

## Summary of the Rungwa corridor project– phase 2



Title of the project	<i>Community-based forests management of the Rungwa corridor– II</i>
FGC's Reference of the project	<i>FGC 21-09</i>
Member association	<i>Association pour le Développement des Aires Protégées</i>
Country / Place(s)	Tanzania, Districts of Mlele, Sikonge and Itigi
Main topic	Community-based natural resources management
Total amount of the project	396,380 CHF
Requested contribution to FGC	339,991 CHF
Duration of the project	March 2021 to February 2023
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) concerned by the project	<b>10</b> Reduced inequalities <b>12</b> Responsible consumption and production <b>13</b> Climate action <b>15</b> Life and land <b>16</b> Peace, justice and strong institutions

### Abstract of the project

In Western Tanzania, the Rungwa River Forest Reserve is under heavy human pressure that threatens the ecosystems and resources it supports. Local communities are highly dependent on its resources but are not involved in the management of the reserve. The project aims to involve the local villages in the management of Rungwa River and to develop sustainable added-value chains such as beekeeping and mushroom picking throughout the region.

### Context

The Rungwa River Forest Reserve (2100 km<sup>2</sup>) is part of the ecological corridor that links Ruaha and Katavi National Parks in Tanzania. The reserve is managed by the Tanzanian government and is under heavy human pressure for timber, bushmeat, grazing and land. Communities living on the periphery of Rungwa are not involved in its management, although they are highly dependent on the resources it contains and also suffer from the restrictions it imposes. At the same time, non-timber forest products such as honey and mushrooms are under-valued and their added value is not created by the producers but by wholesalers in the towns of the region.

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## **Problem-solving approach**

Based on the premise that local communities are best placed to manage their resources as they depend on them, the project plans to support a Joint Forest Management process to involve the 7 neighbouring villages in the management of the Rungwa River Forest Reserve. The project also plans to support the development of the beekeeping and mushroom added-value chains to improve the quality and increase the quantity of products, which will enable the communities of 12 villages to generate sustainable income. Finally, the project will collect ecological and socio-economic data to measure the effect of the implemented activities and adjust them in the next phases if necessary.

## **Local partners**

Village Natural Resources Committees of Mwenge, Mkola, Mgambo, Ilunde, Isegenezya, Ipwaga and Mapili villages.

Association for the Development of Protected Areas Tanzania

## **Targeted outcomes**

Specific Objective 1: The JFM steps of institutional governance and management structure are implemented for the Rungwa River Forest Reserve

Specific objective 2: Beekeepers, mushrooms pickers and livestock keepers along the corridor have the basic knowledge to harvest/produce sustainable added-value products.

## **Planned activities**

Support to stages 1 and 2 of the Joint Forest Management process

Capacity building of village natural resource management committees

Contribution to land-use planning in 3 villages

Training of eco-guards for ecological surveillance and monitoring

Mammal and forest monitoring to measure project impact

Level 2 training for beekeepers, provision of equipment and machinery

Support for honey certification

Initial training for mushroom pickers and purchase of drying equipment

Training to make livestock keeping more sustainable and reduce conflicts with other stakeholders

Monitoring of production and markets for non-timber forest products

## **Beneficiaries**

20 young people who will benefit from the VGS jobs

7 village governments and members of VNRCs (+100 pers)

Ilunde Natural Honey Beekeepers Organisation (32 members including 4 women)

The inter-village non-timber forest products association (in formation, 40 pers.)

Other beekeepers (500 pers.) and mushroom producers (200 pers.) in the eight villages

Registered groups of livestock keepers (400 pers.)

The beekeeping federation TABEDO