**EXERCISE 6C. ELECTING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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| *OBJECTIVE***After this exercise the participants will be able to:*** Elect the group leaders.
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| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED** Five different-colored boxes with lids (each lid with a small hole or slit)
* Small stones or beans (one for each participant) that fit through the hole in the box lid
 | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS** An elected management committee
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| *TIME*60 minutes | *PREPARATION*None |

This exercise guides the group through the process of electing a management committee.

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE*

1. **Nominating candidates.** Remind the participants about the leadership positions they have agreed on. Explain that they will nominate and elect candidates for each position, using the following guidelines:
	* Any member can nominate another member (but may not nominate themselves). Each nomination must be seconded by another member.
	* If someone is nominated, he or she is free to accept or refuse the nomination.
	* At least two people must be nominated for each position so members have a real choice.
	* In groups with both men and women, at least two of the chairperson, secretary and treasurer must be women (unless no woman can perform the position’s duties).
2. Agree on who will be the **election monitor** (either you or an invited community member).
3. **Secret balloting.** Explain how secret balloting works. You will hold elections for each position, starting with the chairperson. Each candidate is represented by one colored box. To vote for a candidate, participants put a stone in the box of their choice.
4. **Nominating the chairperson.** Invite the group to nominate at least two candidates for the position of chairperson. Indicate which box is assigned

to which candidate. Put the boxes behind a tree or table, where no one can see who is voting for whom.

1. **Hold the election for the chairperson.** Give each person a stone. Each in turn goes to the boxes and puts a stone in one, in secret. When all have voted, the monitor verifies that the number of stones equals the number of members, and declares one person the winner.
2. **Hold elections for the other positions.** Repeat the nomination and election process for the other leadership positions.
3. Congratulate the leaders who have been elected.