GREENING SMES LEATHER CLUSTERS AND LEATHER TANNING INDUSTRY

COMESA – LEATHER AND LEATHER INSTITUTE

PARTNER – Kenya Leather Development Council

Location: Kenya: Nyeri, Sagana and Thika

BACKGROUND

Kenya has 14 operational tanneries; however most of them are faced with challenges pertaining to limited modernization and effluent management. Approximately 95% of material is being exported in semi processed state (wet blue), earning approximately US$ 160 million per annum. The production of finished products such as footwear is dominated by MSMEs who face enormous challenges thereby undermining their competitiveness with labour productivity of around 3 pairs per person. This is against leading benchmarks of more than 15 pairs/person/day in China, India, Thailand, Brazil and Turkey. This project provides an opportunity to integrate all underlying and studied factors towards the sustainable development of the leather sector in the selected regions and their potential to regional and international trade integration.

OBJECTIVE

The project will contribute to improved productivity, reduction in the production of waste and it would enhance the management of physical and liquid waste. Specifically the project seeks to: Improve SMEs competitiveness through energy, space and machinery optimisation by promoting joint use under Clusters; Promote recycling and reduction in the use of chemicals with a negative impact to the environment; and develop a roadmap for improving effluent management and quantification of carbon footprint of the leather sector.

ACTIONS

» Training SMEs on the advantages of working as Clusters and undertake conformity assessment tests of SMEs products against international quality standards.

» Training SMEs in footwear production process aimed at boosting labour productivity and meeting international quality standards including undertaking physical and chemical laboratory tests on footwear soles currently produced to gauge their compliance with international standards.

» Evaluating SMEs and tanneries to gauge their compliance with International Environmental Standards and training them on pollution, recycling and waste management processes and how to meet the International Environmental Standards.

» Training effluent managers, technicians and officials from relevant government departments in effluent management and monitoring processes; and developing a national roadmap for improving effluent management and carbon emission quantification.

DURATION:

24 months

TOTAL BUDGET:

USD 248,508.00
BACKGROUND
Tourism is Kenya’s third largest foreign exchange earner, and a major employer, accounting for about 12% of the total employment and 13.7% of GDP. The tourism industry is based on a diverse range of natural, social, human and physical resources, but facing challenges for sustainable development. For example over 80% of total visits concentrate in 7 parks, and seasonal nature of tourism further aggregates the stress on natural resources during peaking seasons and reduces the efficiency of infrastructure and staff during the low seasons. In contrast to community tourism which emphasizes the involvement of local communities and the control of tourism resources by local communities the control of tourism resources is vested in a few investors. CBT is well positioned to contribute to creating new high value niche products that enable the tourist to discover local habitats and wildlife, and celebrates traditional cultures, rituals and wisdom.

OBJECTIVE
The project seeks to contribute to sustainable development of tourism in Kenya through promoting customer-oriented innovation and marketing of community-based tourism (CBT) to foster improvement in rural livelihoods and conservation of culture and natural environment. Specifically it targets the transfer knowledge from international best practices to provide guidance for CBT development in Kenya.

ACTIONS
» Development of CBT support package, including inspiring tools for translating demands of future tourists to CBT innovation and customize the support package for Kenya then design the package into training material.

» Conduct baseline survey on CBT practices in Kenya according to developed Code of Conduct (CoC) and standard.

» Mentoring of training organizations to develop new courses for CBT, and to integrate CBT in training curriculums of mainstream tourism.

» Establish formation and prioritization of a Marketing Strategy, establishing market linkages, capacity building and piloting selected marketing strategies.

» Collect international CBT best practices of policy frameworks; conduct policy roundtable and discussion forum with Ministry of Tourism; draft policy documents (policy roadmap for CBT); promote African CBT policy dialogue through dissemination and exchange at pan-African outreach events.

DURATION: 36 months
TOTAL BUDGET: USD 249,979.79
UP-SCALING SUSTAINABLE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS BY COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION GROUPS AT KAKAMEGA FOREST IN KENYA

BACKGROUND
The Kakamega Forest Reserve is the only surviving rainforest in Kenya. The forest provides a unique sanctuary for a remarkable diversity of endemic plants, birds and insects not found anywhere else in Kenya. Over 380 species of plants have been identified to date in Kakamega Forest. It is also an important watershed for some of the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria. Due to the high levels of poverty, the community living adjacent to Kakamega forest has depended to a great extent on forest resources for daily needs and income that is derived from various forest products such as timber, fuel wood, herbal medicines and building materials. It has also depended on the forest for new land for settlement and cultivation. Over the years, the exploitation of the forest for resources and encroachment on forestland has taken place in a haphazard, excessive, wasteful and uncontrollable manner. This has led to destruction of the forest and biodiversity therein. The local community is constrained largely due to lack of eco-friendly alternatives for income generation and livelihoods improvement. A majority of community members also lack adequate awareness about the value of a healthy environment and the importance of forest conservation.

OBJECTIVE
The project aims to transform the on-going community-based commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products at Kakamega forest in Kenya into small and medium-sized green social enterprises so as to enhance livelihood improvement and environmental conservation. Specifically to promote improved processes for sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products by the community enterprises.

ACTIONS
» Capacity building of the community and the enterprises in improved management, sustainable production and marketing;
» Development and commercialization of additional products and facilitation of public private community partnerships (PPCP);
» Improvement of the processes for sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products by the community enterprise;
» Promotion of increased participation of community members in on-going community-based environmental conservation activities.

DURATION: 36 months
TOTAL BUDGET: USD 250,000
BACKGROUND

Most of the MSMEs and BMOs are necessity-driven rather than growth-oriented. They are constrained by low start-up capital, low level of innovation, inventions and skill investment, low value addition, imitation culture, and low survival rates, limited access to and/or saturated markets, inadequate training and inadequate access to appropriate tailors-made business development services (BDS). The situation is made worse by low capacity of MSMEs and BMOs in understanding green economy concept, limited skills to embrace green economy including SCP practices and scanty information in terms of MSMEs that have adopted green economy practices. These challenges limit MSMEs and BMOs to reap benefits that may accompany adoption of SCP practices and realize their full potential. These challenges spills over to the agriculture sector, for instance instead of commercializing operations, promoting markets moving up the value chain, farmers suffer post-harvest losses due loss off storage, exploitation by middle men. Packaging, labelling, quality standards and sale of agricultural commodities remain unattractive to buyers. The gaps require urgent attention.

OBJECTIVE

Main objective is to enhance capacity of Micro, Small Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to develop, adopt and implement appropriate frameworks for sustainable production and consumption practices. The project will seek to strengthen capacities of MSMEs and BMOs under Kenya Agribusiness and Agroindustry (KAAA) through training to seize opportunities for green development; increased trade and investment nationally and at the counties in green technologies.

ACTIONS

- Review of existing capacity gaps for BMOs and firms so as to provide targeted technical assistance to promote green economy and SCP practices in Kenya.
- Awareness creation among BMOs/MSMEs on adoption of SCP practices to seize market opportunities on green products, adoption of Eco efficiency tools including water and energy efficiency and to speed up greening MSMEs.
- Training of BMOs/MSMEs ToTs on SCP best practices to enhance adopting energy and water efficiency, labelling and standards, eco-innovation and sustainable green growth.
- Facilitate green market linkages to BMOs and MSMEs.
- Organize annual learning events including awards for best performing BMOs and MSMEs in inclusive green economy SCP practices.

DURATION: 36 months

TOTAL BUDGET: USD 249,966.73