



**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF COMMUNITY FORUM HELD IN MID JUNE
AT TERAT DIVISION IN SIMANJIRO DISTRICT.**

A: PRESENT

1. Julius Norbert Tanzania Natural Resource Forum - NGO
2. Makko Sinandei Ujamaa Community Resource Trust - NGO
3. Abraham Ujamaa Community Resource Trust - NGO
4. 35 Maasai traditional leaders (Laigwanani) from various villages in Terat ward

B: INVITEES

1. Chairman and Village Executive Officers from Terati Village
2. Four Laigwanani from Kenya
3. Mara Goldman – anthropologist

C: ABSENT

1. Some few Laigwanani

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman opened the meeting at 9.30am by welcoming the participants in the meeting. He asked them to introduce themselves.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting adopted the agenda drafted prior to the meeting as follows:-

- (i) Opening of the meeting
- (ii) Adoption of agenda
- (iii) Establishing/Strengthening of community forum
- (iv) Recommendations

- (v) Any Other Business (AOB)
- (vi) Date of next meeting
- (vii) Closing

3.0 Establishing/Strengthening of community forum

The facilitators from NGOs elucidated the need of establishing/strengthening the community forum in Maasai society. They said that the forum will be used as an informal grass-root institution in which Laigwanani will meet to exchange the useful information pertaining to management of natural resources such as; land, wildlife, forestry, beekeeping etc. This will help in bridging the existing gap between their local experience in natural resources management and the development of sound national policies and laws.

They said that, currently TNRF is working closely with U-CRT and Sand County Foundation (SCF) to ensure the achievements of the followings:-

- To enable the local communities in our country to gain access, user rights and ownership of natural resources in a collaborative and transparent manner thus achieving potential benefits from their stewardship.
- To improve the availability and exchange of useful information on the management of natural resources within and between the local communities.
- To develop an appropriate and stronger linkage with the government (both central and local government) as well as Parliament Committee for Natural Resources and Environment (PCNRE) to provide advocacy on the key issues pertaining to sustainable management of natural resources in the country.
- To cooperate with government and make the government accountable by devolving power and authority in resource management from central government to local level.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Sustainability of the forum

Sustainability of the forum was discussed after being introduced for discussion as one of the key issue. Basically, Laigwanani agreed to complement the supports of NGOs by contributing what they would have to make the meetings successfully. They said that they will discuss the issue among themselves and give their views and suggestions in the forthcoming meeting.

4.2 Strengthen the participation of women in the forum

The participation of Maasai women in the forum meeting was of great concern due to the fact that they have been affected by decision made in the meeting which in turn affects their lives. In the meeting only 5 women attended out of total 35 participants despite the fact that women were given equal opportunities of attending in the meeting like men. In explaining the scenario we thought that it might be the socio-cultural factors impede the Maasai women from equal participation in the meetings and other related occasions with men.

5.0 Any Other Business (AOB)

More meetings should be done in this early stage of establishing/strengthening the forum in which members could get enough time to exchange ideas and other useful information for the purpose of strengthening the forum.

6.0 Date of next meeting

It was unanimously agreed by all participants that the next meeting should be convened on Mid July 2007.

7.0 Closing

The meeting was closed at 6.10pm by chairman who thanked participants for devoting their time in the meeting. He also thanked them for their good questions and clarifications made by the resource persons. He wished the participants all the best in their endeavours.