

Livelihoods assessment for communities surrounding the Matura forest and coastal zone pilot protected area

Discussions topics for Community Meetings

Aim:

- Discuss, identify and prioritise livelihood opportunities for the local communities based on the sustainable use of protected areas and natural resources
- livelihood opportunities can be developments at the level of an individual, a household or the entire community
- this can be the development, production and marketing of products or services such as ecotourism, tour-guiding, etc.

Method:

- Give a brief overview of the livelihoods assessment project and the aim for this discussion group
- facilitator guides the group through the various discussions topics and takes notes

Discussion topics

1. Identify and rank which uses are the most important for each of the following natural areas for the “livelihood” of people in the community: protected forest, non-protected forest, estates, abandoned estates, farming land (gardening), protected beaches, non-protected beaches, sea
Eliminate any natural areas that are not relevant here, or add any extra
Rank the uses in order of importance: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, (leave any that are not relevant 0)
 2. There are 2 types of protected areas: protected beaches and the protected forest Matura National Park Environmentally Sensitive Area. For each of the area, which current uses are destructive (do damage or destroy the environment) and which are sustainable (do no harm or no damage)?
 - a. Protected beaches:
 - i. Destructive uses:
 - ii. Sustainable uses:
 - b. Protected forest:
 - i. Destructive uses:
 - ii. Sustainable uses:
 3. Which local livelihoods depend on protected areas? For example: employment, activities and products people sell to make their living
 - a. Protected beaches:
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- b. Protected forest:
 - 4. For these protected areas, who can access the area, who takes decisions about the management of these areas and which responsibility do people of the community have?
 - a. Protected beaches:
 - b. Protected forest:
 - 5. Which livelihood opportunities can be developed from these protected areas or from natural resources in general (this can be ideas for products, or projects, business ideas, ecotourism activities and facilities, training or capacity building that can help develop livelihoods), for:
 - a. Protected areas themselves
 - b. Communities
 - c. Individuals and households
 - 6. (Optional: When all these ideas have been listed and discussed, each person can indicate their 3 priorities with stickers.)
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