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Welcome to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests e-newsletter.

This e-newsletter provides an update on the projects that have received funding from CEPF in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya.

**CEPF's investment benefiting communities across the hotspot**

CEPF's US\$ 7 million investment in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania has reached over 50 sites and is supporting 83 projects. Has this made any difference to the people living next to these forests? One project that is making sure that CEPF's investment benefits the communities that depend on these forests is the community grants programme. This programme provides small grants to community based organisations to carry out conservation activities within the hotspot. So far 82 grants worth a total of US\$ 170,343 (US\$ 91,200 in Tanzania and US\$ 79,343 in Kenya) have been approved including 36 in Kenya and 42 in Tanzania. These funds will support activities such as beekeeping, environmental education, butterfly farming and tree planting in communities living close to the hotspot's forests.

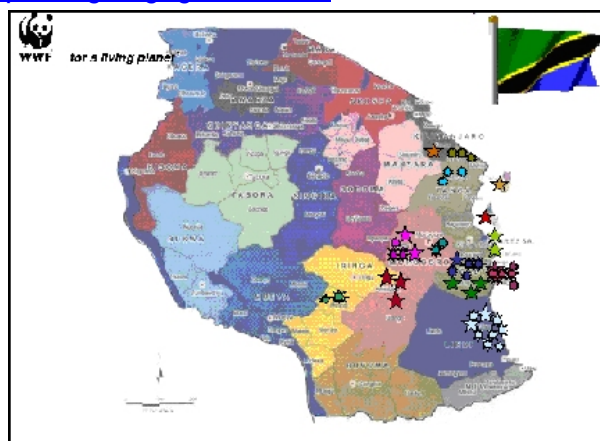
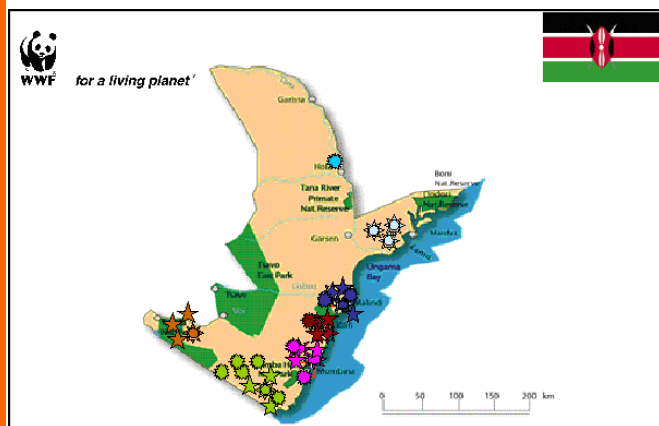


One beneficiary of the grants programme is the Gogoni Conservation Initiative. The group received CEPF Community Grants support to develop energy saving stoves for their members and other interested community members, with the aim of reducing the fuel wood consumption from the Gogoni Forest in Kwale District of Kenya.



So far the group has developed stoves for all of their members and are now establishing a demonstration site for training other members of the community to construct and use efficient stoves.

Community Biodiversity Conservation Grants are still available. If you know of a group, living within the EACF hotspot, who could benefit from a grant, please help them to apply. You can download instructions from <http://cepf.tfcg.org/grant.html>



Location of community projects supported by CEPF in Kenya (left) and Tanzania (right). Each star or circle represents a project.

## Payments for Environmental Services - a way to keep the rivers flowing?

Payments for environmental services may offer a long term sustainable source of funding for the management of catchment forests. This is the hope of many conservationists. But can this be realised in the Eastern Arc? This question was addressed by the WWF Tanzania Programme Office (TPO), with support from CEPF.

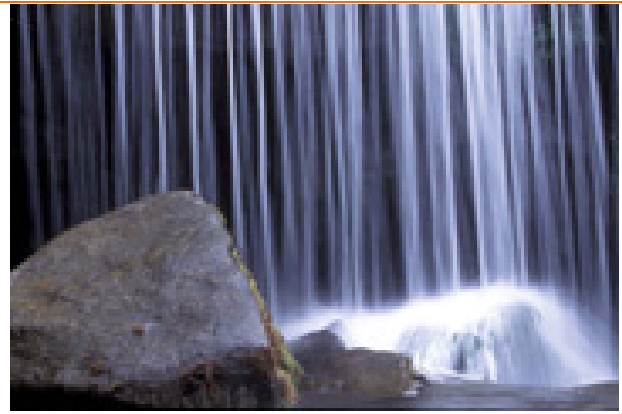


Photo by F. Rovero

WWF TPO supported student, Iddi Mwanyoka to assess the feasibility of getting water consumers in the Sigi River basin to pay for the conservation of the East Usambara Mountain forests, the river's main catchment area.

The positive results of the study suggest that payments for watershed services may indeed be feasible. The study's results have helped trigger additional funding to move the consultation process forwards and to bring us closer to a day when the stewards of these globally important forests are being properly recompensed for their conservation efforts.

The final project report and the technical report with full details of the study can be found at: [http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project\\_database](http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project_database)

### CEPF gives a boost to local researchers



Christopher Sabuni, a student of Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro is one of 22 students who have successfully secured CEPF funding to conduct the fieldwork components of their respective MSc and PhD studies.

With support from CEPF, Christopher has conducted six months of field work within Sadaani National Park. The Park, gazetted in 2005, includes the Zaraninge forest, one of the most important coastal rain forests remaining in Tanzania. The forest is well known for its diversity of vegetation, yet little is known about the small mammals that exist within the park. This is a knowledge gap

that Christopher is helping to fill.

Other studies that are being funded through this grant include a study of small mammals in the Uluguru Mountains; a study of the herpetofauna of the Lower Tana river forests and research on the diversity of birds in forest fragments in Kenya's coastal forests.

Under Strategic Funding Direction 4, CEPF allocated US\$ 200,000 to Conservation Research Grants for Students, awards that were available to postgraduate students to carry out research work within the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests hotspot. The fund has supported 12 Kenyan and 10 Tanzanian students working in 26 sites in the hotspot. Grants have varied in size from US\$ 3375 to US\$ 9388 per student. The fund is coordinated by BirdLife International with support from other members of the CEPF Coordination Unit.

All funds have now been committed from the student grants programme.

## CEPF Investigates Opportunities for Long-term Funding for Forest Conservation

How can we secure long term financing for the conservation of the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya? This is one of the questions that CEPF's investment in the region aims to address.

Earlier this year ICIPE recruited consultants to look in detail at this question. The consultants met with over 60 stakeholders in Tanzania and Kenya and reviewed experiences from other parts of the world. Some of the funding opportunities that are being explored include payments for ecosystem services (see article on p.2) and increasing the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund. The fund raising strategy that emerges from this consultative process will chart a way forward for the remainder of CEPF's investment in establishing sustainable fund raising mechanisms for the area. This also reflects CEPF's strategy of not providing repeat funding for particular areas until all hotspots have received support.



Zanzibar red colobus, Jozani Forest, Zanzibar. Photo by F. St John



### Restoring forest in the Taita Hills

The tiny forest fragments remaining on the Taita Hills are arguably one of the most threatened parts of the Eastern Arc and Coastal forest region. Restoring connectivity between these forest fragments has been a priority for CEPF. Between 2005 and 2007, the East African Wild Life Society has been restoring forest cover within and around Chawia. With support from the project, neighbouring communities have planted 68,000 indigenous tree seedlings within the forest. Communities have also planted 12,000

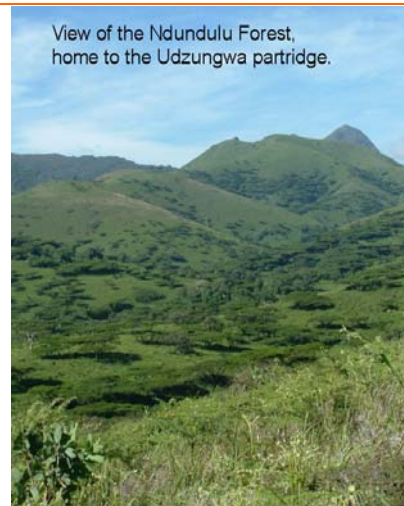
exotic and indigenous seedlings in adjacent farms in order to provide an alternative supply of wood. The project has also supported the strengthening of the Chawia Community Environmental Committee (CCEC) through training. The CCEC are now applying to become a community forest association with an important role to play in the new Forest Act. The final project report is available from [http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project\\_database](http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project_database)

Two other projects that are restoring forest in the Taita Hills are also being supported by CEPF. These focus on the 318 hectares of Mwambirwa forest that burned down in 2001. This project, also led by EAWLS is replacing exotic plantation species with a mix of indigenous trees. In so doing, the project will reestablish connectivity with the larger Mbololo forest to improve the long-term survival of the Critically Endangered Taita thrush (*Turdus helleri*). EAWLS are also working with village community forest associations to develop participatory management plans for the Vuria and Susu Forests and for the combined area of Wesu Big Rock, Mbili and Weni Mwana forests. This project began in May 2007 in response to the findings of the stakeholder workshop on forest connectivity in the Taita Hills that was funded by CEPF in 2005.

## Partridges thriving in the new West Kilombero Nature Reserve

The discovery by scientists, of the Udzungwa partridge in 1991 was heralded as one of the great ornithological discoveries of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This elusive, ground-dwelling bird is most closely related to genera in the Himalayas. With support from CEPF, Louis Hansen, a member of the team who originally recorded the bird, returned to Ndundulu in the Udzungwa Mountains to find out more about the status of this species. From December 2006, Louis spent 100 days tracking partridges to assess their abundance and distribution. Despite earlier reports of a population decline, Louis recorded more partridges within pristine forest than was previously anticipated. However Louis also found that the species is sensitive to disturbance and does not venture into forest gaps or clearings. These results highlight once more the importance of conserving the Ndundulu forest, home to the newly recorded Kipunji Mangabey and now within the new West Kilombero Nature Reserve. To read the full report on this project, please visit [http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project\\_database](http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project_database)

View of the Ndundulu Forest, home to the Udzungwa partridge.



## Supporting the Amani Nature Reserve

The Amani Nature Reserve has recently received US\$19,500 from CEPF to improve the reserve's communication facilities and to support activities that will increase tourism-related revenue for the surrounding communities. The support includes upgrading the reserve's internet facilities and making these available to visitors and researchers.

CEPF have also supported a study by Jaclyn Hall from the University of Florida to look at how satellite images can help in remotely assessing forest quality. The work was conducted in the East Usambara forests to the north of the Amani Nature Reserve and involved detailed comparisons of the tree species richness in 46 plots, relative to satellite images. The research is now being finalised. The final project report is available from [http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project\\_database](http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/project_database)

## The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (the French Development Agency), Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. The Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya are one of fourteen globally important biodiversity rich areas that CEPF is investing in. CEPF is investing US\$ 7 million in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya between January 2004 and December 2008.

## Coordination Unit

To ensure that an effective, efficient and coordinated approach is used for CEPF's investment, a Coordination Unit has been established based in four organisations with experience of biodiversity conservation within the region. These organisations are: Birdlife International (in Kenya the Birdlife partner is Nature Kenya and in Tanzania it is the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania); the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology; the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the World Wide Fund for Nature - East Africa Regional Programme Office.



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