



Newsletter MamboSteunPunt September 2018



Developments foundation MamboSteunPunt

In the fall of 2017 MamboViewPoint welcomed a business economist and financial expert from the Netherlands, who both took a closer look at the in- and external processes of the lodge and wrote a business plan. This business plan included an advice to create more distance between the lodge, MVP and the project, MSP.

In January 2018 Herman and Marion from MamboViewPoint, the members of MamboSteunPunt and external experts sat down together for a weekend in order to answer the question; “What is the future perspective of MamboViewPoint and MamboSteunPunt?”

At this moment, half a year after the lucrative meeting, we can conclude that many steps have been taken. MamboViewPoint and MamboSteunPunt are officially separated and act as two different entities. The strong connection in the past caused confusion for volunteers as well as members of MamboSteunPunt and Herman and Marion. A clear description of the tasks has been made to make sure that everyone can execute his work efficiently and with pleasure.

An important change at MamboViewPoint is that the cooperation between MamboViewPoint and Gijs de Wit has ended. For years and with great enthusiasm he was committed to mainly the child circus, but due to differences in point of view the situation got unpractical.

Furthermore, several internal mutations have been taken place. Board member Maud Verheij and member Kim Nieuwland said goodbye / laid down their role. We would like to thank them for their valuable effort during the past years. Marion resigned as chairperson of MamboSteunPunt, to realise more distance between MamboSteunPunt and MamboViewPoint.

The board of MamboSteunPunt is pleased with two new board members. Roelf Weges joined as chairman, Sarah Kuypers as secretary. Both started with great enthusiasm and commitment. The above led to new plans of action in cooperation with Herman and Marion from MamboViewPoint, resulting in a defined future perspective.

This professionalisation will lead to more focus on the execution of the projects. More actions will be undertaken in this area. Herman and Marion still aim to support the inhabitants of the Usambara Mountains for a better quality of life and this ambition, despite some setbacks, still stands. Their resilience and courage to go on is admirable. Lots of things have been achieved and the inhabitants got an existence with future perspective. Less youth is expected to move to urban areas, because they can make their living in and around Mambo now. As a result, the knowledge of this younger generation will stay in the Mambo surroundings, which is an important aspect for the growth of the region!

Push & Pull

Agriculture is the main activity in Mambo and surroundings. Although the area and altitude is not very suited for Maize, this is one of the main crops since people like to eat “Ugali” which is a kind of mashed potatoes but then from Maize flower. The sauce with it has to make the taste. Although many farmers are growing Irish potatoes successfully there is a hear saying which is saying that you get impotent of eating potatoes. May be this is why many sell their potatoes to buy maize or prefer to grow maize. Growing maize starts for the farmers with buying seeds from the local shops. Mostly these are hybrid seeds, developed by Dutch or other foreign companies. The advantage of these seeds are they have a good yield, but the disadvantage is you cannot use the crops as new seed and you have to use the matching pesticides which is killing everything but the manipulated maize.



Local farmers learn how to grow maize.

For Mambo area we think it is good to look for better methods which reduces the need of pesticides and hybrid seed and give more crops. This is why Martin Grafen from Switzerland came in sight who introduced the Push and Pull method in Mambo Area. This method of Maize growing is developed in Kenya and proved there to be a good, organic way to growing maize. The idea is to grow Dismodium in between the maize and elephant grass on the outside. The Dismodium is good for the needed Nitrate, it keeps the soil moisty and it spreads a smell which pushed the bugs away. The Elephant grass is attracting (Pulling) the bugs, is good to prevent soil erosion and can be used as cow feed.

Thanks to funding's of the Paul Schiller foundation in Switzerland the project took of in 2015 with some test plots and was extended in 2016 and 2017.

Also, the secondary school in Sunga and the private secondary school for agriculture Upendo were involved, having both a test plot.

An amalgamation with the organizational structure of the “Happy cow Programme” in the Mambo area is the most promising option, as both are being supervised by the JamiiSawa project manager Hoza Kaniki. Thus, there was no need to establish something new and/or separate. Therefore, the three existing Wafugaji associations (farmer cooperation's) in Tema, Masereka and Nkukai are the most promising vectors of a future Push & Pull – Programme in the Mambo area. All of them have an organizational structure with a chair, a secretary and a treasurer. At the same time Animal husbandry and the production of fodder via Push & Pull are interlinked.

Unfortunately, the weather in the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 was very uncommon and unpredictable. May be due to the climate change. This was why the firsts crops died and also, the results of the second attempt was poor. In the coming months the results will be evaluated and we hope to get a better planning for the next try. Also, we will consider if other crops like Wheat will be more al weather prove and profitable for the area.

In October Martin will visit Mambo again to give a follow up to the project.

Financial contributions are welcome on our bank account:

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Mambo is a small village in Tanzania with about 5000 inhabitants and in average, they have an income of less than a dollar a day. Development is still essential at all levels. MamboSteunPunt contributes to the development of the region, not by Aid but by trade.

MamboViewPoint is an ecolodge which is in the centre of the project. You are welcome for a stunning holiday and to learn about our project and the local culture.

www.mamboviewpoint.org