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**THE VICE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE**

**PROJECT KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT**

**FOR**

**PARTICIPATORY VILLAGE/SHEHIA LAND USE PLANNING AND CERTFICATE OF THE CUSTOMARY RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY (CCRO)** **UNDER THE REVERSING LAND DEGRADATION TRENDS AND INCREASING FOOD SECURITY IN DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS OF SEMI-ARID AREAS OF TANZANIA (LDFS) PROJECT**

**OCTOBER 2022**

1. **Introduction**

The Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of Tanzania (LDFS) it is a pilot programme that will contribute to national, regional and global agendas. It is a five-year project with extension of one year (2017-2023) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and implemented by the Vice President’s Office (VPO).The project’s goal and development objective are: ***to improve food and nutrition security in the targeted villages and reverse land degradation trends and increase food security in semi-arid areas in Tanzania through sustainable land and water management and ecosystem-based adaptation.*** The project is based on the premise that in order to achieve food security and resilient livelihoods, key aspects of natural resources degradation must be addressed. The project is implemented in five districts namely Magu, Nzega, Mkalama, Kondoa and Micheweni.

**2. Approach used for the implementation of the project**

To achieve its objective, the LDFS is structured into three inter related components that foster an integrated approach including: strengthening institutional capacity by training local and district level officials and villages to jointly manage resources through joint land use planning at landscape level ; increasing the productivity and efficiency of existing natural resource uses by improving soil health through soil and water conservation practices; reducing dependency on single commodities or livelihood sources by introducing climate-smart farming and agroforestry practices, and adopting new pathways for income generation by organizing farmers in producer groups and supporting the development of small businesses.

**3. Implementation of the Land Use Planning Process and Preparation and Provision of Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy.**

Land use planning is defined as the systematic assessment of land and water potential, alternatives for land use and economic and social conditions, in order to select and adopt the best land-use options (FAO, UN).The driving force in planning is the need for change, the need for improved management or the need for a quite different pattern of land use dictated by changing circumstances.

The LDFS project has conducted and completed participatory village land use planning up to step IV in all 15 villages in the four districts in Tanzania mainland namely Magu, Kondoa, Nzega and Mkalama and 8 shehias in Micheweni district. Stage one of the land use planning process is preparations at district level which involves, among other things, establishment of a District Participatory Land Use Management (PLUM) team, organize and conduct a District PLUM workshop to prepare an action plan for PLUM. Stage two is Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)which involves, among other things, formation of a village land-use management (VLUM) committee, assisting villagers in analysing and evaluating land use and environment problems and opportunities andpreparation of a community action plan for land-use management.Step 3 is preparation of existing village land use map. Step IV of the land use planning process involves analysis of spatial data, drafting a Village Land Use Plan and by-laws, presentation and approval of Village Land Use Plan and by-laws demarcation (sign boards) of planned land uses (e.g agriculture, forestry, settlement, grazing, water sources, socio-economic services, wildlife etc).

Four districts are in step 5 of village land use planning which is the demarcation, survey and register private lands as well as preparation and issuance of Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) to different land users. The target is to issue 2,100 CCROs for 7 villages each 300 CCROs in four districts. Four districts namely Magu, Nzega, Mkalama and Kondoa have prepared a total 2,031 of CCROs and issued a total 1,501 of CCROs. It is a legal requirement that CCROs should be issued in registered villages only.

**3. Success, Lessons Learnt and Challenges from participatory village/shehias land use planning**

Increased land conservation. Land use planning processes, areas of various uses were identified and demarcated e.g. in Munguli Village Hadzabe community land which was once encroached by farmers is now demarcated and conserved. The process also enhances stakeholders’ engagement, different resource users were actively involved in decision making. Also land use planning set grounds for successful implementation of the project activities such as farmers field schools (FFS).

Strengthening of security of tenure through provision of Certificate of Customary rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to individual farmers and community groups was one of the achievement of the project. CCROs which were granted increased the security of tenure and respect of the land uses. The CCROs will help the farmers and pastoralists to improve their livelihood as it will be used as the collateral to obtain loans to increase production in agriculture and also generate non-farms business

The major challenge that was observed during the implementation was the negative perception of the villagers concerning the land use planning process and CCROs provision, this hindered some of the villages to continue with the project. In Kondoa, two Villages, Mwisanga and Ntomoko refuses the process of land use plan to be undertaken

**4**. **Conclusion**

In villages/shehias implementing LDFS project, the participatory land use planning processes forms the basis for community-based natural resources management (i.e.; forest, wildlife, water) which is a key to conserving vulnerable ecosystems and supporting local livelihoods. For many pastoralist and farmers communities, these measures have helped to secure seasonal pasture/farms to maintain communal access to rangelands/farmland that perpetuate internal equity and cultural values, and prevent conflict between farmers and livestock keepers.