



MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF COMMUNITY FORUM HELD IN MID JULY AT TERATI DIVISION IN SIMANJIRO DISTRICT.

A: PRESENT

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

B: INVITEES

1. Chairman and Village Executive Officers from Terati Village
2. Three Kenyans expertise from International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

C: ABSENT

1. Some few Laigwanani

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman opened the meeting at 9.00am by welcoming the participants in the meeting. He asked them to introduce themselves.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

- (i) Opening of the meeting
- (ii) Adoption of agenda
- (iii) Minutes of the first meeting held at Terati on mid of June
- (iv) Matters arising from the first meeting

- (v) Establishing/Strengthening of community forum
- (vi) Recommendations
- (vii) Any Other Business (AOB)
- (viii) Date of next meeting
- (ix) Closing

3.0 Minutes of the first meeting held at Terati

The minutes of the first meeting was read and approved as a true record after making minor amendments/corrections on it.

3.1 Matters arising from first meeting

Punctuality was emphasized for Laigwanani who came late in the meeting.

4.0 Establishing/Strengthening of community forum

Mr Makko Sinandei, who was a key resource person in the meeting, explained the essence of establishing/strengthening the community forum. He said that the forum would be used as an informal management institution where by people particularly Laigwanani meet to exchange the useful information pertaining to management of natural resources such as; land, wildlife, forestry etc. By doing this they will assist in bridging the existing gap between their indigenous technical experience in natural resources management and the development of appropriate national policies and laws.

Currently, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum is working closely with Ujamaa Community Resource Trust and Sandy County Foundation in long run 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 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.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Sustainability of the forum

Sustainability of the forum was discussed after being introduced as one of the key issue. Virtually, Laigwanani (Masai traditional leaders) unanimously promised that they will supports the future meetings by contributing the local available resources such as food to complement the supports they get from TNRF and its partner NGOs once they have done sufficient arrangements. Moreover they said that, in order to cut the costs of hiring the venue they will be ready to convene their meetings in appropriate and acceptable local place such as under “the big tree”.

5.2 Strengthen women participation in the forum meeting

The participation of Masai women in the meeting was not encouraging compared to men. Since out of 40 participants, there were only 5 women. One might think that may be time in which meeting was convened did not favour them – It is absolutely wrong, because they were fully involved in setting out the time line for the meeting. May be the traditional, norms and cultural of Masai are identical with other ethnic groups in the country where by women do not speak up in front of men.

In order to attract more participation of women in the forum the following measures and actions were recommended:-

- Devising and implementing gender equality monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Setting targets for reaching gender balance in the meetings
- Appointing one or more gender responsible person
- Carry out gender training

5.3 Demand for Training

The participants recommended to be provided with training on natural resource policies and legislation to enhance their skills and knowledge.

6.0 Any Other Business (AOB)

- Punctuality should be observed by some Laigwanani who come late in the meeting.

7.0 Date of next meeting

The tentative date for training was scheduled to be on 10 – 12th August 2007 at the same venue.

8.0 Closing

Chairman closed the meeting at 6.30pm. He acknowledged the significant contributions made by participants throughout the meeting. He also pointed out that in the future they will be in the position to prepare forum meetings and discuss the various burning issues pertaining to natural resource management without relying on external support (NGOs) and they will provide feedback to NGOs about their progress and constraints they face. Finally, he wished them nice journey back to home.