



Internship Opportunity Opening at the Yambone Initiative

Posting Title: Community Development Project Assistant

Department: Community Development

Project Location: Chipanje Chetu, Sanga District, Niassa Province, Mozambique, Africa

Posting Period: June 2023 – December 2023 (dates flexible, with mix of remote and on-site work acceptable).

Project Description

Yambone is a community-based conservation initiative taking place in the Chipanje Chetu community-conservation wilderness area in Sanga District, Niassa, Mozambique. The area is 650'000 hectares of pristine miombo woodland under threat from slash-and-burn agriculture and lack of formal protected area status. Within the area live five indigenous communities (total population of ~8'000). The Yambone initiative, which formally began in 2018 but has evolved from prior programs operating in the area since 2007, aims to build resilient communities within Chipanje Chetu and create opportunities for better livelihoods, while promoting coexistence with local wildlife and preserving natural resources.

In an effort to make the financial mechanism for conservation in Chipanje Chetu more resilient and sustainable, the local conservation operator Lipilichi Wilderness, a climate investment company Carbonsink (now a SouthPole company), the local government and Chipanje Chetu's communities partnered to create Yambone and initiated a significant REDD+ programme. It is now in the investment phase aiming to issue credits in mid-2024. Of this revenue generated through REDD+ activities, a significant proportion is allocated to the community for self-governance programmes under guidance from project and government committees.

The Yambone Initiative partners are now planning on how to best utilise these funds to ensure communities can develop projects in conservation agriculture, food security, human-wildlife conflict management, strengthening local governance and administrative capacity, education and training, livelihood development, infrastructure development, and ecological management.

Scope of work for Project Assistant position:

The Yambone project partners are seeking a Project Assistant to assist the Yambone Community Project Manager in the development of the Community Development Plans, a project requirement that is due in early 2024. The work will primarily be in support of the Project Manager who regularly engages with local communities to identify the needs, values and capacities of the community and turn that into actionable development goals. To

facilitate this, the PM will need assistance in understanding what has been or not been achieved in other similar projects and in understanding global best practices.

The primary output of the position is a report containing recommendations, guidelines and safeguards that can be used in establishing land-use and development plans for five rural communities (average 1,500 people per community) that can be implemented with funds from carbon credits.

The key objectives for the internship are the following:

1. Complete initial literature review by July 2023 (review can be done remotely).
2. Compile a review analysing the effectiveness of the community development activities to date (including self-governed expenditure of current funds generated through non-REDD+ activities) by October 2023. Analysis to be done qualitatively on-site.
3. Complete final report by December 2023, that summarises outcomes of objectives 1 and 2, and recommends next steps on the finalisation of community development plans. Writing of report can be done on-site or remotely.

Responsibilities of the role:

The Project Assistant will be responsible for the following duties:

- Write a literature review on the following core topics:
 - An overview of REDD+ Projects community development activities, specifically in Africa;
 - Global best practice in self-governed community development programmes, facilitated by interviews with experts, journal articles, etc.;
 - Global assessment of cash-grant mechanisms in large-scale community development programmes.
- Assess the impact of previous/current self-governed community development programs within Chipanje Chetu's communities including:
 - How funds have been disseminated in the past and at present (what activities have been prioritised, how effective those activities have been, etc.);
 - An objective assessment of the impact of programmes (where available, extract quantitative data from these programmes);
 - A subjective assessment of the impact of these programmes through qualitative interview data (assessment to be done on-site with community members and community leadership).
- Assess the impact of current and historical community development programmes in Chipanje Chetu:
 - Description of these programmes in recent past (food security programmes, education programmes, agricultural assistance);
 - An objective assessment of the impact of programmes (where available, extract quantitative data from these programmes);
 - A subjective assessment of the impact of these programmes (qualitative assessment with community members and community leadership).
- Generally, assist the Project Management team as they prepare REDD+ community development plans, with sub-responsibilities including:

- Note taking, writing summaries, key insights, etc. during and after key community engagement sessions (meetings, workshops, etc.);
- Assess, extract and compile basic information in preparation for key meetings and other engagements;
- Prepare a variety of reports, presentations, and/or diagrams for information and review by the Project Management team.

Candidate requirements:

- The candidate must be enrolled in a development-focused post-graduate degree at a top international university (Master’s level).
- Prior experience in conducting qualitative assessments (interviews, surveys, etc.) is advantageous and should be referenced in application.
- The candidate must have access to high-quality resources, including top international journals, global development experts, etc. Establishing an informal assessment relationship with a university supervisor is advantageous.
- The candidate must be a self-starter that is willing to push the project forward, with guidance from Project Management teams.
- English is mandatory. Portuguese/Swahili is advantageous but not compulsory.
- Prior experience in community development and/or Africa is advantageous.
- The project is based in Niassa, Mozambique but the role can be a mix of on the ground and remote work and can be discussed at a later stage in the application process.
- When on-site, the candidate will be based at a central operations camp that is relatively well equipped, working alongside two permanent project coordinators and a project developer, as well as other stakeholders, guests and government officials who visit the area.
- The candidate must be comfortable working in a very remote part of Africa and a big game territory. Chipanje Chetu is a very rural area and at times can be overwhelming emotionally.
- The candidate must be comfortable being in an environment that facilitates conservation focused hunting, which is the prior revenue stream, and continues as a major income and development stream whilst REDD+ is being prepared.
- The role is unpaid. Local costs (accommodation, food and on-site transport) will be covered. The candidate needs to cover their travel costs into Niassa, which primarily consists of flight into Lichinga from Maputo. Some connecting flight options into Maputo include Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, and Lisbon. Frequency of these flights is at the discretion of the candidate.

Contact:

Should anyone be interested in an internship in Mozambique working a conservation and community development project using incoming carbon credit funding (REDD+) please e-mail **emily@yambone.com** and **alastair@yambone.com**. The candidate should email a CV, and a short (one page) motivation letter expressing their interest in the opportunity. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via Zoom.

Website: www.yambone.com

Instagram: @yambone_conservation