

Project Update: February 2016

The implementation of the project *Scaling-up Modern bee-keeping as an innovative mechanism for biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods in the East Usambara Mountains* has started. This implementation picks from phase one whose focus was on promoting modern beekeeping. On 2nd and 3rd February 2016 the project grantee and the Muheza District Bee-Keeping Officer conducted meetings with leaders in the project villages of Shembekeza and Kimbo. The main objective of these meetings was to discuss about scaling-up of the project by increasing the number of beekeeping groups in both villages. The meetings entailed discussing activities under the scaling-up phase and also agreeing on the criteria for the formation of new beekeeping groups. The meetings were successful as leaders in both villages were grateful for the second phase and as such they are very supportive.

The team also visited the existing beehive sites as part of monitoring and assessing phase one project progress and indeed looking for potential apiaries where new beehives would be installed.

Currently the process is underway to form new beekeeping groups in the villages. The exercise involves community members and is facilitated by the District Beekeeping Officer with the support of respective village leaders. This exercise will be followed by training of the new beekeeping group members. However interested bee keeping members from the existing groups will be invited to attend the trainings.



Left: Community members assembling for a meeting on forming new beekeeping groups at Shembekeza village. Right: District Beekeeping officer (with a cap) accompanied by beekeeping group members to look for new apiary and inspecting old beehives in Kimbo village.



Left: The Assistant District Forest Officer giving some advice to beekeeping keepers on beehive management at one of the beehive sites in Kimbo village. Right: The project grantee (right), beekeeping officer (left), forest officer (second from left) and Shembekeza Village leaders (third and fourth from left) exchanging some light moments during introduction of the project.