

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Environmental Foundation for Africa -- Sierra Leone

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Reconstruction for Biodiversity Conservation, Research, and Ecotourism in the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 March 2003 to 31 December 2005

Date of Report (month/year): February 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary is at a pivotal point. The civil war in Sierra Leone destroyed all research and tourism infrastructure on and off the island, seriously jeopardizing this one-of-a-kind ecosystem. With CEPF support, EFA in partnership with Njala University College, the Forestry Department and the local communities, have in 3 years, rebuilt the facilities on Tiwai and rekindled some local community support, as well as national and international interest, in the sanctuary. However, the island, home to hundreds of plant and animal species, including 11 primate types, 135 bird species and the endangered pygmy hippopotamus, remains threatened by the livelihood activities of the neighboring communities, as they grapple with the medium to long term impacts of the civil war, especially the growing poverty and economic and social deprivation.

With reconstruction of the island's infrastructure now complete, there is an urgent need for additional and sustained funding to implement a multi-pronged management plan, that will sustain local support for the island; train communities to accommodate visitors; raise the capacity of an independent body staffed by Sierra Leoneans, Tiwai Island Administrative Committee (TIAC) to manage the island in the long term; and launch a domestic and international campaign to attract eco-tourists and scientific researchers to Tiwai. Such an investment will dramatically enhance Tiwai Island's long term sustainability by increasing support for conservation in the local communities that manage Tiwai and bringing external scientific and recreational visitors to the island. Tiwai Island is an exceptional model for community led conservation with great potential to become self sustaining in the next three to five years.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose The overall goal of the project is to revive biodiversity research, conservation and ecotourism activities at the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary through reconstruction and equipping of the facilities at the research and visitor centers; re-establishing links with the local and international academia; promoting conservation education in the areas surrounding Tiwai; and through training, engage the local communities in small-scale and well-targeted activities, that will contribute to their domestic incomes while maintaining the dignity and integrity of the island.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|--|---|
| Purpose-level: | |
| A functioning research center and camp site capable of serving up to 30 visitors at a time by 2005 | As of January 2006, the construction of the dormitory at the Research Center has been completed, and will be officially launched during the month of April. During 2005, a total of 180 visitors came to the island compared with 77 in 2004. |
| Implemented environmental awareness programs in schools and communities | Environmental awareness programs have been ongoing during 2005 in the surrounding 8 communities, with specific packages targeting both the primary and secondary schools. |
| Local communities implementing practical skills in nature conservation, domestic energy conservation and agro-forestry | During 2005, there were several training workshops to focusing on domestic energy conservation, including public demonstrations on the use of solar technology for cooking and powering small radios. Also there were agro-forestry programs focusing on collecting tree seedlings from the local forests for sale to other areas. Plans are now underway to target the youths for specific training as forest guides increase the role of local people in hosting visitors to the island |

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

During 2005, approximately 180 tourists visited the island and comments in the visitors’s book suggest that the vast majority of visitors thoroughly enjoyed the visit and will be back. This number is expected to grow with increased and more intensified marketing in 2006.

Njala University has continued to send students to Tiwai for their research-related field work. Discussions are ongoing at the University, led by the Head of Biological Science Department, for a Tiwai Institute to be established within the University. The role of such an institute will be to coordinate all scientific work on Tiwai conducted by national and international researchers.

Also community support for the island to be maintained as a sanctuary has grown tremendously, in spite of looming threats from local hunters and diamond miners. Ongoing efforts by EFA to attract funding from other sources for development work in the communities, has significantly improved the chances of Tiwai to remain a sanctuary.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

In spite of EFA ‘s commitment to promoting local development in the the surrounding communities and extensive awareness raising and training programs, emphasizing the economic and scientific importance Tiwai, one community did in fact start diamond mining on the island. We were very successful in getting it stopped by involving all TIAC stakeholders. Evidence has been found of ongoing poaching on the island, albeit on a very small scale. That said, the impact of the awareness raising program has been quite effective, in that out of 8 communities surrounding the island, only one has failed to cooperate fully. At the same time, members of this community did inform EFA field staff based on Tiwai, about the individuals in their community that they suspect of poaching and this matter was reported to the Paramount Chief, who appears to have taken prompt action, since all poaching ahs stopped for now.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
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| Output 1: Reopening and maintenance of forest trails on Tiwai Island | West side of trails have been opened in 2005, and the east side will be completed by the end of March. Trails were maintained before and after the rainy season. TIAC presently have three permanent staff and three volunteers from the surrounding communities that will be responsible for the trails. |
| 1.1. Hired staff to maintain trail, guide visitors and provide overall security for the Island | TIAC staff will provide overall security for the island, and the trails will be |

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| | maintained at least twice a year. |
| 1.2. Regularly scheduled brushing of trails. | Scheduled twice yearly, |
| Output 2: Construction and equipping of research center and visitors camp site on Tiwai Island | Construction has been completed, but equipping the research center will be the responsibility of Njala University. WC toilet facilities and storeroom at the visitor's campsite, were not provided for in the initial budget, but EFA is seeking additional funds to ensure these are completed before the official opening of the island as a resort in April 2006. |
| 2.1. Properly laid out research and camp sites, with all structures in place | All structures as outlined in initial contract with CEPF are presently in place except for the above-mentioned incomplete structure, which are extra but none the less considered necessary. |
| 2.2. Refurbished and equipped research building and dwelling for researchers 5 tent baffas and 2 communal baffas | A permanent dormitory structure is now ready to be occupied by researchers that wish to do work on the island. Plans are now being made to equip the facilities within the next few months. Tents baffas and one communal baffle at visitor centre now completed. Two additional baffas constructed on the mainland in villages nearest to the entry point to Tiwai, in both chiefdoms – one in Kambama (Barri) and one in Mapuma (Koya). |
| 2.3. 5 newly built tent baffas, 1 communal baffle, 1 office baffle and 1 provision store at Kambama | One office baffle and one provision store have been completed in Kambama. |
| 2.4. Construction of sanitation and kitchen facilities 4 VIP toilets and 2 central kitchens | Construction of permanent kitchen at the visitors' centre not completed, due to emphasis on completing the dormitory on research side. All VIP toilets in place and kitchen at research centre also completed |
| 2.5. Camping equipment, furniture, tools and other utensils in place. | All equipment, and other utensils are in place. |
| Output 3: Increased knowledge and awareness of conservation and environmental issues in schools and communities around Tiwai Island | Much of the activities by EFA staff during the entire life of this project, has been to increase the knowledge and awareness of communities, about environmental issues generally and more specifically about the value of Tiwai as a nature reserve. Even |

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| | after the end of this project, the focus of EFA, TIAC and other key stakeholders very much remains increasing knowledge about the value of conservation and sustainable natural resource management. |
| 3.1. Fully formed environmental action groups in 2 communities and environmental clubs in all schools in project area | Presently four school e-clubs have been formed in the Koya Chiefdom and 2 in Barri – mostly primary schools. Community members are working most as volunteers, engaged with various activities on the island. |
| 3.2. Monthly open days for 2 participating communities and fortnightly visits to schools for awareness raising and conservation | Monthly open days were carried out regularly, with the focus of the last 2 open days in November and December, on the harmful effects of mining and poaching on the island. Additionally these visits were used to assess the communities’ development priorities on the basis of which, resources are now being sought to assist with the provision of basic social services in these villages. |
| 3.3. Existence and use of environmental education materials (videos, posters, billboards, booklets & manuals), highlighting environmentally destructive activities and promoting best practice | Video shows formed a core aspect of the open days, followed by distribution of any new posters, pictures that emphasize the theme of each visit. All 8 surrounding communities presently have existing environmental materials, including posters in each village. |
| Output 4: Build capacity through training in tree nursery establishment domestic energy conservation and income generation from ecotourism in communities around Tiwai Island | We have trained local people in establishing tree nurseries, and eco-stove training has also been done in all communities. Income generating activities such as – production of hammocks, hats, baskets, bamboo chairs for local use and for purchase by visitors is on-going in two communities. EFA already procured several bamboo / cane chairs for use on the island. |
| 4.1. Tree nurseries for indigenous tree species in 4 schools and 2 communities around Tiwai | Following agro-forestry training in all 8 communities, nurseries for indigenous tree species are established in 2 communities, Kambama (Barri) and Mapuma (Koya) Nurseries established in the schools were not maintained by the pupils |

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| <p>4.2 Established woodlots by communities in deforested and degraded areas around Tiwai</p> | <p>On the Barrie Chiefdom, three communities have established woodlots, and in the Koya Chiefdom, only one has been established thus far.</p> |
| <p>4.3 Established structures for skills training in construction of energy efficient stoves, local manufacture of gift items for sale to visitors, catering for guest and first aid</p> | <p>TIAC Secretariat plans for 2006 will be focused on skills training for local manufacture of gift items for sale to visitors. Catering and first aid for guests on the island will be part of the training programs.</p> |
| <p>Output 5: Research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students of University of Sierra Leone / Njala University College</p> | <p>Eight (8) graduate students and three (3) undergraduate students from Njala University have completed their research work on Tiwai Island.</p> |
| <p>5.1 Fully refurbished and equipped research center with accommodation for researchers and other related personnel</p> | <p>Research station fully refurbished Njala University has taken full responsibility for equipping the Research facility.</p> |
| <p>5.2 Inventory of flora and fauna on Tiwai Island</p> | <p>Njala University completed initial inventory of flora on Tiwai. Faunal, survey is ongoing and will take much longer, with sustained financial support and technical supervision to complete.</p> |
| <p>5.3 Established system of monitoring population dynamics of primates on Tiwai Island</p> | <p>No established system of monitoring of primates so far, due in part to the delays in completing construction work on the island. With the launching of the island as a research and eco-tourism destination, the USL is now expected to take this task fully on board.</p> |
| <p>5.4 Permanent vegetation plot with marked individual plants for long-term monitoring and comparative studies</p> | <p>It is anticipated that this study will begin in June 2006, since the Research Center is now ready to monitor these studies.</p> |
| <p>5.5 Assessment reports on ecotourism resources in surrounding communities and areas, including the Gola rainforests</p> | <p>During 2005, Njala University students did a rapid assessment on the eco-tourism potential of Tiwai Island and surrounding areas. Presently there is an ongoing World Bank funded study of the economic and conservation potential of all protected areas in Sierra Leone. The report of this study is should be available by July 2006.</p> |

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| <p>5.6 Report on evaluation of economic potential of non-timber forest products (NTFP), on Tiwai Island and Gola Forest</p> | <p>Njala University graduate students recently did an evaluation of the potential non-timber forest product, more specifically rattan.</p> |
| <p>Output 6: Fully established community based ecotourism programme in Barri and Kova Chiefdoms</p> | <p>This is now in place</p> |
| <p>6.1 Fully functional visitor center and regular visits by guests to Tiwai Island</p> | <p>This is now fully operational.</p> |
| <p>6.2 Established local committee responsible for receiving and hosting visitors</p> | <p>TIAC has established two communities – Kambama and Mapuma (one in each chiefdom) who are now responsible for receiving and hosting visitors to Tiwai.</p> |
| <p>6.3 Established local structure for care, maintenance and security of trails, visitor center and all equipment on Tiwai Island</p> | <p>TIAC staff has now assumed full responsibility for maintaining and securing trails, as well as being responsible for maintenance and security of all equipments on the island.</p> |
| <p>6.4 Established procedures for accounting of and redistribution/expenditure of funds raised from visitors on Tiwai Island</p> | <p>Procedures established in the Tiwai Business Plan. The responsibility for accounting and redistribution / expenditures of funds is the responsibility of TIAC.</p> |
| <p>Output 7: Infrastructural support and capital equipment for the project</p> | |
| <p>7.1 Rental for shared head office in Freetown and field office in Potoru</p> | <p>Field offices in Bo and Potoru still maintained. There are plans to set up a TIAC secretariat in Freetown, to enhance marketability of Tiwai nationally and internationally, as well as to coordinate visitors and other enquiries and activities related to Tiwai more easily.</p> |
| <p>7.2 Produced 4x4 vehicle for environmental awareness raising (EAR), in Pujehun and Kenema Districts and for transportation of researchers, field staff and supplies to and from Tiwai</p> | <p>Project Vehicle still in good condition and very much used to support the work on Tiwai. However the withdrawal from EFA in January 2006, of vehicles belonging to UNHCR, means that there is now increased pressure on the Tiwai vehicle, since the UNHCR vehicles were</p> |

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| | used extensively to transport materials and personnel to Tiwai on a regular basis. |
| 7.3 Procured motorbike (x1) and bicycles (x6) for monitoring by project officer and other field staff and community based volunteers | One motorbike in use for the project officer and logistics assistant, and bicycles for community based project assistants and volunteers. |
| 7.4 Constructed boat and procured outboard engine to enable efficient transportation of research personnel field staff and visitors to and from Tiwai all year around | Fiberglass boat has been procured as well as two engines and two inflatable boats. The 2 inflatable boats suffered extensive damage due to prolonged use for transporting heavy construction materials to the island. Efforts to repair the boats have failed with the result that only the fiberglass boat is now in use. Funds are being sought to acquire additional boats before the launching in April 2006 |
| 7.5 Procured electricity generators (1KVA x 2) for limited use at the research and visitors centres | 2 portable generators procured and are used form time to time for hosting large numbers of guests including the BBC filming crew. However it was recommended that solar technology be installed on the island. This is very much being considered. |

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The reconstruction for the Biological Research Center and Eco-tourism on Tiwai Island was successfully completed and will be officially launched on April 11, 2006.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

No

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

Detailed comments and observations related to lessons learned during this project, have articulated in the previous reports. For the present, it would suffice to say that the proposed objectives of this project were founded upon the assumptions that the various stakeholders of Tiwai and most especially the Government, the University and the members of TIAC, do recognize the intrinsic cultural, scientific and economic value of the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary. However, while these assumptions still hold true for the most part, the difficult circumstances created by the uncertainties of a post war economy, trying to rebuild the world's 'poorest' country, have presented unexpected challenges on many fronts. At the same time, it is abundantly clear that the local people recognize the efforts made thus far and are trying, albeit reluctantly, to be patient in the hope that Tiwai will attract the kind of people and opportunities that may improve their living conditions. These expectations are not unreasonable, when one considers the big picture and the constant struggle worldwide, in efforts to reconcile the need for human survival versus the conservation of forests and bio-diversity. I think the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, has saved Tiwai from being reduced to ashes and farm bush in the short term and medium terms, while building capacities in the process. But the threats to the islands long term survival still loom. In this regard, I would hope that **CEPF can work more closely with other 'Green' donors to start influencing (through ADVOCACY and QUIET DIPLOMACY) the thinking of development donors and other financiers of aid and investment in this part of the world.** For while the problems we encounter in the field, as in the case of Tiwai, are in large part due to local / national causes, the policies of big spenders, can play a decisive role in changing attitudes at the national and regional levels, so that conservation initiatives can be seen to support rather than compete with local livelihood support mechanisms .

CEPF may need to note that, while the mineral- and forest- rich Upper Guinea Forest region remains an insecure conflict / post conflict zone, there is an urgent need for the main donors to go beyond just paying "lip service" and demonstrably encourage and support their implementing / executing agencies to integrate serious environmental management thinking in the overall planning and implementation of their various development programs. Such an approach is critical to the future of the people of this sub-region, whose culture and livelihoods are inextricably linked to their natural resources. They are essentially forest peoples, whose younger generations are moving away from the country side in search of better opportunities in urban areas. With the growing importance of UN agencies and NGOs as recipients and executors of increasing proportions of development funding in these countries, mainstreaming of environmental considerations in the priorities of donors and their implementing partners is needed now. This would serve to empower their local staff, the communities they serve and the local environmental activists including the governments they are helping, to understand the importance of environmental management and to act accordingly.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

From the design standpoint, the project has been successful, mainly because its emphasis was on low cost reconstruction of facilities on the island accompanied by community awareness, education and training programs, in conjunction with various stakeholders including government, academia, local leaders and landowners.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

From the standpoint of execution, there were many unforeseen factors that became bottlenecks to the timely conclusion of the project and which significantly increased the cost in financial and technical supervision terms. The inexperience of EFA in this type of projects coupled with seasonal factors played their part too. For example, nearly three thousand 50kg bags of cement and 2 tons of iron rods needed to be transported on very bad roads over a 12 month period from a distance of 90km to Kambama, from where this material had to be ferried across the river. The project boats designed for carrying personnel had to be used for transporting this material, with the result that the boats are now out of use. Also heavy rains, artificial shortages of building materials leading to rising costs, sometimes stalled the work on the island for long periods. So the primary aim of constructing the facilities was achieved, but the costs were far beyond expectations. To meet these costs, EFA often had to reallocate resources and equipment from its other projects in order to complete this project.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

| Donor | Type of Funding* | Amount | Notes |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| UNHCR | A | Not calculated –In addition to Tiwai project vehicle used mostly by Njala Uni, 2 pickup trucks and one personnel carrier plus fuel were assigned to the Tiwai project 80% of the time, | Apart from 6 full time national staff paid by this project, all other staff were paid from UNHCR funded projects. The management and supervision budget of this project was used to hire an expatriate conservation program manager, who left the project halfway through its completion, with no additional funds for project management and supervision. |

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| | | from its start in May 2002, until EFA's contract with UNHCR ended in Dec 2005 and vehicles were withdrawn by UNCHR in January 2006 | |
| IUCN Netherlands | B | Euro 46,000 over 17 months | The Secretariat was set up and staff employed in January 2005, but staff were fired 2 months later due to mismanagement of resources. EFA sought permission from IUCN NL to revise the project outputs, so that some of the funds could be allocated to ongoing construction of the dormitory, in addition to paying Tiwai staff salaries following exhaustion of CEPF funding. Since then, all supervision of the Tiwai project has been undertaken by EFA management at no extra cost to CEPF or IUCN |
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***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*

D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

This project will most certainly continue. EFA, through the framework of TIAC, is actively seeking support from a wide range of sources including the Bristol Zoo, Whitley Award and various diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone, to:

Launch a domestic and international campaign to attract researchers and tourists to the island over the long term.

Continue supporting locally-led scientific research, while maintaining staff and facilities on the island.

Sustain local support for the conservation of Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary by providing development assistance and tourism related training to eight host communities near the island.

So far \$5,000 has been secured from the German embassy for the digging of one well, complete with hand pump for one of the 8 communities and work is underway.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The largest ongoing conservation program ongoing in Sierra Leone is the Gola Forest Initiative, led by a consortium of RSPB, CSSL and GoSL. EFA is currently discussing how Tiwai can be linked to the Gola program, given the close proximity of Tiwai Island and Gola forest and the fact that Barri chiefdom recently became a beneficiary of the \$10,000 per annum community development grant, being awarded to the communities neighboring the Gola forest for local development. EFA believes that an established corridor between Tiwai Island and Gola Forest will increase the conservation value of both protected areas and provide more means for attracting funding to the area. Additionally, the Gola Forest crosses the border into Liberia and is a potential site for a future Peace Park, an initiative EFA is actively promoting through its country program in Liberia.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

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