
CARE International in Tanzania and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)

Livelihoods, Incomes and Village Institutions in the Ngurus (LIVING) Project



Baseline Survey Report on Social and Representational Status

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

CMEAMF	Conservation and Management of Eastern Arc Mountains Forests
DIIS	Danish Institute for International Studies
ER	Expected Result Area
FDB	Forest and Beekeeping Division
JFM	Joint Forest Management
LIVING	Livelihoods, Incomes and Village Institutions in the Ngurus
MOVs	Means of Verifications
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
PEMA	Participatory Environmental Management
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Society
TFCG	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
VEC	Village Environmental Committee
VNRC	Village Natural Resources Committee
VS&L	Village Savings and Loan (group)
VEO	Village Executive Officer
WEO	Ward Executive Officer

1.0. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

South Nguru Mountains are located in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, Tanzania. The South Nguru area is characterized by signs of rural underdevelopment and environmental deterioration which typify many parts of Tanzania. About 26 percent of the population of the Mvomero district lives below the basic poverty line (Tanzania's basic needs poverty line is equivalent to US\$ 0.79 per capita per day).

The District is endowed with indigenous forests, which represent one of the key global biodiversity sites and are of vital importance nationally for their water catchments. However, these natural forests are being rapidly reduced in size and integrity due to illegal encroachment and resource extraction, leading to further diminishing of the livelihood base among local communities in the district. It has been found that the communities living closer to the natural forests are most disadvantaged because of the remoteness and relatively inaccessibility of their areas. They are far from rural trading centres where agricultural commodities can be sold. They are also far from where schools and health facilities are located. Their area is altogether the poorest in the district in terms of roads and communication networks. As a way of looking for their survival strategies; it became evident that these communities derive a variety of their basic needs from the nearby forest reserves. These needs include firewood, water, construction materials, grazing land and medicinal plants. These activities; besides their being of low economic value, they fundamentally cause environmental deterioration. It is obvious that Mvomero District requires substantial strengthening of its institutions if it is to overcome its widespread rural poverty, natural resources destruction, and to ensure food security and overcome the social exclusion.

As part of the efforts to improve the community livelihoods, incomes and village development support institutions in the area, the Livelihoods, Incomes and Village Institutions in the Ngurus (LIVING) project was established. The LIVING project is a continuation of the Participatory Environment Management (PEMA) project which was implemented around Nguru Mountains in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region between January 2005 and December 2006. The overall objectives of the LIVING project are to improve the social and economic status of the marginalized rural communities in South Nguru, Mvomero district and to strengthen representatives, community-based institutions for natural resource management and economic development; and the empowerment of women around the south Nguru Mountains.

The project is funded by European Commission and CARE Denmark, and targets more than 46,000 poor women, men and children in 24

villages around Nguru Mountains. The LIVING project started in January 2007 and will end in December 2009. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG). In order to develop a realistic logical framework for the LIVING project, CARE International in Tanzania arranged for the undertaking of a baseline survey in villages within the project area. This report is the result of that baseline survey. The report presents the findings of the baseline survey, delineating the existing situation in the surveyed area for the realistic Logical framework of the Living Project to be developed.

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a baseline survey which was undertaken to assess the social and representational status of the target communities through institutional assessment. The study was undertaken in order to collect the vital baseline information to be used in measuring later impacts of the LIVING project against the identified key social and economic indicators. The baseline report centres on four major aspects which are clearly spelt out in the LIVING Project document. These are: the current status of the village environmental / natural resources committees; the aspect which aimed at investigating and reporting on the structure, efficiency and effectiveness of the committees in the whole issues of environmental management. The second aspect focused on the current status of village savings and loan (VS&L) services in the areas covered by the LIVING project. This aimed at investigating and establishing the current situation of the institutions before the project embarked on building the capacity of the local civil society institutions to engage effectively in the development processes. The report gives information on the current status of VS&L in the surveyed area. The third aspect of the survey focused on investigating and reporting on the situation of the small scale enterprises in the villages covered by the LIVING project. This report provides baseline information on the existing conditions regarding the entrepreneurial practices in the surveyed area. The fourth and last aspect, which is not necessarily the least in importance, is gender disposition and the situation of women in relation to leadership, social responsibility and economic empowerment. The report outlines the existing gender relations and gender position in the surveyed villages.

3. 0. OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

As indicated in the background information and the introductory part of this report; the objective of this baseline survey was to conduct a baseline survey in the sampled villages in order to assess the social

and representational status of target communities through the institutional assessment, in which the information derived from the survey, will be vital in revising log frame and verifying project indicators in the course of implementation and at the conclusion of the project.

4.0. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. Understanding of the assignment

Baseline surveys on rural social, economic and livelihood conditions essentially address social protection systems. Social protection systems have important roles to play in the country in terms of the lives of individuals and families and in realizing the development of society and the economy as well as environmental protection. They provide people with income in times of need and allow them to accept and embrace economic and social change, thus promoting both social cohesion and economic dynamism. When these aspects are realized the rate of environmental degradation is curtailed.

Our approach to the study was closely linked or based on the requirements of data and information as spelt out and summarized clearly in the project's logical framework. The logical framework explicitly establishes the social, economic and livelihoods indicators to be measured to determine the project's impacts. This approach was found to be crucial for the baseline study to fulfill its intended objective by providing relevant information that would form a benchmark to establish criteria for measuring change of key variables in the programme, and for effecting reasonable revisions of the project as it will be found necessary. In this way, the information generated from the baseline survey will be instrumental to the monitoring and evaluation, and in determining periodical impacts of the project, including those measured annually, and at the end of the project. The baseline study provides the current status of data and information on the social and representational institutions, obtained through the assessment of existing institutions in line with the already defined overall project logical framework.

4.2. Pre-inception

The main activity here was to review all the relevant documentation on both the LIVING project and the Participatory Environmental Management (PEMA) project. This helped in designing relevant tools to

extract the requisite information and in conducting a baseline survey relevant to the LIVING project.

4.3. Inception

After initial discussions with the client on logistics and contractual arrangements it was also agreed that the participatory project monitoring and evaluation framework workshop should precede the baseline survey as the LIVING project document stated. Earlier, a workshop to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework was scheduled to be undertaken after the baseline survey and the results be used to improve the logical framework. The inception report was equally important in the question of working out for a realistic schedule for the survey, and in the sampling of the villages to be covered in the study, as clearly explained in the part concerned with sampling approach. Factors like geographical position of the villages, balanced representation, conditions of the roads, proximity or distance among the villages and the available time were instrumental in determining the villages to be covered in the survey. In this way, there was a mutual agreement between the client and the consultant on the scope of the work, area of coverage and sample, and on the work schedule.

4.4. Data and Information Collection

4.4.1. Secondary Information

Basic information on the PEMA and those of the LIVING project were collected from the documents which were made available to the consultant. This information proved to be very useful in comprehending the overall and specific objectives of the LIVING Project.

4.4.2. Primary Information

This was collected in the field survey through individuals and group surveys using questionnaires and interview check-lists to sampled institutions and village government leaders.

4.5. Survey Tools

Three sets of survey tools were used in this baseline survey. These included 2 interview schedules which were used to leaders and members of Village Savings and Loan groups (VS&L), and entrepreneurial groups concerned with village economy and rural livelihoods respectively. A third and last tool was another interview schedule which was administered to village government leaders.

4.6. Sampling Approach

The sampling of the villages from which the survey was undertaken involved the client. This was because transport and logistical issues in the survey were under the arrangement of the client. In deciding on the villages to be involved in the study and those to be left out; factors like geographical position of the villages, balanced representation, conditions of the roads, proximity or distance among the villages and the available time, were taken into consideration. In the sampling process care was taken to ensure that at any cost all the five (5) Wards involved in the South Nguru Mountains were represented. The five Wards in question are Kibati, Maskati, Diongoya, Mhonda and Sungaji. After deliberations, it was agreed that 10 villages should be sampled for the exercise instead of 15. It was further realized that many of these villages had similar features and conditions to the extent that covering all the 15 villages could have generated a lot of replication from the collected data and information. In this way, a mutual agreement was reached upon between the client and the consultant on the sample size, survey schedules, area coverage and the work programme. Following are the names of 10 villages which were involved in the baseline study with their wards in brackets: Msolokelo and Pemba (Kibati); Dibago and Maskati (Maskati); Kwadoli and Digalama (Diongoya); Mhonda, Kwelikwiji and Mafuta (Mhonda); and Mlaguzi (Sungaji).

5.0. SCOPE OF THE WORK

Specifically, in executing this exercise the study was expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Reviewing PEMA and LIVING projects' reports and other documentation to grasp the concepts and basic components of the projects;
- Facilitating a 2-day stakeholders participatory workshop at Turiani to revise the LIVING project logical framework and verify project indicators;
- Designing relevant tools to capture the required information;
- Conducting the baseline survey in sampled villages;
- Determining the extent of strength and representative of village based-institutions;
- Examining the efficiency of institutions dealing with natural resources management and protection in the survey area; and
- Preparing and submitting the report including the workshop proceedings.

6.0. FINDINGS FROM THE BASELINE SURVEY

As stated in other sections above; the objective of this baseline survey was to conduct a survey in the sampled villages in order to assess the social and representational status of target communities through the institutional assessment. Below are the findings from the baseline study undertaken in the sampled villages.

6.1. Village – based Natural Resource / Environmental Committees in the Survey Area

The tool used to collect data and information on this aspect aimed at collecting information on the structure, roles and responsibilities of the committees; the committees' problems encountered in rendering their services; the gender composition of the committees, the relationship of the committees with other organs like the village government, Ward Executive Officers (WEOs), villagers, district forest officials, the district council; the PEMA project; and the central government. The Questionnaire also solicited for information on the current needs of the committees, the way they perceived the structure of the committee and whether they felt any need to change its structure; education background of the members, skills and relevant training received to equip them for their duties; support of the village government to their cause; and whether they were aware of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) or the Participatory Forest Management (PFM). The following were the findings on these aspects.

6.1.1. Structure of the committees

In all the surveyed ten villages, only one committee known as Village Environmental Committee (VEC) existed to deal with environmental issues like cleanliness, sanitation and natural resources management. No Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRC) existed in the surveyed villages at the time of the survey. New JFM and CBFM guidelines stipulate clear that committees involved in natural resource (wildlife, forest etc) should be known as VNRC. In the case where village has VEC as per local government requirement then their role has been mainly dealing with environment cleanliness and toilets. Introducing VNRC aims to strengthen VEC so that it is in the position to handle the extra responsibilities of natural resource management. However the additional members should be appointed and approved by village assembly. All the VEC members interviewed showed a clear understanding of the responsibilities of their committees and what they were expected to perform. The interviewed village leaders

indicated that they were in favour of one committee system, which they thought would help to avoid conflicts if two committees one for the general environment and another for the natural resources management existed. We feel that the villagers will get a clear understanding of the necessity of the VNRC when the JFM takes deeper roots in their area.

The structure of the village environmental committees includes three members who are part of the village council. The three members are normally selected among the council members by the council itself after considering the suitability of the individuals in terms of their physical fitness, honesty, integrity, bravery and uprightness. In addition to the three village council members; the village council picks among villagers up to 9 other members to complement the committee. The committees normally last for three years before a new committee is formulated. With this arrangement, one would see that only three members from the village council will be well known among villagers because they were elected to be village councilors by them through the village assembly. The other members will only be known well by the 23 village councilors who picked them. This practice seems to go against the Local Government Act no 19 of 1997 which requires all leadership up to the grassroots to be elected through fully democratic processes. According to the village standing orders a village council is supposed to have 25 members (councilors). There was complaints from some of these village environmental committees that the village leadership did not take trouble to introduce the rest of the committee to the villagers to help them undertake their responsibilities effectively.

6.1.2. Problems militating against the committee's efficiency in discharging their duties

The questionnaire identified 7 institutions which it sought to establish their relationship with the village environmental committees. These are presented below with the findings corresponding to them.

6.1.2.1. Village governments

The findings revealed that only two committees from the villages of Mhonda and Dibago, enjoyed mutual understanding and cooperation with their village governments. The eight environmental committees from the other eight villages complained that the village governments were not quite cooperative to them. Among the problems which were reported about this issue included: the village government neglecting the importance of the committees; failure of the village leaders to

introduce members to the villagers, this is important for the members picked by the village councils, to be known by the rest of the villagers. Other problems included failure of the village governments to involve them in their meetings – only the three council members would participate in these meetings; corruption of leaders which affected the committee's performance and their responsibilities (this was reported from Msolokelo); failure of the village government to motivate the committees financially or otherwise; and the village government not supporting them with gum boots, uniforms, weapons and other requisite gear.

6.1.2.2. The Ward Executive Officer (WEO)

All committees in all the 10 villages reported poor relationship with the ward level government. The committee in Pemba and Msolokelo complained that WEO gave forest use permits without consulting them. However this is questionable because according to the existing law pertaining to natural resource use, only the district Council has the authority to do that. The study (TFCG, 2006) Observes that in Pemba, for instance, two practices existed. The first was that timber dealers brought permits from the District council and the village authorities would decide if the required amount of trees could be identified. The second practice involved the carpenters applying for a certain amount of timber in the village and the local committee would decide on the application before forwarding it to higher authorities. It seems to us that the complaints made against WEOs concern this second approach, whereby WEOs may be involved in endorsing and forwarding the applications to the councils without consulting the villages to which the forest are closely located. They observed that this practice made their responsibilities very difficult to undertake. The committee in Maskati village in particular, complained that the WEO often released people caught destroying forests instead of taking relevant measures a habit which suggests existence of corruption.

6.1.2.3. Villagers

All the 10 village environmental committees reported having poor cooperation with the villagers. The villagers hated them because they thought that they interfered with their activities. In Mhonda, for instance, the committee reported that some villagers informed the people who were involved in forest destruction on actual days the environmental committee planned to visit the forest so that they could not be caught. This is a serious problem resulting to conflict of interests in relation to forest management. Findings (TFCG, 2006) correctly observe; there are a number of factors which may lead to the villagers being hostile to their committees as it was reported. First, is

the increased pressure on agricultural land following the population increase and the relatively aridity of the surrounding land. Lack of alternatives for deriving a livelihood is another problem which cause people to rely solely on agricultural activities and extractions from the forests. In this way, any efforts to check their moves would most likely not be favoured at all. This suggests that a realistic way of resolving this conflict of interests is by working out for alternatives for these people to derive their livelihoods.

The Danish Institute for International studies (DIIS, 2006) observes that when policies restrict access to natural resources the costs often fall on the poor people who can ignore, circumvent or resist such restrictions because they militate against their need to secure their livelihood. This suggests that the interests of the poor need to be thoroughly considered and alternative ways to livelihood be suggested if conservation programmes are to be a success.

6.1.2.4. Forest Officers

Five environmental committees from Mhonda, Kwadoli, Digalama, Maskati and Msolokelo accused the District Forest Officers of being corrupt, and of cooperating with people who destroyed forests. They cited cases where people who were caught by the villagers destructing forests in their areas were set free by the forest officials; a habit which suggests existence of corruption. All the committees from the surveyed 10 villages reported having poor relationship with the forest officials and, they reported receiving no training from them.

6.1.2.5. Central Government

The central government was blamed for not conducting any capacity building in the form of training or extension services. They also complained about the top down approach used by the government, whereby directives are just given on issues regarding to forest preservation. They called for participatory decision making to be developed to promote the sense of ownership. Policies concern people's development, so they felt that the government needed to listen to the people and get a deeper understanding of the kind of problems, aspirations as well as expectations they had on given issues before giving directives. Therefore, the present central government tendency of deciding on its own was felt to make their work even harder. Nevertheless, we feel that if the JFM which involves the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM); a highly participatory programme, encouraging ownership in management; was there in a full swing there would not have been these complaints. This is because

the programme is beneficial to the indigenous people as compared to the old system of top down directives giving. We hope the LIVING project will promote this new arrangement in the area.

6.1.2.6. PEMA Project

Committees from Dibago and Pemba reported that PEMA officials cooperated mostly with the village leadership and did not care about their committees. Other committees reported having very little interactions with PEMA. However, Mhonda village committee acknowledged the support and cooperation they got from PEMA. Nevertheless, this can be clearly understood when you take into consideration that the PEMA project worked intensively with villages in Kanga Ward which borders the Kanga Forest.

6.1.2.7 District Council

The council was accused of deciding on its own without involving their committees in many issues related to forestry. The committees also complained that they did not receive any training to improve their skills to perform their work. In addition the VECs complained about the delays at the council level to ratify the by laws made in the villages for the purpose of enhancing forests management.

6.1.3. Needs of the committees

All committees indicated that they needed equipment like gum boots, uniforms and weapons to make them effective in their activities. They also required training on how to manage and protect forests and environment in general. They further said that incentives in the form of allowances could motivate them to perform their duties effectively. The arrangement whereby some percentages of income accruing from the forests is given to the villages was highly recommended. This was found to be the only tangible way towards solving the VECs problems of equipment and incentives. Currently, the village government incomes from the forests largely depended on fines from the people who defaulted the established forest by laws. However, this was not a reliable source of income as people increasingly refrained from going against the established by laws. Therefore, CBFM could be the only solution to this problem.

6.1.4. Factors that militate against the committee's performance

The committees identified the following problems: poor or absence of equipment, little support and involvement of the committee's in village councils, and absence of motivation. The committees also cited absence of training opportunities and seminars to improve their skills as another big problem. Slackness in enforcing existing by laws was another problem reported by most of these committees.

6.1.5. Awareness of the Joint Forest Management/Participatory Forest Management

Only two committees from Kwadoli and Maskati reported to have adequate knowledge on joint or participatory forest management. The committees from the other eight villages namely Mafuta, Mlaguzi, Mhonda, Pemba, Digalama, Kwelikwiji, Msolokelo and Dibago said they had no or very little exposure on how this system worked. This may be taken to be a result of the PEMA project not working intensively in these villages. Again, this shows why the concept of VNRC is not quite clear yet in this area. It is hoped that the situation will change when the LIVING project takes roots in this area.

6.1.6. Village leaders' perception of village environmental committees

Village leaders of Maskati, Digalama, Kwadoli and Dibago commended the environmental committees in their villages for their commitment to the work. However, they reported that absence of essential equipments like gum boots, raincoats, weapons and transportation affected adversely the committees' performance. Incentives such as allowances could have made the committee members even more active in discharging their duties, they added. On the other hand, leaders of the other 6 villages expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of their committees. In addition to unavailability of equipment as reported in other villages; the leaders reported incidences of weaknesses such as lack of confidence among the members, inadequate education, de-motivation because of absence of incentive packages and fear of the people who destructed the forest some of whom were said to be fierce and even prepared to use supernatural powers against them. A close examination of this issue reveals that most of the village leaders who gave a low opinion on their VECs were from the villages which the VECs complained of poor cooperation with the village leadership. This suggests that there is either a communication breakdown between the two or a conflict of interest between them.

6.2. Gender Representation and advocacy in Surveyed villages

6.2.1. Gender representation in village environmental committees

Table 1 below shows the gender distribution of environmental committees

Name of the Village	Male Members	Female Members	Total Members	Percentage of women	Percentage of women in leadership
Mafuta	6	4	10	40%	0 %
Kwadoli	6	4	10	40%	0 %
Mhonda	8	8	16	50%	0 %
Pemba	7	3	10	30%	0%
Mlaguzi	10	4	14	28.6%	50%
Kwelikwiji	22	3	25	12%	50%
Digalama	8	4	12	33.3%	0 %
Dibago	8	4	12	33.3%	0 %
Msolokelo	10	5	15	33.3%	0 %
Maskati	7	5	12	41.7%	0 %

The VECs leadership consists of a chairperson and a secretary, therefore 50% indicates that one post is held by a woman. In this survey no woman was found to hold the position of chairperson. Only two women held the position of secretary. The data in the table reveals gender under representation in VECs, with exception for Mhonda village.

6.2.2. Gender representation in the village council (village government)

Table 2 below shows the representation of women in the village councils of the villages surveyed

Name of the Village	Male Members	Female Members	Total Members	Percentage of women
Mafuta	14	11	25	44 %
Kwadoli	25	Not known	25	0 %
Mhonda	17	8	25	32 %
Pemba	18	8	26	32%
Mlaguzi	15	10	25	40 %
Kwelikwiji	18	7	25	28%
Digalama	18	7	25	28 %
Dibago	14	11	25	44 %
Msolokelo	21	4	25	16 %
Maskati	15	10	25	40 %

NB: No woman holds any leadership post at the two top village level positions i.e. Chairperson and VEO.

6.2.3. Gender perspectives and distribution in leadership

In this aspect the survey intended to establish perspectives of villagers on the ability, readiness or weakness of women in taking leadership positions in different structures. The findings from this aspect indicated a significant variation. In five villages namely Mafuta, Mhonda, Mlaguzi Dibago and Maskati women awareness and confidence was reported to be high and comparable to that of men. In these villages, women competed for any leadership position and won. In Mlaguzi, for instance, two "Vitongojis" are reported to be led by women chairpersons. In Dibago 6 women held ten the cell leader position. However, in the other five villages Kwadoli, Pemba, Digalama, Kwelikwiji and Msolokelo; women are reported to be less self confident and shy to contest for leadership positions. It is reported also that some of the husbands in these villages do not allow their wives to take any responsibilities as leaders in the village circles. A cross examination of this perspective would reveal that this results from inadequate awareness and insensitivity among men on the potentialities of women in their society. Organizing gender awareness courses which will help them realize the concepts of equity and equality between women and men could be of great help. This may also include changing of men mind sets and perspectives towards women as weak creatures.

6.3. Village – Based Savings, Loan and Entrepreneurial Groups

This survey revealed that village savings and loan groups (VS&L) were not a common practice in the surveyed area. For instance, of all the 20 groups which were interviewed, only four of them reported to have dealt with loan services in one way or another. And these were in the form of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS). The rest were entrepreneurial groups which focused on bringing together villagers efforts to deal with poverty reduction. None of the four groups which reported to have dealt with savings and loans continues to perform this exercise substantially. The major problems reported to affect these groups include: inadequate financial resources, inadequate skills to run institutions offering this service, poverty among members, and inexperience resulting from their groups being newly established. The general observation of the surveyed groups' profiles revealed that almost all of them were at the inception stage, and their leaders lacked leadership experience.

Table 3 below shows the status of village groups' membership, establishment, status of registration and female participation in leadership.

S/N	Name	Year established	Registration	Village	Type of the group	Members		Total members	Female in leadership positions e.g. C/person (C), Secretary (S) or Treasurer (T)
						Male	Female		
1	Mwanzo Mgumu	1999	Registered	Kwadoli	Entrepr. & VSL	3	22	25	-
2	Uhuru ni kazi	2003	Not registered	Kwadoli	Entrepr. & VSL	2	23	25	3 C, S & T
3	Hamasa	2006	Not registered	Msolokelo	Entrepr. & VSL	11	7	18	2 C & T
4	Umoja ni Nguvu	2005	Not registered	Kwadoli	Entrepreneurial	17	11	28	1 T
5	Kiu Group	2006	Not registered	Mhonda	Entrepreneurial	10	15	25	-
6	Umoja wa Vijana	2006	Not registered	Mhonda	Entrep. & VSL	13	4	17	-
7	Kiwambo m	2006	Not registered	Mhonda	Entrepreneurial	7	3	10	-
8	Matumaini	2006	Not registered	Maskati	Entrepreneurial	13	12	25	1 S
9	Mapamba no	2006	Not registered	Maskati	Entrepreneurial	15	10	25	1 S
10	Kasi Mpya	2006	Not registered	Maskati	Entrepreneurial	16	9	25	1 C
11	Tushirikiane	2006	Not registered	Kwelikwiji	Entrepreneurial	19	7	26	1 C
12	Kiumata	2006	Not registered	Mafuta	Entrepreneurial	12	12	24	1 T
13	Jitume Group	2004	Not registered	Kwelikwiji	Entrepreneurial	17	8	25	2 S & T
14	Uwatu	2006	Registered	Mafuta	Entrepreneurial	10	10	20	1 C
15	Jitegemee	2007	Not registered	Digalama	Entrepreneurial	22	10	32	1 T
16	Muungano	2006	Not registered	Dibago	Entrepreneurial	3	7	10	-
17	Jitegemee	2006	Not registered	Dibago	Entrepreneurial	5	5	10	1 S
18	Jitegemee	2005	Not registered	Pemba	Entrepreneurial	7	3	10	-
19	Amani	2007	Not registered	Mlaguzi	Entrepreneurial	5	5	10	2 C & T
20	Tushikamane	2000	Not registered	Digalama	Entrepreneurial	5	2	7	-

From the data presented in the table above, it is clear that institutions in the surveyed villages are still at their nascent stages. Most of them started between 2005 and 2007. Even the female representation in leadership is not that encouraging. This suggests that the area requires sound tailor made training to consolidate these institution for the villages' development. Training, in aspects like leadership, entrepreneurial, savings and loans management skills, budgeting, strategic and operational plans development etc. are highly required.

Only two groups out of the surveyed twenty were registered. This further confirms the nascence of these groups. The explanation given on the vision of most of these groups is not well articulated. Most of them indicated that they started their groups so that they could get loans from financial institutions. Asked whether they had elaborate plans to handle the secured loans; they could not explain any tangible plans. This also suggests that training is required on how to prepare strategic plans to overcome poverty and other related problems. Among the answers collected from the group respondents included the one which reported that the members did not know where to register their groups and the procedures of doing that. We feel that education and information are required also on this aspect.

Neither of the groups interviewed reported to have an office or requisite facilities for their groups. They said they had very little money to afford acquiring these things. The educational level of almost all the group leaders was predominantly primary or even lower. It is only at Mhonda Village that the three groups had leaders with education ranging from diploma in education to secondary education. The reason for that is clear; the village hosts a teachers college (Mhonda Teachers' College) that is why it has this advantage compared to the rest.

7.0. FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

The livelihoods of the people in the area of this survey largely depend on agriculture. This has been reported by other studies as well. The other studies which reported this fact include: TFCG (2006) which identified the local stakeholders in forest Landscapes; DIIS (2006) which focused on local stakeholders' use of forest reserves; TFCG Technical Report 14 (2006) which focused on participatory situation assessment and collaborative action in the Nguru South Landscape, and TFCG Technical Report 13 (2006) which focused on initial characterization of the Nguru South Landscape. All the reports saw conflicting interests on the forest uses and conservation and emphasized on the need to undertake a keen analysis of the livelihoods and the kind of problems the people living in these areas experienced in order to solve them. This could be quite helpful before working out a lasting solution to forest destruction and environmental degradation at large.

Other findings (TFCG, 2006) correctly observes that when environmental policies restrict access to natural resources, the costs

often fall on the poor people who least can bear them. This normally results on tendencies of these people ignoring, circumventing or resisting from such restrictions in order to secure their livelihoods. Therefore, a basic feature to engage the poor in natural resource management and conservation is to draw special attention to their interests and how these interests practically differ from those of the other stakeholders. Many studies show that the interests of the poor have not been sufficiently addressed because of lack of understanding of the relationship between the forests and the broader agricultural and agro forestry landscape uses. In addition various literature indicate that the political systems in many parts, have been failing to protect the interests and rights of the less influential stakeholders like the poor and marginalized rural households. The systems also fail to promote a more equitable sharing of the costs and benefits related to the management of these resources. These are the aspects which are prerequisites for effective conservation of natural forests in poor countries. They need to be reversed. We think that, the introduction of a full fledged CBFM would, to a larger extent bring encouraging solution to some of these problems.

In this way, all the problems affecting village environmental committees reported in this survey can be best solved if these basic considerations can be taken on board in conservational programmes. The status of gender, entrepreneurial and VS& L in surveyed villages have something in connection with the existing livelihoods and can only be dealt with appropriately upon a critical analysis of the interests and needs of different stakeholders as indicated earlier in this report.

8.0. REFLECTIONS OF THE STUDY FINDINGS TO THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

8.1. Expected Result 1

Based on the survey findings of this study, it is suggested that the implementation of this result area needs to be well focused. We feel that establishing and legitimizing natural resource management committees in villages, followed by Mvomero District Council recognition of village level natural resource management institutions alone may not necessary warrant these community institutions' right to exercise resource management effectively. There should be efforts to strengthen the CBFM programme which is by its nature benefiting to the villagers, something which will clearly show the necessity of having another committee in addition to that of environment they are

used to. In addition, with the introduction of CBFM the responsibilities of the VNRC will be easily mapped out to avoid overlap and duplication; as the VECs are statutory organs under the village councils' structures. We are saying this because in the survey it was clear that village leaders as well as VECs favoured the current system.

8.2. Expected Result 2

Again, based on the findings of this study; an elaborate connection between increasing the number of VS&L, group members and the number of people taking loans on one part, and that of improvement of markets, capital and incomes on the other part needs to be articulately established. We feel that this is not a one to one relationship or a straight forward impact. Aspects like entrepreneurial skills, basic business management and creativity in business undertaking, need to be planned carefully and imparted to the target groups. The study established that group members lacked these qualities including the confidence to invest. We argue here that it is possible to have well running VS&L groups and people with adequate financial resources and still have no significant impacts in economic development. Incomes which are not planned for clearly, may lead to negative expenditures which can negate the whole logic of this ER. In addition, in the logical framework the enterprise development tracking mechanism is shown, however, nothing is indicated clearly on how the predominantly unskilled villagers as this research revealed will be helped to develop traceable enterprises.

8.3. Expected Result 3

We feel that carefully developed plans are required to ensure that women control resources and profits like land, and houses in a period of three years. As it has been established in this study, the gender relations in the surveyed area are not quite encouraging. In addition most of the intervention will have to grapple with issues related to policies and amendment of laws. These are by nature known to take lengthy time and tend to be bureaucratic. Fortunately, the land laws of 1998 and 1999 have very strong backing to women rights to land ownership.

Again, as stated in ER 2 above, by assisting 50% of women to get loans and by increasing their representation, it does not automatically lead to the reduction of their poverty and vulnerability. We feel that issues discussed in ER2 above need to be considered as well in this section.

9.0. CONCLUSION

This study set forth to assess the social and representational status of the target communities through institutional assessment. The study has explored and established various data and information on these aspects. The gender disposition in the survey area has been found to be weak. Despite other villages acknowledging the women potentialities in contributing to leadership roles and development, little is reflected in the institutional setup and management. Men continue to dominate in village councils, environmental committees and entrepreneurial groups etc. Even in the institutions where women were dominant in numbers the situation was not different. Leadership skills, strategic planning, management of groups and entrepreneurial skills are hot areas requiring training interventions. The study also revealed that many villagers did not understand where to start in the bid to reduce poverty. To many it looked like if the donor gives nothing there will not be possibilities for any meaningful development to take place. This ill conceived perspective needs to be dealt with by the LIVING project. Additionally, some thing needs to be done on the problem of poor relationship between village governments and their environmental committees, so that they take concerted efforts in natural resources protection against poachers. We feel that a clear and thorough analysis of the conflicting interests between these two groups could suggest a better solution to this problem. The village leadership should be in a position to encourage their committees to work successfully. Lastly, in order to promote gender equity and equality in the survey area, we suggest that a tailored training on gender awareness in aspects of gender balance, gender mainstreaming and gender relations be presented to the people living in this area.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Names of villages and village leaders involved in the survey interviews.

1. MHONDA VILLAGE, MHONDA WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Moses M. Katende - VEO
- (ii) Teresphory Msimbe- Chairman

2. DIBAGO VILLAGE, MASKATI WARD, MVOMERO DIVISION

- (i) Martin J. Mafumbi -VEO
- (ii) Boniface s. Kilango – Kitongoji Chairman

3. KWADOLI VILLAGE, DIONGOYA WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Rashidi J. Chaubala - VEO
- (ii) Yusuph H. Ndyawuwu – Chairman

4. MSOLOKELO, KIBATI WARD, MVOMERO DIVISION

- (i) Ramadhan Ally – VEO
- (ii) Juma A. Msenga – Chairman
- (iii) Elias Michael – Kitongoji Chairman

5. DIGALAMA VILLAGE, DISNGOYA WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Hassan M. Dega – VEO
- (ii) Adrian Joseph – Acting Chairman

6. MASKATI VILLAGE, MASKATI WARD, MVOMERO DIVISION

- (i) Tea Jeremia - VEO
- (ii) Gevas Danga –Chairman

7. MLAGUZI VILLAGE, SUNGAJI WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Maguta Shija – VEO
- (ii) Anthony Damian – Chairman

8. PEMBA VILLAGE, KIBATI WARD, MVOMERO DIVISION

- (i) Didier Kisome – VEO
- (ii) Hassan Kabelo – Chairman

9. MAFUTA VILLAGE, MHONDA WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Maxmillian Victorian - VEO
- (ii) Maliseli Kiwanda - Chairman

10. KWELIKWIJI VILLAGE, MHONDA WARD, TURIANI DIVISION

- (i) Michael L. Mokiwa – VEO
- (ii) Mndali Bavu - Chairman

Annex 2: List of village saving & loan and entrepreneurial groups interviewed in sampled villages

1. MASKATI VILLAGE

- (i) MATUMAINI
- (ii) KASI MPYA
- (iii) MAPAMBANO

2. MHONDA VILLAGE

- (i) KIU GROUP (KILIMO NA UFUGAJI)
- (ii) KIWAMBOM(KIKUNDI CHA KILIMO CHA MBOGAMBOGA)
- (iii) UMOJA WA VIJANA

3. KWADOLI VILLAGE

- (i) MWANZO MGUMU
- (ii) UHURU NI KAZI
- (iii) UMOJA NI NGUVU

4. MAFUTA VILLAGE

- (i) KIUMATA (JITEGEMEE & JUHUDI)
- (ii) UWATU

5. KWELIKWIJI VILLAGE

- (i) TUSHIKAMANE
- (ii) JITUME GROUP

6. DIGALAMA VILLAGE

- (i) JITEGEMEE
- (ii) TUSHIKAMANE

7. DIBAGO VILLAGE

- (i) MUUNGANO
- (ii) JITEGEMEE

8. MSOLOKELO

- (i) HAMASA

9. MLAGUZI

- (i) AMANI

10. PEMBA

- (i) JITEGEMEE

Annex 3: Survey Questionnaire in Swahili (Village Leaders)

MASWALI DODOSO KWA VIONGOZI WAKUU WA VIJJI
(WENYEVITI NA WATENDAJI WA VIJJI) TEULE VYA
MRADI - WILAYA YA MVOMERO

1. Jina la kijiji.....
2. Kata.....
3. Tarafa.....
4. Majina ya viongozi waliohojiwa
.....

5. Je kijiji chenu kina kamati ya mazingira na Kamati ya..maliasili?
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.....
6. Kama mojawapo haipo ni kwa nini?
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7. Je kijiji chenu kina vikundi vingapi vya uwekaji akiba na kukopa
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8. Kama havipo ni kwa nini?
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9. Kama vipo vina maendeleo gani na mchango gani kwa Kijiji?
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10. Je kijiji chenu kina vikundi /asasi ngapi za ujasilia mali?(Entrepreneuership) ?

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11. Kama hakina ni kwa nini?

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12. Kamati ya mazingira na kamati ya maliasili (kama zipo) zina uwakilishi kiasi gani wa wanawake? Idadi na asilimia

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13. Kwa maoni yenu mnadhani mchango wa wanawake katika kamati hizo(kama wapo) ukoje ukilinganisha na wanaume?

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14. Kwa maoni yenu mnawaonaje wanawake wa kijiji hiki (sehemu yao kubwa) katika swala zima la kujiamini, na kushindana na wanaume katika nafasi za uongozi? Iko chini au juu? Na kama iko chini ni kwa nini?

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15. Kuna taasisi/asasi ngapi ambazo zinajishughulisha na utunzaji wa mazingira na misitu katika kijiji chenu? Mnauonaje mchanga wake?

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16. Kwa mtazamo wenu ni nini hasa mchango mkubwa au udhaifu mkubwa wa kamati ya mazingira wa kijiji katika kuimarisha ulinzi wa mazingira? Unadhani ni kwa nini?

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17. Kwa mtazamo wenu ni nini hasa mchango mkubwa au udhaifu mkubwa wa kamati za maliasili katika kulinda maliasili katika kijiji chenu? Unadhani ni kwa nini?

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18. Je wanakijiji wanaufahamu mpango wa pamoja wa utunzaji misitu (Joint Forest Management)? Kwa kiasi gani?

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19. Je kamati ya mazingira na kamati ya maliasili kama zipo zote, zinashirikiana vipi? Je, ni mwanachama wa UJUMTA?

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20. Matukio ya uharibifu wa misitu katika kijiji chenu, unaweza ukayaelezea kuwa yanapungua au kuongezeka katika miaka mitatu iliyopita? Kwa nini?

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21. Serikali ya kijiji inauwakilishi kiasi gani kwa upande wa wanawake?

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22 Kwa maoni yenu ni mbinu zipi zitumike ili kuimarisha hali ya uchumi iliyoko kijijini?

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23. Mnadhani mradi wa LIVING/PEMA II ujikite zaidi katika eneo gani hasa ili kutatua tatizo la uharibifu wa mazingira kijijini? Na kwa nini?

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24. Je, ni mikakati gani mnadhani ikitumika itaimarisha na kuinua hali ya uchumi wa Wananchi katika kijiji chenu?

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25. Je sheria ndogondogo zilizopo kuhusu mazingira zinatimizwa?

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26.Kama hazitimizwi je ni kwa nini ?

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27. Nini kifanyike kuziimarisha?

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28. Ni tatizo gani kubwa kwa ujumla linakabili kijiji chenu
kiuchumi?

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29.Ni njia ipi mnadhani inaweza kulitatua tatizo hilo?

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**ASANTE SANA KWA KUTUPATIA MUDA WENU MUHIMU NA
KUYAJIBU MASWALI YETU.**

Annex 4: Swahili Questionnaire For Village Environmental And /Or Natural Resource Committees.

DODOSO KWA KAMATI ZA MAZINGIRA NA MALIASILI KATIKA VIJIJI TEULE VYA MRADI WA LIVING, WILAYA YA MVOMERO, MKOA WA MOROGORO.

Jina la Kijiji..... Kata.....

Tarafa.....

Tarehe ya mahojiano..... Muda..... Majina ya Wahojiwa.....

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.....

Maswali ya Mahojiano:

1. Kamati yenu inahusika na mazingira ama maliasili ama vyote?.....

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.....

2. Ni nani (majina) ni viongozi wakuu wa kamati yenu?.....

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.....
.....

3. Jee, viongozi wana kiwango gani cha elimu? (Hawakusoma kabisa, elimu ya msingi, Elimu ya watu wazima, Elimu ya sekondari, Zaidi ya elimu ya Sekondari.....

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.....

4. Jee, kamati yenu iliundwa lini?.....

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5. Ni nini hasa majukumu mnayotakiwa kuyatekeleza kijijini kwenu?.....

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6. Jee, mnadhani mnayatekeleza majukumu yenu ipasavyo?.....

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7. Kama mnadhani hamyatekelezi ipasavyo kunasababu zipi zinazowakwamisha katika hilo?

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8. Jee, mnawanawake wangapi na wanaume wangapi katika kamati yenu?

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.....

9. Jee, kwa maoni yenu kuna tofauti gani kati ya kamati ya mazingira na ile ya maliasili?.....

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.....
.....

10. Elezea kwa kifupi mambo yanayowakwamisha katika utekelezaji bora wa majukumu yenu kutokana na kila kundi lililoonyeshwa hapa chini:

i) Serikali ya Kijiji.....
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.....
.....

ii) Serikali ya Kata (WEO).....

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iii) Wanakijiji kwa ujumla

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iv) Maafisa wa misitu

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v) Serikali kuu

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vi) MRADI WA PEMA I

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vii) Halmashauri ya wilaya

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11. Jee, mnadhani kamati yenu inahitaji mambo yapi ili iweze kuimarika zaidi? Kama vile mafunzo kuhusu kazi zenu,uendeshaji, uwezo katika maamuzi na utekelezaji ?
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12. Jee, mnadhani kuna haja ya kubadili muundo wa kamati yenu uliopo sasa kwa lengo la kuiimarisha zaidi?
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13. Kama jibu la swali 12 ni ndiyo, muundo huo uweje?
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14. Kwaa mtazamo wenu ni mambo gani yanaiidhooifisha kamati yenu kiutendaji katika kijiji kwa sasa hivi?
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15. Jee, wajumbe walichaguliwa/kuteuliwa na nani kujiunga na kamati?
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16. Jee wanakamati wamewahi kupatiwa mafunzo yoyote kuhusiana na majukumu ya kamati yenu?.

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17. Jee, uhuhusiano wenu na Halmashauri ya Kijiji ukoje katika kutekeleza kazi zenu za kamati?

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18. Jee, mnazielewa vizuri taratibu za mpango wa uangalizi wa pamoja wa misitu(Joint Forest Management)?

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19. Mnadhani malengo na mpango wa uangalizi wa pamoja wa misitu(Joint Forest Management) unaeleweka vema kwa wananchi wa kawaida?

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20. Jee, Serikali ya Kijiji inawawezesha kiasi gani katika kufanya kazi na kutimiza majukumu ya kamati yenu?

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AHSANTE SANA KWA KUTUPATIENI MUDA WENU WA THAMANI KUJIBU MASWALI YETU!

Annex 5: Swahili Questionnaire for the Village Savings and Loan and Entrepreneurial groups

MASWALI DODOSO KWA ASASI ZA AKIBA NA MIKOPO /VIKUNDI VYA UJASILIA MALI KATIKA VIJJI TEULE VYA MRADI WILAYA YA MVOMERO, MKOA WA MOROGORO.

A. TAARIFA ZA ASASI / KIKUNDI

1. Jina la kikundi/ asasi.....
2. Kijiji kilipo/ilipo
3. Kata.....Tarafa.....
4. Lini kilianza/ilianza.....
5. Tarehe ya mahojiano
6. Muda wa mahojiano.....
7. Majina ya wahojiwa
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8. Kimesajiliwa?/Hakijasajiliwa?
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9. Ni madhumuni gani yalifanya muanzishe kikundi/asasi yenu?
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10. Je kwa wakati huu madhumini ya kikundi ni yaleyale au yamebadilika? Kama yamebadilika ni kwa nini?

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11. Mna wanachama wangapi?

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12. Kikundi chenu/asasi ina muundo gani kiuendeshaji? Kuchaguana au kuteuana?

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13. Je vipato vya wanachama wa kikundi/asasi yenu inatokana na shughuli gani hasa?

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14. Je kikundi /asasi yenu kinatoa huduma gani kwa wanachama mfano mikopo, kuweka akiba, hisa n.k?

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15. Kama hakuna ni kwa nini?

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16. Je kikundi/asasi yenu kinatoa huduma za kuimarisha wanachama kama vile kutafuta masoko/mafunzo ya biashara na ushauri / kutunza rasilimali na kadhalika? Taja mafunzo yatolewayo.

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17. Kama hapana ni kwa nini?

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18. Je idadi ya wanachama wenu inaongezeka ama kupungua?

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19. Ni mafanikio gani mnaweza kusema kikundi/asasi yenu imeyapata tangu mlipoanza?

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B. UMADHUBUTI WA KIKUNDI /ASASI

20. Je mnayo ofisi yenu?

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21. Kama ni ndiyo, Jee ni katika jengo lenu wenyewe?

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.....

22. Kama hapana ni kwa nini?

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23. Je hesabu zenu zinakaguliwa/zimewahi kukaguliwa? Kama hapana ni kwa nini?

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24. Je mna muungano/ushirika na kikundi /asasi nyingine yoyote ki shughuli?

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25. Je viongozi wenu wana kiwango gani cha elimu?

(Wataje viwango vyao vya elimu)

Mwenyekiti.....

Katibu.....

Mhazini.....

26. Je vingozi wenu wamewahi kuhudhuria mafunzo yoyote ya ujasiliamali/kutunza fedha ama utawala wa vikundi/asasi
- a) Ujasiliamali.....
.....
 - b) Kutunza fedha.....
 - c) Utawala wa vikundi/asasi.....

27. Ni nini hasa ni maono (vision) ya kikundi /asasi yenu katika kuinua hali za wanachama?
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-
-
-

28. Je kuna wanachama wangapi Wenye elimu ya
- (a) kidato cha nne au zaidi?.....
 - (b) darasa la saba.....
 - (c) chini ya darasa la saba.....
 - (d) wasiojua kusoma na kuandika

C. MATATIZO YA KIKUNDI /ASASI

29. Ni matatizo gani ambayo yanakikabili kikundi chenu/asasi yenu kwa wakati huu?
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-
-
-

30. Mmejithahidi vipi kuyatatua na nini hasa kinawakwamisha?

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31. Ni mambo yapi ambayo kikundi /asasi yenu ikiyapata yatakiimarisha?

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D. UWIANO WA KIJINSIA

32. Je kikundi chenu kina wanawake wangapi katika idadi ya wanachama?

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33. Je kati ya hao (kama wapo) ni wangapi wako katika nafasi ya uongozi?

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34. Nini mchango wa wawanawake katika kikundi/asasi yenu

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E. MISAADA TOKA SERIKALI YA KIJJI

35. Je kikundi /asasi yenu inapata misaada kiasi gani toka serikali ya kijiji au sehemu nyingine na ni aina gani ya misaada?

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**AHSANTE SANA KWA KUTUPATIA MUDA WENU WA THAMANI
KUJIBU MASWALI YETU!**