatory Stakeholders and Community Engagement and Action approach, the project will support twenty community members to gain skills, knowledge and equipment they need to take lead in apiculture at the grassroots level. Awareness raising meetings will be organized in target communities and radio talk shows and jingles will be broadcast across the landscape to inform stakeholders and encourage more people to get involved in beekeeping.

9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

If the grantee has undertaken any activities to date, including information disclosure and/or consultation, provide the following details:

- *Type of information disclosed, in what form (e.g., oral, brochure, reports, posters, radio, etc.), and how it was disseminated;*
- *The locations and dates of any meetings undertaken to date;*
- *Individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have been consulted;*
- *Key issues discussed and key concerns raised;*
- *Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions; and*
- *Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders.*

GREENLIFE West Africa consulted with community members in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms between August 26-28, 2020, who gave valuable insights on their specific needs, especially the expected types of livelihood activities they will much appreciate. GREENLIFE also reached out to the National Protected Area Authority, the government agency in-charge of all protected areas in the country, coupled with the Ministry of Agriculture' regional focal person on November 29, 2020 all of whom have provided valuable feedback in the formulation of the project. Communication has been mainly through one-on-one meetings spearheaded by our Community Liaison Officer, Moses Zombo who has spent a considerable number of years working in the communities.

10. Project Stakeholders

This section will list the key stakeholder groups who will be informed and consulted about the project. These should include persons or groups who:

- *Are directly and/or indirectly affected by the project or have "interests" in the project that determine them as stakeholders; and*

- *Have the potential to influence project outcomes (examples of potential stakeholders are affected communities, local organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government authorities. Stakeholders can also include politicians, companies, labor unions, academics, religious groups, national social and environmental public sector agencies, and the media).*

The key stakeholders are:

- Community People (Traditional Leaders, Women group, Youth groups in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms)
- Universal Outreach Foundation
- National Protected Area Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Welt Hunger Hilfe

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program

This section will summarize the purpose and goals of the program. Briefly describe what information will be disclosed, in what formats, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the identified groups of stakeholders. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- *2 interactive radio programs (1 hour each) and 2 radio jingles (1 minute each) will be broadcast on Eastern Radio which covers the communities being targeted by the project.*
- *Information centers and exhibitions or other visual displays; and*
- *Brochures, leaflets, posters, non-technical summary documents and reports.*

The stakeholder engagement program will focus on helping community members understand that a successful beekeeping business depends on the forest, which would improve the management of the forest and consequently the conservation of the biodiversity in the GRNP. Key messages will be developed and disseminated in local languages on the need to keep trees in order for pollination to occur. Six meetings will be organized in four communities. The first two meetings will be organized at the beginning of the project in the communities that will be participating in beekeeping training. The meetings will target local leaders, youth leaders, women leaders and forest resource users, to inform them about the project and select 20 participants who will be trained in beekeeping. Posters will be disseminated in the meetings so participants can stick them on their walls or doors. At the end of the project, close-out meetings will be organized in the same two communities to reveal the results of the first harvest and encourage others to get involved. The last two meetings will be organized in two additional communities that didn't participate in the training. Success stories from the communities that participated will be shared with the two new communities to encourage them as well.

12. Consultation methods

This section will describe the methods that will be used to consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified in previous sections. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- *Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;*
- *A baseline survey will be administered in the target communities before the awareness raising activities are carried out and we will compare the baseline results with the M&E results at the end of the project to determine increase in knowledge;*
- *Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group;*
- *Participatory methods; and*
- *Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making.*

The consultation will be participatory through face-to-face meetings during project activities attended by the community and GREENLIFE. The minutes of the meetings and decisions thereof, will be documented and filed. The communities will also be engaged through public meetings, training workshops and focus group discussions capturing their concerns, views and status at the start and end of the project.

13. Other Engagement Activities *(This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.)*

A selection committee including local leaders and elders will be created for the selection of 20 community members who will be trained in beekeeping. The selection criteria will be based on permanent residency in the community, commitment, and work ethics. The 20 beneficiaries will be selected during our first meeting at the inception of the project. The process will be gender sensitive (equal number of men and women) and based on their interest and willingness to carry out apiculture as an alternative livelihood. Local and international NGOs will be informed on the progress of the project activities so that when the project ends, they could possibly continue supporting the activities through other funds.

14. Timetable *(This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.)*

- First Public Engagement through media (broadcast of interactive radio talk show and jingles on Eastern Radio, and dissemination of posters on beekeeping in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms) – June 2021
- Meetings in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms (1 meeting organize in Koya and another one in Barrie) – June 2021
- Training on beehives construction and maintenance (20 participants) in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms – June 2021
- Training on honey harvesting, Marketing and Business Management (20 participants) in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms- November 2021
- Second Public Engagement through Media (broadcast of interactive radio talk show and jingles on Eastern Radio, and dissemination of posters on beekeeping) in Koya and Barrie Chiefdoms – December 2021

15. Resources and Responsibilities *(This section will indicate what staff and resources will be devoted to managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Who within the project team will be responsible for carrying out these activities? What budget has been allocated toward these activities?)*

Tom Menjor, the M&E Specialist; Moses Zombo, the Community Liaison Officer; and Cecil Wilson, the Beekeeping Consultant from Universal Outreach Foundation will be responsible for the management and execution of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. We will be spending \$600 on posters, \$400 on radio talk shows and jingles, and \$2,000 on meetings for a total of \$3,000.

16. Grievance mechanism

All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- *Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.*
- *Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.*
- *Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.*
- *The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org*
- *A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).*
- *You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant 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.”*

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

An individual or group of individuals' dissatisfactions is a possible cause of problem, whether expressed or not. Concealed dissatisfaction grows and creates reactions that may be completely out of proportion to the original concerns. Therefore, it is important that dissatisfaction be given attention before it escalates. A complaint, which is merely an indication of a beneficiary's dissatisfaction that has not been submitted in writing or spoken out, might degenerate. Grievance is a complaint that has been put in writing and thus made formal or known. Project management and community leaders should be concerned with both complaints and grievances, because both may be important indicators of potential problems within the project sites. Without grievance responsibility and a grievance procedure, management may be unable to respond to complaints and grievance because the team and community leaders are unaware of them. Therefore, a formal grievance procedure is a valuable communication tool for the organization to ensure prompt redress of complaints/grievance. It is the responsibility of project coordinator, community liaison and community leaders to handle grievances; they must accept the grievance as a possible constraint on some of their decisions or actions and recognize that a grievance is a behavioral expression of some underlying problem that requires urgent attention.

A detailed grievance mechanism and redress procedure will be explained during the project inception meetings and will provide complaints logbooks and boxes in each of the 2 targeted communities. This is to enable aggrieved persons to register or submit their complaints. Complaints boxes will be constructed and kept in the targeted community for submission of complaints by aggrieved persons and these boxes will have telephone numbers and email addresses of the grantee organization written on it to enable direct access to the office. Boxes will be locked, and the Community Liaison Officer will be responsible for weekly opening, collection and forwarding of any registered grievance. Also, any complaint registered in the logbook will equally be forwarded to grantee office. Any grievance submitted will be addressed promptly at the community level, a grievance redress meeting will be organized and held with the aggrieved person(s) and representatives of community leadership. The

meeting will create opportunity for dialogue on the issues responsible for the grievance as well as for settlement of the grievance.

Reports of the grievance redress process and resolution will be shared with the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (RIT) and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, he/she may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by postal 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.

Below are contacts for communities to raise grievance:

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization:

Email: greenlifewestafrica@gmail.com

Tel: +232 76 968 715

- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team:

Email: cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org

Tel: +233 (0)302 255 015/ +233 (0) 261 737 101

- CEPF Executive Director:

Email: cepfexecutive@conservation.org

- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office:

Email for project related issues and complaints: sierraleonealert@worldbank.org

Tel: +232-78-874600

17. Monitoring and Reporting *(This section will describe any plans to involve project stakeholders including affected communities or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders as well as broader stakeholder groups.)*

GREENLIFE Sierra Leone will track project progress and outputs through post-activities reports by the Community Liaison Officer. The reports will capture the final project impacts, successes and milestones through the development of assessment tools by the M&E Specialist. The reports and results of the project will be disseminated to stakeholders during the close-out meetings that will be organized in the two communities that will participate in beekeeping activities and the awareness raising meeting in two new communities. We will also summarize the project outcomes and results in the local language during a one-hour radio talk show on Eastern Radio. Stakeholders will be able to call on the program and ask questions or make comments.