**VBF COMMITTEE MEMBER-JIMBO FOLLOW UP**

**Inter1**: we were together and we talked much, but there some issues we had to make some follow up on some people. So it’s not all the people but a few whom seemed to have some answers but they could not take them out because you were in a group, so we decided to call you. So welcome to this meeting so that we can go through those questions. Maybe you can introduce yourself.

**Respondent**: my names are (stating her names), those are my full names.

**Inter1**: in the VAJIKI, the community and in the VBF, where are you?

**Respondent**: am a member of VAJIKI and also a member of VBF.

**Inter1**: who runs the VBF?

**Respondent**: it’s the community.

**Inter1**: how?

**Respondent**: first, the VBF itself is the community. It was formed after the group members from 2-3 villages joined together to form VAJIKI which in turn came up with the VBF. So what do you mean by ‘who runs’?

**Inter1**:its daily routines, who deals with the VAJIKI activities, who makes decision there, who gives a list of the things that will be done, how they do them? Those are the things you can explain to me.

**Respondent**: things like when we had received something small from donors like Mark, who giving us little things like money. Then they get into the account. From the account, they come to the coordinator. We as the VBF, we are with her there so she informs us that funds are received. So we have to share the funds. Maybe it can be 10 but Jimbo might have three, three in Kiwegu and maybe four in Vanga. So we have to come to the community and inform them and then they will be the one who makes the decision. That’s why I was saying that VBF is run by the community.

**Inter1**: as a committee member, what is your role in the VBF? I mean what is the role of the committee in the project?

**Respondent**: some deals with project, conflicts and others make follow up on the projects. For example if there is land filling at Jimbo, I will have to make some follow up to ensure the funds are appropriately used.

**Inter1**: what is it that VBF does not do whereas it can improve the VBF?

**Respondent**: maybe the VBF or the VAJIKI as the mother can be recognized that they are the pioneers and they lost a lot of their time up to where we are currently having some changes. So they can be given something to make them feel…

**Inter1**: everyone to be given a present?

**Respondent**: no, even if it’s a small present they can be given.

**Inter1**: the VAJIKI committee or the VBF?

**Respondent**: the VAJIKI.

**Inter1**: so who gives the money? Aren’t you who… there is that money which…

**Respondent**: yeah, when the funds are received, we should not be mean such that the community complains. They should also be given a little share so as to make them feel…

**Inter1**: they have worked… Now, how can the benefits that you receive be shared so that everyone can feel…

**Respondent**: we agreed immediately after the establishment of the carbon project that the funds shall be shared among the three villages. Vanga has a larger population but Jimbo and Kiwegu are similar. So if we receive something let’s say 100, then Kiwegu shall receive 30 shillings, Jimbo shall receive 30 shillings and Vanga shall receive 40 shillings because their population is larger. Apart from that, Vanga is our town. There is the hospital, school, although we have a nursery school, but after the nursery we go to Vanga. So we will buy books, desks, pencils, then our children will benefit. If it’s the hospital, we also get treated.

**Inter1**: are there funds allocated for another issue but once received, they end up being used in other issues?

**Respondent**: no, I have never encountered such a scenario. If the funds are received, what we had planned is what shall be done.

**Inter1**: according to how the VBF is, how do you think of it in the next 5 years? Or how do you see it in 10 years to come?

**Respondent**: if we continue the way we are currently, then we shall see changes in the next 5years because we already see the changes.

**Inter1**: what changes shall you see?

**Respondent**: if we will be together, there will be changes. If it’s planting, there will be more trees and more carbon which will enable Mr. Mark to look for different funders to buy the carbon. If we have more carbon we will also have more money which will enable our children to learn and also there will be medicines in the hospital and people will get better treatment.

**Inter1**: by considering the benefits from the VBF, how do you see your village in the next 5 or 10 years?

**Respondent**: there will be changes, for example we currently have this nursery school but later we may have a primary school.

**Inter1**: that’s a good thing, but what do you think might hinder the achievements of those dreams?

**Respondent**: its disagreements. If we disagree with one another or if the committee will misuse the funds.

**Inter1**: who are those with conflicts?

**Respondent**: the leaders and maybe those who manage-the community. If they disagree, it may fail.

**Inter2**: but for the leaders, you mean the…?

**Respondent**: like the VBF leaders. They will bring conflicts in this way, maybe we had been received funds, so instead of telling the truth we decide to form a group and give a wrong of information about the funds. For example, we might have received 200,000 but we say it 100,000. So if they get to know the truth, then there will be conflicts.

**Inter1**: the other point, you have said if they mismanage the funds?

**Respondent**: mmmh (agreeing).

**Inter1**: for the first one, what do you think might be done so that it does not destruct your project?

**Respondent**: the conflict resolution committee can bring together those in conflicts so as to solve it.

**Inter1**: and what about this one for mismanagement of funds, what can be done so that the funds are not misused?

**Respondent**: they need to be informed and maybe the coordinator may also supervise so as to help in ensuring that the funds are not being misused.

**Inter1**: but if the coordinator is asked to withdraw a certain amount of money, will he/she refuse? (Laughing) will he/she say no? Who has employed the coordinator?

**Respondent**: it’s us the community.

**Inter1**: so if the committee tells the coordinator “we want you to withdraw this money.” Will he/she refuse?

**Respondent**: he/she cannot refuse but because he/she is there as the manager, he/she has the power to make them understand that the funds are theirs but they cannot be used in such a way.

**Inter1**: in which way can this project bring fairness to the community?

**Respondent**: the way the funds are planned to be spent in on certain isues, it should be exactly that way.

**Inter1**: so if the funds are received, how can they be utilized?

**Respondent**: it should be used maybe in installation of water in school and purchasing medicines in the hospital. That will be fair.

**Inter1**: are there people affected by this project?

**Respondent**: mmmh (agreeing).

**Inter1**: who are those people?

**Respondent**: the wood cutters because to some, it’s their job that they have been doing for long. He cuts trees for sale so as to get at least ten shillings to buy flour. But since the start of these projects, we have denied their access though it’s not that much because they used to do whatever they want. We normally direct them to go to certain places to cut a certain prescribed amount trees. So it’s not like before where they used to cut whatever amount of trees one may need. They are nowadays controlled.

**Inter1**: so you have not completely denied them but they can go to certain places to cut the trees?

**Respondent: yeah, but for a certain amount, not to cut the way they want.**

**Inter1**: so who permits him/her to cut the trees and the forest guard does not allow people to cut the trees?

**Respondent**: even the forest guard cannot completely deny them. He can allow even if it’s one bundle so that one can use for a week. But you cannot completely deny a person unless you have an alternative to help him/her with.

**Inter1**: so how can the VBF do those people?

**Respondent**: maybe they find an alternative job for them. When the VBF receives the funds, they can also decide that, “this round, since this is our home and there are these people who normally cut mangroves, lets organize at least 10,000 for them so that they start their own businesses so that they stop cutting the forest.” If we approve that one, it is possible.

**Inter1**: what kind of people or groups are not involved but they are supposed to be involved in the VBF?

**Respondent**: women, the disabled, youth and even the aged. Everyone in this community should be involved.

**Inter1**: what kind of involvement can they have in the VBF? What will they be doing when they are involved in the VBF? ,

**Respondent**: if it’s planting trees, conservation, protection, they do it.

**Inter1**: are there user groups that have not been involved with the VAJIKI project?

**Respondent**: some are involved, though they are not many.

**Inter1**: why have they not joined the VAJIKI?

**Respondent**: they disrespected. At first we started planting the trees in areas that were destructed.

**Inter1**: so those people were not interested in plant?

**Respondent**: so our colleagues said, “people plant coconut trees to get coconut, you can plant mango tree to get mangoes which you eat with children but what can you get from planting mangrove?” This was because they were not aware of the benefits from the mangroves, whereas the trees have a lot of benefits; they are the breeding grounds for fish, it attracts rainfall, and it prevents soil erosion and every…

**Inter1**: and it currently absorbs the carbon.

**Respondent**: yeah, until they came to know that it reduces carbon in that it absorbs the dirty air and gives out fresh air.

**Inter1**: now, are the groups interested in joining?

**Respondent**: others are joining. For example in Vanga, most groups had not joined before. There were only four groups, but after getting the umbrella, all the others were joined inside it.

**Inter1**: it’s ok. So for those who have not joined, are they allowed to join?

**Respondent**: they are permitted not unless they refuse but the poor, the rich, the blind, everyone who is interested, is permitted to join. The door is open.

**Inter1**: you said a very good point. There are people who had been cutting down trees since then. Now this has come to stop them.

**Respondent**: that one has reduced the pressure. They are not cutting down trees the way they used to. Most have stopped.

**Inter1**: do you think that VBF has wronged them?

**Respondent**: according to my opinion, they have not been wronged.

**Inter1**: why?

**Respondent**: if the trees have a lot of benefits and you want to destroy it, then how can you be wronged?

**Inter1**: (laughing) you will be the one doing wrong to the trees.

**Respondent**: he/she will be the one doing wrong to the trees because if they cut down trees unnecessarily, the land will be bare and the water will get in with a lot of pressure. In the past, water used to get into houses. After planting the trees and the construction of the sea wall, at least we are grateful.

**Inter1**: so I think our discussion will end there. The questions are over, thank you so much.

GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF ROLE OF CARBON

NO UNFAIRNESS

TRADE OFFS FOR CUTTERS BUT THEY CAN BE COMPENSATED