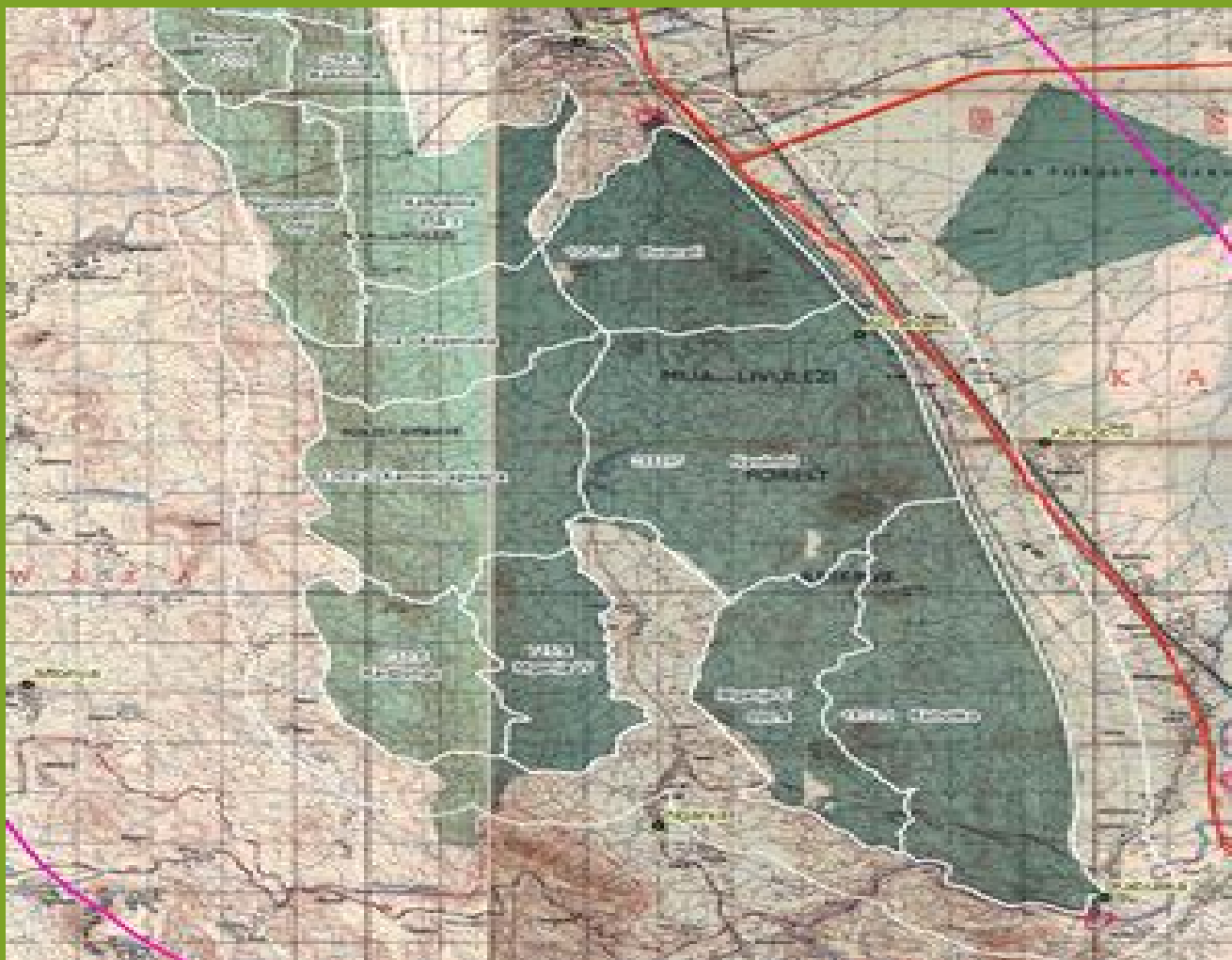




Integrated Informal Sector Development Programs

## **Community Based Enterprise and Skills Training Project Social Economic Baseline Survey Report**



**Mua– Livulezi Forestry Reserve  
May 2009**



Integrated Informal Sector Development Programs

## **Community Based Enterprise and Skills Training Project Social Economic Baseline Survey Report**

### **Research Team**

Harry G. Kamdima

Ishmael Ali

Jordan Banda

Technical Entrepreneurial Vocational Education and  
Training Authority  
P/Bag B 460  
Lilongwe 3

## Contents

LIST OF TABLES .....	3
ACRONYMS .....	4
PREFACE .....	5
BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY .....	7
1. TEVETA .....	7
1.2 OBJECTIVES .....	7
1.3 TEVETA PROGRAMMES .....	7
2. PROPOSED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND (GEF) SGP PROJECT.....	9
2.1 Project Concept .....	9
2.1.1 Bee Keeping .....	9
2.1.2 Cane Furniture and Basketry Production: .....	9
2.1.3 Wooden Ornamental Products (Curios):.....	10
2.2.1 Project Goal.....	10
2.2.2. Project Purpose (Objective).....	10
2.2.3 Project Strategy / Approach .....	11
3.0 Baseline Survey and Participatory Rural Appraisal .....	12
3.1 Problem Statement .....	12
3.2 Question .....	12
3.3 Objective .....	12
3.4 Methodology .....	12
3.5 Expected Outcome.....	13
4.0 Results and findings.....	14
4.1 Demographic Characteristics Of The Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve .....	14
4.2 Projects Targeting and Socio-Economic Capital.....	15
4.3 Forestry Based Enterprises (FBEs).....	16
4.3.1 Bee Keeping .....	16
4.3.2 Weaving .....	18
4.3.3 Curios .....	20
4.4 General Issues.....	21
4.5 General Welfare.....	22
5.0 PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL.....	24
5.1 Problems, Solutions, and Opportunities.....	24
5.2 Seasonal Activity Calendar .....	24
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CALENDAR.....	25
6.0 OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	26
6.1 Observations.....	26
6.2 Recommendation .....	26
APPENDIX I .....	i
Participatory Rural Appraisal.....	i
Appendix II .....	iv
Opportunities and Constraints.....	iv

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1 Honey prices and quantity..... 17

Table 2 Bee products and prices ..... 18

Table 3 Weaved products prices ..... 19

Table 4 Weaved products prices within the community ..... 19

## **ACRONYMS**

CADECOM- Catholic Development Commission

EU- European Union (EU)

FBE- Forestry Based Enterprise

FR- Forest Reserve

GEF- Global Environmental Fund

OJT- On Job Training

MASAF- Malawi Social Action Fund

MRF- Malawi Rural Finance (MRF),

NIUMU.

NSO- National Statistical Office

PRA- Participatory Rural Appraisal

SEBS- Social Economic Baseline Survey

SDI- Skills Development Initiative

SED- Small Enterprise Development

UNDP- United Nations Development Project

## **PREFACE**

TEVETA conducted the UNDP-GEF Socioeconomic Baseline Survey (SEBS) and PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) to provide both quantitative and qualitative baseline data for implementation of a rural livelihood support project around and within the Mua-Livulezi Forestry Reserve. The project will be implemented with funding from the Global Environmental Fund of the United Nations Development Project.

The SEBS and PRA were done in thirteen blocks where the project will be implemented. The blocks are: Mganja, Kabulika 1, Kapenuka, Kadzungu, Muyowe, Kamenyagwaza, Kakhoma, Bwanali, Machanja, and Chikombe.

The project will be coordinated by informal sector skills development office under the training programs division of TEVETA and preparation and implementation of the SEBS and PRA was done by Research, Planning and Monitoring Division. This report consists of results of SEBS and PRA for all the blocks mentioned. Data was stored and analyzed in SPSS and Stata



# BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

## 1. TEVETA

Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA) is a regulatory body established in July 1999 by an Act of Parliament with the mandate to create an integrated TEVET System in Malawi that is demand-driven, competency based, modular, comprehensive, accessible and flexible and consolidated enough to service both the rural and urban Malawian population.

### 1.2 OBJECTIVES

The TEVETA system has the following objectives:

- To promote an integrated, demand driven, competency based modular technical, entrepreneurial and vocational and training system; To monitor gaps between supply and demand for skills;
- To support the adoption and application of appropriate technologies;
- To promote managerial and business skills and a spirit of entrepreneurial culture with regard to both wage and self-employment;

### 1.3 TEVETA PROGRAMMES

TEVETA under the informal sector skills development office has been facilitating and implementing a number of training programs namely:

#### **Skills Development Initiative**

Skills Development Initiative (SDI) is one of the popular programs for the informal sector. TEVETA provides training outreach programs to the youth in order to promote the provision of training through the enhanced Traditional Apprenticeship Scheme. The initiative is now being implemented through some selected training providers, which are called SDI Facilitation Units. Under this initiative, since the year 2000, about 2451 people have been trained in different occupational fields such as tailoring, bakery, soap making, carpentry and bricklaying.

#### **Small Enterprise Development**

The Small Enterprise Development (SED) is one of the programs addressing skills training for wage/self employment and increased access to incomes in the informal sector. It is targeting small enterprises that employ 5 to 20 people.



Under this programme, youths have learnt modern skills of making cane and bamboo furniture. This program has also trained a community based bee keeping club in Nkhotakota district. Other programs in SED include entrepreneurial and business development, cooperative development and management. Specific skills training has been implemented in various vocational skill areas such as bicycle repair, hair dressing, tyre mending, cell phone repairs, pottery, paper recycling, mushroom farming, all this in addition to the traditional trades such as Carpentry, Tinsmiths, Welding, etc. Under this program TEVETA has trained over 88, youths and women.

### **On the Job Training (OJTP)**

TEVETA also facilitates the implementation of on-the-job training through cooperation with partner organizations that are involved in the construction of infrastructures such as schools and markets centres in towns and District Assemblies. In this programme, TEVETA attaches youths from within the area where the project sites are located. The youths are provided with modular training. TEVETA is currently cooperating with the Department for International Development (DFID) of Britain, Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) and Secondary Centres Development Program (SCDP). So far, over 633 youths have been trained under this programme.

## 2. PROPOSED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND (GEF) SGP PROJECT

This section presents a brief introduction to the GEF project which is within the Small Enterprise Development/ Forest Based Enterprises (SED/FBE).

### 2.1 Project Concept

This project proposes to mobilise and train 800 rural based poor people mostly women and youths living in 16 communities within Dedza namely- **Mua –Livulezi Forest Reserve**. Specifically the project will initially target 3 Forest Based Enterprises (FBEs) as follows:

#### 2.1.1 Bee Keeping

600 people both male and female will benefit from TEVETA's skills development programmes in bee keeping, honey production, cane furniture and basketry production and curios production. Honey production as an FBE will form the biggest and major component of this capacity building rural livelihoods program and is designed to achieve the following:

- It is anticipated that the bee keepers will produce a minimum of 10-15 Kilograms each of honey per annum or a minimum of 6- 9 tones of honey for the 16 forest co - management block associations in the first year.
- 16 Trainers will undergo training of trainers in bee keeping.
- 16 existing carpenters will be trained in the manufacture of bee hives.
- 16 tailors will be trained in making the bee keeping suits.
- 16 tinsmiths will be trained in the art of making bee keeping utensils and accessories.
- The project will similarly come up with Competence Based Training (CBET) modules in all the training areas above viz.
  - Bee Keeping Practice manual (Chichewa)
  - TOT manual in bee Keeping (Chichewa)
  - Carpentry & Joinery Skills in Bee Hives and other paraphernalia
  - Tailoring course for Bee Keeping Suits and related dress.
  - Entrepreneurial and marketing modules for bee keeping.

#### 2.1.2 Cane Furniture and Basketry Production:

Mua- Livulezi is home to a very vast quantity and variety of bamboos. The local people have developed expertise in the art of weaving baskets. Common among these are the ones called *madengu* and winnowers (*malichero*) in the local Chichewa language. Middle men come in to buy the baskets and resale them at higher price. For the local producers to make adequate financial returns there is need to:

- Improve the quality of the baskets made in Mua and to build a reputation around that quality with some kind of trade mark

- Develop production and marketing associations that will enable the producers to market at better prices and be in a position to bargain.
- Procure big enough orders and deliver to the market directly

Although there is adequate availability of bamboos in the area, cane furniture production is very low. The quality of the little furniture produced by the people of Mua Livulezi leaves a lot of room for improvement. Clearly there is need for the type of training that TEVETA has been providing to various groups in the country in cane furniture and basketry. The market for these products is quite big and the incomes that could be accrued to improve household incomes is quite considerable. The formation of basketry and cane furniture association would go along way to improve and increase production. TEVETA is proposing to train 100 men and women and assist them form production and marketing associations.

### **2.1.3 Wooden Ornamental Products (Curios):**

These curios are produced and sold along Khwekhwelere road. This is the new tarmac road joining M1 road at Masasa and running down to connect to the Salima road. The curios made in this area are of very good quality and made mostly in form of motor vehicles of all shapes and kinds and bicycles. The items are sold for as much as MK3, 000.00 (this is of course on the lower side given the quality and skill). However, compared to charcoal burning this is a fortune. Given the fact that charcoal burning is not only hazardous but one can only fetch a mere MK500.00 for charcoal packed in a 50Kg bag.

TEVETA will work with 100 forest resource dependant youths so that they can expand their business. Once this business begins to show better retains it will attract more youths and deter them from practices that destroy the natural resource base. The youths will also participate in tree planting activities for other species and particularly the species that they mostly utilise. The involvement of these youths in project activities such as the environmental protection drama group will go a long way in developing the necessary environment in which their own FBEs will thrive.

### **2.2.1 Project Goal**

Promote sustainable livelihood strategies in assisting the insecure poor, especially women and youths living in forest dependant communities to establish adequate capacities, structures and incomes to meet their basic requirements while ensuring the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources in an environmentally sound manner.

### **2.2.2. Project Purpose (Objective)**

Reduce environmental degradation and poaching by increasing access to employment and income for rural population living adjacent to the forest reserves through development of small and medium enterprises that utilize and add value to locally available resources.

### 2.2.3 Project Strategy / Approach

A. The project will:

Focus on people and their livelihood *strengths*; prioritize demand-driven implementation and the establishment of feedback mechanisms;

Ensure economic, institutional, social and environmental sustainability through the adoption of exit strategies in the early stages of programme implementation;

Foster interdisciplinary teamwork through producer associations in the FBEs.

Forge bottom-up micro-macro linkages to bring about policy changes at local government level through local leadership structures at Area level.

Develop a strong vocational and business skills base to support the Forest based community industries.

- B. The program will consider the interaction between livelihood systems at the micro level and their policy environment at the District local government level at which the local leadership participates through the Local Assembly and the Executive and Area Committees.
- C. Affect policy changes from the community by developing a strong grassroots power base with support from society/ community leadership and the local government
- D. Project duration. This project is expected to run through a 12 months period.
- E. This proposal seeks to address the Biodiversity theme. It seeks to promote the sustainable use of the local forestry reserve called Mua Livulezi in Dedza district of Malawi. The project will seek to build on income generating activities already existing among the people of Dedza such as beekeeping, curios and cane furniture manufacture. This project is therefore eligible for GEF SGP funding because it promotes the sustainable use of the biodiversity through profitable forest based enterprises.

## **3.0 Baseline Survey and Participatory Rural Appraisal**

The section presents the problem statement, research question, objective of the baseline and PRA, Methodology, and expected outcome.

### **3.1 Problem Statement**

People are using MUA forest resource in unsustainable manner e.g. firewood cutting, charcoal burning, bamboo harvesting for selling, timber selling without replanting, tillage within the forest i.e. agricultural activities that tend to bring issues of erosion and environmental degradation which in the long run lead to destruction of the ecosystem.

### **3.2 Question**

How can the Mua- Livulezi community use the forestry resources in a sustainable way?

### **3.3 Objective**

The major quest of the baseline survey was to establish the social economic status of the Mua- Livulezi with special reference to the following variables;

- How many people are involved in weaving, curios, and bee- keeping?
- How much money are they making out of these activities?
- How many primary and secondary products are made?
- How best can they sustainably use the forest resources?

### **3.4 Methodology**

A baseline survey has been done using two modes of data collection; Participatory Rural Appraisal and structured interviews.

Representative sampling procedure was used as a sampling technique. The representation was in physical variables of sex, age, block (location), and activity variables bee keeping, curios and weaving.

In bee keeping and curios 30 percent of the women population has to be sampled from each block. For the youth 18-35 years 30 percent will be sampled and men 40 percent, while in weaving, the target was the lower tip of the forest reserve which has a wide variety of bamboos that can be used in weaving. The sample was 50 percent women and 50% men.

In all the variables, a constant percentage was applied in order to have a static cumulative percentage of the whole sample.

Qualitative and quantitative instruments were used to collect the data. The tools were divided into two individual questionnaire (SEBS) and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) for the community. The statistical package that has been used in analyzing the data is Stata.

### **3.5 Expected Outcome**

The expected outcome of the study is the availability qualitative and quantitative data that will be used as a benchmark for monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation and impact evaluation in empowering and enhancing the communities' capacity in the utilization of available resources to improve their income at the same time sustaining the forestry resources.

## 4.0 Results and findings

The sections present the results of analysis and findings as far as the SEBS and PRA are concerned. These will act as a bench mark for latter impact assessment.

### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics Of The Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve

A total number of eighty two respondents were interviewed. Out of these twenty nine are females and 53 are males representing 35.37 and 64.63 percent respectively. Per the definition of youth earlier indicated, the sample has 42.7 percent youth representation, and 52.4 percent adult representation. As seen the definition is different from the usual various definitions people use. Within the scope of this project, that's the guiding definition.

According to the description of the baseline of a households head; the one who provides for the household and make final decision on crucial matters, 59 percent of the population of Mua-Livulezi Forest has a dependent ratio of 1:5 and an average of 5.5 people per household, which is higher than both central regions and districts average of 4.5 and 4.3 people per household respectively as indicated in the recent population census done by NSO. This is in line with 172 population density for Dedza, which is one of the highest with exception of the four major cities.

The age range of the heads within the Forest Reserve is between 18 and 71. This then indicates that the headship of a household within the Forest Reserve is from 18years without taking into consideration other family disaster like orphan-hood and rejection. The dominant marital pattern is monogamous 80.5 percent, seconded by polygamous 3.7 percent. 7.3 percent of the heads population is widowed and 2.4 percent is single.

The major occupation is farming. 56.1 percent of the heads are farmers which is lower than the national 80 percent. However the spouses' engagement in farming is higher, 77.4 percent slightly close to the national percentage.

In terms of FBEs, 19.5 percent of the heads largely depend on bee keeping, 11 percent on weaving. None depends on curios as a major source of their income. For the spouses 4.8 percent is involved in each of the two mentioned above with none in curios.

There are two single male headed households represented in the sample indicating a 2.4 percent representation. Their major occupations are weaving and bee keeping. Apart from the single headed households, some are widowed. There are six widow headed households, all of which are female headed indicating 7.2 percent. The occupation of four is farming while the two is bee-keeping.

80 percent of the household heads who are also the largest beneficiallies of the project have not gone beyond primary school. The most educated household head went up to senior secondary school; they are six of them indicating a percentage of 7.3. The spouse percentage is almost half of the household heads, 3.7 percent. The group that has advanced with their education is that of the first dependent. For those who have gone up to senior secondary are twice the household

heads percentage, 14.6 percent. 14.6, 22, and 11 percent of the household heads, spouses, and first dependent respectively have never attended any school.

## **4.2 Projects Targeting and Socio-Economic Capital**

The targeted beneficiaries of the project have lived in this community for an average period of 30.44 months (close to two and half years), with a minimum of three months and a maximum of 71 months (about five and half years).

According to social integration, forty five people are ordinary members of the community, while thirty seven are in leading positions within particular social groupings in the community. The groupings range from governing to supporting groups, namely; chief, chief secretary, chief elder, wife to the chief, group village headman, village headman, chairman of security, community police, chairman of forestry, secretary of forestry, secretary of nursery committee, chairman of farmers club, vice-chairperson of Community Based Organization (CBO), Secretary CBO, Solisha chairperson, Malawi Congress Party Chairman, Roman Catholic Priest, Chairman of Roman Catholic, Malawi Care personnel, Tidziwane Radio Member, Zaumoyo Chairperson, and members from these groupings.

The targeted beneficiaries are involved in various social economic activities ranging from the FBEs (weaving and bee keeping), selling firewood, carpentry, tinsmith, petty trading, farming, advisors, and church leadership. For those who are in wage employment, they are working as guards.

Regardless that most people did not report as to how much they get in a month i.e. total income regardless of source, partly due to lack of records of their activities and the nature of their sources of income, the three that responded have a mean of MK8,333.33, a minimum of MK7,000.00 and a maximum of MK10,000.00.

The perception of 69.5 percent of the respondent is that the major economic activity in the area is farming. 6.1 percent thinks weaving is the major economic activity. In referring to their own stand as far as the capital resource of land is concerned, 91.7 percent report having their own land. The average land distribution is 1.67 hectares, which is not far from the national's average distribution of 1.5 hectares.

Considering food security which is mainly defined in terms of the staple maize, 41.5 percent reports having enough land for their farming. 43.9 percent reports having no enough land. For the latter group to meet their basic hectrage requirement, 66.7 percent of this group reports that they use other people's land at a cost (renting). 34 percent reports having food deficits in a year and these are those who don't have enough land for their farming. The coping strategies used by this group are weaving and *ganyu*. 66.67 percent uses the latter, 11.11 percent the former, 5.56 percent does nothing, and 16.67 percent uses other means among which are; buying and intercropping i.e. planting more than one crop in a field, which is mainly done between maize stations. The general picture of the community is that most households do not have enough food to take them for the whole year as expressed by 85.71 percent.

There are several organization that are working within this community; CADECOM, Concern Universal, European Union (EU), MASAF, Malawi Rural Finance (MRF), Red Cross, World Vision, and NIUMU. Their projects are mainly those which are needs targeting. CADECOM is into food security, Concern Universal –distribution of farm inputs, EU- construction of school,



MASAF, building of schools and farming program, MRF and NIUMU- lending money, Red Cross- drilling boreholes and administering drugs, World Vision- assisting orphans, sanitation, farming programs, assisting in school fees, and construction of schools. The target group for these organizations are CADECOM, MASAF, NIUMU, Red Cross, and Concern Universal- the whole community, EU- the youth and the elderly, and MRF- farmers. This then gives the project a first mover advantage of initiating management of forest resources using FBEs. However it will have no learning ground of the same.

Some of the targeted beneficiallies of the project have benefited from the programs of the named organization. However the beneficiallies are only 21.79 percent of the sample, which is not a worrisome effect in terms of measuring the impact of the project. Further to that the projects have no similar impact except in the overall indicator of income. Among the benefits that the community has enjoyed so far are barking, borehole drilling, clothes, construction and development of schools, farm inputs, food security, drugs, irrigation, planting trees, training in sowing, assistance to people with HIV, assistance to children, live stocks- goat, healthy to the community, hives, money, and hives from forestry.

### **4.3 Forestry Based Enterprises (FBEs)**

The forestry based enterprises to be discussed in this section are the three mentioned above, which are also the focus of the project namely; bee keeping, weaving and curios.

#### **4.3.1 Bee Keeping**

Gender distribution was not exactly achieved as proposed. However the percentages fall slightly close to the proposed (*refer to methodology*). The distribution between the youth and the elderly was 36 and 58 percent respectively. The gender parities are 56 percent males and 38 percent females. Among the old, male to female representation was 36 percent to 22 percent respectively, while among the youth it was 20 percent to 17 percent. This can be attributed to the season effect where most people were out in the fields as already indicated among the reasons listed on limitations. Despite having a replacement list from which X could be replaced with D if is not available, the distribution was not achieved.

It has been observed that bee keeping is one of the FBEs that are already being done within this community. 25 percent of the sample reports already being involved, while 63.89 percent wants to start the enterprise. This then indicates a possibility of an efficient peer learning technique in bee keeping enterprise. Further to that 15 percent of those who want to start the enterprise have ever before been involved in the enterprise for a period ranging from less than a year to ten years.

Knowledge transfer as far as bee keeping is concerned, has been shown that fathers take a leading role seconded by those who teach themselves at 38.46 and 30.77 percent respectively. 15.38 percent have acquired the skill from organizations 7.69 percent from relatives and the other 7.9 percent from non-relatives. 20 percent have ever been involved in transferring the knowledge to other people.

Though bee keeping has been seen as one of the viable enterprises, 72.41 percent indicates that most people in the community do not practice the enterprise. 87.5 percent indicates that those

who have been involved mostly are men. The reasons that have contributed to male dominance are; a culture and tradition, women are not interested, they are afraid of being bitten, and the enterprise usually takes place in hills.

The drive to be engaged in the enterprise is that, there is availability and affordability of the market, has high income and less input (capital) resulting to higher profit prospects, there is success and potential, easiness of the enterprise, and for self sustenance and improved living standard. Further to these, it has shown that there is availability of training form forestry officers, Concern Universal and European Union. However the set back is that 96.49 percent have no knowledge as how the bees manufacture the honey. This indicates a viable area of knowledge transfer for better results.

Regardless of the little knowledge that the targeted beneficiallies have in bee keeping, 74.14 percent indicates that they want to be using modern hives, as compared to the 25.86 percent that will go for traditional hives. For those who are already involved, 61 percent are using modern hives while 39 percent are using exotic hives. Exotic hives refer to those hives that are made from traditional materials like clay pots that are upstet on a rock with a whole just to allow the bees to come in and go out. The modern hives are made from timber that is made into a box and are hang on a tree.

77 percent of those involved in bee keeping, indicate that they sale the honey that they harvest. However as far as processing of honey from raw to secondary and edible product is concerned, there is no value adding. Only 4 percent of those involved and those who plan to start the enterprise add/ will add the value by squeezing the hives. Most of them indicate selling pieces of the hives. Most of this honey is sold at the market or taken around the villages “door to door”. Though this is the case, the people are aiming at selling to companies. The table below shows how much honey costs per each measurement.

**Table 1 Honey prices and quantity**

Measurement/price(MK)	20	300	750	1000	1500
Table spoon					
Bottle					
300 ml					
15l					
Piece					
20l					

The table suggests the existence of differential pricing at MK1, 000.00. However it was not possible to establish whether it is spatial or quality due to the scope of the baseline.

Apart from selling the primary product honey, several products are made from the remaining hives. Things like polish, shoe rope softener, even ladies slip-ons can be made from hives. 33 percent of those already involved in bee keeping reports selling the remaining hives, while 28 percent of those who wants to start are envisaging sales from the same. Below is a table of products that made within the community, and the cost of the products.

**Table 2 Bee products and prices**

Product/price(MK)	10	20	40	400	1500
Candles					
Wax					
Polish					

Marketing of the products is the same as that of honey; they sell at the market/shops or door to door. There is another marketing strategy mentioned whose possibility is doubtful, advertising at church.

To improve the value of their products they suggest need for; education and training, cleanness by sieving on a wire mesh, proper packaging, need of good production materials. The community plans to use plastic bags as that of freezes in packing their honey.

Income prospects without any of the intended interventions, shows a minimum of MK300.00 per month to MK20, 000.00 per month with a mean of MK6, 825.00.

A function of productivity shows that bee keeping is directly related to training and education of the beneficiaries. Therefore the training in the enterprise is positively correlated (close to unitary- 0.9843) to their productivity, while age has a negative contribution to productivity in bee keeping. The latter aspect shows a relationship with location of bee hives in hills.

Lastly, but important in as far as bee keeping is concerned; some ways of farming and harvesting bees are causing a threat to the ecology. The SEBS found that some people cut trees to construct bee hives, while some cut trees to harvest honey and some use fire which does not rule out the burning of bees.

#### **4.3.2 Weaving**

In weaving the sex disparities were to be 50:50 indicating 50 percent of males and females. The outcome of analysis shows a big difference from the proposed percentage 90:10, indicating a 90 percent male dominated sample to 10 percent female representation. The reason behind this are as mentioned above in bee keeping sample distribution. Further to that it has been indicated that the enterprise is male dominated because the materials are not within reach and is a tradition design. Further to that socialization in school labeled it as such as only males are trained in weaving during extra curricula activities in school.

The participation in weaving seems to be less than that of bee keeping. Only ten people were interviewed and these are already involved in the enterprise as compared to eighteen people already involved in bee keeping and forty six who want to start the enterprise. The distribution of years of participation in the FBE is at an average of 12.22 years with a maximum of 26 years and a minimum of 10 years, which shows a

declining trend of entry into the FBE. The same pattern has been shown among those who are involved where the minimum age is 26 and the maximum is 51. Among the setbacks in weaving are that; there is no proper training, and future prospects are not clear.

Further to the reasons put forward above, the involvement in weaving has also been encouraged due to the availability of raw materials within the forest reserve. Initially the community was paying a fee but now they steal from the forest. However the forestry department pointed out that they are only supposed to get a permit for them to access the materials.

As is the case with bee keeping in knowledge transfer, fathers also play a great role in knowledge transfer in weaving as evidenced by 50 percent of those who are in the enterprise. 10 percent register learning the skill from each of these ways; mother, friend, school, other organizations, and self. Contrary to the negative trend in FBE, it shows that people are willing to share the knowledge that they have as indicated by 90 percent of the sample transferring the knowledge to others as compared to 20 percent in bee keeping.

The targeted beneficiaries are mostly in the weaving of mat (*mikeka*), seconded by *mphasa*, then *madengu* and *malichero*. The same trend has been reported for the community. 60 percent reports that most people weave *mikeka*, 20 percent reports *madengu*, and the other 20 percent *mphasa*. The major reason that people are involved in *mikeka* is because they sell fast, is associated with high earning, and that is what people are used to making, “*tradition*”. It is further reported that it is mostly men that are involved in the production of *mikeka*. As to why mostly its men, it is indicated that because *mikeka* sells fast. Below is a table that shows prices at which they sell their commodities.

**Table 3 Weaved products prices**

Item/Price(MK)	80	100	200	250	400	1000
<i>Mikeka</i>						
<i>Madengu</i>						
<i>Mphasa</i>						

Looking at the cost of the same commodities in the community, there seem to be a contradiction between the item that they perceive to be expensive and the prices given. 58.33 percent indicates that *mikeka* is expensive, 33.33 percent reports that *mphasa* is expensive, and 8.33 percent points that tables are the ones that are expensive. Below is a table showing the price of the commodity within the community.

**Table 4 Weaved products prices within the community**

Item/Price(MK)	100	200	600	750	1000	3000
<i>Mikeka</i>						
<i>Mphasa</i>						
<i>Matebulo</i>						

This suggests a problem with the commodities that they produce and sale. As can be seen the individual prices are lower than the community prices.

Their marketing strategy is a little different from that of honey. There are three marketing strategies; displaying along road sides, taking the commodity to the market, and selling it in different villages. An aspect that promotes the market of weaved products; especially *madengu* is the economic enterprises of the area. Most people are involved in farming tomato which needs *madengu* for measurement, storage, as well as transporting the product to markets.

In the production of these commodities, they mainly use reeds and bamboos. Among other fixed costs in the production are of knives, and needle (commonly known as *nantunga*). Among the variable costs are sisal, *namgoneka*, *chilambe*, and dye.

In order to improve the commodities that they produce, they suggest that, they need good materials, capital-financial assistant from organization, promotion, training and education.

Considering the income in weaving, it has shown that in a month they get an average of MK4285.71, with a minimum of MK1,000.00 and a Maximum of MK10,000.00. Compared to income in bee keeping, it shows that weaving has lower income.

The productivity in weaving shows high dependence on location, marital status, and age. In terms of correlation, marital status is close to unitary (0.9711), location (0.544), and age (-0.5252). This can be attributed to the time that the products need. Most unmarried people are not yet settled to allocate much time to a product that will give them low returns; they would rather follow the city lights as agued by migration theorists.

#### 4.3.3 Curios

There is no quantitative data for curios. However the PRA revealed that the involvement in the FBE is because of the availability of natural resources to use, training from those already involved, and the fast selling aspect associated with the curios. As the case with the other two FBEs, curios are also male dominated because females lack interest in the FBE, and the male label bestowed by society to the FBE.

The knowledge transfer is from school and parents, and the main product that is produced within this community is *zipande* because they are fast selling and easy to make.

The trees that are used by those in curios are mostly indigenous, and these are; *Dango*, *Khakho*, *Muwanga*, *N'goma*, *Mkalati*, and *Mtondomtondo*. As to what they are doing in taking care of trees, they indicate that they are involved in making firebreaks of the forests and afforestation. It was further indicated that there is involvement of World

Vision in training them on how to take care of trees and supplying them with seedlings. The advantage that is there is that they can use the trees for housing poles, firewood, and medicine.

Though few things have been presented regarding the FBE, it has to be noted it is one of the vibrant FBEs on the lower Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve and along the Masasa-Golomoti Road.

#### **4.4 General Issues**

This section looks at a mixture of issues ranging from forest management to social events and HIV/AIDS.

As far as forest management is concerned, the targeted beneficiaries point out that they have been involved in a forestation in the forest and own plots, avoiding deforestation, construction of fire breaks, involved in forest protection i.e. guarding forest resources, and civic educating the youth on good practices in forest management.

In both FBEs discussed above, it has been observed that there are groups to which the respondents are affiliated. Among the thirty seven villages in which the SEBS was done, only fourteen have are affiliated to groups and these villages are; John, Mtandamaha, Kabulika, Katsotso, Thako, Kapenuka, Kuthindi, Chilakalaka, Mnyangale, Gonthe, Mariteni, Chiotha, Kamenyagwaza 1, Kamenyagwaza 2, Tidyenawo, Songwe, Kubvula, Kamganga, Kafuka, and Mgawi. The groups that are are operational in these villages are, Bonongwe club, Ngonoonda Block Forest committee, Kabulika forest, Kamenyagwaza Education scheme, Kamganga Palm Mat Group, Kamganga palm mat Group, Kasupe block committee, Makungwe Hill, Manga club, Mua block, Ngoma, Nkatha club, Nkhalango group, Songwe, Tidziwane youth club, Tiyanganane Club, and Zabwino Zilimtsogolo. Some groups are found in one village only, while some cut across villages. It was further observed that 74.19 percent coming from the mentioned villages are members to the groups.

The groups are playing a role in a forestation, forest protection, control market prices in the area, bee keeping, educating each about bee keeping, weaving chairs, civic educating the youth on HIV related issue, and sensitization on human rights.

The direct benefits that have come to the members from these groups are; bee hives, training, and income. However only five groups; Zabwino Zilimtsogolo, Kamenyagwaza, Kamganga, Ngoma, Nkatha club have a fund. The fund's maximum is MK15000.00 (Zabwino Zilimtsogolo) and the minimum is MK200.00 (Kamganga), with an average of MK3860.00. The building of the fund came through contributions from members, ranging from K500.00 to K1500.00 per person.

Availability of forestry field advisors is so important in forest management. Though this is the case, only eighteen villages report of having forestry field advisors. The villages are John, Mtandamaha, Kabulika, Katsotso, Thako, Kapenuka, Kuthindi,

Chilakalaka, Mnyangale, Gonthe, Mariteni, Chiotha, Kamenyagwaza 1, Kamenyagwaza 2, Songwe, Kubvula, Kamganga, and Mgawi. The role that these advisors play as conceived by the community is to teach people importance of environmental protection (avoidance of bush fire, afforestation and avoidance of deforestation), teaching people on how to care for their nurseries, supervision of the forest, and distribution of trees for people to plant.

In relation to HIV/AIDS, 94.1 percent states that HIV is spread through sex, while 15 percent rightly specified unprotected sex. Second to sex is razor blades as indicated by 72.73 percent. Some of the ways mentioned are blood transfusion, the use of same needles, breast feeding, and use of same tooth brush by several people, use of same cutting machine by several people, breast feeding, wife inheritance (*chokolo*), and *fisi*.

91.5 percent indicates having taken a part in HIV/AIDS prevention by abstaining, sensitizing children and the community on HIV/AIDS issues, incorporating HIV/AIDS issues in their forestry meetings, attending HIV/AIDS forums, going for VCT, fighting stigma, avoiding getting married earlier, ensuring fidelity (marital faithfulness), distribution of condoms, and using condoms.

It was further pointed out that in the community they have people who are infected, as such they have, put in place HIV/AIDS clubs, sensitizing on abstinence, giving them food, medication and financial support, and providing emotional support,

#### **4.5 General Welfare**

The section covers issues in relation to basic needs and income.

During the time of the survey, which was within the lean season, 65.38 percent of the families indicated having not enough food for the past month, 28.21 percent having adequate, and 6.41 percent having a surplus.

Concerning housing, 57.69 percent indicated having inadequate housing vis-à-vis their family, 38.46 percent having adequate housing, 2.56 percent having more than adequate.

In terms of clothing, 66.67 percent indicate having inadequate clothing, 23.08 percent have adequate clothing, and 10.26 percent indicates having more than adequate clothing.

According to relative poverty ranking- the defining of one's own poverty in relation to those around you, 39.74 percent define themselves as ultra poor, 38.46 percent as poor, 19.23 percent as better off, and 2.56 percent as well to do. In reference to their friends, 33.33 percent define their friends as in ultra poverty, 41.03 percent define them as poor, 12.82 percent as better off, 11.54 percent define them as well to do and the other 1.28 percent as rich.

While with reference to their neighbors, 44.87 percent define their neighbors as in ultra poverty, 39.74 percent define them as poor, 7.69 percent as better off, 3.85 percent define them as well to do, and the other 3.85 percent as rich.

In relation to their monthly income, 5.13 percent indicate having savings from their monthly income, 8.97 a little savings, 23.08 percent just adequate for their monthly needs, 16.67 percent

indicates dis-saving for them to meet the monthly requirements, while 46.15 percent indicate borrowing to meet the monthly needs.

The minimum income for them to barely meet their monthly needs is MK500.00 while the maximum is MK30,000.00. Some have gone down to MK70 which they still indicate not enough for their needs, while those who have savings start from MK2,500.00 to MK25,000.00. The average income to meeting basic needs is MK16,202.21.



## 5.0 PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL

The PRA method used in this SEBS has left out some components of PRA method which seemed not necessary for this project. However it followed the tenets. The PRA therefore concentrates on problem and opportunity analysis, and ends with seasonal activity calendar.

### 5.1 Problems, Solutions, and Opportunities

The participatory rural appraisal followed a focus group approach per block. The arrangement was that of having one to two focus groups in the fourteen blocks. These were being alternated among three groups; men, women, and the youth. They were arranged in such a way that men and women were put in different groups, with exception of the youth which was a mixture of the two. It was not viable to come up with a female focus group for the youth because in a block they were less than the required number. The range for the young females was one to two in a block. The participants were supposed to range from six to ten, however in two instances; M'ganja block and Gwimbi Village the total number of participants came to 20 and 14 respectively.

The Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve has a lot of problems among which are hunger, lack of farm inputs, unfertile soils, soil erosion, in availability of training, lack of markets for their products, lack of diversified income sources, lack of materials to facilitate production of forestry based products, lack of clean drinking water sources, water shortage for irrigation, and lack of jobs. Rating the problems six stand out, and are presented in order.

Refer to the appendix for PRA results

### 5.2 Seasonal Activity Calendar

The activity calendar of the community is full of activities from November to June which is commonly known as the growing season in Malawi.

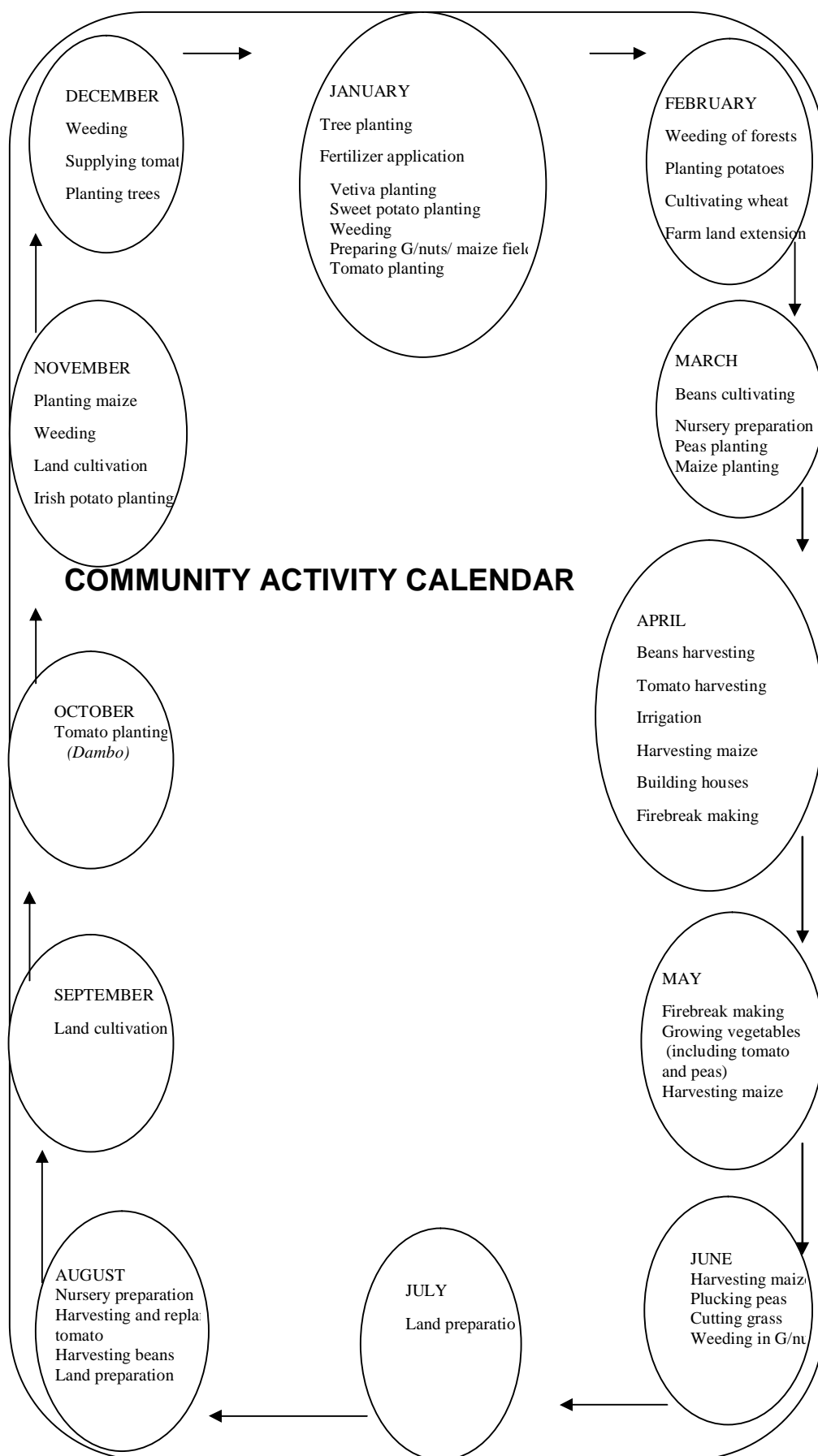
Refer to page 24 for community calendar

Though this is the case, the community states that the right time to come up with a project is during summer, some state that from November through April. Some went further to categorize;

Bee keeping- November to April.

Weaving – All year through.

Curios- All year through.



## **6.0 OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The section therefore concludes with opportunities to capitalize on inform observation, and recommendations on how best to address the needs of the project.

### **6.1 Observations**

Apart from the observation incited, the following are the observations that would help the project to achieve the set objectives.

1. There exists a potential of peer learning environment that would set a better spring board for the project.
2. The ground for the project especially bee keeping, has already been laid by the forestry department, Concern Universal, and European Union.
3. There exists a learning environment for the facilitator (from other organizations).
4. There exists a quest for training from the community.
5. The diversification of the project would enable the project to realize its goal.

### **6.2 Recommendation**

The recommendations for the project are;

1. To better address the problems of the community there is a need of multi-dimensional approach. Therefore there is a need for partnership with organizations that are working within the area, failing which it will be a drop in an ocean.
2. There is a need for participatory approach if the project has to be sustained. This has to be well married with the calendar of the community as well as the bee hiving period.

## **Reference**

NSO (2009), Population and Housing Census Preliminary Report: GOM

Chilowa W. (1998), The Impact of Agricultural Liberalization on Food Security in Malawi:  
UNIMA

[www.ifmslp.org/district.Dedza](http://www.ifmslp.org/district.Dedza)



## APPENDIX I

### Participatory Rural Appraisal

PROBLEM	CAUSES	EFFECTS	SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM	IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
Hunger	Soil erosion/ loss of fertility	Work in other peoples gardens to get food for the day and money	Cultivation	Following new farm practices
	Lack of farm inputs	Loss of wealth	Buying inputs	
	Lack of money	Robbery	Using good/ modern farming methods	
	Sell of produce to find money	Enmity	Applying manure	
	Lack of proper job	Lack of strength	Burying shrubs	
		Sickness	Planting Jerejere, vetiva and legumes	
		Turn to prostitution for money	Planting of trees that can bring back fertility	
		Death rate increases	Business and agricultural guidance	
		Underdeveloped of the country	Finding a job	
			Casual labor	
			Improving quality of products	
			Diversification of income sources	

PROBLEM	CAUSES	EFFECTS	SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM	IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
Money	Lack of business	Hunger	Have good guidance in terms of business	Following new farming methods
	Lack of products market	Can't send children to school	Getting engaged in petty trading	
	Lack of training in income generating activities	Lack of purchasing power of business materials	Improving quality of products	
	Unemployment (Lack of jobs)	Lack of purchasing power of farm tools and materials	Farming	
		Don't cultivate		
		Poor welfare		
Farm implements	Lack of money to buy inputs		Good guidance	
	Lack of loan/ credit schemes			
	Lack of training			
Lack of training	Lack of personnel (In agriculture, bee keeping, and crafting among some)	Production of goods but little sells- (quality and being primary products)	Availability of well qualified and dedicated personnel	
	Lack of NGOs within the vicinity	Low selling prices	Access to loans	
		Lack of knowledge	Access to good working equipment	

Lack of new markets

PROBLEM	CAUSES	EFFECTS	SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM	IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
Lack of markets	Supply is higher than demand	Perishable products like tomato go bad resulting to lose of capital	Having partner organizations	Advertising
	Few trading places		Advertising	
	Poor quality of products		Having multiple products	
	Lack of clubs			
	Lack of proper guidance			
Lack of trees	Burning charcoal	Altering weather par tens	Avoiding deforestation	
	Land clearing		Aforestation in unused land	
	Timber cutting			
	Fire			
	Curio making			
	Medicine			
	Overpopulation			



## Appendix II

### Opportunities and Constraints

OPPORTUNITIES	FAILURE TO UTILIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES- CONSTRAINTS
Forest reserve	Lack of guidance and proper training
River	Overpopulation leading to deforestation
School	Lack of interest to preserve the forest
Very good road	Failing to understand how to use it properly
Existence of committees	Lack of interest in opportunities
Hard working people	No proper health amenities
Hives	
Hills	

