

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	BirdLife International
Project Title:	Consolidating biodiversity data and information
Date of Report:	26 th September 2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Mercy Kariuki (mercy.kariuki@birdlife.org)

CEPF Region: Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Strategic Direction: Improve biological knowledge in the EACF hotspot

Grant Amount: \$ 260,000

Project Dates: 2011/8/1 to 2014/7/30

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) – TFCG has been managing the EACF websites (www.easternarc.or.tz and <http://cf.tfcg.org/publications.html>). BirdLife shared relevant publications/reports with TFCG who were responsible for raising awareness, and TFCG placed these on the websites
- Nature Kenya - sub-grantee responsible for implementing some aspects of the project on the Kenyan side.
- Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania - initially a sub-grantee responsible for implementing some aspects of the project on the Tanzanian side; however contract stopped, and the duties given to a consultant at the later stages of the project.
- Conservation International (CI) – was responsible for updating the forest cover/change map, and expected to deliver outputs to BirdLife International for wider dissemination

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The project strongly and directly linked to the CEPF strategic direction 3 (improve biological knowledge in the hotspot) and Investment Priority 4 of the EACF Consolidation Program (availing biological and forest change data to leverage REDD+ and REDD Readiness for the EACF)

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

- The species and sites Outcomes database for the EACF has been significantly reviewed and updated based on biological data availed during the project period.

According to the recently updated database, EACF is host to 756 globally threatened species of plants and animals (2013 IUCN Red List), more than double of the 333 species listed in the assessment of undertaken in 2003. Most of the additions are related the East African Plant Red List Assessment that was done in 2011. The database also recognizes 17 potentially new Key Biodiversity Area (KBAs). This high number of threatened species further justifies the need for more conservation measures to be undertaken towards safeguarding of the biodiversity in the EACF. The updated database is also a crucial asset for profiling the newly-recognized Coastal Forests of East Africa biodiversity hotspot, for which an ecosystem profile has not been previously developed.

- Two detailed biodiversity status and trends reports for the EACF were produced in 2013 and 2014, each of them assessing biodiversity state (condition), pressure (threats) and response (conservation action).
- A policy brief with policy recommendations for conservation of Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania was developed and disseminated to relevant authorities in Tanzania. This was developed with close engagement with forest workers in Tanzania in a workshop that was held in Tanzania. We hope that the Tanzanian government and other relevant stakeholders will work together to address some of the issues identified.
- The project significantly contributed towards updating of national biodiversity databases in Kenya and Tanzania. This was through creating linkages between BirdLife International and national biodiversity database facilities: Kenya Biodiversity Information Facility (KenBIF) and Tanzania Biodiversity Information Facility (TanBIF) and sharing relevant information from the EACF updated outcomes database. This will enable future sharing of biodiversity information.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The long-term impact of this project was to improve human wellbeing in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, to enhance scientific knowledge and to reduce the extinction risk for 333 globally threatened species through improved protection of the sites where these species are found.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The project enhanced scientific knowledge regarding threatened species on their distribution, occurrence, threats and ongoing conservation action and sites/Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) on habitat status, threats, and conservation action thereby raising profile of these for conservation workers to take more conservation actions. This was through dissemination of publications, a policy brief, biodiversity status and trends reports and news alerts. For example, there is now more focus on the Dakatcha Woodlands and Taita Hills following sharing of information that the former had been confirmed to be an important breeding site for an endangered bird species, while in the latter an additional forest patch (Msidunyi) was recently discovered to be important for a critically endangered bird species.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The short-term impact of this project was to ensure all relevant stakeholders groups have access to information about the conservation status of biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forest of Tanzania and Kenya, and that the local civil society will be able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by REDD+ in the region.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

All relevant stakeholders were continually updated with data and information concerning conservation and management of the EACF. This was through postings in a dedicated Yahoo forum, social media (twitter and facebook) accounts (with over 100 posts) and web portal hosted by BirdLife data zone website created for the purpose of information sharing. Two biodiversity status and trends reports were also shared with the stakeholders and national biodiversity databases updated for Kenya and Tanzania with relevant EACF data. Over seven international and national meetings and workshops also played a big role in information sharing.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A

Species Conserved: N/A

Corridors Created: N/A

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Successes:

- The willingness of various stakeholders to provide regarding biodiversity status, threats and actions was quite encouraging, thus facilitating us to make it easier to access information
- Providing EACF biodiversity data for updates of the national biodiversity database was made easy by the fact that the national facilities in Kenya and Tanzania were also at a stage where they were welcoming inputs from contributors.

Challenges:

- It was not easy within the project period to assess whether the data and information availed through this project eventually helped stakeholders to take advantage of opportunities provided by REDD+ in the region. This is because at the moment REDD+ projects in the EACF are few, and the ones in place were at their early stages during the project period, and thus it was hard to gauge their demand and update for the information arising from this project. In particular, on the Kenyan side of the EACF there was no REDD+ project clearly overlapping with the forests in the EACF.
- It was hard to gauge the level of update and use of information shared with stakeholders, since most of them didn't give us any feedback.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The following were some of the unexpected impacts:

- The training of coastal eight forest workers representing four KBAs in Kenya on how to fill in the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) especially for the Sacred Kaya forests which are currently under threat of human development. This was with the aim of mainstreaming the use of METT. This was after realization that data on protected area management effectiveness was not being received from the Kenya Forest Service officers on the ground. Forest officers and community members overseeing management of these Forests (Kayas) in coastal Kenya had not been previously trained on the use of the IBA monitoring framework, which is another crucial tool for generating and availing biodiversity data.
- Halting of the contract with one of our sub-grantees (the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania -WCST) greatly negatively impacted the progress of the project. This action was taken after observing serious organizational weakness with WCST, leading to withdrawal of the organization from the BirdLife International Africa Partnership. Eventually some of the planned objectives such as taking lead in national advocacy activities and biodiversity monitoring were a challenge to achieve. We however managed to engage a consultant who was able to carry on with activities, e.g. data and information collating, information sharing and dissemination of project outputs.
- The project was also able to contribute to the production and dissemination of a Taita Hills guide book. The guide book was produced with the aim of availing biodiversity information of the unique ecosystem in a simpler format to a wider readership including both the visitors and community members.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

Up-to-date on species, sites and habitats (including threats, management and social values) are available in all relevant databases and portals.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

- 141 reports/publications on occurrence of threatened species, forest degradation, forest cover, carbon storage, biodiversity co-benefits and; socio-economic co-benefits were collated and shared with TFCG for uploading to the two dedicated websites for the coastal forest and eastern arc mountains (www.easternarc.or.tz and <http://cf.tfcg.org/publications.html>).
- CI/CEPF Outcome Database was updated. From the update, 756 globally threatened taxa are now listed in the EACF compared to 333 in 2003, and 17 sites in EACF that were previously not identified as KBAs may now qualify due to the presence of globally threatened species. Some of the data has already been updated in the World Biodiversity Database (WBDB).

- A web-portal for accessing EACF biodiversity data and information was developed: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/EAMHome>
- Data on occurrence of globally threatened taxa in the EACF was shared with Tanzania Biodiversity Information Facility (TanBIF) and Kenya Biodiversity Information Facility (KenBIF) and used to update the national biodiversity databases. By the end of the project the exact web links to the online versions of the databases had not been availed, however, follow up is being done and the links will be shared as soon as we receive.

Component 2 Planned:

Publicize EACF information for the various groups of stakeholders, including governments (as agreed under existing MoUs)

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

- Two comprehensive biodiversity status and trends reports for the EACF were produced in 2012 and 2014. These reports were as a result of review and compilation of data and information from various sources to give an up to date status of biodiversity in the EACF. The reports have been distributed to national and local government agencies, academic institutions, civil society organizations and private sectors so that they can use the information to guide their conservation efforts.
- A policy brief with options and recommendations for addressing threats facing the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania was produced and disseminated.
- The following four scientific papers have been compiled and are at different stages of completion:
 - ✓ Habitat use of Long-billed Tailorbird in East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania (awaiting submission to a journal)
 - ✓ A survey of *Apalis fuscigularis* in Msidunyi, a recently discovered forest in the Taita Hills, Kenya (awaiting submission to a journal)
 - ✓ Trends in condition, threats and conservation action at key biodiversity forest sites in coastal Kenya (submitted to Africa Journal of Ecology, and comments from reviewers currently being addressed)
 - ✓ Globally threatened biodiversity of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal forests of Kenya and Tanzania (awaiting submission to the Journal of East Africa Natural History Society)

Component 3 Planned:

Linkages with other national and international monitoring systems in the region are reinforced and institutionalized

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

- Links were established with the Tanzania Biodiversity Information Facility (TanBIF) and the Kenya Biodiversity Information Facility (KenBIF) for biodiversity data sharing especially on occurrence of globally threatened species in the EACF.
- Continued communications continued with Conservation International regarding progress in doing the EACF Forest cover change map (the project is still on-going). Once we receive the updated map, we'll share outputs with stakeholders.
- By the end of the project the CEPF-EACF contact list was 341. These contacts are used for sharing EACF news/information. A facebook and twitter account was opened with the aim of sharing information with 193 followers and over 100 posts shared (<https://www.facebook.com/CEPF.EACF> and https://twitter.com/Data_EACF).
- The link between EACF coordination Unit team from various institutions i.e. ICIPE, Nature Kenya, WWF, National Museums of Kenya, TFCG and BirdLife was kept strong by holding quarterly meetings and discussed the progress, challenges and opportunities of the project. During our last meeting, there was a decision to form a forum for continued links even beyond the completion of this 'Consolidating biodiversity data and information' project. Currently, a concept note on '**Securing biodiversity and livelihoods [in the EACF Biodiversity Hotspot] from increasing developmental and climate change-related pressure/ risks**' is being developed.

Component 4 planned:

Sub grant to Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya) - USD 25,000. Nature Kenya is the national implementing partner for BirdLife International in Kenya and will therefore provide critical complementary capacity to this project in the form of expertise, geographical coverage and relationships with the national and local stakeholders.

Component 4 Actual at Completion

- Nature Kenya with Site Support Groups (SSGs) conducted biodiversity monitoring of the EACF sites capturing the status, pressure and response. Among the sites monitored include: Arabuko Sokoke forest, Taita hills, Mida creek, Shimba hills and Dakatcha woodlands. In Dakatcha Woodlands a breeding site of the Endangered Clarke's Weaver was discovered (<http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/nesting-site-endemic-endangered-clarke%E2%80%99s-weaver-found>).
- Nature Kenya has been updating the World Biodiversity Database (WBDB) with information from IBA monitoring forms and newspaper cutting on a yearly basis. Information provided to BirdLife to produce Status & Trends reports; and outcomes promoted at national meetings and fora; two basic monitoring forms for Dakatcha Woodland and Tana River Forests for 2013 monitoring year were submitted to Nature Kenya and have already been entered into the WBDB

- Nature Kenya has been able to provide a critical link with local and other National stakeholders around the EACF while leading on the advocacy issues within the same region.
- Nature Kenya in partnership with Kenya Forest Service rangers and Administration Police, with support from the local Community Forest Association led a campaign to reduce the levels of destruction within the Dakatcha woodland especially of charcoal burning. Through the Important Bird Areas National Liason Committee organized by Nature Kenya, brought together Government and Non-Governmental agencies and organizations to lobby for the conservation of Kenyan IBAs including the coastal IBAs. The meetings also offered an opportunity to publicize the project and its outcomes.

Component 5 planned (original from the signed proposal):

Sub grant to Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (BirdLife in Kenya) - USD 25,000. WCST is the national implementing partner for BirdLife International in Tanzania and will therefore provide critical complementary capacity to this project in the form of expertise, geographical coverage and relationships with the national and local stakeholders.

The contract between BirdLife International and WCST was canceled on 30th June 2013 therefore ceased to be a sub-grantee of this project. Out of USD 25,000 allocated to WCST, they had spent USD 6,482 until the cancellation. The remaining sub grant USD 18,518 was channeled to the new BirdLife International Tanzania office for the implementation of the project deliverables.

Component 5 Actual at Completion

- Information from 10 Important Bird Areas was collected using the basic IBA monitoring forms. These sites are within the Coastal and Eastern Arc Mountains namely, Dar-Es-Salaam, East Usambara Mountains, West Usambara Mountain, Uluguru Mountains, Mikumi National Park, Udzungwa Mountains, Kilwa District Coastal forests, Kisarawe District Coastal Forests, Bagamoyo Coastal Forests and the Mafia Island.
- Identified five Carbon REDD projects in the EACF: (a) Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in eastern arc mountains and coastal forests of Tanzania (led by TFCG); (b) Combining REDD, PFM and FSC certification in southern Tanzania (led by Mpingo Conservation and Development initiative); (c) Enhancing Tanzanian Capacity to deliver short and long term data on forest carbon stocks across the country (led by WWF); (d) Piloting REDD in Zanzibar through community forest management (led by CARE Zanzibar), and; (e) The Kasigau corridor REDD project (led by Wildlife Works). Biodiversity reports/publications for within the REDD+ projects were shared to and make them aware of existence of these data so that they can assess how useful these data could be as baselines for the REDD projects.
- WCST was unable to update and review World Biodiversity Database with national data even after being trained on how to use it.

- The Tanzania consultant contributed to some of the project's activities i.e. providing input towards the compilation and dissemination of the status and trends report and the policy brief, promotion of the web portal.

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

Component 5 was partially unrealized due to the fact that WCST contract was canceled before the end of the project period. This led to contracting a consultant so as to finalize on the project activities but in some instances he didn't have the capacity to conduct biodiversity monitoring in Tanzania thus covering some of the gaps created. The consultant was only contracted for 7 months.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

The following are the products were produced as a result of this project (attached as annexes)

- Biodiversity status and trends in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania Region reports i.e. 2012 and 2008-2013 (a copy of the 2008-2013 has been sent to Nina)
- Updated EACF Outcomes database
- Policy brief on: Addressing threats to biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests of Tanzania(English version)
- Various posters produced for different meeting/workshops
 - a) Availing Biodiversity data to influence change... *the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Tanzania and Kenya*. Presented at BirdLife World Congress, 2013
 - a) Consolidating data on state of biodiversity in Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests of East Africa. Presented at BirdLife Council of Africa Partnership (CAP) meeting, 2012
 - b) Availing Biodiversity data for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Tanzania and Kenya. Presented at Pan Africa Ornithological Congress (PAOC), 2012
- Project information Factsheet
- A guide to Taita Hills: Unique Natural History (a copy has been sent to Nina)
- Articles and website links;
 - a) <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/many-more-threatened-species-east-african-biodiversity-hotspot-previously-thought>
 - b) <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/welcome-taita-hills-kenya-%E2%80%93-guide-now-available>
 - c) <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/tanzanian-conservationists-propose-ways-securing-eastern-arc-mountain-forests>
 - d) Monthly Nature Kenya newsletters (<http://www.naturekenya.org/content/nature-net>) published several stories about the coastal forests of Kenya e.g. http://www.naturekenya.org/sites/default/files/May_2014%20Nature_Net.pdf and http://www.naturekenya.org/sites/default/files/Nature-Net_May_2013.pdf

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

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

The project design of working in collaboration with the EACF Coordination Unit contributed to the project success by having regular meetings to update each other on the project progress. During these meetings ideas and discussions on the next steps on the conservation of the EACF that need to be taken after this project.

Since this project very much depended on voluntary contributions of information and data, the design could have possibly benefitted by considering having agreements/contracts with a few key potential information contributors (e.g. research or academic institutions) so that there is assurance of flow of information. Without this, we had to very much depend on actively searching for information ourselves.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- Constant linkage with stakeholders can yield results. During the implementation period, we were able to visit a number of stakeholders who were very generous with their knowledge and reports on work in the EACF. This also strengthened our work relationships with the stakeholders and they keep sending in reports and publications in support of the project work.
- The Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST, which was one of the sub-grantees) was removed from the BirdLife International Africa Partnership due to some organizational challenges and therefore they could not continue to implement national project activities.
- Start-up of a project requires significant time, and in our case this caused some delays in kick-off of project activities

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- Through assessment of all taxa (including invertebrates) could show that the EACF is host to many endemic and threatened species. This is as demonstrated from the assessment of plants which led to a significant increase in numbers of recognized threatened species in the EACF as evidenced from the updated Outcomes database that was recently completed revealing that there are 756 globally threatened species from 333 listed in an assessment done in 2003. It's clear that more research, advocacy and proper management of EACF sites that host these species need to be considered to avoid losses of some of these species in the future.

- Lessons learnt from the synthesized status and trends reports is that engagement of community members in conservation and management of biodiversity is critical in ensuring that there are mutual benefits accrued.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B 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.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

N/A

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	NO			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NO			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NO			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NO			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NO			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

LIST OF ANNEXES

1. Nature Kenya final report
2. Tanzania consultant report
3. Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania April-June 2013 report
4. Species and sites Outcomes database
5. Biodiversity status and trends in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania Region reports i.e. 2012 and 2008-2013
6. Posters
 - a) Availing Biodiversity data to influence change...*the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Tanzania and Kenya*. Presented at **BirdLife World Congress, 2013**
 - b) Consolidating data on state of biodiversity in Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests of East Africa. Presented at **BirdLife Council of Africa Partnership (CAP) meeting, 2012**
 - c) Availing Biodiversity data for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Tanzania and Kenya. Presented at **Pan Africa Ornithological Congress (PAOC), 2012**
7. Project information Factsheet
8. IBA-METT training report
9. Workshop report on sharing biodiversity information and exploring policy options for the conservation of the eastern arc mountains of Tanzania.
10. Policy brief on ‘Addressing threats to biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountain Forest of Tanzania’
- 11-15. Some of the articles produced