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**PROJET
«Rufiji eco-tourism project»
TANZANIE**

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TITLE.

The Proposal Project on Community Marine Resources Conservation through Eco-Tourism.

A SYNOPSIS**THE PROJECT SUMMARY.**

The idea to engage into this project has been motivated by the communities and community grass-root groups at Kyechuru and Mbwera Islands in the Rufiji Delta. The communities here depend mainly on fishing and mangrove harvesting as their economic activities. The two Islands have a population of about 3000 people.

Pakaya being one of the advocates of Environmental protection and sustainable utilization of Marine resources in Rufiji District, conducted two informal sensitization seminars to the Kyechuru government Officials and one to Mbwera government officials. The main themes were:-

- (i) Sustainable Conservation and utilization of Marine resources.
- (ii) Eco-Tourism as a tool for environmental protection.
- (iii) Land use and Marine resources use management plan.

Consequently the two local governments entrusted us with the duty of preparing proposals and to solicit capacity building assistance for conducting the seminars and empowering the community groups to establish the first Eco-Tourism camp at Dima Island. The total estimated cost is us dollar 100,000 of which us dollar 5000 will be contributed by the PAKAYA Board of Trustees and the remaining US Dollar 95000 will be in the form of grant preferably from donor agencies.

In addition the groups here under the supervision of PAKAYA have promised to be the donors to the Marine resources conservation once the camps become operational. This project is expected to contribute towards Mangrove Protection and sustainable harvesting of fish and prawns in the Rufiji Delta.

INTRODUCTION:

Tanzania, covering 937,062 square kilometers is situated on the east coast of Africa and lies between 0⁰ -10⁰ latitudes south of the Equator and 30⁰ - 45⁰ East longitudes. It borders Kenya and Uganda in the North, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in the West, and Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique in the South. The country embraces the Islands of Pemba and Zanzibar which together occupy an area of 2,614 square kilometers. Further south of Zanzibar is the Mafia Island in the Indian Ocean.

The major part of the country comes from agricultural products. Major crops for export being coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco and pyrethrums. Export of minerals such as gold, diamond, tanzanite, etc also contribute a lot to the economy. Light industries are increasing rapidly. The main industries being of Textiles manufacturing, foodstuffs processing, leather goods production and building materials. Tourism industry is now gaining momentum. Its contribution to the economy shown increasing trend from USD 13.4 million to USD 139 million in 1970 and 2000 years, respectively. With careful

planning development and mobilization, tourism industry is likely to be the legs of Tanzania economy in the near future.

Rufiji District is located in the south of Coast Region along the east coast of Tanzania between 37° 30'E to 39° 30'E (Longitudes) and 7° 30' S to 8° 20' S (Latitudes). The Western and Southern parts of the District re significantly occupied by the Selous Game Reserve – The Tanzania's untouched wilderness. The District is generally flatland with occasional hilly landscape in the North and South of the Rufiji River Basin. The Giant Rufiji Delta is the home of Mangrove forest Reserve extending over 60 kilometers from North to South of Rufiji Coastal strip. Here the might Rufiji River enters the Indian Ocean majestically in undulating tributaries. Where the river tributaries meets the Indian Ocean lies the breeding grounds for prawns, with the Rufiji Delta prawns being one of the best prawns in the world. Dima, Mbwera and Simbaulanga Islands are located in this area overlooking Mafia Island in the eastern side of the Ocean. In the mainland side of the District, the wildlife and forests of Miombo woodlands, Savannas and thorny bushes are predominant.

The Economy of Rufiji is mainly Agriculture-rice, maize, cashew nuts, being chief crops. Tourism is a new concept to people in the district. Despite the fact that few private people hve been owning camps and have been receiving tourists. Fortunately the District council have already endorsed this program is regarded as a substitute economic activity that will prevent people from further destruction of forestry, wildlife and marine resources in this District.

PAKAYA CULTURAL TOURISM GROUP: A profile Pakaya is a Socio-economic group in Rufiji District, Coast Region. Its headquarters are at Ikwiriri Town, other operational branches are at Nyamisati, Kyechuru Island, Mbwera Island, Utete, Mloka, Kibiti and Dar es Salaam. Another representative Office will be at Kilwa Masoko in Lindi Region.

This group has been registered under Company's Ordinance CAP 213 as a Socio-economic grouping for the carrying of eco-tourism, environment protection, cultural preservation and local community development business. Its registration number is 150,663 dated March 9, 2005.

Its main objective inter alia are: Community Poverty alleviation and development as well as enhancing local development options at the grassroots level.

THE PROJECT.

DEFINITION : The Proposed Project is of the communities in the Rufiji Delta on Marine resources conservation and Eco-Tourism establishment.

LOCATION : The Proposed Project will be conducted at Dima (Kyechuru) and Mkirika (Mbwera).

PROJECT CONCEPT AND UNDERLYING MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECT:

The Project has been conceived by the communities in the Delta area, especially the residents of Kyechuru and Mbwera Islands. Communities in these Islands depend solely on the harvesting of mangrove poles and fishing as their main sources of income. The practice has recently escalated with increasing population and the need to eradicate poverty. In so doing the communities has been practicing unsustainable harvesting of mangrove vegetation, fish and prawns. Consequently, Pakaya intends to establish Eco-Tourism project in a bid to divert the communities from this practice.

PROJECT GOALS:

The main goals of this project are to alleviate poverty by introducing a substitute economic activity as well as protecting the marine environment and its resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

SPECIFIC GOALS:

In line with the main goal, the specific goals as such are:-

- 1) To increase the awareness of the communities on marine resources conservation.
- 2) To increase the awareness of communities on the concept of eco-tourism.
- 3) Establishing eco-tourism camps at Dima and Mkirika.

METHODS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS:

In accomplishing these goals, the communities will be involved from idea, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation s well as progress reporting.

Infact the communities and the community groups in the area have already been given sensitization seminars of one day. What remains now is specific training seminars and ultimately empowerment of community groups with basic equipments and tools for the purpose of establishing Eco-Tourism project. In addition, the local government authorities at village and ward level have already been sensitized.

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

The proposed awareness project will have the following specific environmental benefits if funded and implemented:-

- 1) The Mangrove forests will be protected from further destruction.
- 2) Prawns and other fish breeding grounds will be protected.
- 3) Various species of flora and fauna found in the area will be protected.
- 4) It will contribute to the maintenance of eco-system.
- 5) It will contribute to the sustainable conservation and utilization of mangrove vegetation, fish, prawns and other marine resources found in the area.

SIGNIFICANCY OF THE PROJECT:

The significance of this project lies in the anticipated out comes which among others are:-

- (1) Diversified economic activities
- (2) Increased awareness
- (3) Increased income
- (4) Increased marine environmental protection
- (5) Increased marine resources conservation

- (6) Establishment of eco-tourism
- (7) Decreased illegal and unlawful fishing practices
- (8) Increased contribution to GDP
- (9) Forward linkages to the marine resources development
- (10) Backward linkages to other sectors of the economy and social.

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