**Building resilience to COVID-19-related health and livelihood risks**

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

The main purpose of the project is to build up local community resilience to COVID-19 impacts in form of the continued health threat, food insecurity, economic recession and increased pressure on natural resources of vulnerable, poor and marginalized indigenous communities in Indonesian Borneo. This will be sought achieved through; 1) Improved community preparedness to prevent the spread of corona-virus in their areas, through continuous information on the development in the infection level and how to react to the situation, as well as cooperation with COVID-19 health task forces for effective coordination and assistance in case of increased COVID-19 cases, 2) Community capacity building for sustainable livelihood activities, including   
increased food production and income opportunities to avoid malnutrition, increasing household expenditures and further poverty, and 3) Organization and capacity building of community forest monitoring teams to patrol their forest areas and prevent the increased COVID-19 related illegal logging.

**Location of the project**

The project will be implemented in the Indonesian part of Borneo in the remote forest area of Mawas in Central Kalimantan province. The Mawas area is the size of the Danish island Funen consisting of 309,000 hectares of peat swamp forest. A total of 62 communities with 29,000 families/145,000 people from the heavily marginalized indigenous population, the Dayaks, live in the area. Massive deforestation and devastating degradation of the peat has resulted in annual flooding and peat fires. This is negatively affecting the lives of the local communities and poverty is widespread in the area. Due to the peat swamp, the area is only accessible via smaller waterways, and the lack of infrastructure and remote location of the communities therefore also poses a major challenge to the general development of the population, as well as their resilience to the COVID-19 crisis.

**Background and context**

The target communities of the intervention are particularly vulnerable in the current COVID-19 crisis. While these forest-dependent indigenous communities are already dealing with limited coping strategies for facing risks associated with livelihood security, COVID-19 and its health and economic consequences are further worsening their opportunities for sustaining their livelihoods and fighting poverty. First of all, the communities are vulnerable due to direct COVID-19 health threats. Most of the communities have a simple health clinic, but these are not well equipped for this situation. The nearest testing sites are several hours away, while treatment sites are further limited to the hospitals in the provincial capital of Palangka Raya. The community health clinics in large part rely on traditional medicine and villagers often do not seek medical attention in case of flu-like symptoms due to the long and costly transport to health facilities. Although COVID-19 Health Task Forces (special units) have been established by the authorities, they also have very limited capacity and budget both for medical support and travelling to rural areas. They moreover lack knowledge of local health conditions, making it difficult to target their efforts. The response to the pandemic is also challenged by limited infrastructure as well as lack of access to information in the targeted communities, due to their remote location. In most cases people rely on social media, which provides misleading facts resulting in uncertainty of how to react and prevent the spread of the virus, and likewise awareness on the reopening and continued precautions needed to be taken are limited. The remote location of the communities and distance from decision-makers, moreover means that they are often overlooked in development planning and allocation of government funding and aid, which is particularly problematic in the current health crisis and in the aftermaths in terms of the consequences of the pandemic.

Secondly, the communities are vulnerable due to COVID-19 related economic recession and food shortage. Indonesia is facing its first recession since the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the economic challenges brought on by COVID-19 have especially affected the already poor and vulnerable people such as the inhabitants in the target communities. According to the World Food Programme (2020) 5.2 million workers in Indonesia are expected to lose their jobs, which is especially hard on people working in the informal sector, of which more than half the workforce is engaged. Informal workers are individuals with casual work arrangements or no fixed salary. They are among the economically most vulnerable groups who are often not covered by social security schemes and lacks access to health insurance. The majority of the bottom 40% of the population is employed in the informal sectors and in sectors highly- to moderately-impacted by the pandemic (World Food Programme 2020), and according to the World Bank this is expected to push additional 5.5 to 8 million Indonesians into poverty. Unemployment and the economic recession have moreover resulted in many of those in urban locations returning to their hometowns and villages in rural areas. This is placing an increasing pressure on already limited livelihood resources as well as increasing household consumption expenditures, as the number of family members residing in the communities increases while remittance from family members with cash income decreases.

Shortages in key commodities have already been reported in most of Indonesia’s 34 provinces, including rice which is the most important food crop and staple food for most people. Rice production in the first half of 2020 was estimated as 13% lower than in the same period last year due to delayed harvest and related crop losses, as well as problems in distribution due to transportation challenges. The food production is moreover expected to be worsened, due to a harsher dry season in 2020, as some of the regions hit by the worse-than-normal dry season are staple food production centers. According to the World Food Programme (2020) special attention will need to be given to ensure that sufficient food commodities are available towards the end of 2020 and in 2021 to meet domestic demand. The food shortage and resulting high food prices will especially affect the already poor, as food accounts for more than 60 percent of the monthly expenses among poor citizens. In combination with rising economic challenges/unemployment, which is likely to result in a reduction of purchasing power, this will put pressure on household food consumption quality and quantity. Falling income, particularly among the extreme poor, is expected to negatively affect the consumption of nutrition-rich foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and animal-source products. Further, when experiencing income losses, poor communities may resort to negative coping strategies. It will therefore be critical to cushion the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups such as the targeted indigenous communities and reduce the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. For generations, the target communities have lived of the natural resources of the rainforest. However, the industrial development in Indonesia has placed an increasing pressure on their rainforest, thereby reducing access to important livelihood resources. The general development combined with the loss and degradation of their livelihood resources has contributed to traditional subsistence activities having more difficult conditions and thus a greater need for income generating activities. However, they are challenged by limited education level, technical know-how, market understanding and distance to markets for engaging in sustainable income generating activities. The communities are moreover faced with limited access and insecurity of the land they cultivate, due to lack of recognition as indigenous people and acknowledgement of their rights. Adding to the problem, access to capital is poor due to insecurity of property rights, which means lack of secure assets to access traditional credit opportunities needed for starting up small-scale businesses.

Finally, the economic impact of the pandemic has resulted in an increase in illegal logging, which is further worsening the livelihood situation for the forest-dependent target communities. In the first half of 2020, forest loss in Indonesia went up with 50%. The trend of deforestation and illegal logging is also confirmed in the target area of Mawas and is believed to be caused by two main factors. Firstly, travel restrictions and safety precautions have limited activities carried out in the forest areas, both forest monitoring but also locals and others travelling around, which leaves the forest areas more abandoned and limits the risks for illegal loggers. Secondly, the restrictions on travels to the urban “red zones”, make it difficult for day workers from the rural and forest areas to access jobs in the informal sector in the urban areas, thus increasing the need for finding alternatives to sustain their livelihoods. Likewise, people from urban areas losing their jobs and moving back home to their rural and forest areas, are more desperate to secure a living and therefore more tempted to engage in illegal logging.

**How this intervention will strengthen civil society organising**

The intervention seeks to build up resilience in the target communities to decrease their vulnerability in terms of the current health crisis and empower the communities to handle the long-term effects of the pandemic related to economic recession, food shortage and resulting high food prices as well as take actions against illegal logging thereby decreasing the increasing threat to their livelihood resources. Through improved awareness and coordination with the COVID-19 health task forces, the communities will be strengthened in their ability to prevent the spread of corona-virus and act in case of medical needs in the communities. The intervention moreover has a strong focus on building community capacity and empowerment to fight increasing poverty and inequality, which COVID-19 has sparked. Through different capacity building workshops and field school sessions, community members will gain knowledge of sustainable livelihood activities, including how to increase food production for their own subsistence and as a potential income source, add value to their local products in terms of processing and storage, increase their business and market understanding and gain capital for small-scale business start-up. This aims to increase their resilience towards the COVID-19 consequences, and improve their strategies to cope with shocks and risks associated with their livelihood security enabling them to take active part and ownership of their own life. Lastly, community forest monitoring teams will be organised and gain capacity to combat illegal logging and protect their forest, allowing them to take active part in resource protection to sustain their livelihoods.

**Climate- and environmental conditions and how the intervention is responding to these**

The livelihood of the target communities in large scale depends on the forest and natural resources that surrounds them, which for many years they have been challenged by environmental and climate related degradation. However, as mentioned above, COVID-19 is putting further pressure on the natural resources and leading to worsening of the environmental degradation. The proposed intervention seeks to respond to this, by building community capacity for combating illegal logging of timber to secure their natural resources and the environmental services the forest provides, as well as increase local capacity for engaging in income generating activities and food production, that can provide sustainable alternatives to overexploit the natural resources. Without such alternatives to sustain their livelihoods, more community members will likely be forced to engage in illegal activities, thus further degrading the environment that their livelihoods depend on.

2. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

**Save the Orangutan Foundation (StO)** works for the survival of the orangutan and its natural habitat, as well as sustainable development for the local population. Strategically this is based on a rights-based approach to community development supporting the rights and livelihoods of marginalized and vulnerable indigenous people and other forest-dependent communities. The work involves cooperation with local partners on Borneo through which the organization has more than 13 years’ experience within capacity building for community development, indigenous people’s rights and forest protection. This has among others involved different interventions for supporting sustainable livelihood strategies focusing on providing added value, output and marketing of existing community activities, as well as engaging community members in forest monitoring teams, which has provided valuable experiences for the proposed intervention. The work of StO has built up knowledge and professional practical skills, both on-the-ground level and within partner cooperation and is qualified within a broad range of disciplines, including natural resources management, international development, communication, project and financial management and monitoring.

The local implementing partner is the **Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF),** which is one of the largest non-profit organizations in Indonesia established in 1991. Their work is dedicated to the conservation of the Bornean orangutan, habitat conservation and community empowerment, working in cooperation with local communities and international partner organizations. The proposed project will be implemented by the Mawas program in Central Kalimantan, which has worked with community development and community engagement in forest protecting activities since its establishment in 2003. With more than 15 years of presence in the area, BOSF-Mawas has great knowledge of the working area and their huge capacity within community development and forest management will contribute to a professional implementation. They have moreover successfully engaged several hundred community members in protection of the forest and their livelihood resources and have great experience in building community capacity for forest monitoring and fire prevention.

**How previous partner cooperation and experiences have fed into the proposed intervention**

StO and BOSF-Mawas have worked together on community development projects since 2007, which has built up a strong partnership with many years of cooperation experiences that are extremely useful for the proposed project. The partnership projects have among others involved capacity building of BOSF-Mawas programme and staff in project management, tools and knowhow for development work, and the partners have developed a joint strategy for community development based on the experiences and lessons-learned from their partnership projects in the Mawas area. This among others focus on improving sustainable livelihoods through facilitation of community self-help groups, support for subsistence and income-generating activities, diversification and marketing of local produce and loan and savings groups providing start-up capital for small-scale business opportunities, as well as community-based forest protection. The partners are currently running different joint projects in the Mawas area, with funding from CISU, private-sector companies and individual donors. This among others involve community reforestation and local monitoring patrols in the eastern part of Mawas, agroforestry in the bufferzone in the north and a rights-based project working with adaptive livelihood building and customary rights for indigenous people. The partners have moreover implemented projects for COVID-19 mitigation in 13 villages in Mawas including five of the target communities (Tumbang Muroi, Tumbang Mangkutup, Katunjung, Mantangai Hulu and Mantangai Hilir), which focused on awareness raising, testing and emergency aid. The activities were finalized in the end of August 2020 and has contributed with valuable information for the proposed project in terms of the local challenges and opportunities for preventing COVID-19. BOSF-Mawas has moreover implemented other projects in the specific target communities involving community reforestation, fire monitoring and prevention teams, health and livelihood activities with funding from the Dutch Government 2006-2009 and AusAid 2010-2014 as well as projects in the two communities Tumbang Mangkutup and Mantangai Hulu for community engagement in reforestation, canal blocking and fire prevention. Altogether, the implementation of these projects has built up the legitimacy of BOSF-Mawas in the target communities and the communities have moreover gained a better understanding of their strategy and how they work to improve local capacity for empowering communities and fostering their independence, rather than providing direct service deliveries that contribute to maintain their dependency on others. This is an important foundation for the proposed project and provides better conditions for faster start-up and results of the implementation.

**Contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors**

The local implementing partner of the intervention will be BOSF-Mawas. The Programme Manager will be responsible for the overall local management of the project, while the daily implementation will be the responsibility of the community development coordinator and community development officer, together with the government relations and health awareness manager. This includes local capacity building through community meetings, workshop- and field school trainings, technical assistance and awareness raising. The BOS Foundation headquarters will be responsible for supporting the implementation and local monitoring and reporting. StO will be responsible for the overall project- and financial management, as well as reporting to CISU on the achievement of results and expenses. As in all of the partners’ projects, results management involves a thorough monitoring and feedback system and management of the implementation plan, based on the project design and detailed planning of all project cycles. This will involve facilitation of an online start-up meeting with BOSF-Mawas and HQ to discuss workplan and implementation, as well as quarterly online meetings for discussing project progress and challenges. StO will moreover receive and review quarterly narrative and financial reports from BOSF, covering progress of the implementation of activities planned in support of the achievement of project objectives. These will form the basis for discussions and feedback on progress and challenges, and adjustments of the implementation plan if needed. Since COVID-19 is expected to continue restricting travels for a longer period, StO will moreover assess experiences and recommendations for optimal project management and monitoring on the distance and how to optimise online meetings and workshops, and facilitate an online meeting with BOSF-Mawas and HQ for further discussions and sharing of recommendations to ensure the best conditions for management of the proposed project. Moreover, StO will conduct webinars with BOSF-Mawas on the method of Most Significant Change and how to use this to evaluate impact, as well as a workshop on community forest monitoring and risk mitigation to avoid conflicts with illegal loggers etc. At the end of the project, the partners will carry out a final review involving discussions of lessons-learned and change stories to enable the best learning from the experiences and results, and ensuring that learning can be used in other project areas providing important spill-over effects.

**How the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between partners**

As mentioned above, the partners have long cooperated on programs in Kalimantan, working for improved forest protection and sustainable livelihoods for local communities in and around orangutan habitat, as a strategic component of the work to save the orangutan and its habitat. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners have moreover supported several communities in awareness raising, distribution of aids, establishing protocols for how to act in case of symptoms or need for treatment, and cooperation with the health task forces in the respective sub-districts for support to the communities. The proposed intervention aims to continue all of these efforts to minimize the spread of infection to the communities and mitigate the consequences of the pandemic and its long-term impacts. All of these experiences will in turn develop the partnership positively towards their shared goals.

3. Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

The project targets nine indigenous Dayak communities living in the peat-swamp rainforest area of Mawas, which are some of the most marginalized, vulnerable and poor population groups in Indonesian Borneo. A total of 11,712 people will benefit from implementation of the project, of which a minimum 450 are expected to take active part in project activities. While all are indigenous peoples and first and foremost identify themselves as Dayaks, their traditional nature belief system is mixed with their official religion of which the majority are Christian or Muslim. See below table for further details.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Village** | **Total population** | **Men** | **Women** | **House-holds** | **Ethnicity** | **Main religion** |
| **Tumbang Muroi** | 519 | 268 | 251 | 128 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim, Christian |
| **Tumbang Mangkutup** | 343 | 185 | 158 | 81 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim, Christian |
| **Katimpun** | 875 | 448 | 427 | 246 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Christian, Muslim, Catholic, Kaharingan |
| **Katunjung** | 637 | 342 | 295 | 151 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim, Christian, Kaharingan |
| **Sei Ahas** | 870 | 438 | 432 | 216 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Christian, Muslim |
| **Kalumpang** | 1072 | 554 | 518 | 259 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Christian, Muslim, kaharingan |
| **Mantangai Hulu** | 1897 | 1002 | 895 | 434 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim, Catholic, Kaharingan |
| **Mantangai Tengah** | 1899 | 981 | 918 | 491 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim, Christian |
| **Mantangai Hilir** | 3600 | 1886 | 1714 | 1006 | Dayak Kapuas/Ngaju | Muslim |
| **Total** | **11712** | **6104** | **5608** | **3012** |  |  |

***Table 1:*** *Sub-district statistics data 2019 (2019 sub-districts in Figures) for Timpah, Mantangai and Dusun Hilir Sub-District.*The primary target group (persons who will participate in the activities of the intervention) will consists of:

* Community participants in COVID-19 awareness raising and coordination (approx. 180 persons)
* Health clinic personnel (approx. 9-18 persons)
* COVID-19 health task force personnel (approx. 4 persons)
* Community participants in capacity building for livelihood activities (approx. 300-540 persons)
* Community participants in loan & savings groups (approx. 135 persons)
* Community forest monitoring teams (approx. 90 persons)
* Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) personnel (approx. 3 staff)
* Protected Forest Management Units (KPHL) personnel (approx. 3 staff)

The secondary target group includes all community members in the nine target villages (total 11,712 persons) and to some extend the surrounding communities in the Mawas area (total 145,000 persons).

How the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention

First of all, the target groups will benefit from an increased knowledge of how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Through continuous information, they will increase their general awareness as well as preparedness and be able to implement safety precautions and act in case of symptoms. As health care is limited in the communities, the target groups will also benefit from an increased coordination with COVID-19 health task forces in order to reduce disease risk. Furthermore, community members will benefit from a strengthened resilience in terms of the COVID-19 related consequences of food shortage and economic recession. Community members will participate in field school trainings for establishing vegetable home gardens and fishing activities. This will help increase subsistence food production and reduce malnutrition and consumption expenditures caused by the food shortage. Moreover, capacity building training will increase future opportunities for community members to engage in income generating activities. This will include processing of fish for increased shelf life and added value, marketing and business planning, and loan & savings groups to create startup capital for small-scale businesses. Finally, the target groups will benefit from an effort against the increasing threat of illegal logging caused by COVID-19. The proposed intervention will create a foundation for community members engaging in forest monitoring for prevention of illegal logging. Through organization and capacity building of community members, the project will establish patrols teams which will complement existing community monitoring teams in two of the target communities, as well as in other villages and forest areas in Mawas.

Objectives and expected results

The project aims to build up community resilience for COVID-19 related health issues, and the impacts of the pandemic in terms of food shortage, economic recession and increased pressure on forest resources among poor and marginalized indigenous communities in Indonesian Borneo.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Immediate objective 1: Improved awareness and coordination with Health Task Forces have increased community preparedness for COVID-19 and enables a more targeted effort in the nine target communities.**  ***Indicator 1A****) The target community are regularly updated on COVID-19 and its development in their surrounding areas enabling them to take important measures to prevent the spread of infection.*  ***Indicator 1B****) COVID-19 Health Task Forces are aware of the conditions in the villages, improving their understanding of the local health situation and fostering better and more targeted efforts towards their needs.* | |
| **Expected results** | **Activities** |
| 1.1.Cooperation and coordination between the target communities and COVID-19 Health Task Forces has increased the level of information and enabled more targeted efforts against COVID-19. | 1.1.1. Regular communication between BOSF-Mawas and the COVID-19 Health Task Forces for information on infection levels, recommendations on social gatherings, travels etc. for the specific target communities.  1.1.2. Regular dissemination of information and updates on COVID-19 development and infection levels and recommended precautions from the health authorities to communities through meetings and communication. |
| 1.2.1. Community meetings with village health clinics and COVID-19 Health Task Forces to assess local capacity and needs for COVID-19 prevention.  1.2.2. Facilitation of COVID-19 Health Task Force information meetings in the communities.  1.2.3. Regular dissemination of information on the communities’ COVID-19 situation to the Health Task Forces. |
| **Objective 2: Local food production and capacity for income generating activities have increased in the nine target communities, reducing the economic impacts and food insecurity resulting from COVID-19.**  ***Indicator 2A)*** *A minimum of 300 community members have participated in training and gained know-how on fish farming and vegetable production for increasing local food production.*  ***Indicator 2B)*** *Local production of vegetables and fish farming have been established in each of the target communities.*  ***Indicator 2C)*** *Community members have gained improved capacity to scale up livelihood activities and increase household economy.* | |
| **Expected results** | **Activities** |
| 2.1.: Community members (men and women) in the nine target communities have gained improved knowledge and capacity to engage in livelihood activities. | 2.1.1. Community training workshops related to fish farming (including pond construction, stocking, feeding, maintenance, water management and harvesting).  2.1.2. Community training workshops on vegetable production and establishment of home gardens. |
| 2.2.: Community members are actively engaged in sustainable food production for own consumption and potential income-generation. | 2.2.1. Design, construction and establishment of community fish ponds.  2.2.2. Establishment of community home gardens for vegetable production.  2.2.3. Community follow-up training workshops for maintenance of home gardens (plant maintenance, proper use of fertilizer etc.) and fish ponds (pond oxygen management, algae removal etc.). |
| 2.3. Community members have improved knowledge and capacity for small-scale business start-up and marketing. | 2.3.1. Community training workshops in business management (book keeping, business strategy, market evaluation etc.).  2.3.2. Community training workshops in processing of fish for added value.  2.3.3. Capacity building and organization of loan & savings groups.  2.3.4. Regular meetings carried out by the loan and savings groups, facilitated by BOSF-Mawas. |
| **Objective 3: Community members are combating illegal logging and safeguarding important forest resources for sustaining their livelihoods and protecting the forests for a future beyond COVID-19.**  ***Indicator 3A)*** *Forest monitoring teams have been organized in each of the nine target villages.*  ***Indicator 3B****) Community forest monitoring teams have the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out patrols.* ***Indicator 3C)*** *Monitoring of the communities’ livelihood resources have increased through regular community forest patrolling.* | |
| **Expected results** | **Activities** |
| 3.1 Community awareness of illegal logging and its consequences have increased incentive for actively engaging in protection of their forest areas. | 3.1.1. Community meetings for increasing awareness of illegal logging and the consequences for local livelihoods.  3.1.2. Establishment of forest monitoring teams in each of the target communities. |
| 3.2: Community forest monitoring teams are aware of protocols and procedures for how to monitor and react in case of illegal findings. | 3.2.1. BOSF-Mawas facilitation of forest monitoring teams in organizing and planning patrol routes.  3.2.2. Partner workshop on community forest monitoring, for discussing challenges and opportunities.  3.2.3. Meetings between BOS-Mawas, BKSDA and KPHL and the community forest monitoring teams for establishing procedures for how to react in case of findings of logging. |
| 3.3: Forest monitoring teams are conducting regular patrols in their surrounding forest areas for prevention of illegal logging. | 3.3.1. Regular forest monitoring by the community forest teams, assisted by BOSF-Mawas. |
| **In pursuit of more than one objective** | |
| **Expected results** | **Activities** |
| 4.1: Partners and target communities are ready for implementation. | 4.1.1. Online start-up partner meeting for detailed planning of workplan and implementation.  4.1.2 Community meetings for start-up and detailed planning with BOSF-Mawas.  4.1.3. Capacity building in project management from a distance |
| 4.2: Monitoring and assessment of progress and results has been carried out. | 4.2.1. Capacity building workshop for using Most significant change as a method for evaluating impact assessment 4.2.2. StO facilitation of quarterly online monitoring meetings with BOSF Mawas and HQ for discussion of progress and expenses.  4.2.3. StO assessment visit in Indonesia with partner and targets groups, reviewing positive changes and learnings from the implementation. |

Strategy of the intervention

COVID-19 infection numbers are still increasing in Indonesia and epidemiologists predicts that the country has not yet reached the peak of the first wave, while other long-term impacts of the health crisis are already evident and further pressuring local livelihoods. The project seeks to address these urgent threats with an aim to improve community preparedness for preventing COVID-19 infection, and build up the communities’ resilience to the impacts through a focus on capacity building in food production, improved opportunities for sustainable income generation and reduced pressure on their livelihood resources. Although such capacity building does not provide an immediate cure, it is nevertheless believed to be the most optimal strategy for fostering resilience and build up sustainable livelihoods that are better capable of mitigating risks both in the current crisis and beyond COVID-19. Due to the urgency of the situation, the project is set to start in mid-December 2020, despite COVID-19 is still believed to cause travel restrictions and require implementation of safety precautions at that time. BOS Foundation has enforced strict health protocols for all staff and programs since mid-March, which involves regular tests, quarantine and safety procedures when travelling to/from program areas. The development in infection level and needed restrictions and safety procedures will moreover be followed closely, to ensure that implementation of the project will not pose further risks to neither staff nor the local communities. These precautions are necessary but demanding to implement, and close follow-up by the partners on the implementation is needed to ensure adjustments are taken in due time if needed and ensure implementation will reach the objectives. Since international travels are moreover expected to be insecure for a longer period, the project will involve several online meetings and workshops between the partners for start-up and implementation planning, regular monitoring and progress evaluation, and partner capacity in project management from a distance. Online workshops in Most Significant Change as a method for assessing impact and community forest monitoring moreover forms part of the strategy and will be facilitated by StO. These activities altogether aim to foster optimal project management and implementation in the communities. To reach the targeted objectives, the implementation strategy has a strong focus on capacity building of nine communities located in the Mawas area, mainly through community meetings, workshop- and field school trainings, technical assistance, awareness raising and coordination with COVID-19 Health Task Forces as well as enforcement authorities in terms of forest monitoring. This involves;

Information and coordination with health authorities for improved COVID-19 preparedness: To address the need for reliable and up-to-date information on COVID-19 and its development and needed precautions to be taken in the specific target areas, BOSF-Mawas will conduct regular (minimum monthly) meetings with the Health Task Force and disseminate the information to the target communities at meetings and through phone calls. This aims to increase awareness on the infection levels in the local areas to be able to keep the communities updated and alert them in case of increasing infection levels and needed precautions to be taken. Improved coordination between the communities and the Health Task Forces will moreover form part of the strategy to increase the health authorities understanding of the capacity and needs to be addressed in the target communities for preventing COVID-19. Due to the low budget of the Health Task Forces, travels to rural areas and knowledge of their situation is limited. BOSF-Mawas will therefore facilitate Health task Force staff in meetings in the communities, which will involve a joint assessment of the health clinics in the communities for identifying their capacity needs, required for them to act as the middle station between the community members and the sub-district Health Task Forces and hospitals for further treatment, as well as meetings with community members to raise their awareness of COVID-19 prevention and for the Health Task Forces to gain further information on the local situation. These meetings are aimed at increasing coordination between the local communities and the Health Task Forces to improve community preparedness for prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, and will be followed up by BOSF-Mawas to keep both parts informed and up-to-date on the development and foster a more targeted effort in the target communities. The project also involves distribution of protective gear (hazmat suites), disinfection and temperature scanners to the local health clinics to protect their personnel and to take other preventive measures in the communities, which makes up a small part of the budget (total 10,526 DKK).

Capacity building for increased food production and income generation activities: The intervention will moreover focus on strengthening the communities’ resilience in terms of the consequences of food shortage and economic recession. This involves strategies for increasing their subsistence food production to avoid having to buy food at an increasing price from markets outside their communities or from middlemen. Moreover, capacity building training to increase opportunities for community members to engage in income generating activities, to ensure that household economies are not further reduced as a consequence of more family members moving back home after having lost their jobs in the towns and cities. It should be emphasized that within the project timeframe, it is not necessarily realistic for the community members to experience an income increase directly related to the activities. Rather this part of the strategy should be seen as a capacity building and a solid foundation for increasing income opportunities in the future. To achieve this, BOSF-Mawas will carry out workshop training, field school training, community meetings and provide technical assistance throughout the intervention period. This will involve activities to increase community knowledge of how to provide added value to their income generating activities through processing of local produce, and improved business and market value understanding. As a way to increase food production and diversify the community members livelihood portfolio, home gardens for vegetable production and fish ponds have been identified as having a potential. Hence, there is a specific focus to improve capacity within these activities. The strategy involves support for establishing these activities, involving materials for constructing fish ponds and home gardens. Loan and savings groups will moreover be established based on the partners’ positive experiences from other communities in the Mawas area, in which small-scale loans have provided community members with important start-up capital for small-scale businesses. The activities will involve community meetings to socialize and increase understanding and information about loan and savings groups, assistance in organizing groups and set up the group structure and agreements, as well as on-going support for how to implement the loan and savings and ensure they are successfully run with regular meetings and based on mutual trusts between all group members. BOSF-Mawas will moreover assist the groups with training in basic bookkeeping and financial management skills to ensure that all have a better understanding of how the loan and savings work. Lastly, BOSF-Mawas will conduct training in business management and strategies to improve community knowledge of proper investment.

Improved forest monitoring for protection of livelihood resources: BOSF-Mawas has successfully established and organized several community teams in other areas and communities of Mawas since 2005 and with support from StO for the last more than 10 years. These community teams patrol their surrounding areas and support the prevention and firefighting of forest and peat fires in the dry season, and helps prevent illegal logging in the wet season. This intervention will build on those experiences in organizing community teams, building their capacity and knowledge in what to look out for and how to react in case of any findings of interest as well as preparing patrols routes. In the target communities, two of the communities already have such teams organized, while in the other seven communities’ new teams have to be established. Monitoring illegal logging is not without risks and for all teams, both new and established, the intervention will involve further capacity building to ensure they are aware of protocols and informed on how to react in case of illegal findings of timber and how to avoid conflicts with illegal loggers. This capacity building will involve meetings with the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and Protected Forest Management Unit (KPHL), which are responsible for law enforcement in these matters. BOSF-Mawas will moreover take part in and facilitate the meetings. The partners will moreover conduct a joint online workshop on community forest monitoring for discussion of risks and how to prevent and mitigate conflicts, and the results will likewise feed into the procedures and protocols to be established and implemented by the patrol teams.

Systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention

The proposed intervention builds on an established monitoring and reporting system, including documentation of baselines, lessons learned and change stories. Through community meetings and training sessions, status, progress and experiences will be gathered by BOSF-Mawas project staff. This makes it possible to evaluate progress, and make adjustments in case of any unexpected challenges. BOSF-Mawas will conduct monthly internal meetings for discussing project progress, status and challenges, budget, expenses and lessons-learned. These discussions will also form the basis for quarterly reports that BOSF-Mawas will prepare for StO. At StO, the Head of Programs and the Project Officer are responsible for gathering and systematizing experiences. Project updates will be given at regular internal meetings, along with a discussion of how to make use of the experiences in other projects and in communication work.

4. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

Information work will be carried out in Denmark, with the aim to contribute to increased awareness and understanding of the conditions of the local target groups, how COVID-19 are impacting and further challenging their livelihoods, as well as how it is possible to support and contribute to positive changes for these vulnerable and marginalized people for them to build resilience for the future. The main target groups for the information work includes the existing donor base of StO consisting of nearly 9000 individual donors and private sector companies, as well as newsletter readers and followers on social media. The means of communications to be used includes articles on website, in newsletters in the printed annual result report and social media (facebook, Instagram, linkedin). StO will moreover seek to publish articles and press releases in newspapers and online media, to spread information to the general public and contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of the pandemic in a global perspective and more specifically for local communities in developing countries.